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## Banning bribery abroad

For too long and in too many parts of the world bribery of government officials in other countries by business firms has been considered an almost acceptable and necessary part of doing business. United States corporations certainly have not acted along in their keeping of multi-million-dollar slush funds and making secret payoffs to top foreign officials in whose countries lucrative sales contracts were under negotiation. Thus it is encouraging to note that in the United States, at least, government actions and public opinion are prompting multi-national firms to run away from bribery as "business as usual." In the wake of post Watergate disclosures that some 300 U.S. firms, including giants such as Lockheed and Northrup, made huge secret payments to officials abroad, government regulators and prosecutors have clamped down on such corrupt practices, and Congress itself now has taken the most significant step yet by enacting a law making it a crime punishable by a fine up to \$1 million for any American firm to bribe a foreign official.

Under the new law signed by President Carter last week, corporate officials convicted of bribery face imprisonment for up to five years or fines up to \$10,000 or both. A key provision of the new law requires corporations to maintain detailed records of their dealings abroad, aimed at making it easier for stockholders and regulators to detect hidden slush funds. Disclosure is not required of the firms; therefore enforcement — and the eventual success of the new law — will hinge largely on the effectiveness of the Securities and Exchange Commission and the Justice Department of policing such dealings.

The new anti-bribery law should serve notice to businessmen and officials elsewhere that the United States is committed to elevating the ethical and moral standards of international business. In doing so, it becomes the first nation to probe into corporate practices and traditional business payoffs in such depth.

But the United States will need help. "Tips" to government and civil service officials are still an integral part of doing business in such countries as India and Nigeria, for instance. An international approach, such as that being worked on by 18 countries in the United Nations ad hoc group seeking to negotiate a treaty to reduce corporate bribery around the world, is needed.

A treaty establishing clear guidelines, defining corrupt practices, and setting uniform restrictions against acceptance of gifts and contributions by public officials would do much to restore public confidence in business and government. —*Christian Science Monitor*

## Freedom: a better score card

Looking back over 1977, the most heartening development for the world at large is the progress recorded in the struggle for freedom. Substantial gains for political and civil liberty were made this past year, reports Freedom House in its annual survey.

With India once again joining the ranks of countries rated "free," naturally this trend was given a hefty boost. But events elsewhere also were encouraging. Spain as well as Portugal, for instance, now are counted free, making for a solid front of free nations in Europe extending to the borders of "not free" Yugoslavia and the Soviet bloc. Some countries moved from "not free" to "partly free," among them Ghana, Kuwait, and Syria.

All told, freedom increased for one-fourth of mankind in 1977. But — and this indicates what a long way there is to go — only 44 countries, with 35 percent of the world's population, are yet rated truly free.

Such broad statistical scorecards have their limitations of course. It is difficult to measure nuances of freedom, such as gains or reverses in women's rights, for instance. Also, how does one assess the countries of Eastern Europe, whose citizens today enjoy far more personal freedom than they did in Stalinist times and yet are still politically repressed?

The important thing, however, is that the thrust is shown to be a forward one which needs to be nurtured and developed. This is why it is good to learn that the United States is given great credit for contributing to the trend. The greater focus placed on human rights by President Carter "provided an unusually favorable environment for freedom," commented a Freedom House official.

Thus the good tidings for 1977 — and the hope for an even better 1978. —*Christian Science Monitor*

## Browsing in the files

### 25 years ago

Thursday, January 1, 1953

The A.H. Robins Company of Richmond, Virginia, recently announced the appointment of Fred M. Culbreth of Raeford as Southern Division manager with headquarters in Atlanta, Ga.

Dr. Julius F. Jordan, local dentist, will be installed as president of the Raeford Kiwanis Club at the regular weekly meeting and supper at the high school cafeteria tonight.

Lauchlin MacDonald, USN, of Lakehurst, N.J., is leaving Friday after spending a twelve day leave here with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. K.A. MacDonald.

Air Cadet William Thomas Niven of Goodfellow Air Force Base, Texas, will leave tomorrow after spending the Christmas holidays here with home folks.

From Poole's Medley: The radio is a wonderful instrument. Television is a still more wonderful mode of bringing humanity together through space.

'Which one's Carter?'

WELCOME TO POLAND



## HOKUM

By Charles Blackburn

This is the time of year when millions of Americans pause from eating black-eyed peas and corn bread long enough to lie about how much better they are going to be during the New Year.

