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Maine League of Women Voters

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THE VOTER

Vol. 6, No. 1

The League of Women Voters of Maine

October, 1988

DECISION '88

In case the statements made by George Bush and Michael Dukakis in the September 25 debate went by too quickly, the following are answers in writing from the candidates in response to identical questionnaires submitted to them by the national Catholic News Service:

WHAT ARE YOUR VIEWS ON THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN FAITH AND POLITICS?

BUSH: America was founded as, remains and will always be a nation under God. The values religion imparts are reflected in our Constitution and in our daily lives, and I believe strongly that morality and ethics must always stand at the center of American society and government.

DUKAKIS: I believe in the separation of church and state. But I also believe that public policy should be grounded in American values. And those values include the pursuit of social justice, respect for human dignity, and compassion for those in need.

WHAT IS YOUR POSITION ON THE INF AGREEMENT AND ON ARMS CONTROL IN GENERAL?

BUSH: I believe that the INF treaty will be looked upon some day as a watershed agreement... one that breaks ground on verification and puts us in a new track toward a more stable and enduring deterrence. We must always deal with the Soviets from a position of strength -- which means we must maintain a strong balance in nuclear capabilities and conventional forces, and must continue to develop strategic defenses for the future.

DUKAKIS: I support the INF treaty. But the agreement would not by itself stop or slow the race to build new, highly accurate, multiple-warhead ballistic missiles. Over time, unlimited development of new nuclear weapons

could make both sides worse off. We need to go beyond the framework outlined during the summit: ...stop the never-ending spiral of new, more accurate systems until both sides can agree on what systems, if any, will make the nuclear balance more stable in a world with far fewer nuclear warheads than we have now.

IS THERE A PLACE FOR CAPITAL PUNISHMENT IN TODAY'S SOCIETY? WOULD YOU SUPPORT A FEDERAL DEATH PENALTY?

BUSH: I strongly support capital punishment for crimes involving murder, treason, or espionage. The American people overwhelmingly realize that judges sometimes have to impose the death penalty in certain clearly defined and particularly heinous crimes.

DUKAKIS: I oppose capital punishment under any circumstance. Studies show that there is no link between imposition of a death penalty and a drop in violent crime. In fact, states with the highest number of executions also have the highest murder rates.

WHAT ARE YOUR VIEWS ON ABORTION? WOULD YOU SUPPORT PASSAGE OF A HUMAN LIFE AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION?

BUSH: I support a constitutional amendment that would reverse the Supreme Court's Roe vs Wade decision on abortion made in 1973. I also support a human life amendment with an exception for the life of the mother, rape and incest. In addition, I oppose the use of federal
(cont'd on page 2)

BUSH-DUKAKIS (cont'd from page 1)

funds to pay for abortion except when the life of the mother is threatened.

DUKAKIS: I believe that it is the individual, in the exercise of her own conscience and religious convictions, who must make the decision on abortion.

WHAT IS YOUR OPINION OF NATIONAL HEALTH INSURANCE? IS IT NEEDED? ARE THERE OTHER ALTERNATIVES?

BUSH: I am committed to assuring quality health care for all Americans at reasonable cost. We must mount a comprehensive effort to reduce the cost and improve the quality of health care in America. Several principles must guide this effort. First, the less that government is involved in the day-to-day administration of health care, the more efficiently it will run... Second, more efficient administration of health care must be encouraged--and, in particular, the government health programs such as Medicaid and Medicare should not fund waste and inefficiency. Thirdly, we must limit the incentives and ability for patients to file frivolous malpractice suits which drive health care costs up for all Americans.

DUKAKIS: I have just proposed a plan for universal health care for all the citizens of my state. That plan would require employers, with some exceptions for small business, to provide basic health insurance for their workers and dependents.

WHAT ROLE SHOULD THE CONSIDERATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS HAVE IN FORMING U.S. FOREIGN POLICY?

BUSH: The United States must stand for freedom around the world--for human rights, including the rights of people to govern themselves. We must not let the communists or anyone else subjugate basic human freedoms. When America hesitates in the support of freedom, communism advances.

