

bloc have become ever more bizarre, however, thoughtful Americans are gradually being forced to rethink the question of whether the UN any longer has a reason or a right to exist.

Yesterday's appearance-by-invitation before the General Assembly of Yasir Arafat, the Palestinian terrorist leader, is just one more cause for renewed reflection. When last observed before opening the world forum to Arafat, plotter of hijackings, kidnappings and murders, and unselected representative of a state that doesn't exist, the General Assembly was closing its forum to one of its charter member-states, South Africa.

Former Virginia Gov. Colgate W. Darden Jr., for one, thinks it is time to start thinking the once-unthinkable: Maybe the UN should be abandoned. Unless it can be restructured into an effective, balanced organization offering real hope for solution of world problems, that should be the case, he told Virginia Military Institute cadets Monday.

Mr. Darden, who was this state's World War II governor and U. S. representative to the UN General Assembly in 1955, believes in international cooperation. If the UN is scuttled, an attempt should be made to put something better in its place, in his view.

Some form of collective action remains the "best hope" of establishing an enduring peace, but, realistically, the United States must continue to have a strong military and a strong will to protect its freedoms and its vital interests into the indefinite future, he added.

Mr. Darden's timely observations on the state of the UN ought to stimulate worthwhile debate as to whether America should continue to furnish refuge to a world organization that seems to have lost its moral and intellectual compass.

THE VETO OF THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT AMENDMENTS

HON. EDWARD R. ROYBAL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 20, 1974

Mr. ROYBAL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to support the override of the President's veto of H.R. 12471, the Freedom of Information Act amendment as an important step to ending arbitrary and capricious Government secrecy.

Public confidence in Government is probably at the lowest level in our Nation's history. At least a part of the loss of confidence can be traced to the pervasive secrecy in which Government agencies attempt to shroud their activities.

In 1966, Congress passed the Freedom of Information Act to insure that the citizens of this country have access to basic nonclassified information concerning activities undertaken by our Government's executive agencies. Since that time, the agencies have established a number of impediments to circumvent the intention of Congress.

The major provisions of H.R. 12471 would remove these impediments and reassert the intention of Congress as stated in the original legislation.

First, the bill provides for public access to records on the basis of reasonable description of the document rather than requiring a specific title or file number as is presently the case in many agencies.

Second, it provides that an agency must respond to a citizen inquiry within

10 days of the request. If the agency refuses to furnish the requested information and the citizen appeals that decision, the agency must process the appeal and render a decision within 20 days.

Next, the bill provides that courts can conduct an in camera review of documents that have been classified as secret to determine whether the classification was proper under the prevailing statutes and regulations.

Finally, in those cases where the courts determine that Government personnel have arbitrarily or capriciously withheld records, the Civil Service Commission must conduct an investigation to determine if disciplinary action is warranted.

It is unfortunate that at this time when openness in Government is so crucial, the President has seen fit to veto the bill. It is time to reverse our propensity for executive branch secrecy by enacting this bill. Upholding the veto would only continue to sanction the Government's policies of withholding information that should be made public.

WHAT THE ELECTIONS MEAN

HON. BURT L. TALCOTT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 20, 1974

Mr. TALCOTT. Mr. Speaker, political pundits throughout America have been studying the outcome of the election of November 5 with each formulating their own theories on the results. The products of this brainstorming are diverse and too often merely confirm the preconceived bias of the theoretician.

It was refreshing, therefore, to read an editorial of Mr. Tom Nash which appeared in the Seaside Post News-Sentinel, a newspaper serving the 12th District of California, which presented some unembellished facts. I commend this article to my colleagues:

WHAT THE ELECTIONS MEAN

(By Tom Nash)

The election of officers for the various offices is behind us with most of us being elated over the outcome (and I personally think this is premature), and some of us with deep regret.

Differences are being patched up, and new plans are being implemented to battle inflation, the number one problem facing the nation. Now ideas to combat the apathy of the American people to insure their involvement in their government.

It was truly amazing the total number of registered voters who stayed away from the polls, stating that their vote didn't count. The apathy that has been shown clearly reveals that the American people are totally disgruntled with the two major parties.

The Republicans lost favor behind the Watergate situation. The Democrats continued to belabor the point, aided by the press, to such an extent that most people became bored to tears, thereby creating a dangerous condition for the present form of government that has made this country the greatest country in the world.

So much noise and bandying of words almost led this country to a one party system which could have caused a dictatorial form of government that could have wreaked havoc

with our constitutional form of government, yet we sat at home and refused to intercede by casting our ballot for what we thought was right.

The free press has been given an even greater responsibility now than ever in the history of the United States. The responsibility of being a watchdog to insure that the American people be kept abreast of what is going on in Congress.

Already one of the labor publications has come out with the following statement:

"The Nation needs a creative and responsive Congress that will cooperate with the new President when it feels he is on the right course, but be strong enough to shape needed legislation itself when the President's programs are inadequate."

On the surface this sounds like a good statement, but can't you see the imposed threat?

The Republican party MUST begin their recruitment program immediately, and upmost on their program must be the re-education of the masses. They must recruit many new faces, and from these must come strong leadership to shape the plans for balancing the scales in 1976.

There is no doubt in anyone's thinking that with the Congress being dominated by the Democrats, a Republican President will catch hell trying to implement any programs through the Congress. Yet the blame for the failure will lie at his doorstep, just as it has been in the past.

The best we can hope for, at this point in time, is that we can survive the next two years without going to war.

The country clamored for a change. The country received their change, now let us see if it was for the best, or was it just jumping out of the frying pan into the fire.

AN AMENDMENT TO RATIONALIZE THE DATING POLICY ON GPO PUBLICATIONS

HON. DONALD M. FRASER

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 20, 1974

Mr. FRASER. Mr. Speaker, I am sure that my colleagues have shared my annoyance at finding that many materials issued by the Government Printing Office contain only obscure, hard-to-find references to the date of publication. This creates needless difficulty for congressional staff members and other researchers, who often must leaf through an entire GPO document before discerning whether it is current or out of date. Persons compiling bibliographies have also complained about the difficulty in finding dates of publication in GPO documents. Clearly, a system which specifies a uniform location for the date of publication in all GPO documents is in order. I, therefore, have introduced the following bill:

A bill to amend title 44, United States Code, to require that the date of publication of any material printed by the Government Printing Office, or of any material authorized to be printed under chapter 5 of that title, appear on the first page of the material.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That chapter 5 of title 44, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end thereof the following new section: