

CORRESPONDENT KARSTEN PRAGER WITH PREMIER ADOLFO SUÁREZ

## A LETTER FROM THE PUBLISHER

For the people of a country that had not gone to the polls to elect its leaders for 41 years, last week's Spanish elections were a celebration over. With joy and assurance they voted in Premier Adolfo Suárez, rejecting the extremes of both right and left. In our cover story this week, we examine the nation's emotional yet orderly transition from dictatorship to democracy. Madrid Correspondent Karsten Prager was struck by Spain's ability to emerge so smoothly from a political vacuum. "There are not many parallels," says Prager, "even though the political changes of the past 18 months might have gone deeper. And even though reform was not so much negotiated as conceded."

After four decades of what one Basque described as the "boca cerrada" (closed mouth), Prager did find that many citizens were reluctant to speak with reporters. Suárez too has avoided the press, although he granted Prager an off-the-record interview at Moncloa Palace a few days before the election. Sums up Prager: "Suárez has kept his counsel and his cool. He is plainly aware that Spain has changed and continues to change, that the new look in the society is more than cosmetic, and that the new look in politics will have to follow suit."

In our Energy section we describe the planned journey south of the first oil to flow through the Alaskan pipeline, which will go into service this week after the spending of \$9 billion and more than three years of construction. The story was written by John S. DeMott, with the help of Reporter-Researcher Gail Perlick. No one knows exactly when the pioneer ribbon of oil will reach the end of its nearly 800-mile trip or, strangely enough, where all of it will go after it gets there. The economic and political implications of the various plans being made to refine the oil, some of which cannot be handled by existing West Coast facilities, were reported by Washington Correspondent Don Sider. The description of the pipeline itself, with its adjoining highway for trucks and its walkways for caribou, came from our Alaska stringer, Jeanne Abbott, who has traveled its entire length. She says the pipeline has transformed her state, making "the old casual frontier style a quaint backdrop to a fast-paced urban way of life."

Ralph P. Davidson

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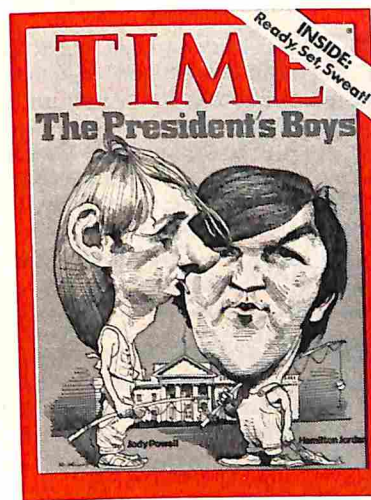
### Carter's Good Ole Boys

To the Editors:

From your article on Hamilton Jordan and Jody Powell [June 6], President Carter's staff appears to be populated by mere "good ole boys." But Carter did not get to be President by hiring political ignoramuses. Jordan and Powell obviously have plenty of savvy—they may break the rules by failing to be stuffed shirts, but they did not break the cardinal rule by letting their man lose.

Richard H. Timberlake III  
Arlington, Va.

To the President's "Boys" in the lovely White House I'd like to say, as I



would to my own in our humble farmhouse, "Take your feet off the furniture!"

A.M. Dilley  
Strattanville, Pa.

As a high school student I find myself with a new and sincere interest in politics. For this I thank Jody Powell and Hamilton Jordan, two intelligent, charming and handsome men, who have humanized the Washington scene and sparked many of us into feeling a little bit closer.

Juliette Montemurro  
Riverdale, N.Y.

Gosh! Shucks! Gee whiz! Jody and Ham a-settin' thar in the White House bitin' them nails and burpin' Tab while talkin' about folks who is "less eclectic philosophically" stirs the juices of us dung stompers in Wisconsin.

Them is our kind of people!

John W. Comfort  
Hager City, Wis.

Hamilton Jordan says, "I don't think much about political philosophy any more." Further, he's not an "issue man."

Jody Powell tops that with, "I reject

the idea that there is some undeniably true system of political or social ideals."

This sort of nihilism from two of Carter's intimates is truly frightening. Do they, between tennis games, merely take a stab at "conceptualizing the process by which goals are met"? If this brand of inchoate populism is the result of employing new faces, then I wish god-speed for the return of the insiders.

Michael J. Sharon  
Bethesda, Md.

### Running Forever

I am happy to see that the American people are finally awakening to the benefits and joys of running [June 6]. I am a long-distance runner, and I intend to run forever.

E.J. Pritchard  
Schenectady, N.Y.

It's high time that America and the world got a real look at the thousands of arm-pumping huffers and puffers who spend many lonely miles dodging cars, potholes and dogs with but one consolation: I made it!

John Sengle Jr.  
Mountainhome, Pa.

Joggers make me sick. There are plenty of them around here. They run past me with supercilious smirks on their red faces. What are they trying to prove? I hope they all drown in their own sweat.

I'm 100 lbs. overweight and love it. I eat and drink what I please. To hell with the physical-fitness fanatics.

A. Wilson  
Encinitas, Calif.

In a society largely affected by fashions, fast foods and television, how can healthy dieting and good exercising be called a fad? Is pursuing physical health really comparable to buying CB radios and talking to plants? I think not.

Darin Smith  
Los Angeles

I see that jogging is now a full-blown fad. Good! If we are to judge from other fads, that means it will blow over in a few months, or at most a year or so. Like, for instance, Hula Hoops.

As an old Army man, I can tell you what jogging really is. Jogging is double time. And I say, the hell with it!

John S. Carroll  
Emlenton, Pa.

The blue-collar hostility to aerobic exercises probably relates to the exerciser's perverse dissipation of energy. Conservation has always been the ethic of the lower middle class, and it is silly to

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## Spain: Democracy Wins



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