DUKAKIS: Nothing justifies the theft of human dignity. Nothing. Not left-wing or right-wing politics, not personal or economic or religious

differences; there is no excuse for murder or kidnappings or disappearances... Our nation can help...not by overthrowing governments with whom we happen to disagree; not by cozying up to dictators as we have done so often over the past century; but by demonstrating every day and every week the powerful force of our ideals; by pointing to the strength and success of the democratic partnership we can build for freedom, for economic opportunity, and for social justice throughout the world.

HOW DO YOU ADDRESS THE SITUATION OF THE UNDOCUMENTED IMMIGRANTS WHO HAVE COME TO THE UNITED STATES IN GROWING NUMBERS FROM COUNTRIES AS DIVERSE AS MEXICO, EL SALVADOR, AND IRELAND?

BUSH: While we can open the door wide to legal immigrants, we must close the door to illegal immigration. I favor an immigration policy that provides for the orderly movement of Americans into our economy. As the immigration reform act provides, we need to pursue an orderly process of legalization of those who have demonstrated commitment to long-term residence in this country. At the same time, to maintain control over immigration, we must enforce sanctions against employers who knowingly hire illegal aliens. The current legalization process is giving us a starting point to reinstitute order in immigration. We must move to assure that order is established and maintained.

DUKAKIS: Congress took the first step by passing the Immigration Reform and Control Act (ICRA) in 1986. The law is a compromise, but it gives us a chance to go forward. I will implement it in a spirit of generosity and opportunity. On the national level I support: promoting family unity; strengthening border enforcement; providing international leadership on refugee issues.

Deportation of refugees from war-torn countries in Central America must stop. We must fulfill our commitment to the world's oppressed. We must set an example for the world with a refugee admissions policy that is generous and free of political bias.

(cont'd on page 3)

BUSH-DUKAKIS (cont'd from page 2)

WHAT ABOUT THE U.S. APPROACH TO REGIONAL CONFLICTS, PARTICULARLY CENTRAL AMERICA? WOULD YOU SUPPORT U.S. MILITARY AID TO CONTRAS IN NICARAGUA?

BUSH: Our main objective is the maintenance and establishment of governments committed to freedom and democracy, governments that respect human rights and the sovereignty of their neighbors...I am committed to assisting people who are struggling to establish and maintain a democratic form of government and gain basic civil, political and human rights. It is in our national security interest, and it is our moral duty, to further democracy. The United States and other democratic nations have a moral obligation to honor the cry for help of those who yearn for democratic freedoms and the respect of human rights. We must be willing to assist the people in their quest for democracy.

DUKAKIS: Aid to the contras violates U.S. and international law. Contra aid is not a lever which will pry open Nicaragua's closed political system; it is instead a wedge separating us from our friends in the region. The United States should support--not undermine--the Arias peace plan. The Arias plan represents the best chance yet for bringing peace to Central America.

* * * * *

VOTER INFORMATION (Bangor-Brewer LWV): Students attending colleges and universities in Maine may register to vote using their campus addresses. Students attending out-of-state colleges who are residents of Maine may register using their parents' addresses or their permanent addresses, and may vote by absentee ballot. A parent or relative can request the town or city clerk to mail a student an application for an absentee ballot and the absentee ballot. The student must fill out and sign the application. No witness is required when the ballot is received and returned by mail. The application and the ballot must be returned in their respective envelopes to the city or town clerk before 8 p.m. on election day.

