

COPY

Scan

410 Groveland Avenue, No. 802
Ninneapolis MN 55403, tel 871 6396
29 August 1992

Jim Klobuthar, care of
Star Tribune
425 Portland Av. S
Minneapolis MN 55488

I write to compliment you on your columns: "The Vibrant Streets of Copenhagen", and "Bush Campaign Rhetoric --- ". My wife, Margaret, and I enjoy your column when we are in Minneapolis; half of the year we are at our other home and work place in Italy. There we are closer to the thousands of men I and my colleagues in the Seven Countries Study have been following for 25 years since their first medical examinations in Italy, Greece, Finland, the Netherlands and Yugoslavia.

The University of Copenhagen was my choice for post doctoral research when the National Research Council awarded me a fellowship after I got my degree from the University of California. Copenhagen was far different from Berkeley and San Francisco. That was in 1930. There have been changes over the years but the contrast persisted when we last visited Copenhagen 23 years ago. Besides the contrasts in climate and landscape, the differences in the people and mode of life were notable in our experience and seemingly more striking now from your description. The Danes are, or were, more given to the enjoyment of life; less devoted to commercial striving and monetary values than the American norm. I sometimes think a relaxed attitude shows up in the spoken language where consonants take a back seat. Listening to spoken Danish is like listening to spoken Portuguese; I am tempted to ask for reassurance that there is no throat disease in both utterances.

You "dined by candlelight" but you didn't say what you ate. Long ago the Danish cuisine struck me, a Californian, as long on richness, short on vegetables. My work was briefly interrupted while a physician re-treaded my gastro-intestinal tract. At the end of the year I vacationed in Finland and wished for a return to my diet in Copenhagen; in Helsinki it was meat and boiled potatos every day, no leafy vegetables, buttermilk to drink.

Over the years the Danes have been more content at home than the other Scandinavians. Far fewer of them migrated to Minnesota than the Swedes, Norwegians and Finns. In 1774 Denmark took over Greenland and some Danes had to be there to run the place but Danes always like living in Denmark where they can indulge in the pleasures you saw.

Your column about Bush makes us cheer. It is not only the

gargle of the GOP convention and distortions and lies that are becoming the stock in trade of the Bush propaganda. Much of what the GOP spokesmen, and women, are dishing out could be called political obscenity. I can go along with George Will when he says that Bush is totally without honor. But I want to add that he is totally without compassion.

He was happy to order the devastating attack on Panama that killed thousands because he thought he would gain politically. He basks in the triumph of Desert Storm that restored the rule of the millionaire oligarchs who wallowed in luxury in Paris until it was safe to return and assure the continuation of the autocracy. We all rejoice that so few Americans died to ensure the prosperity of our oil business. No concern about killing a hundred thousand Iraqis. Otherwise we might have had to wait months for a tight embargo to work. We might even have had to make efforts to conserve gasoline.

Bush is a man of violence. All of us admire him as a pilot in Vietnam. It was not his fault that our stupid government said the communists had to be driven out of their own country even though 50,000 Americans had to die before we had to give up. In spite of that awful example, Bush's answer to a problem is to shoot. I don't know if he is an ardent member of the National Rifle Association like Reagan but he resists any attempt to regulate the purchase and possession of pistols and other firearms that have no other use than to shoot people.

I could go on, pointing out Bush's opposition to real efforts to control air pollution, his determination to let the logging industry destroy our national forests. He refuses to come to grips with the problem of cigarettes, the cause of far more deaths than drugs, gang warfare, automobiles, natural disasters and infectious diseases put together. I don't say anything leading our country into bankruptcy and leaving thirty million citizens without medical care.

Ancel Keys, Professor Emeritus, University of Minnesota School of Public Health. My home address is 410 Groveland Avenue, No. 802 Minneapolis, MN55403. Telephone 871 6396.

P.S. I hope you don't mind my making copies of your columns and my response to send to some friends.