

of her own.

Strong-arm censorship forbids any printed or spoken statement in favor of divorce, abortion or the use of contraceptive devices. Mere participation in a feminist rap session can lead to several years in jail. Even so, a growing number of Spanish women are willing to take the risks involved in working for women's rights in Spain. An underground coalition group, called the Women's Democratic Movement, is currently working to educate Spanish

women to their plight and organize them to take an active stand against social and political oppression.

Perhaps somewhat indicative of the Spanish *macho* mentality is a trial held recently in which a Spanish woman was sentenced to two years and four months in prison after police found feminist propaganda in her apartment. Her husband, who is not politically active in any sense, was sentenced to an equal amount of time. It was somehow inconceivable to the Spanish judge that

a woman could be moved to act politically in her own right, unabettled by a male.

As a relatively recent development on the Spanish political scene, the Women's Democratic Movement is sorely in need of funds for legal defense. Anyone interested in helping the movement financially or in providing it with pertinent literature is asked to contact the Women's Room at 2490 Channing Way, room 504, Berkeley, Calif. 94704.

# Poor Derek's Almanac

**O**NE THING about that new American society we are interested in building: it won't come magically out of thin air or History's hat. It has to be devised, proposed, tested, and struggled for.

Around the country, people are saying it's time for the American left to get on with this work. Whatever the shortcomings of Senator McGovern's program—and there are many—his campaign and convention victory have raised the issue of Issues and Positions on Alternative Policies to the level of public debate, if not public awareness. There is new political fermentation in America, and we would do well to recall what Staughton Lynd wrote last year: "To be serious about being an alternative government, we must be able to talk concretely about how a socialist society would deal with problems which oppress people now."

Our job, in part, is to work out the specifics, to conceive and set up alternative models and to demonstrate that they are not only workable, but better than the present institutions. Already, in many parts of the country, this new round of radical experimentation has begun. The purpose of this column is to facilitate communication between groups and individuals who are exploring specific alternatives and working for them politically. Each month I will report on groups that are doing interesting and important political work, let you know how to get in touch with them, how you can help them, join them, and obtain their literature. In addition, I'll mention articles in journals and magazines that seem worthwhile, as well as new books,

pamphlets, slide shows and films which are relevant to the task of building a new American society.

In deference to Ben Franklin—to whom we owe the name of this column—let us commence with a group called the People's American Revolutionary Bi-centennial Commission (1346 Connecticut Avenue, NW, Room 1021, Washington, D.C. 20036, Telephone (202) 833-9121). The purpose of the Commission is to expose the plans of the Nixon Administration and Corporate America for turning the Bicentennial in 1976 into a gigantic merchandising effort. In addition, it seeks to help communities develop alternative activities which highlight the American radical tradition and suggest alternatives to the future envisioned by America, Inc.

The People's Commission has posters, buttons, pamphlets, records, and proposed programs of action for high schools, universities, and community groups. It makes available 4-minute radio spots, and already over 900 stations have broadcast this material. For \$5, the Commission will send you a complete packet of educational material, including a 15-page booklet on radical democratic thought in America. A subscription to the Commission's bi-monthly newsletter, "Committee of Correspondence," costs \$2 a year. Moreover, by subscribing you will be informed of regional workshops to be held later this fall and next year.

In October, Lyle Stuart, Publisher is bringing out a book called *Revolution American Style—the Bi-centen-*

*nial Declaration*, edited by Jeremy Rifkin and John Rossen, two organizers of the People's Commission. The book will include essays by Staughton Lynd, Bill Domhoff, and Ed Schwartz, as well as Jeremy Rifkin's "The Red, White and Blue Left." Particularly recommended is the piece by Domhoff, author of *Who Rules America?*, on "How to Commit Revolution in Corporate America."

Also soon to be published is the important book, *Strategy and Program—Two Essays Towards a New American Socialism*, by Staughton Lynd and Gar Alperovitz (Beacon Press, late 1972). Alperovitz's essay, "Notes Towards a Pluralist Commonwealth," proposes a vision of decentralized, community-controlled socialism for America. An addendum to the essay lists 15 possible "non-reformist reforms" which people might consider organizing around. Lynd's essay, "Prospects for the New Left" (written in 1971), deals with strategy and tactics for the left over the next decade.

Finally, the July-August, 1972 issue of the journal *Socialist Revolution* (single copies \$1.50; subscriptions \$6.00, 396 Sanchez St., San Francisco, Calif. 94114) has a very informative article by James Weinstein, in which the historian discusses the successes and failures of the old left (and the reasons why) and the growth and present condition of the new left.

