

# Ever Jimmy

by R. Emmett Tyrrell, Jr.

**D**id you catch the front-page interview of former President Jimmy Carter in the *New York Times* the other day? It was a perfect substitute for a deficiency that the *Times* prides itself in, no comics page. Carter presents himself as a poet, a harasser of Warren Christopher, a stalker of presidents, and a ladies' man with a special hankering for the wives of dictators. I cannot recall any other admirer of the fair sex ever having a special eye for the wives of dictators. Not even dictators have an eye for the wives of dictators.

Jimmy does, and in this historic interview in the *Times* he glows over the assets of two such beauties, but only after reading one of his idiotic poems. Jimmy also reminds us that he once called Warren Christopher, then a member of his State Department, "the finest public servant I've ever known." I thought at the time that it was not a very kind thing to say about a man of such obvious mediocrity.

Now that Christopher is Bill Clinton's secretary of state, Carter will not leave him alone. He pops up in the midst of the administration's every (well, almost every) foreign policy disaster. During the embarrassment with North Korea, Carter was there. When things looked grim in the Middle East, Carter threatened to fly in. In mid-September, at the height of the Haitian blunder, the anile figure of

Carter was off to Port-au-Prince, leaving Christopher to spend Saturday afternoon at the movies watching *Quiz Show* with his deputy Strobe Talbott. Now Carter expresses his wonderment that Christopher is not appreciative.

Nor will Jimmy leave seated presidents alone. After depicting his 1980 opponent Ronald Reagan as everything from a tool of Kapitalism to an agent of the South African government, he was publicly miffed when President Reagan did not repair to him for foreign policy advice.

Americans might recall that President Carter's foreign policy was among the country's most amateurish, transforming a friendly Iran into a dungeon for American diplomats, delusionally imposing "human rights" on Moscow, then

kissing Brezhnev in public, then pathetically witnessing the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan. Now, Carter admits in the *Times* that he sought to thwart President Bush's request for a U.N. Security Council resolution ordaining military measures against Iraq. Carter sent letters to members of the Security Council asking them to oppose President Bush.

Obviously the old boy is non compos mentis. His poetry reading suggests it, his enchantment with the dictators' ladies confirms it. Apparently he has written an entire volume of dithyrambs that will soon be published. The First Amendment being what it is, there seems to be no way to avoid it. One is called "With Words We Learn to Hate." According to the *Times* it reads thus:

We justify our nation's wars each time with words to prove we kill in a moral cause. We've cursed the names of those we fought—the "Japs" instead of Japanese, German Nazis or the "Huns," and "Wops"—when they were enemies. Later, they became our friends, but habits live in memories.

Jimmy calls that a poem, but consider what he says about the former Ethiopian dictator Mengistu Haile Mariam (who he admits was a killer), "I found him to be charming." And on to Mengistu's wife, "one of the most beautiful women I've ever seen in the world, she was like King Solomon's daughter, and eloquent and personable." As for General Cédras's wife, during his recent visit to Haiti Jimmy



Adapted from *RET's* weekly Washington Times column syndicated by Creators Syndicate.

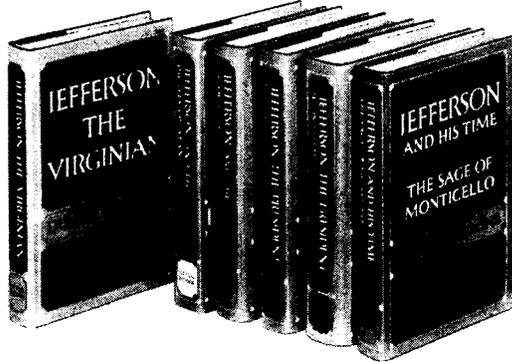
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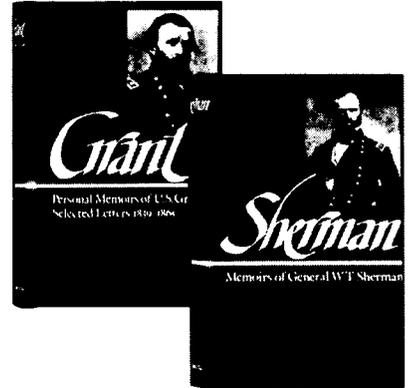
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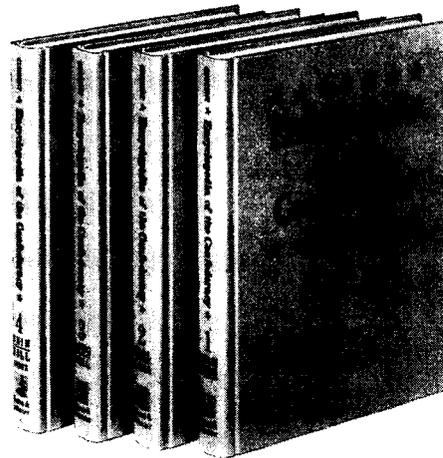
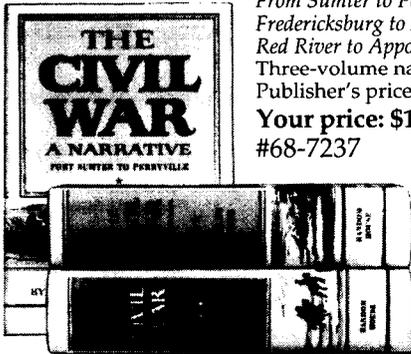
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found her “impressive, powerful and forceful. . . . And attractive. She was slim and very attractive.” I have no views on either Mrs. Cédras or Mrs. Mengistu, but I can tell you Mr. Mengistu is responsible for the deaths of tens of thousands. General Cédras is nicer.