BOND ISSUE AND CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT, MAINE GENERAL ELECTION NOVEMBER 8, 1988

1. Shall a bond issue be authorized in the amount of \$3,200,000 for the establishment of a statewide E-9-1-1 system?
2. Do you favor a \$3,000,000 bond issue to build, repair, or renovate public safety facilities?
3. Do you favor a \$13,000,000 bond issue for the investigation, abatement, clean up and mitigation of uncontrolled hazardous substance sites, for cleaning up and closing solid waste landfills, and for the removal of underground oil storage tanks, all of which pose a hazard to public health, the environment and ground water quality?
4. Do you favor a \$12,000,000 issue for sewerage facilities construction?
5. Do you favor a \$5,000,000 bond issue for the establishment of an Adaptive Equipment Loan Program which would enable persons with disabilities to purchase adaptive equipment necessary to their independence?
6. Do you favor a \$36,800,000 bond issue for the construction and upgrading of libraries, classrooms, laboratories and other educational facilities at all branches of the University of Maine system?
7. Shall the Constitution of Maine be amended to remove gender-biased language in order to clarify that the Constitution applies to all individuals?



CALENDAR FOR 1988-1989

OCTOBER	1	VOTER publication
	4	<u>TUESDAY BOARD MEETING</u> , Augusta
		LWV-ME U.S. Senate Debate (date, time, place to follow)
		LWV-Portland, Brunswick, York - U.S. Congress Debate (date, time, place to follow)
NOVEMBER	8	ELECTION DAY - ABC reporting
	16	<u>WEDNESDAY BOARD MEETING</u> , Augusta
DECEMBER	1	VOTER deadline
	15	VOTER publication, first call for 1989 Convention, LWV-ME
JANUARY		Program Planning for all local Leagues for State Program
	10	<u>TUESDAY BOARD MEETING</u> , Augusta
	25	Keys to the Capitol, Blaine House Reception, Augusta
FEBRUARY	1	Deadline for program, by-laws proposals
	20	Consensus on Nuclear Issues (more information in VOTER)
	22	<u>WEDNESDAY BOARD MEETING</u> , Augusta
MARCH		Symposium - LWV-ME, (details to follow)
	15	VOTER deadline
	29	VOTER publication - second call to Convention '89
APRIL	4	<u>TUESDAY BOARD MEETING</u> , Augusta
MAY	5-7	51st LWV-ME State Convention (details to follow)
JUNE		LWV-US National Council
		LWV-ME Board Retreat



HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCE SITE DISCOVERY PROGRAM

WHAT TO LOOK FOR:

Signs of potential hazardous waste sites are:
 piles of discarded drums, containers, electrical
 transformers, compressed gas cylinders or batteries;
 rusty or oily-looking slicks on water or soil;
 stressed or dead vegetation; wildlife or fish-kills.
 If you know of a possible hazardous waste site,
 report it by calling 1-800-822-6220.

Sponsored by the Maine Department of Environmental Protection

1-800-822-6220

MESSAGE FROM MARLEE

Do you realize how important you are as a League member?

For starters, you know more about how and why to vote than most other citizens. People call the League office in Augusta almost every day to ask: How to Register? Where to register? and for Information about how candidates stand on issues. What can you as a League member do to help others?

- Volunteer at the League office for a half day to answer the telephone before the election November 8
- Be informed about YOUR OWN voting place (where, when)
- Become a Justice of the Peace so that you can help register voters
- Encourage others to register (they can register at the polling place even on election day)
- Offer rides to the polls to your neighbors
- Study the Voters Guide, in the BANGOR DAILY NEWS, November 6
- Call Jane Saxl, Voters Service chair (945-5786) to offer your help
- And, most important, set an example and VOTE!

You are important because you care!

You find out facts before you decide an issue. You read information, attend League meetings, and question issues and candidates. You become Justices of the Peace (Thank you, Capitol Area League!) You listen to both sides. When a League position is reached, you then work to support by: writing letters to the editor, calling your legislators, discussing with your friends, testifying at hearings.

You are realistic about what it takes to make a League active, productive, and satisfying:

- Interested citizens
- Money
- Interesting programs
- Sense of purpose
- FUN!

THE WHOLE WORLD NEEDS US!

Have you seen the film, World Brain? It shows our interconnection on a global level. What we do here in Maine has a much deeper effect world-wide than we realize. The positive programs, action, and attitudes we produce reach way beyond our borders. We all know the planet is ailing: in toxic wastes, in nuclear arms build-up, in homeless, hungry, frustrated people. And right here in Maine YOU in League are helping to heal this with our actions and programs on:

- Tackling toxics
- Nuclear issues
- Child care and housing
- Land use management
- Reproductive rights

Which aspect are YOU drawn to work on now?

