

# The admirals you can put on the beach. The nuclear subs you can sink

## But then what?

As they faced each other on the television screen, it looked like the lifelong sports fan thanking the retiring head coach for all those winning teams and inquiring politely about the prospects for next season.

Only it wasn't your ordinary sports fan asking the question. It was Senator William Proxmire.

And it wasn't your ordinary head coach responding. It was Admiral Hyman Rickover, the George Halas of America's nuclear Navy.

They got around to discussing the shelf-life of a nuclear powered aircraft carrier in the event of an atomic missile war between the Russians and the United States.

"Two days," said the admiral.

"Two days?" asked the senator.

The Admiral explained that it would depend on where the carrier was when the war broke out. Two days if it was at sea. Maybe a little longer if it was in port someplace. But you got the feeling it was academic. Two days was a nice, round number.

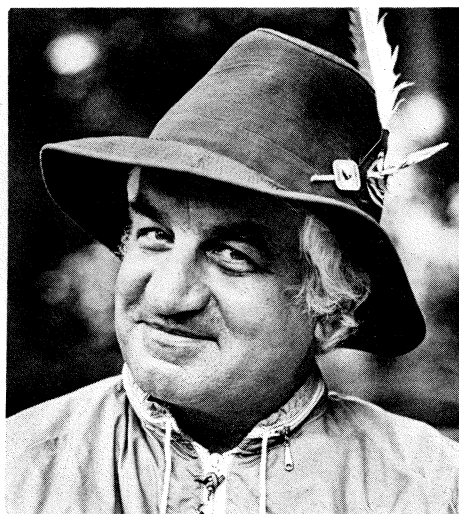
Then the admiral went on to suggest that we should be thinking about junking the whole nuclear powered concept anyway because it wasn't all it was cracked up to be.

That was like Vince Lombardi saying that he was going to junk the Green Bay power sweep he perfected.

It put the admiral in the same camp with Senator Alan Cranston (D-California) who says the threat of nuclear war is the single most important issue facing us, alongside which *all* other issues become secondary.

On the other hand, Senator John Tower (R-Texas) says the only way to get the Russians to stop making nuclear weapons is for us to make more.

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George Vukelich

"In Japan and other industrial countries," notes Vicki Watson in a newsletter from Madison Friends of Earth, "the best minds are dedicated to improving efficiency, productivity and providing for human needs. In the U.S., these minds are dedicated to producing weapons of greater destruction."

Imagine, she speculates, what the country would be like if those who design weapons and missile systems were designing energy efficient cars, transit systems, solar homes, livable cities. *Imagine* if those who are working on biological and chemical warfare were developing recycling processes, waste detoxification processes, species-specific biodegradable pest control, etc.

Watson points out that in addition to Friends of the Earth, other environmental groups including The Sierra Club and The Wilderness Society are now working with "peace groups" to reduce the military budget and specific weapons projects.

One of the peace groups is Nuke-watch, a national organization based in

Madison at 315 West Gorham Street, zip 53703. The telephone number is (608) 256-4146.

The Nuke-watch contact person, Bill Christofferson, can provide information on the Nuclear Weapons Freeze, speakers, films and other materials on the world's nuclear dilemma. Some of the speakers are medical doctors from the organization called Physicians for Social Responsibility.

The doctors speak free and freely—to any group willing to listen. Of course, not everyone is willing to listen. Perhaps, it is the fear of what we will hear.

*On the window ledge, a feeding bird watches the cat who watches the bird. There is more than glass between their lives*

*Their lives now close as drawn knives. This cat padding our temples in the olden days.*

*This bird passing our temples in the golden rays*

*that reach the poles. (although sometimes resting and even nesting in our highest spires)*

*We have an accommodation with this cat.*

*She guards our accumulation against the rat.*

*The rat we fear*

*The rat so near*

*The rat we hear*

*contesting our foundations*

*contemptuous of nations*

*Waiting and mating and learning our ways.*

*The cat keeps him wary and thus we abide*

*(with the cat and the trap and the old pesticide)*

*Without wings, the cat and I*

# Outdoors

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*We watch the finches feed and fly.*

*The cat.*

*The rat.*

*The bird.*

*And me.*

*We are each of us still contemporary.*

*Each may be yet only temporary.*

*Or maybe not.*

*Some say there is a Master Plan  
that most surely favors Man.*

*Some say there is another Plan  
and the eventual Master is not man.*

*It is moot as to Who  
will win.*

*And Why?*

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The same day Admiral Rickover was on TV, there was a news story saying the Navy had another problem with nuclear subs, namely, how to dispose of them because the metal around the spent fuel stayed radioactive.

The admirals you can put on the beach. The boats you can put on the bottom.

But nothing stays put. ■