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## Our Man Hoppe

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# Can Nobody Win?



## Arthur Hoppe

**I**N ALL DUE MODESTY, when it comes to politics, I have been known for the past 16 years as "The Brains behind Nobody."

Nobody in those 16 years of presidential politics, I'm proud to say, has consistently won the support and respect of the American public. Among those eligible to vote, more citizens cast their ballots for Nobody every four years than for Goldwater, Johnson, Nixon, McGovern, Ford or Carter.

And, even more important, Nobody has kept his campaign promises.

Every four years, Nobody has promised the American electorate bigger government, rising inflation, higher taxes, a fatter national debt and ever-widening urban sprawl. And every four years, Nobody has delivered.

With a record like that, it should come as no surprise that Nobody this year has captured the adulation of the nation's electorate. Indeed, a recent Louis Harris poll showed that the number of citizens who felt that either Mr. Carter, Mr. Reagan or Mr. Anderson "could successfully carry out the duties of the presidency" had been steadily declining since the campaign began. If the present trend continues until election day, the poll indicated, more than 50 percent will agree that of all the candidates, Nobody is fit to be president. And they will vote accordingly.

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**I**T WAS then and there that I reluctantly decided to withdraw from Nobody's campaign. Nobody, I am happy to say, thanked me profusely for my past services. I could tell that Nobody really cared.

Yet I had no choice. It's one thing to

say that Nobody would make a better president than Mr. Carter, Mr. Reagan or Mr. Anderson. But I find it oddly depressing that in our great democracy, the majority of us think Nobody is fit to be president.

So this year, flying in the face of all odds, I'm going to think positively and endorse Somebody for president.

I say that out of more than 200 million Americans, Somebody must be fit to be president. What's more, I feel strongly that we need Somebody in the White House during the next four years.

Who's going to turn out the lights and water the philodendron? Who's going to throw out the first baseball, supervise the egg roll and greet the Easter Seal child, the premier of Zambonga and the Committee to Declare Coreopsis Our National Disease?

Equally important, who's going to keep reassuring us that things are going to get better and better, even if they're not?

For, believe you me, Somebody's going to promise us smaller government, less inflation, lower taxes, a balanced budget and a cure for post-nasal drip. And even if Somebody can't keep those promises, won't we all feel cheerier just hearing them?

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**S**O THINK positively. Remember our theme song: "Everybody Needs Somebody Sometime." Have faith in our democratic system. Vote for Somebody.

And vote with confidence. Remember that old political adage: "You can't beat Somebody with Nobody." So what if it hasn't proved true these past 16 years?