Phone the League office (622-0256), Marlee (655-7624), Jane Saxl (945-5786), or Alvin Moss (422-3627) to tell us where you will help!

LAND USE ACTIVITIES

LaRUE SPIKER

Two action items on land use were approved at the last LWV-ME State Board meeting. One will support legislative efforts to correct a gap in the State subdivision law made by a recent Maine Supreme Court decision. The other is a League effort to help in the drafting of good local comprehensive plans in the communities where we have local Leagues.

Under the subdivision law, towns are mandated to review land use proposals that would subdivide the land into three lots or more. For approval by the town, the proposal has to meet certain standards in regard to air and water, soil erosion, traffic patterns, sewage and waste disposal, esthetics and scenic factors, and fiscal responsibility on the part of the developer. Most town interpreted the mandate to include any multiple use of the land, such as condominiums, motels, shopping malls, etc. The law defines a subdivision as "the division of a tract of land into three or more lots...whether accomplished by sale, lease, development, buildings or otherwise.."

A developer in York challenged the town's inclusion of multiple unit proposals where there was no actual division of the land itself as in the case of condominiums, motels, apartment houses, etc. After reviewing the legislative history of the law and other materials, the York County Superior Court found in favor of the town's position that such developments are included in the law. The court noted the legislative intent included multiple uses. It noted that such uses can have as much, or more, impact on a community as a subdivision of land for single family dwellings. Elimination of the multiple-unit development abrogates a town's obligation to safeguard the health, safety, and welfare of the community, the Court said.

On appeal, the Maine Supreme Court held for the plaintiff. Its decision is definitely regressive for Maine's efforts to exert management controls over development.

I understand that legislation will be introduced in the next session to clearly include multiple-use developments in the law. A number of legislators were reported as being disturbed by the decision. If corrective legislation is not introduced by one of them, the Natural Resources Council of Maine will have it introduced, I have been told.

* * * * *

The other action item will be an ongoing part of the land use agenda for some months to come.

The proposal passed by the State Board in August reads: "That the League of Women Voters of Maine undertake through the local Leagues an ongoing evaluation of the adequacy of conception and direction of the planning for and drafting of comprehensive plans in those towns represented by membership of local Leagues."

The comprehensive Planning and Land Use Regulation Act was passed by the last legislature. The law requires that Maine towns draw up a comprehensive plan and supportive ordinances and submit them for review to the State Office of Comprehensive Land Use Planning. If the plan meets with the approval of the State agency, it is "certified," and the town becomes eligible for State funds for code enforcement, purchasing public lands, certain legal expenses, and community development grants.

The law has been hailed as "landmark legislation," but it was compromised during the legislative process and contains some weaknesses. Many towns will use it well as a tool in exerting some controls over their future. In other towns the planning process, either because of lack of know-how or political pressures, will do a poor job. As a citizens group interested in the environment and public affairs, the League has an obligation to lend its help to the process. A League committee is being developed to plan this project, develop materials, and suggest ways to carry it out.

CRUISE MISSILES NOW MAJOR BARRIER TO NEW ARMS

ETHEL SCHWALBE, NATIONAL SECURITY CHAIR

Most people in Maine have now heard of sea-launched cruise missiles (SLCMs, pronounced "slickums"), especially the Tomahawk version that the Navy will soon start testing over Maine. But few know that SLCMs have been a stumbling block to effective arms control since the Ford and Carter administrations, and have recently become the major barrier to a strategic arms reduction treaty.

The following information attempts to explain why SLCMs are so important to arms control negotiations, why they are actually a threat to U.S. security, and to help you decide how to vote in November, 1989, on the proposed state-wide referendum on stopping the Maine tests.

