

SALT proposal solves nothing

The attitude that problems can't be solved but can only be kept from deteriorating more rapidly has become a trademark of contemporary politics. Thus, for instance, economic advisers seek to soothe a populace ravaged by 12 percent inflation by telling us it could have been 15 percent.

Now we have a proposed strategic arms limitation agreement (phase II) with the Soviet Union that seems to be following the same infuriating pattern.

The agreement, which needs approval by the U.S. Senate in order to go into effect, is being trumpeted by Carter administration officials as "a message of hope" for America and the world.

That cheery bit of rhetoric, however, obscures the reality of the pact as portrayed by Defense Secretary Harold Brown. As the nation's top military adviser, Brown says that, even with the treaty, the United States will have to expand its defense preparations, particularly in strategic nuclear forces.

In a way, the SALT proposals serve as a political Christmas tree: dovish opponents of militarized international relations can nurse the "limitation," Pentagon brass can look forward to some brand-new weaponry and the nation's war-munitions manufacturers can plan for business as usual.

So, what have we actually gained: a continued arms race that will supposedly grow at a slower rate than would have occurred without the agreement. But the illusion of progress may prove more dangerous than no progress at all.

Saying a problem could have been worse, doesn't solve the problem and the SALT (II) proposal does little to solve one of the world's biggest. If anything, this approach to politics institutionalizes problems — in the present case by accepting the arms race as a "given" in foreign policy.

American negotiators have labored at a mountain only to produce a mouse. The so-called gains of SALT (II) make one wonder at the skills of American negotiators and, more importantly, the commitment of the Carter administration to real change in the militarized status quo.

Oregonians, who along with all U.S. taxpayers would have to pay for this charade, should tell their senators that they remain unsatisfied by the agreement, that they want the substance and not merely the form of arms reduction.

Sen. Mark Hatfield has already expressed his doubts about the adequacy of the proposed treaty. Sen. Robert Packwood may need some convincing.

Politics — as the homily reminds us — is the art of the possible. But in this crucial matter we must demand that more be made possible.

Making bad, worse

Outgoing ASUO Pres. Ramon Herrera appears ready to compound a failure of the Incidental Fee Committee with an unwise political move of his own.

A missed deadline and overallocation by the IFC in its budget have provided Herrera an opportunity to alter that document to suit his personal whim.

That would make a miserable legacy for his administration.

Herrera claims the ASUO constitution gives him the right, as a result of the IFC's problems, to make any changes in the budget he wishes. He numbers among those intended changes a cut in OSPIRG's allocation, a point on which the IFC overrode a Herrera veto earlier this year.

Even should the constitution grant Herrera the right to change the budget, doing so capriciously would amount to a repudiation of the five months of long hearings and tough decisions that have gone into the budget document.

In many ways, this issue appears similar to that raised by losing presidential candidate Mike Lee in which a decision by Herrera may well have provided a constitutional basis for kicking over the recent ASUO election results. Both controversies demand a balancing of fortuitous legal rights with moral "right" and the broader benefits of a stable political process.

Rewriting the IFC budget as he wants would represent a shabby exercise of personal power and political opportunism.



RCYB: 'loud, spirited debate'

On April 27, over 200 people filled the EMU's sacred cow Lobby I with loud and spirited debate. It was all the fault of the Revolutionary Communist Youth Brigade (RCYB).

"That's it!" shrieked Terry Vaughn, sole member of the ASUO Student Affairs Board, infuriated that hundreds of high school students on campus for the Model UN were kept from learning how "heart of gold" imperialist U.S.A. never gets any gratitude for its humanitarian services around the world. How would it look on student cop Terry's applications for higher office if it got out that he'd let four hours of discussion about revolution, communism and "whether we can stop WWII" go on in his EMU junior fiefdom?

Right then and there Terry decided to kick this very un-academic conduct right out of academia and put an end to that big May 12 teach-in on WW III that the Brigade was calling on people to help build.

