

On the Line
**People
 And Places**
 By Bob Considine



Nuclear physicists in the Republic of South Africa have developed a new and much cheaper method of separating uranium-253 atoms (the hot ones) for uranium-238. Which means that Prime Minister Vorster's land could soon join the exclusive company of nuclear powers.

There won't be any voluntary sharing of the secret process.

"There is no clue at all to the nature of the South African process, except that it is not an adaptation of the diffusion (U.S.) or the centrifuge (European) principle," states "RSA World," the Republic of South Africa's bi-quarterly review "exclusively for people of discernment," which bars all of us common folk, I guess.

"The state is obviously determined to keep its secret," the review continues. "Within a couple of days of the prime minister's statement, a Uranium Enrichment Bill was submitted to parliament, providing for a R (rand) 10,000 fine or 20 years' imprisonment or both for the contravention of the relevant security regulations. In addition, the Minister of Mines will have the right to withhold from Parliament any information concerning uranium enrichment which may jeopardize the safety of the state or be contrary to the public interest."

Spoilsports!

Sebastian Ciacci, New York's

finest barber (and maybe the only one with a dual U.S.-San Marino citizenship), blames the Beatles for the present decline in his business.

"They started this whole long-hair bit," he said with slightly weary resignation the other day, as he tried to find enough of my hair to trim. "Then a lot of other groups tried to copy the Beatles, and those groups became even shaggier. In time it seemed that everybody on television had to have more hair than he used to have. Even Mayor Lindsay has let his grow down his collar. What segment of the voters is he trying to impress?"

The next time the American Indians bring their legitimate gripes to the attention of their captors, the federal government, they should add one more reason why they should be treated better. They are this country's No. 1 tourist attraction, a recent survey shows.

The sampling of what-the-European - wants - to - see - most, when and if he gets around to visiting the U.S., was made by the Chicago Convention and Tourism Bureau. A team headed by Pat O'Malley, president of Canteen Corp., and Thomas F. Meagher, president of the convention bureau, conferred with hundreds of international association execs, corporation heads, travel industry representatives and ordinary folk while in Europe.

The group, which had the blessing of Mayor Richard Daley and Gov. Richard B. Ogilvie, found that Sitting Bull and Geronimo are better known abroad than even Spiro Agnew.

"We found a remarkable misunderstanding about the size of the United States among people who've never been here," Meagher told me at Shor's joint. "We pointed out that Chicago is much closer to Indians than New York is. In fact, Chicago is within 3 1/2 hours flying time of any place in the U.S., including Disneyland. Europeans tend to gasp at our distances. What we take more or less for granted, in the way of mileage, means to them something unthinkable — like a voyage from Brussels to the far-off Soviet Union."



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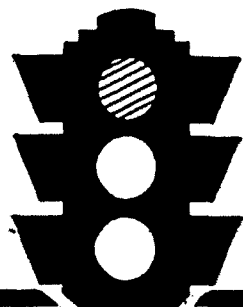
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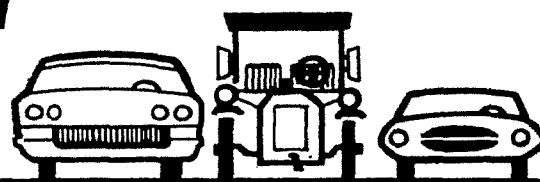
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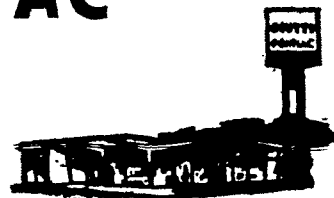
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