*News of political work, including publications, films, slide shows, etc., should be addressed to Derek Shearer, RAMPARTS Magazine, 2054 University Ave., Berkeley, California 94704.*

by Derek Shearer

# The Americanization of the Persian Gulf

**Mr. Shirley Temple, a certain Charles Black, has been engaged by the U. S. Government to carry out fishing expeditions in the Persian Gulf. His fishing company, Mardello, is in fact an under-cover spy operation.**

**I**N THE LAST TWELVE months the U.S. has replaced Britain as master of the oil-rich Persian Gulf, the richest site of imperialist plunder in the third world. For 150 years, from its war against Napoleon to its imperialist twilight in the late 1960s, Britain dominated the Gulf, and ensured the flow of oil and profits to the West. But at the end of 1917, Britain finally withdrew her colonial tutelage, leaving

a set of shaky neo-colonial states to continue the protection of Western interests. In a pattern set ever since 1947, when the U.S. took over the British role in Greece under the Truman Doctrine, Britain's pullout has been followed by a stepped-up U.S. involvement. Nixon's trip to Iran after his Moscow visit highlighted this change.

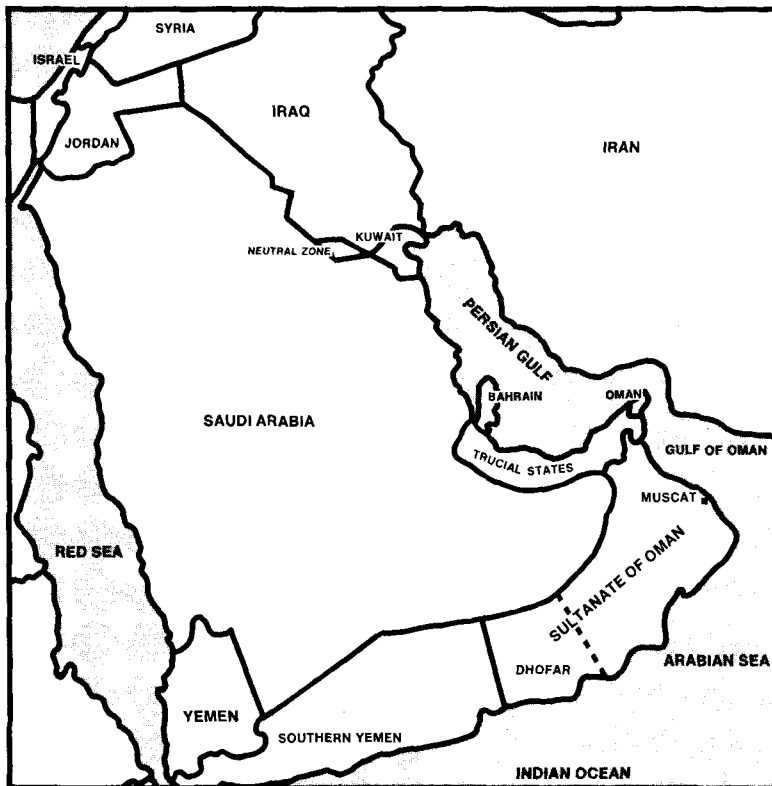
There are three reasons for this U.S. move. First, the Gulf is a zone of U.S.-

Soviet rivalry. Soviet economic and military power in Iraq, at the head of the Gulf, has led that country to boot out the Western oil monopoly that has long dominated its economy. Soviet naval activities in the Gulf, the Indian Ocean, and the Red Sea trouble Pentagon strategists. The U.S. has already announced that once they are no longer needed in Indochina, ships of the Seventh Fleet will be redeployed in the Indian Ocean and Mideast zones.

A second reason for U.S. concern is that the regimes in Iran and in the Arab states along the Gulf coast are thought to be unstable from the West's point of view. Both inter-state disputes and clashes between the regimes and the popular opposition movements are likely in the near future. In the Sultanate of Oman, Marxist-Leninist guerrillas have liberated most of the province of Dhofar and have tied down the Sultan's army. The U.S. reckons that its presence in the Gulf will counter these destabilizing forces.

The third and most important reason is that the Gulf is the richest source of oil in the world. In the spring of 1972, the Nixon Administration began to issue alarmist statements about the future U.S. dependence on Gulf oil and the political weaknesses this could lead to. While the British were there, they controlled the zone *politically*—but the U.S. has the greatest *economic power*, with ownership of two-thirds of the oil and a \$5 billion investment. With 70 percent of the capitalist world's known reserves the Gulf is the key to U.S.

*(Continued on page 20)*



MAP BY JOHN WILLIAMS

by Fred Halliday