Personally, I've never made any New Year's resolutions. It's not that I don't need improving. But as the years go by, I find that what I gain in perspective, I lose in resolve. So I've become content with the knowledge that my character is beyond reform. From here on it's just a question of legal fees.

But some people, so I'm told, declare on the first of the year that, henceforth, they will no longer drink whiskey, or smoke cigarettes, or wager money on games of chance. This reckless disregard for vice can have dire consequences, as is related by Mark Twain.

Twain visited an ailing widow to offer her some healthful advice. "You must give up drinking, and playing poker all night, and you must smoke no more than on cigar a day," he told her. "Give up these habits, and you'll be cured within the week."

The widow was somewhat non-plussed by this suggestion. "But Mr. Twain," she said finally, "I don't do any of those things."

There it was, Twain says. She

was like a sinking ship with no freight to throw overboard.

The New Year is celebrated all over the world as a time when one cycle of life is ending and a new one beginning. In China, the first days of the new year are celebrated as universal festivals. The Chinese really have a time on New Year's Day because it's everybody's birthday.

Special foods are customary on New Year's Day. In India, for example, people try to eat only "new" foods, new peas, new grain, and so forth. Pancakes are served in France. In northern Europe, cakes in the form of a boar used to be made from the meal from the first sheaf.

The old Southern custom of eating black-eyed peas on the first day of the year may have originated in the wake of the Civil War when there was precious little else to eat. The black-eyed, or cornfield, pea was the only plentiful staple, and one theory has it that the lowly pea was touted as a talisman simply because folks felt mighty lucky to have it. It is possible, too, that after dining on black-eyed peas year round, post-war society established the custom as a joke on itself, as though seasoning the peas with good fortune might add variety to the taste.

## Puppy Creek Philosopher

Dear editor:

The nice thing about making predictions for a new year is that a few months from now nobody remembers what they were anyway. But with Christmas over with and 1978 right in front of us the experts are at it again.

Some economists are predicting 1978 will be better, others that it'll be worse. They are both right. I've never seen a year yet that wasn't better and worse than the year before.

Personally, I think the coming year will be normal, like the weather, but you should keep in mind that the weather is normal only once in a while.

We'll have a cut in income taxes and a raise in Social Security taxes. A Congress that can't keep its left hand from knowing what its right hand is voting for is a Congress in trouble. Keeping the voters from knowing is the problem. But remember Congress has a hard row to hoe, which is why each member has a swarm of assistants to bring in the crop. It now costs about a

million dollars a year to keep a Congressman in office, which seems fair, since some of them spent nearly that much to get there. If the price of farm products had risen as fast as the price of a Congressman, a lot of tractor mortgages would be paid off.

On the international scene, it looks like some progress toward peace is being made and leaders in Washington are saying it's time to beat swords into plowshares. Couldn't they beat them into something else? At least till we get rid of the grain surplus?

I'm afraid I'm being too hard on Congress. Congress is doing the best it can with what it's got to work with, and when I look around I can't find anybody among us who'd do much better.

My resolution for 1978 is that I'm going to find something good to say about Congress. I don't care if it takes me till October or November to find it.

Yours faithfully,  
 J.A.



## Report To The People

by Senator Robert Morgan

Events in the Middle East have been breaking so rapidly in recent weeks that it is a bit dangerous to comment on them, because by the time any remarks reach the public the whole picture may have changed.

When history looks back on this period, however, it seems sure to record that two men -- Begin of Israel and Sadat of Egypt -- decided that the time had come to make an allout effort to bring peace to their part of the world and that they had the courage to act.

Anwar Sadat, the president of Egypt, showed great personal courage when he flew to Tel Aviv and spoke to the Knesset, Israel's parliament.

Meneham Begin, Israel's premier, showed himself equally dedicated to seeking peace when he invited President Sadat to Israel and graciously received him when he got there.

Six months ago, no one would have predicted that Sadat would have, in 1977, stood in Israel before the Knesset and made a speech advocating peace. In doing so, of course, he went against the wishes of a number of Arab states whose aim seems not to be peace, but the destruction of Israel.

Many motives have been advanced as to what made Sadat take the daring step which astounded the world. Some believe he saw war imminent, and decided to risk his prestige and possibly his life to avert it. Some think he needed to take some action because he saw himself slipping in his home country, where poverty abounds and economic conditions are bad.

