

## Topics

# Abroad, Aground and Above

### Aiding Mozambique

On Thursday, when the lights were out, we published a letter from Paul Irish, of the American Committee on Africa, calling attention to an ironic confusion in foreign aid maneuverings. Only a few weeks ago, the House amended this year's foreign-aid appropriation bill to deny any assistance, both direct and indirect (through agencies such as the World Bank), to several nations, including Mozambique. But only a week earlier, Mr. Irish observed, the Carter Administration had joined in a unanimous vote of the United Nations Security Council condemning Rhodesian military attacks against Mozambique and urging members to assist Mozambique.

The House amendment, sponsored by Representative Philip Crane of Illinois, was an act of resistance against the Administration's search for a rapid transition to black rule in Rhodesia; it was meant to penalize Mozambique for protecting guerrillas who are fighting against the white minority Government of Rhodesia. The amendment was pressed in the name of human rights, although its sponsors could cite only reports of alleged violations, attributed to former Portuguese soldiers in Mozambique now living in Rhodesia.

Last Friday, a unit of the Senate Appropriations Committee rejected a part of the Crane amendment so as to permit American aid to Mozambique, at least through international institutions. The Senate committee receives the bill tomorrow, and we urge it to strike out the remaining prohibition against direct aid. The sums involved are likely to be small. Indeed, the Administration has not yet earmarked any aid for Mozambique this year. A government, even if Marxist, that bears the brunt of the international campaign against the white Rhodesian government and has no quarrel with the United States does

not belong on any blacklist—if lists we must have.

### Wishing Westway Away

The complex accounting procedures of the Federal Highway Administration make little sense on paper, but they make good political grist for the opponents of Westway. So Bella Abzug, one of several candidates for Mayor of New York who oppose the proposed West Side Highway, rushed forth with the revelation that Washington plans to reduce its subsidy for the \$1.16 billion project by \$327 million. Since the city has nothing like that on hand, Westway was portrayed as finished.

If it were, of course, the election-year posturing on the highway would cease. It won't, because there are some legitimate issues worth debate that bear on how the city's economy can get the biggest bang for each available Federal buck. Westway can't be killed by press release for another reason: the disappearing paper millions will reappear soon enough.

Without belaboring these phantom statistics, we note that the Federal Government reduced potential contributions by only \$294 million, of which \$191 million is not a reduction at all—only a loan to create new land which might one day be salable for that much. When it is, Washington wants its money back. Most of the rest of the scale-down results from similar legerdemain. The Federal Government reviews highway subsidies every two years. The projected Westway aid, for instance, increased by more than \$350 million between 1975 and 1977, as various pieces of the complex project could be costed out. Other estimates will be finished by 1979, and the Federal Government remains committed to a subsidy of 90 percent. If elected, even Mrs. Abzug would not lightly celebrate such misleading calculations of subsidies for the city. She might

even re-examine Westway from a perspective higher than a political rostrum.

### Midsummer Stars

Unless there is a cool breeze or a full moon, midsummer's night skies get little attention. Mosquitoes get in the way and the full-leaved trees make star-gazing difficult for the casual amateur. But the stars are there, though it may be difficult to find familiar groups.

The Little Dipper, for instance, which pivots on the Pole Star, now stands straight up in early evening, the bowl turned earthward and obviously empty. To the left the Big Dipper, more formally called Ursa Major, hangs straight down, for all the world like the old tin dipper that hung on its nail beside the water pail in a rural summer kitchen. Cassiopeia is far to the east and near the horizon, the irregular W which outlines the lady's chair and which was high in the sky a few months ago.

Aquila, the Eagle, flies high in the southeast. Below it is Sagittarius, the Archer, not looking like an archer at all; it could just as well be a teapot, handle to the left, spout to the right, sitting on a hot spot on the horizon. And directly to the south, close to the horizon, is Scorpius.

Overhead the stars have thinned. Hercules and Boötes fly high, but the major constellations are elsewhere. Almost directly above is a semicircle of stars, none particularly bright, forming Corona Borealis, the Northern Crown. And just to the east, is a butterfly-shaped group called Hercules, the Kneeling Hero. But there are few evening stars now that make one crane the neck. That's one virtue of the summer skies. They will all be back in their familiar places soon after the leaves have fallen and the last mosquito has been frosted.