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# United Press International

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September 26, 1963.

My dear Syd,

This cutting about smiles  
will interest you.

You promised to contact me  
for a cup of coffee when you are in TA.

I know that you won't forget  
the timing without which no interview  
ever goes beyond the day on which it is  
published.

Thanks,

Sincerely,

*ES*

Mr. Syd Appelbaum,  
Tel Aviv.

*Appelbaum*

*100% COTTON FIBRE*

# Observer

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WASHINGTON, Sept. 22 — Roy Gallant, writing in the magazine, *Nature and Science*, urges people to quit smiling at chimpanzees. This is sensible advice. People who begin by smiling at chimpanzees sometimes wind up talking to bears, to the distress of their families and employers.

Mr. Gallant's advice is based on studies conducted by Dr. Desmond Morris, curator of mammals at the London Zoo. When a chimpanzee sees two rows of exposed human teeth, he is not amused, according to Dr. Morris, but angered and frightened, and bares his own teeth in return.

The person smiling at the chimp misinterprets the ape's response, assumes that the chimp is smiling back at him, and smiles harder, thus infuriating the chimp and starting him down the road to neurosis.

### Smiles That Make Us Shudder

It is not surprising that the chimpanzee resents being smiled at all the time. One need only put

one's self in the chimp's shoes to appreciate his resentment. It is no picnic sitting behind bars having peanuts thrown at you by smilers.

This raises some unpleasant questions about the whole smile tradition in this country from zoo to White House. The theory behind it has always been that if you smile, the world will smile with you. Politicians, who are the most indefatigable smilers hold that a handsome set of incisors is more valuable than a brain for winning elections, and even the solemn professions like undertaking and nuclear science assume that the smile is sound business practice.

The papers are full of smilers. A General tells Congress that the world's nuclear storehouse is now big enough to provide the equivalent of a 35-ton dynamite explosion for each individual on earth, and the illustrating picture shows him smiling.

Barry Goldwater declares that the country is going to ruin, and smiles and smiles. At less cosmic levels, everybody can recite ugly experiences associated with smiles. There is the smile of the dentist when he says, "This may hurt a little—." The smile of the banker declaring you a hopeless credit risk. And the smile of the TV repairman explaining that he will have to take the set back to the shop to locate the trouble.

### NATO Allies Differ On Policy

If incoming smiles too often mean misery, outgoing smiles are likely to mean trouble. Smile

while walking through Farragut Square here in Washington, and the panhandlers attack in platoons. What man has not let his smile at some time or other come to rest on a lovely stranger across a crowded room, only to note her escort glaring back with undisguised malevolence?

The British ration their smiles. When they use one, it is effective. No one has ever seen a picture of a British politician smiling, although they are always announcing that Britain is going to ruin. Of course, the British do have that odd habit of smiling at dogs, but this is probably sounder than the American habit of smiling back at politicians.

The French think that the smile is overdone in America and favor less ambiguous gestures. A Frenchman, for example, will not smile at your wife across a crowded room; he will walk across, dismiss you and ask her what she is doing tomorrow afternoon. French politicians also know better than to smile at the vote. One could no more picture President de Gaulle smiling than imagine a toastmaster calling him "Chuck."

Precisely when or why Americans adopted the smile as the national facial expression is unclear. There are no portraits of George Washington, Jefferson or Jackson smiling, and the one Brady photograph of a Lincoln smile is a tragedy. Yet nowadays the whole country in Scott Fitzgerald's phrase, lives by the contorted pan.

### Sometimes Peanuts Are Unwelcome

The trouble is not so much that it is ridiculous to get elected on strong teeth, or look cheerful

about "overkill," or act happy about charging some wretch \$67.50 for TV repairs. The trouble is that the smile gets debased in the process.

People who are constantly smiled at by Generals who have 35 tons of dynamite earmarked for them or by TV repairmen planning to deplete their bank balance are apt to reconsider the value of the smile and agree with Shakespeare that "One may smile and smile and be a villain."

In extreme cases, these people may develop hallucinations about being behind bars with peanuts raining in on them. Sometimes they go mad with the urge to bite back when they see two exposed rows of human teeth.

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