SLCMs are small (18'), long-range, low-flying, very accurate missiles. They can be armed with either nuclear or conventional warheads; set off from land, air or sea; and aimed at land targets or other ships. Although the recent INF treaty bans land-launched cruise missiles in Europe and there is a draft proposal relating to air-launch, sea-launched cruise missiles "seemed to defy compromise and agreement."

Temporary U.S. advantage: The U.S. still has a technological lead over the Soviets, particularly in the miniaturized guidance and propulsion systems for the cruise missiles. But even proponents admit that it will not take long for the Soviets to catch up, as they have done with every other weapons system.

SLCMs now the sticking point for START: The longstanding argument over SLCMs is part of a broader argument, which is basically a lack of consensus (within the Pentagon itself and between the Administration and the Congress) on an overall strategic policy and the preferred weapons systems to support that policy. That lack of consensus has complicated arms control negotiations.

Early on, some U.S. military experts argued that we should accept "stringent restrictions on SLCMs while the Soviets were still interested..." and while we still held a technological

advantage. (Our permanent geographical dis-advantage is discussed below.) Recently, Paul Nitze, senior arms control advisor to the president and secretary of state) proposed a ban on all nonstrategic nuclear naval weapons, including SLCMs. It was felt that a conventional naval war would favor the U.S. superior naval forces, but if the Soviets responded with nuclear weapons, our aircraft carriers and battleships would be lost. Thus, it was better to "raise the nuclear threshold" (make it less tempting for the Soviets to go to nuclear weapons) "as high as possible in the naval arena; that meant no nuclear-armed SLCMs."

Nitze's proposal was vetoed by the Secretary of Defense and the Joint Chiefs. But that left the problem of "verification." It is impossible, at a distance, to tell whether any cruise missile has a nuclear or conventional warhead, and neither superpower is likely to permit on-board inspection. Contrary to President Reagan's oft-repeated "Trust, but verify," the Pentagon suggested that each side simply declare how many SLCMs it planned to deploy!

A current threat to U.S. security: SLCMs are potential first-strike weapons. Undetectable by early warning systems and current radar capabilities (because they fly so low), they increase the risk of a Soviet pre-emptive strike in a crisis, so as to limit damage to USSR ground-based missiles (the heart of the Soviet missile inventory.)

An even greater future threat: Visualize a map of the world, compare the U.S. Atlantic and Pacific coastlines (not only long, but open) with the partially enclosed Gulf of Finland and Sea of Okhotsk and the almost entirely closed-off Black Sea, which, together with the Arctic Ocean and Bering Sea, form the Soviet coastlines. Consider the relative difficulty of protecting the U.S. coasts versus the Soviet coastal areas. Remember that most of our key cities, military targets, and population are near the coasts and that most Soviet potential targets are far inland. Need one say more?

(cont'd on page 8)

SOVIET-LATIN AMERICAN ECONOMIC RELATIONS

Review of an Occasional Paper by Ruben Berrios, Professor of Economics, University of Pittsburgh, presented at the Kennan Institute for Advanced Russian Studies (Originally presented at the Soviet Policy in the Third World Conference, University of Arizona, January, 1987)

Prior to the Cuban Revolution, Soviet economic relations with Latin America were few and sporadic. The United States appeared to exercise nearly exclusive influence in the area. However, in the late 1960s and through the 70s, as the countries in the region began to diversify their economic interests and expand their foreign contacts, the roles of Japan, the European Economic Community, and the Warsaw Pact Council for Mutual Economic Assistance (CMEA) increased. Lessening of the U.S. hegemony was expedited by the nationalization of many American firms, the Latin American call for reform of the OAS, and the OAS lift of the trade embargo on Cuba. In addition, increased U.S. protectionism served to give the Soviet Union opportunity to render gratefully received assistance. By 1975, the USSR had established trade and diplomatic relations with 20 countries in Latin America.

Professor Berrios emphasizes, "In general, the expanded Soviet economic presence in the region is not perceived by the Latin American leaders as a direct threat to their interests. Indeed, governments across the political spectrum have traded with the USSR, including rightist authoritarian regimes... Soviet General Secretaries from Leonid Brezhnev to Mikhail Gorbachev have emphasized the expansion of cooperation with developing countries within the existing world system rather than promotion of 'economic liberation' of Third World nations."