"What rule did they break?" he squirmed to figure out as head campus cop Lakley Glen and other undercover security scrutinized the crowd. As more and more people came to check things out you could read it on their pig faces: "Oh my God, it's just like the 60s! Where's my Roloids?"

Before the day was over the ASUO memorandum read "RCYB suspended!" Terry's lawyers advised him that the Lobby I incident wasn't grounds for "divorce," so before he called the RCYB into his kangaroo courtroom office (the honorable judge Ramon Herrera presiding) he figured out it was those Houston Rebellion posters — they're in illegal places!

When a Brigade member pointed out how sell-out ("vendido") Chicano leaders in Texas didn't like those revolutionary posters either, Herrera was heard to shriek, "I don't want to hear about the Houston Rebellion!" as he melted into the furniture.

Couldn't we just let his thug Vaughn do the lynching and not rub his nose in it? After all, we didn't need to spoil his plans to

win favor in the eyes of the high poo-bahs in Johnson Hall either!

The only issue they say is that the RCYB has repeatedly broken the rules. They're damn right we have no regard for their rules! Their rules say that the Marines can come into the EMU lobby and recruit us for cannon fodder for the next World War, but students can't make any noise talking about it. Their laws say Joe Torres' life was worth a lousy \$1 fine for the cops who murdered him, but we can't put up posters defending the resulting cop-kicking Moody Park Rebellion and its leaders who are being framed up in Houston right now!

And it's not just the Brigade here that's come under attack. More than seven RCYB chapters around the country have had their "privileges" suspended, been put on probation, or completely banned like on the University of Hawaii campus.

It's no wonder they want to get rid of us. Despite their lies about peace and plenty, their capitalist system is rotting. The only future they offer youth under this system is slaving in a hell-hole factory, being an "educated" servant for their world-wide system of plunder or going off to fight youth of other countries for the benefit of our slavemasters.

People are looking for answers — for a way out of this mess. The RCYB dares to say, "Make revolution. Build socialism, a future free of this madness called capitalism."

That's why we're a threat to them — because we challenge students to pull their heads out of their books and question the rules and the capitalist system itself. The administration remembers the Vietnam War during the 60s, when revolutionary ideas disrupted nice, mellow Eugene. When the ROTC building went up in smoke and flaming garbage cans barricaded Franklin Boulevard.

But today isn't the 60s. It's the beginning of the 80s and we have unfinished business — Revolution! The administration has even more to fear now. The

Brigade is not idealistic youth who want to "just give peace a chance." We're led by the Revolutionary Communist Party, which has its roots in the working class — a party whose understanding and application of Marxism-Leninism, Mao Tse-tung Thought allow it to see the revolutionary potential of the workers (Yes, right here in the U.S.A.!) and give the party the ability to lead the Revolution through all the twists and turns ahead.

Far from cowering in the face of the administration's threats and attacks, the Brigade will continue to stand for revolution and socialism on this campus and dozens across the country.

As much as Herrera and his boss, president Boyd, flunky for the capitalists, extend "free speech" to those pimp politicians like Vic Atiyeh (their commencement speaker), as much as they sic the cops on the Brigade, Revolution will prevail!

Yes, we will challenge students to raise their heads, to stop drinking the Kool-Aid the capitalists are shoving down our throats, and start questioning the dead-end future that's all they have to offer.

"Is World War III Coming? What Can We Do About It?" — that's the title of the teach-in which the Brigade has initiated with a number of other groups and individuals to dig into some of the biggest questions that face us. Opposing viewpoints will be debated, beginning at 1 p.m. Saturday with workshops on the draft, nuclear war, the Middle East, S.E. Asia and the 60s anti-war movement to follow at 3 p.m. Since the rooms reserved by the Brigade at the University were canceled, the teach-in will be at Harris Hall, 8th & Oak.

We don't have to drink more Kool-Aid with Vic! In the spirit of the 60s, when students poured out of classrooms to question and debate everything held "sacred" in society, we urge you to participate in tomorrow's teach-in on WW III!

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