But certainly the scope of his gesture deserves better explanations than those. Could not it be

that he acted as he did, broke with tradition and journeyed into what had been enemy territory, because he felt that it was right to do so?

I talked with President Sadat about a year ago and tried then to suggest to him that some sort of direct action on his part might help solve the Middle East situation.

"But we can only move so fast," he told me.

I realized that what he was saying was that he could not get too far ahead of his constituents.

But now he has acted and the result was the meeting in Cairo. An almost unbelievable sight was the landing of the first commercial airplane from Israel landing at the Cairo airport.

But these things happened and Begin and Sadat have said publicly that their countries will go to war with each other no more. That one decision is the most hopeful thing that has happened in the Middle East in years.

Most men in public life are confronted with issues that call for them to make a choice between doing what is popular at the moment or what they really believe to be right. Sadat chose to go against unyielding position of his fellow Arab nations, and Begin showed Israel's peaceful intentions by cooperating.

Certainly the world is better off because of the actions of these two men.

And when the history of the Middle East is written, their names will appear in much larger letters than those who chose to continue the senseless notion that Israel must be destroyed. Courageous men, who dare to be right, can sometime work miracles.

## CLIFF BLUE...

### People & Issues



SPECIAL SESSION...The special session of the North Carolina General Assembly this year will find the legislators discussing a far wider field of issues than the budget, since the 1977 session voted to carry-over bills which were not acted upon with finality.

O'HERRON...We understand that Ed O'Herron who was Hunt's chief opponent for governor in the Democratic primary in 1976 has been offered a couple of appointments by Governor Hunt, but which the Charlotte man did not see fit to accept.

INGRAM...With John Ingram now an announced candidate for the Democratic nomination for the United States Senate, already the Raleigh News and Observer, and Charles Dunn, WRAL-TV commentator, have raised some questions concerning his stand on public issues. *The News and Observer* questions his position on "no-fault" auto insurance, and Charlie Dunn questions his "ethics standard" for members of the insurance department.

Any person running for a high office must be ready to answer attacks, which sometimes he or she may never have dreamed about, but once a candidate, the questions are raised, particularly so if the candidate appears to be formidable.

SECOND PRIMARY...With this being the year for our biennial election for county, state and national offices, again we want to speak a word in behalf of second primaries being two weeks from the first, rather than four.

The present system of having the second primary four weeks after the first was instituted back in the horse and buggy and Model "T" days when travel and communication was at a snail's pace in comparison to what it is today.

In some of the other states the second primaries are two weeks after the first. If the candidates and the voters are interested in making the campaigns less expensive, reducing the time from four weeks to two weeks would be a mighty good way to begin. And too, most candidates are tired and weary of campaigning when the first primary is held and no doubt they would welcome shortening the second primary period.

TAR HEEL PRESIDENTS...In last week's column we mentioned two Southern Presidents of the United States since the turn of the century, Woodrow Wilson and Jimmy Carter. Lyndon B. Johnson, when seeking the presidential nomination in 1960 oftentimes referred to Texas, his home state as more "western" than "southern."

The week we want to mention, two and possibly three Tar Heels who were born in North Carolina who moved to Tennessee from which state they reached the White House -- James K. Polk and Andrew Johnson.

North Carolina claims Andrew Jackson as having been born in North Carolina near the South Carolina line. However, Jackson gave South Carolina as his birthplace. Compton's Encyclopedia does not say where "Old Hickory" was born, other than in "Waxhaw region" and the "frontier of the Carolinas."

Anyway, whether Jackson was born in North Carolina as his statue on the capitol square in Raleigh would indicate, or in South Carolina as he gave as his birthplace, it was from Tennessee that he made his name such as to thrust him into the White House.

According to Compton's Encyclopedia "Jackson's lack of education was due, not only to the poor schools on the frontier, but also to his own indifference to books, and his unwillingness to be taught. He never learned to speak or write correct English, and one of his enemies once said that his letters, with their crudities in spelling and grammar, would make the better educated angels weep!"

There has been no dispute over James K. Polk who was born in Mecklenburg County, who graduated at the University of North Carolina, moved on to Tennessee to become governor and later President of the United States in 1845-1849.

Andrew Johnson was born in Raleigh in 1808, lived in Carthage, North Carolina for several months, later moved to Tennessee where he served as governor and U.S. Senator before being elected vice president in 1864, succeeding to the presidency upon Lincoln's assassination in April 1865.

### Smokey Says:



Wildlife needs a break too!