While Cuba has enjoyed a special protected status, the Soviet Union has also extended favorable trade agreements to other nations in the region, notably Argentina, Brazil, Peru, Nicaragua and Mexico. Although economic contacts continue to increase, Latin American exports to the USSR are nearly 4.5 times greater than imports from the USSR.

"The export of revolution is not high on the list of Soviet priorities, and the establishment

of commercial relations with governments of different ideological orientation is a policy," states Berrios. He points out that, although the economic relations between the USSR and Latin America are limited by trade imbalance, debt crisis, and sheer distance between ports, among other factors, the Soviet presence in the area has grown and is appreciated by the Latin American countries as an aid to greater autonomy and more stability in the world market.

--Patty L. Letcher



"Looks fine to me" DL

CRUISE MISSILES (cont'd from page 7)

After January, 1989: Whether the new administration is headed by Bush or Dukakis, it will undoubtedly continue arms negotiations. It must "decide whether there is a militarily sound mission for nuclear-armed SLCMs" and should treat these weapons (as well as other systems and SDI) as matters of military strategy, not as "bargaining chips."

This information is based in part on "Why START stopped," by Strobe Talbott in Foreign Affairs, Fall, 1988, and various articles in the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists.

LATIN AMERICAN EXPORTS AND IMPORTS TO SELECTED COUNTRIES AND REGIONS
1960-1985

(Millions of dollars)

YEAR	WORLD	USA	EEC	JAPAN	CMEA	% OF CMEA
<u>EXPORTS</u>						
1960	8,499	3,417	1,515	196	144	1.7
1965	11,263	3,768	2,220	429	303	2.7
1970	15,253	4,893	3,256	814	317	2.1
1971	15,005	4,822	3,004	796	324	2.1
1972	17,293	5,431	3,619	896	414	2.4
1973	24,971	7,726	6,223	1,341	710	2.8
1974	39,842	13,684	7,906	1,773	1,005	2.5
1975	36,332	11,440	7,340	1,516	1,452	4.0
1976	41,670	13,353	8,798	1,796	1,399	3.4
1977	49,164	15,724	10,679	2,021	1,560	3.2
1978	52,845	17,643	11,486	2,156	1,521	2.9
1979	70,470	23,416	15,039	3,070	1,905	2.7
1980	88,249	29,119	17,618	4,462	2,997	3.4
1981	91,519	36,610	20,939	6,390	5,099	4.8
1982	84,484	36,197	19,900	6,018	3,310	3.4
1983	85,915	39,302	19,361	6,238	3,639	3.7
1984	95,553	46,566	20,715	6,970	3,339	3.2
1985	93,112	47,412	19,884	6,026	3,085	3.0
<u>IMPORTS</u>						
1960	8,107	3,507	1,576	217	157	1.9
1965	9,605	3,923	1,671	394	126	1.3
1970	15,031	5,906	2,767	845	145	1.0
1971	16,676	5,891	3,205	1,195	187	1.1
1972	18,869	6,434	3,982	1,319	174	0.9
1973	24,460	8,493	5,948	1,811	240	1.0
1974	42,309	13,857	9,107	3,174	376	0.9
1975	45,161	15,820	9,842	3,602	371	0.8
1976	45,172	15,210	8,763	3,383	387	0.9
1977	49,990	16,357	9,868	4,290	426	0.8
1978	58,462	19,369	11,463	5,042	517	0.9
1979	73,917	25,234	14,089	5,234	577	0.8
1980	100,417	36,072	17,382	7,378	704	0.7
1981	111,135	40,510	19,484	9,747	792	(0.7)
1982	90,259	31,885	15,752	8,524	941	(1.0)
1983	66,964	24,146	11,439	5,669	974	(1.3)
1984	69,175	27,787	11,498	7,476	879	(1.0)
1985	75,308	29,173	13,160	7,450	717	(0.9)

Source: IMF, Direction of Trade, Annual from 1960-1977 and Yearbook 1981 and 1986. Based on calculations done by the author.

