

THE ROAD AHEAD  
(Originally published November 1976)

By the time this issue of the *Bulletin* appears, the presidential election will have been decided. Right now, some three weeks before the election date, there is still uncertainty about the outcome. Will Gerald Ford survive in office . . . or, will Jimmy Carter take it all?

Our sympathy—and our vote—will go to Ford; but our less than firm conviction, as it was last April, is that Carter will win. We exchange the known for the unknown. Or, at least, Carter will be an unknown to most of the rest of the country. Here in Georgia, we have known him as governor, and many of us weren't impressed.

On past performance records, the road ahead will be filled with a lot of rhetoric and activity in the field of government reorganization. There will be a lot of departmental name juggling; new committees and commissions will be formed; and stacks of paper and directives will mount. And, as someone wrote, a repeat performance of JFK's "Best and Brightest, Part II" will be the order of the day.

Within a year, President Carter will be at odds with much of his Democratic Congress, just as he was with his Democratic State Legislature here in Georgia. Half or more of his campaign promises will have been forgotten, half of the rest will have been stymied, and the remainder will still have yet to be acted upon. By mid-term, at least a third of his enthusiastic supporter-advisors will have resigned in frustration.

At the end of his four years, unemployment will still be with us, inflation will have increased, and our foreign relations policies will still be just as foggy and confused. By that time, the Carter smile will be less in evidence; the Republicans will be resurgent, calling for a change of leadership and demanding that the rascals be turned out of office.

By unofficial estimate we may have another twenty-five years or so of this tomfoolery before the walls finally collapse. So sit back, enjoy it if you can, stay calm and do your best to stay solvent.