

POLITICAL PERSPECTIVES

With RICHARD HUTCHINS

In this week's perspectives I would like to examine the inefficiencies of trade sanctions and their use as a tool of economic warfare.

Historically trade sanctions have been relatively ineffectual when applied. In 1935 the league of nations applied article 16 and levied trade sanctions against Italy for its invasion of Ethiopia. Although Italy's exports fell by 35 percent they were still able to get valuable petroleum products from the U.S., a non-member of the league.

Because trade sanctions are not imposed uniformly by all nations, a target country such as Cuba could reroute its trade through sympathetic allies. Cuba eased its economic troubles in 1959 by accepting aid from the Soviet Union.

All this emphasizes America's reaction to the banning of Solidarity in Poland and the new wave of sanctions applied by Washington. The goal of these sanctions is supposed to be the forcing of a change in the conduct of the offending nation. All they are doing in reality is forcing the Polish people and government to be more reliant on Soviet aid and thus further choking the nationalist movement started by Solidarity. America's trade sanctions towards the Soviet Union's 10 billion dollar pipeline have led to a large rift in the N.A.T.O. alliance. European nations involved in the project argue a need for the Soviet investment to help aid their spiraling economies.

It is obvious to me that unless applied uniformly these economic sanctions are totally ineffectual in curbing offenders.

Why then do the Americans persist in using these sanctions as their strongest retaliatory policy? I agree that anything in the way of military intervention by the U.S. would be political suicide in the world community. All Europeans share the belief that in a nuclear age military intervention could only produce a third world war.

I believe that one of the reasons for such ineffectual policy is Reagan's need for public support in the U.S. and to show the people he is not sitting on the issue. The American government is also aware that shifting the economic aid needs of Poland to Moscow is hurting an already financially troubled Soviet economy and thus undermining recovery.

America's position in the world in view of recent foreign policy decisions has been tarnished. I believe that unless they attempt to patch up their alliances with the rest of the free world, the unity needed to make sanctions work will be lost as a political tool ideally more acceptable than military involvement.

P.S. This column is meant to be a forum for political happenings. Anyone with an interesting issue is welcome to submit it to the Brunswickan office.

Thank you.

COLUMNISTS: Due to the limitations of space, we will be running columns on a bi-weekly basis beginning next week. The first four columns received will appear next week. (Nov. 5)

Study abroad

Again for 1983 -- both spring and fall term as well as for the university year 1983-84 -- the CEEU is offering a number of small grants to qualified students who wish to study at the Université de Paris or at the Universidad de Madrid.

Students must enrol in either the Paris program or the Madrid program of Academic Year Abroad, Inc., whose admissions committee will judge the qualifications and make the awards. The grants are paid in the currency of the country to students in good standing.

Application to only one country is allowed in any one

semester, but a student competent in both French and Spanish may apply for one semester in Madrid and the next in Paris or vice versa. For Paris an applicant must have attained admissibility to Junior Year, or higher.

To apply: send two 20¢ stamps and a letter giving the following personal information: (1) full name; (2) current address; (3) college name and location; (4) year and major; (5) number of years of French or Spanish, to:

C.E.E.U

P. O. Box 95

New Paltz, NY 12561

Car rally coming up

What is the Car Rally all about?

Simply, the purpose of this car rally is to test drivers' skills at negotiating a given course, with no previous knowledge of the course itself. Each vehicle is manned with a crew consisting of a driver and two navigators, who combine their driving skills and resources in an effort to get their vehicle from one checkpoint to the next.

Before starting, each crew will be given a map, a set of rules and instructions, and a checkpoint card. Cars will be sent from the starting line at three minute intervals. They then proceed to the checkpoint

by following the given instructions. Checkpoints will be located on the right hand side of the road and will be easily identifiable by posters.

Upon arrival at a checkpoint, the driver shall park his vehicle on the shoulder of the road. The crew must then run to the checkpoint, at which time the driver must present his checkpoint card to the marshall of that checkpoint. The navigators must then each chug one beer, with chugging time recorded by the marshall on the checkpoint card. The car must be signed by the marshall and returned to the driver. The crew then proceeds to the next checkpoint.

This rally is easier than any midterm, and a hundred times as much fun. You don't have to own a Lamborghini to win, either. The course is not difficult, except maybe when all the chugging makes all those little white lines on the road disappear. . .

Anyway, the entry fee is only \$6.00 a team; that's only \$2.00 a person, and anyone can afford that, even broke students. Of course it all goes toward a good cause and a good time, so get out there and participate! In other words, be there or be square.

NOTE: Application forms are available in the Chemical Engineering Office, D-39, Head Hall.

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