GLEANINGS FROM THE DEFENSE MONITOR: AFTER THE INF TREATY

The Center for Defense Information is a think tank independent of the armed services and of the administration, headed by Rear Admiral Gene R. LaRoche and four other high-ranking retired officers of the Navy, Air Force and Marine Corp. The credo of the CDI, as displayed on the masthead of its publication, THE DEFENSE MONITOR, is "The Center for Defense Information supports an effective defense. It opposes excessive expenditures for weapons and policies that increase the danger of nuclear war. CDI believes that strong social, economic and political structures contribute equally to the national security and are essential to the strength and welfare of our country." Recent articles in the MONITOR have dealt with issues of interest to the League.

The INF treaty's provisions set a good precedent for verification of future arms agreements by establishing the principle of on-site inspections of certain arms production plants in the U.S. and the Soviet Union, and for observations of dismantlements and some short-notice inspections of suspicious sites.

THE DEFENSE MONITOR states that "Although the recently signed INF treaty is a step in the right direction, it could be largely reversed by unwise decisions to increase the number and type of U.S. nuclear weapons deployed in Europe in the future. The INF treaty is already cited by some as justification for the deployment of new and unnecessary U.S. nuclear weapons..." Past experience has shown that arms control agreements have frequently spurred efforts to develop new weapons not covered by the treaties. For example (MONITOR XVII:2), discussing SALT I, the then Secretary of Defense Melvin Laird told Congress, "I believe that in view of the fact that there is no [SALT] limitation on this kind of missile (i.e. cruise missiles), this is a very important program for us to push at this time." Thus, SALT II restrictions on ballistic missiles were used as a justification by the Defense Department to resurrect its cruise missile program, a weapons system it had previously abandoned.

The INF treaty demonstrates the ability of the U.S. and the Soviet Union to cooperate when it

is in their mutual interest. The treaty should not be used to justify deployment of unneeded new nuclear weapons in Europe. Elimination of all U.S. and Soviet nuclear weapons is a logical next step to reduce the risk of nuclear war in Europe.

--Benedict M. Hall

* * * * *

CRUISE MISSILE PROTEST A SUCCESS

They came from as far away as California. Members of Sane/Freeze national staff, Greenpeace and Beyond War joined with latter-day hippies and people in three-piece suits. Bannered and beribboned Friendship sloops sailed around off the town dock while a large group of marchers carried signs and banners through town and across the bar to a potluck on Bar Island. The press was treated to a harbor tour aboard a brand new luxury motor boat. The No-Cruise Cruise/March was a great success! MDI-LWV, in conjunction with the Main Street Coalition for the Prevention of Nuclear War, sponsored the event in Bar Harbor on 23 July.

In anyone's scenario, the Cruise provokes first strike: either use your big ones, or lose them to the Cruise. The sponsors of the protest feel strongly that in this era of reconciliation and arms reduction agreements, the Cruise missile must be eliminated.

Many thanks to Judy Harrison whose excellent PR for the protest ensured that we were covered by four TV stations, and several radio stations and newspapers. Thanks also to Jane Saxl and daughter representing the Bangor-Brewer League. We have just mailed Senator Mitchell a video letter (including the TV footage) questioning his support of the Cruise.

--Patty L. Letcher,
President MDI-LWV



THIS PAGE RESERVED FOR AN UP-DATED LIST OF LWV-ME PUBLICATIONS
AND OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS
PERTINENT TO LWV-ME BUSINESS

Meanwhile, so as not to waste the space, for your consideration:

"More than at any time in history, mankind today faces a crossroads. One path leads to despair and utter hopelessness, the other to total extinction. I pray we have the wisdom to choose wisely." --Woody Allen

or...

from an airline magazine, quoted by William Sloane Coffin in SANE World/FREEZE Focus, Summer, 1988:

