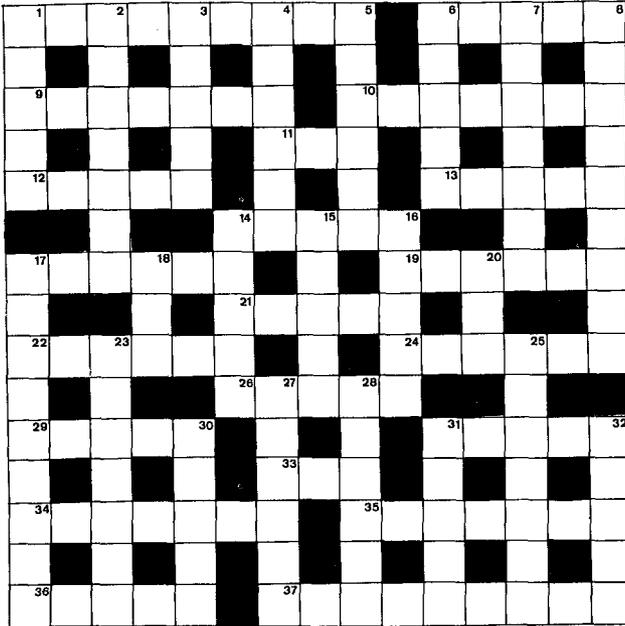


The Political Puzzle

by John Barclay



ACROSS

1. He was no vote loser! (9)
6. Quadrennial search for stove. (5)
9. Trashmen are mostly songs. (7)
10. Keep Pennsylvania guest out of sight. (7)
11. We know what limb Mel is out on. (3)
12. Something fishy about this tutor. (5)
13. They hate nothing on this lake. (5)
14. Tips to the end of New Orleans. (5)
17. It led Peg to the flag. (6)
19. These can be dark or saw. (6)
21. Of America, his master's? (5)
22. Davies goes with consent. (6)
24. Candidate to come down hard. (6)
26. A strong alloy. (5)
29. The last word in elfin allegiance. (5)

31. Phase II leaves us in this state. (5)
33. Marijuana goes back to head. (3)
34. Man in irons is music-maker. (7)
35. Decoration makes one angrier. (7)
36. Put New York back in grass for conference. (5)
37. Even a warted log attracted some votes. (9)

DOWN

1. Get a broken crate to bounce back. (5)
2. Power play to get you to veto bill. (7)
3. To select headless a leader. (5)
4. Early sect found in business enemy. (6)
5. In 1948 it was tuna. Mister! (6)
6. It is five years since he stayed with us. (5)
7. Makes the case for new math. (7)
8. Candidate who never put seven nots in one sentence. (9)
14. Up or down it stays the same. (5)
15. There's friendship between origami types. (5)
16. What Hell's bells are made of? (5)
17. Political programs from storm and flap. (9)
18. Miss Dix is 511 years out of date. (3)
20. These come first with the man who comes first. (3)
23. Could be an oven sin to cook this. (7)
25. "Who raids it?" sounds like big question for this writer. (7)
27. Take the ingot with you for a picnic. (6)
28. Seek more from applause without us. (6)
30. Hog fat with me in middle makes cabinet officer. (5)
31. A hat, a vote or a berry. (5)
32. Quite ready to agree. (5)

The numbers indicate the number of letters and words, e.g., (2, 3) means a two-letter word followed by a three-letter word. Groups of letters, e.g., USA, are treated as one word.

Prisoners of War, Prisoners of Peace

by Taylor Branch

On May 5, the families of the American soldiers missing or held prisoner in Indochina gathered in a large basement room of the Marriott motel, across the highway from the Pentagon, to debate the war. As the political controversy over Vietnam continued to be honed down almost to a dispute over the best way to secure the release of the prisoners, the families of those prisoners, ironically, held a national "Where Do We Go From Here?" meeting to argue strategy regarding the war itself, the big picture, with an eye on the election. The weekend event had the earmarks of any Washington convention—the panelists fumbling with water glasses, caucuses, plenary sessions, boredom, the lame but necessary jokes of the genial moderator (in this case, Louis Stockstill, a former Pentagon flak and *Reader's Digest* author), lunch breaks, shop talk, and dinner speakers—but the meeting's purpose and its people,

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the collected flesh relatives of the endless names on the Defense Department's prisoner and missing lists, gave the Marriott basement a macabre atmosphere.

It was a conference of bouffants and beehives, elderly couples, military wives, Elks, and church-goers—on the whole, people who could never become alienated from their positive view of the military or from their staunch patriotism. It was a critical cross-section of mainstream Americans, united by the fact that the war is an intensely personal issue with them, having weighed like a stone every day for years. They epitomized what doves have called responsible citizens on the war—people who have lived and breathed the arguments and books on Vietnam, studying, measuring the continuation of the war against their own future sacrifices, measuring withdrawal against their past sacrifices, their pain against the flag, the war's trumpets and ideals against its doubts and its blood. For most of the relatives, it was a bitter