

# A Letter from the Publisher

Though the movement has become widely known as the New Right, the resurgence of conservative American politics draws much of its strength from some familiar—if not down-right old-fashioned—values. For the three-man team that reported this week's cover story on conservative Senator Jesse Helms, the assignment involved a return to familiar ground as well. Atlanta Bureau Chief Joseph Boyce set out to reconstruct Helms' early political background by interviewing the Senator's friends and associates in the North Carolina capital of Raleigh and in Helms' boyhood home of Monroe. Boyce was well suited to assess the small-town rhythms of Monroe, with its old courthouse dominating the square and its passion for politics; he was reared in the very similar town of Danville, Ill., seat of the legendary Speaker of the House Joe Cannon. Says Boyce: "Politics aside, I could understand why those who knew Helms as a youth still speak of him with a pride that is only a touch vicarious. Conservatism is deeply rooted in towns like Monroe. For Helms to be other than he is would be to renounce his heritage."

Los Angeles Correspondent Joseph Kane was no stranger

to Helms' home-grown style of politics either. Kane, who served as Atlanta bureau chief from 1970 to 1973, covered Helms during his first Senate campaign in 1972 and at the Republican convention last year. This time Kane spent five days with Helms at home and on the job and accompanied him to a Sunday-morning church service. Kane was treated to some Southern hospitality when he joined the Senator and some of his cronies for shrimp jambalaya, poker and stories at the Raleigh antebellum mansion of North Carolina Superior Court Judge Pou Bailey. Kane found the evening "fun but unprofitable": he lost \$1.10.

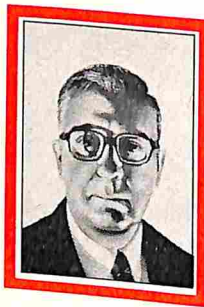


Kane, right, interviews Helms in private plane

Senior Correspondent John Stacks spoke with Helms' colleagues on Capitol Hill and journeyed to Raleigh to profile the Congressional Club, his extraordinary money machine. Observes Stacks: "What is most fascinating about Helms is the unique amalgam of the old and the new in American politics that he represents. His personal style, his elaborate politeness and his reactionary ideals are out of an earlier era of Southern politics. Yet his political apparatus is the very essence of the new, nonparty politics of high technology."

*John A. Meyers*

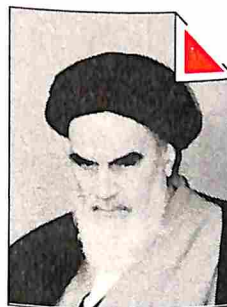
## Index



**24**  
**Cover:** A saint to his fans, a dangerous buffoon to his foes, Senator Jesse Helms is the New Right's righteous warrior. As Congress reconvenes this week, his long crusade to remoralize America moves to the fore. See NATION.



**12**  
**Nation:** Vacation over, the President returns to face growing deficits, crucial defense decisions and a delicate diplomatic visit. ▶ Reagan's standing with labor falls flat. ▶ Watt gets sued—often. ▶ Proof of poison use.



**40**  
**Iran:** As Islamic President Mohammed Ali Raja'i and Prime Minister Mohammed Javad Bahonar meet secretly in Tehran, a powerful bomb blast kills both men and six others, pushing the nation toward civil war. See WORLD.

**46**  
**World**  
The U.S. is chastised over South Africa. ▶ Samuel Doe retains power in Liberia. ▶ In Poland, Solidarity's first congress.

**54**  
**Economy & Business**  
The IRS slows interest rate competition for All Savers. ▶ Madison Avenue pitches products to the baby-boom generation.

**74**  
**Medicine**  
The new PET scanner diagnoses many diseases by measuring the metabolic rate of the brain and other organs.

**77**  
**Sport**  
A decade after her debut at the U.S. Open, Chris Evert Lloyd returns, a champion still seeking to master her game.

**80**  
**Law**  
In a search for a more humane form of capital punishment, Oklahoma plans the first execution by lethal drugs.

**82**  
**Press**  
From Boston to Seattle, the second newspaper in town is in trouble, and the trend is toward blander, less vigorous reporting.

**85**  
**Education**  
Duke University agonizes over whether or not to build a library for Richard Nixon's papers—and decides to go ahead.

**86**  
**Show Business**  
She is almost 78, but Claudette Colbert, who opened in a new play last week, is drinking from the Fountain of Youth.

**88**  
**Video**  
*Hill Street Blues*, a tough, funny police show, has 21 Emmy nominations—and low ratings. Is it too good for TV?

**92**  
**Living**  
Air parks, whole communities built around airstrips, have become a way of life for owners of private planes.

**102**  
**Essay**  
Ah, summer—the beach, the mountains, the fun, the peace, the time to think, the country life. Thank God it's over.

**4 Letters**  
**6 American Scene**  
**76 People**  
**81 Photography**  
**90 Cinema**  
**94 Music**  
**96 Books**  
**101 Religion**

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# TIME

**IRAN**  
The Killing  
Goes On



## To the Right, March!

### Conservative Senator Jesse Helms



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