Incidentally, Jimmy does not like Mrs. Thatcher and would not suffer the “waste of a stamp” soliciting her support against President Bush on the Security Council. He probably does not think her very pretty, either. □

## James J. Griffitts, M.D. R.I.P.

**I**t is with great sadness that I contemplate the death of James J. Griffitts, M.D., my friend and one of the most generous and thoughtful friends that *The American Spectator* has ever had.

Doc Griffitts was a friend of freedom and of the Republic. He loved our American institutions. At a time when they were being shamelessly exploited by political opportunists, Doc did what he could to shore them up. He made the administration of *The American Spectator* easier by his generous support, friendship, and wise counsel. He was a devoted healer, a doctor of the first rank. He was also a shrewd businessman. Then too, he was a truly civilized man, a voracious reader, a connoisseur of prose. He was a clever columnist, and he authored an engaging collection of biographical essays, *Call Me a Doctor*, which we were so proud to publish, in which he retailed the stories of men who went on from medicine to other things. Doc now is going on to other things, bigger things, and we hope he will remember the multitudes of friends he has left behind. We still need him.

—RET

# Plutonium and the President

**A**s Our President pratfalls his way through his fantasy presidency, ominous discoveries are being made throughout the world. Our President goes on vacation and cuts the military budget. He dines with The Stars and cuts the military budget. He boldly plays the game that rendered Dwight D. Eisenhower derisible to Our Progressive Intelligentsia and cuts the military budget. Funding for the military in real dollars has declined nearly to pre-World War II levels. At Martha's Vineyard he boasted of reading whole armfuls of “thrillers.” I hope he read some intelligence reports on the plutonium that German security officers have been intercepting from Russia.

All the world has heard of the August “sting” operation at Munich airport that netted 300 grams of plutonium being bootlegged from Russia. A more alarming German seizure took place in May, though it was kept secret for months. In the garage of one Adolf Jaekle, a 52-year-old entrepreneur living along the Swiss border, the German secret service discovered six grams of plutonium 239. What made this discovery so alarming was the astounding purity of the plutonium. At 99.7 percent, it could be used to create pocket-sized nuclear weapons. Russian scientists have admitted that the Soviets were intent on creating nuclear bombs capable of being smuggled into Western cities. In September of last year, a Russian nuclear expert, Professor N.V. Polynov, speaking at a conference in New Mexico, related that the laboratory he worked in had refined extremely pure plutonium with gallium in an alloy for military purposes. This is the material that the Germans discovered in Jaekle's garage.

There is still more evidence that state-of-the-art Russian nuclear technology is on the market to terrorists and outlaw nations. A German legislator, Peter Struck, said on August 19 that Jaekle had received an offer of around \$100 million for his treasure. The buyers mentioned were North Korea and

Iraq. One hundred million dollars is not all that much to one of these nations—or for that matter to some international terrorist organization—if it offers the hope of, say, holding the United States hostage. Scientists claim that plutonium of the purity found in the wretched Jaekle's garage could be used in a nuclear device small enough to be put in a coffee jar.

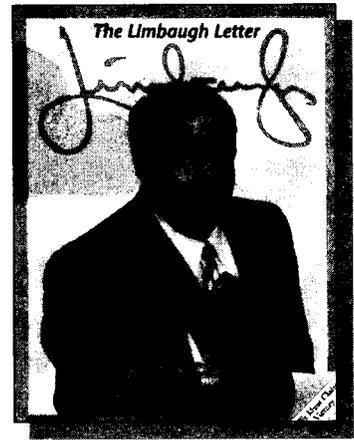
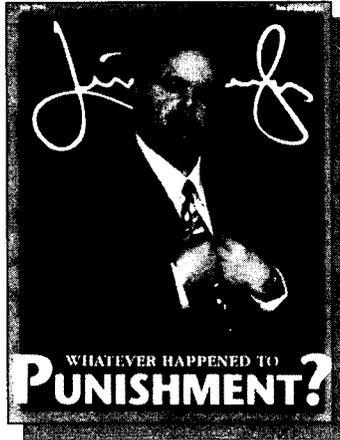
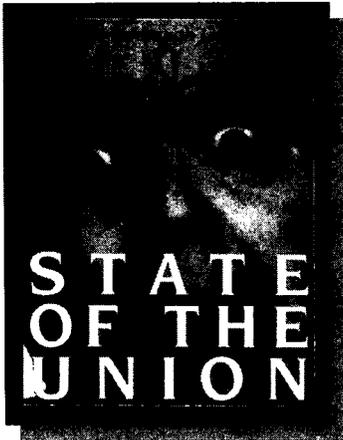
Obviously the civilized nations of the world should be developing weapons capable of defending themselves from such horror. With the proliferation of inexpensive missiles, the civilized nations should be developing defensive weapons envisaged in the “Star Wars” programs of the 1980s. Instead, Our President is allowing research into new weaponry to go the way of the military budget, to wit, towards decline.