"Let's talk a trillion. For one trillion dollars, you could build a \$75,000 house, place it on \$5,000 worth of land, furnish it with \$10,000 worth of furniture, put a \$10,000 car in the garage and give all this to each and every family in Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, Oklahoma, Colorado, and Iowa. Having done this, you would still have enough left to build a \$10 million hospital and a \$10 million library in each of 250 cities and towns throughout the six-state region. After having done all that, you would still have enough money left to build 500 schools at \$10 million each for the communities in the region, and after having done all that you would still have enough left from the original trillion to put aside, at 10% annual interest, a sum of money that would pay a salary of \$25,000 per year for an army of 10,000 nurses, the same salary for an army of 10,000 teachers, and an annual cash allowance of \$5,000 for each and every family throughout the six state region--not just for one year, but forever."

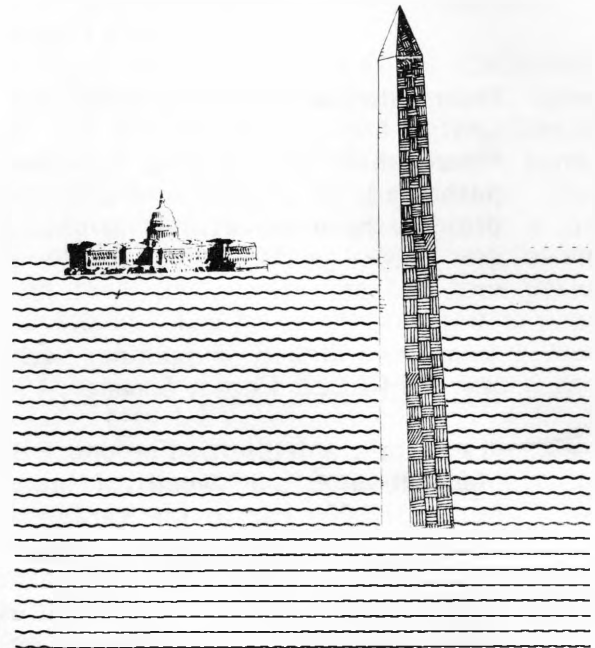
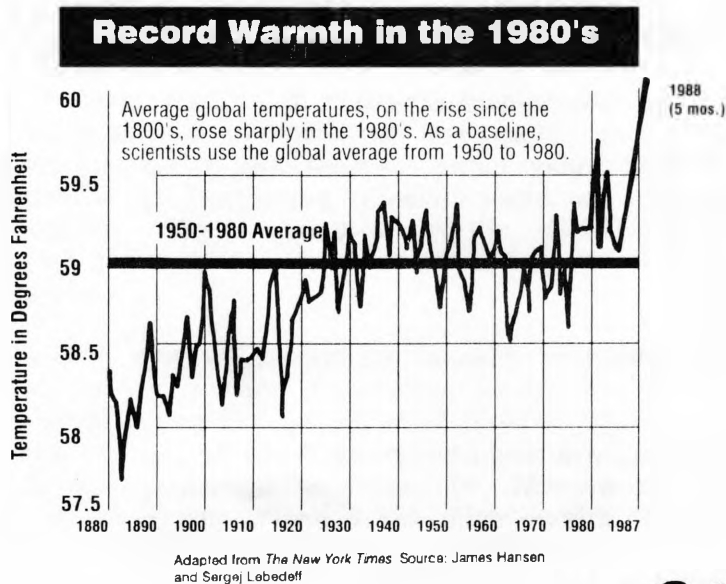
and...

from Joseph Heller, in an interview with Bill Moyers:

"Peace would wipe out civilization as we know it."

LET'S TALK ABOUT THE WEATHER (courtesy the Union of Concerned Scientists):

Various gases cause the greenhouse effect, the most common being carbon dioxide. This is being pumped into the atmosphere at ever higher rates by industrial civilization at the same time that forests that once absorbed carbon dioxide are being destroyed. Chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) used in foam packaging, insulation, refrigerators, air conditioners, and elsewhere have begun to rival those of carbon dioxide. The stage seems to be set for disaster, even if the details are not yet clear.



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