

Aug. 10, 1990 71 to 82 degrees, buckets of tropical rain, grim, gray, depressing for the past week, no respite.

Dear Friends, When I don't write it's because I have a somnolent response to the oppressive weather, taking naps, watching TV, drudging about doing housework, feeling gloomy because of another milestone: Glen's BIRTHDAY tomorrow. Fortunately he has a pleasant task for tomorrow diverting his thoughts from the passage of the years (72) ...presiding over the United Way booth at the Scarsdale Sidewalk Sale Days.

Then on Sunday we're invited to Princeton where daughter-in-law Nancy and son Ted will give us a birthday dinner. It will be a mighty small gathering however since Kysa is at Drama Camp in upstate New York. Kristin is on Nantucket visiting a college friend. Kathryn, age 12, will be at home, however, and the German au pair girl Suzanne will be there.

Next Wednesday Glen has invited the Trustees from the church for dinner at our house with their spouses - 12 in all. Suddenly the house looks disreputable, dingy, shabby and I go into a frenzy of cleaning! We'll have zucchini from Glen's garden, the tomatoes aren't ripe yet....the peaches from the two peach trees were COMPLETELY eaten by the squirrels. Devastation!

My own morale has been devastated also by the new WAR. I don't think American boys should be put in danger for OIL. Let the Arabians settle their own squabbles. Bombing the oil resources certainly won't help the environment! We can get oil from Mexico. Better, we can promote solar energy and other gas-saving devices.

Just when I thought we have the Peace Dividend and that Gorbachev has saved us from conflict, these petty wars erupt. I heard on the morning TV news that you can drive from Iraq to Saudi Arabia on a highway through Kuwait in only one hour. In other words, Kuwait is such a small country, who cares if it's controlled by Iraq! Why are we intervening to help a KINGDOM (This is one war we're not going to save Democracy!) and the hated Americans are interfering in the Moslem Arab brotherhood. Let them settle their own squabbles!!!!!! The U.S. under George Bush can't pretend to be so moral and upright about violating the integrity of another country's boundaries when we just finished our forays into Grenada, Panama and Nicaragua.

Just to get these subversive thoughts off my chest makes me feel better. Helps me narrow my focus. What I am basically opposed to and evermore shall be is the use of WAR as a device for international policy. Why has no Senator or Governor or person prominent in U.S. policy questioned this recent turn of events. The front pages and editorials in the N.Y. Times are all laudatory of Pres. Bush at this juncture. Come forward, Friends, Quakers, Churches. Protest! I was reading the burning at the stake of Michael Servetus in 1553 because he opposed Calvin and was deemed a blasphemer and heretic. The book ends "We who are aghast at the burning of one man to ashes for religion do not hesitate for the preservation of our culture to reduce whole cities to cinders." (Hiroshima)

THOU SHALT NOT KILL .. nor prepare to kill by devising ever more evil and deadly ugly engines for killing.