For over a year, authoritative voices from the General Accounting Office to the Heritage Foundation have been claiming that the defense budget over the next five years has been underfunded by from \$100 billion to \$150 billion. Now Deputy Defense Secretary John Deutch has come forward and tacitly acknowledged that our penny-wise and pound-foolish leaders in Congress and the White House have woefully underfunded national security. In what may prove to be a historic memo, he has notified the heads of the armed services to plan on delaying major weapons systems for several years. Unfortunately, so tight is the military budget that it is questionable whether the armed services can even maintain their present weapons systems. Training exercises are being cut back. Personnel shortages are developing.

Nonetheless, as the *Wall Street Journal* has observed, the U.S. is cutting funding while deploying troops “to more world hot spots than ever before.” This is typical of Our President. He has now sent troops to Haiti to challenge a tiny army—yet he will not challenge Congress to fund them. □

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## The New Comintern

by Tom Bethell

Last month I noted what a bizarre movement American-style liberalism has become. Since then, the feminist-dominated conference on population in Cairo brings us more evidence. So, for that matter, does the Clinton administration's desire to install an anti-American defrocked priest as president of Haiti. This month I'll try to examine in a little more detail the ideas that animate contemporary liberalism. But first a few reflections on Cairo.

According to the *Wall Street Journal's* summary, Vice President Gore "chided the world" on the opening day of the conference. What had the world done now? It was guilty of a "willful refusal to take responsibility" for its population growth, he said. What a silly man we do have as vice president. He never seems to suspect that the dire news his staff feeds him serves a political end. Global warming, did someone say? He will set off down the corridors of power and round up the votes to save the planet. Another crisis averted! He's the liberals' pet wind-up pol. The conventional Beltway wisdom is good enough for him. The notion that there may be such a thing as politicized science hasn't yet crossed his mind. Wait, now there's a population explosion? Women's rights being neglected in the Third World? Another worldwide crisis! Off to Cairo he goes, there to chide the world.

The conference brought to mind a couple of old left-wing phrases. "Ugly American" was one. Another was "Yankee imperialism." One or two delegates were even heard to mutter the word "genocide." But for obvious reasons the American news media didn't

put these signs of native restlessness in the headlines. They know *good* Yankee imperialism when they see it. The idea that America might be less than popular when it tries to foist the latest progressive notions onto the world is something that the *New York Times*, for one, will play down.

One thing this tells us is that modern-day liberalism is driven by global ambition. The United States is a mere sliver of its concern. In that respect liberalism resembles the Catholic Church, with which it is ever more conspicuously at odds. It's the whole world that must be reached—before it's too late. I realize that belief in a looming population crisis antedates modern liberalism. By the 1950s, population was on the Ford Foundation and Rockefeller family agenda. But this was more naïveté than ideology. Gullible scientists, World Bankers, and liberal Republicans thought the Malthusian calculus was reliable (although it was refuted by British census data while Malthus was still alive),

and guilt-edged heirs worried that the hungry hordes might one day come ashore at Montauk and Greenwich.

Today it's all far more ideological. Most of those who have bothered to look at the data know that calories per capita are increasing and that the "crisis" is as remote and unreal as ever. It is now more cynically viewed as an opportunity: a pretext to break down traditional customs and mores; to fix up the natives with condoms, spermicides, and jellies; to "empower" the women; and to send Bella Abzug and Jane Fonda abroad as missionaries for the American Way. (All this talk about the lack of women's rights in the Third World is off target, incidentally. It's the very *idea* of rights, for men or women, that still hasn't caught on in most parts of the world. In the resulting politics of power, women are inevitably at the mercy of men.)

Here is a depressing change that we should ponder. In the 1950s, '60s and '70s, it was the Soviet Union that carried the ball for the progressive cause, bringing the good news of collectivism unto the Third World and duly enrolling converts in Moscow's Patrice Lumumba University. Now America is the missionary, preaching a politics of "change," with a license to annihilate imperfection. Under Clinton, we seek to export the latest left-wing notions to the world. Sen. Barbara Mikulski of Maryland hoped that, if only the Vatican hadn't intervened, the conference would "plan the status of women around the world." The conference bore the convenient "U.N." fig leaf, but this increasingly disguises the goals of American leftists.

An anti-Catholic ex-priest—"Father Aristide" as the *New York Times* so reverently calls him—has become our



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