



Centennial Post 209

Box 4495

Colorado Springs, CO. 80930

BULLETIN NUMBER 11

JANUARY 30, 1978

Meetings and Programs

As usual, meetings will be held at 7:30 PM, first and third Thursdays of each month at Moore Realty Company, 3690 N Academy. Programs for the next several months will be as follows:

Feb 2, 1978: Dave Bamberger, Pikes Peak Area Council of Governments, will speak on the Regional Land Use Master Plan for the Pikes Peak Region.

Feb 16, 1978: Albert Northcutt of Mitchel High School, winner in our Post Oratorical Contest, will present his winning oration for our members. The Principal of Mitchel H S and several members of the District 11 School Board will be present as guests.

Also on the Feb 16 program will be Mr Jim Coakley, who will speak on the proposed Panama Canal Treaties. Mr Coakley was born and raised in the Canal Zone, and is very knowledgeable about the history of the Panama Canal and the proposed treaties.

THIS IS AN OPEN MEETING. Y'ALL COME, AND BRING YOUR WIVES TO HEAR THESE SPEAKERS.

Mar 2, 1978: Mr Jim Rutan, Local Veterans Employment Representative in the Colorado Springs Job Service Center will speak on veteran's employment problems in the local area.

Mar 16, 1978: Dean Hunter, Department Adjustant, Dept of Colorado, The American Legion, will be our guest speaker. We are looking forward to a big turn out to meet and hear our Department Adjustant.

Apr 6, 1978: Mr Al Gillen, Director, El Paso County Department of Social Services, will speak on the Dept of Social Services and its programs.

Also, we will hold election of officers for the coming year.

Apr 20, 1978: Mr Jerry Soulek of the Water Division, Colorado Springs Dept of Public Utilities, will speak on Colorado Springs Water Resources.

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May 5, 1978: Installation banquet. Speaker and installing officer is expected to be Mr Robert Watters, Commander, Department of Colorado, The American Legion. More details later.

As of the meeting on January 19, 1978, we have 48 paid members for the current membership year. Our quota is 50. We would like to make or exceed quota by the next meeting on February 2. There are still five old members who have not renewed their membership. Reminders are inclosed with this bulletin. How about it, guys -- bring a check to the February 2 meeting. We still need you.

The Panama Canal

Inclosed with this bulletin is an extract from an American Legion fact sheet on the Panama Canal traties. Read it over and come to the February 16 meeting to hear Jim Coakley. Then write both Colorado senators and let them know how you feel about this important issue. Addresses are:

Senator Floyd Haskell
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Gary Hart
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

THE AMERICAN LEGION OPPOSES THE PANAMA TREATY BECAUSE...

- We immediately give Panama sovereignty over the U.S. Canal Zone that we bought and paid for at a price higher than the total price we paid for the Louisiana Purchase, Arizona and Alaska combined.
- We immediately give Panama title to the land in the U.S. Canal Zone, which we bought from private landowners in addition to buying sovereignty from Panama. Present residents may continue to occupy their property only by paying rent to Panama. We start giving away "the management and protection and defense" of the U.S. Canal immediately.
- After 22 years, the U.S. is prohibited from any action whatsoever, to defend the Canal and may not have any "military forces, defense sites and military installations" at the Canal.
- The United States gives up all right to build or even to negotiate for a new inter-oceanic canal anywhere in the Western Hemisphere without Panama's permission.
- The U.S. agrees to pay Panama \$10 million per year from the Canal tolls, plus 30% of the Canal tolls (estimated at \$40-55 million per year) and another \$10 million per year if revenues permit. This makes a total of \$60 to \$75 million per year.
- American citizens in the Canal Zone are prohibited from engaging in "any activity incompatible with the spirit of the treaty," and the United States pledges to "take all measures" to "ensure" that this provision is complied with. (This means that the U.S. promises to abridge the First Amendment rights of Canal Zone Americans and forces them to live under a dictator.)
- Article IV of the Treaty bears upon U.S. responsibility concerning the neutrality of the Canal and the entire document is so vague as to be virtually meaningless. There is no assurance that the U.S. can intervene to assure the neutrality of that vital area.
- Article III(e) states that "vessels of war and auxiliary vessels of all nations shall at all times be entitled to transit the canal." This statement assures

the passage of warships through the canal of nations which may be at war with the United States.

- Article VI, Section 1, states that vessels of war and auxiliary vessels of the United States and the Republic of Panama "will be entitled to transit the canal expeditiously." The exact meaning of the word "expeditiously" is vague at best. Even more confusing is the interpretation placed on the word "expeditiously" by the Panamanian officials.
- Gen. Omar Torrijos, since assuming power in 1968, has, as evidence illustrates, repeatedly violated the rights of Panamanian citizens. He has rewritten the Panamanian constitution to give himself extraordinary powers and he has supplemented these powers with arbitrary arrests, torture, and exiles. The best course for the United States is not to conclude a treaty which could augment and perpetuate Torrijos' power over Panamanians and extend it to Canal Zone residents.
- The treaty states that it "be subject to ratification in accordance with the constitutional procedures of the two parties." However, the Executive Branch is seeking ratification of the Treaties without seeking enabling legislation from the House of Representatives to transfer real properties, appropriation of funds and perhaps other legislation which is not spelled out, as required by the Constitution of the United States. This by-passing of the House of Representatives appears to be an usurpation of legal powers which is clearly conveyed to the House by the Constitution.
- Panama has violated the present Treaty at least 12 times during the past two years. These violations included such militant acts as the Panamanian National Guard taking up positions in December 1975 within the U.S. Zone; attempting to arrest and actually shooting a citizen in the U.S. Zone in January 1976; setting off bombs and explosions in the U.S. Zone in October 1976, and capturing a vessel, the Sea Wolf, which was operating inside Canal Zone waters, burning and desecrating the U.S. flag, and bombing the U.S. Ambassador's car in September 1976.
- The canal is still of great strategic and military importance to the United States and all but 13 of the ships in the U.S. Navy can transit the canal.