

ERIC MARGOLIS



Moscow will be pleased

Scare commercials sell products. Who among us is not afraid of the terrors of BO, bad breath or ring around the collar?

Last night, *Global* TV and ABC TV ran *The Day After*, the all-time mega-scare commercial. This one-sided melodrama about the effects of a nuclear attack on a midwestern town represented the Hollywood debut of the new Radiation Chic movement.

Now we all know that nuclear war is unspeakable, so why did ABC spend \$7 million to belabor the obvious? The reasons are far more interesting than the film itself.

This blatant work of propaganda comes precisely at a time when the Russian-backed nuclear disarmament campaign in Europe is peaking. It is no coincidence that *The Day After* is opening in 30 West German cinemas just as U.S. medium range missiles are being deployed in Europe.

If any still doubt that a self-perpetuating, hard core of left wingers still holds sway over TV, Hollywood and, through them, an important part of our political life, this film should remove any doubt. *The Day After* was produced, financed and promoted by so-called liberals who appear determined to undermine the very society that allows them to live in their Beverly Hills mansions.

Let's assume that after watching this show, panic-stricken Americans respond as planned. This time, instead of rushing out to buy detergent, they force the U.S. government to unilaterally junk its nuclear arsenal. What would the Russians do?

Protesters jailed

Almost all of the tiny groups of anti-nuclear protesters in Russia have been instantly jailed. Russia is accelerating the development of an entire new generation of tactical and strategic nuclear weapons. Do we need further proof of Russian intentions?

If the West unilaterally disarms — and this is exactly what *Global*, ABC and our peace movements are calling for — Russia will be left to rule the world through its nuclear power. Protesters should travel to Poland or Afghanistan in order to savor, first hand, the joys of Soviet domination.

But if a miracle occurs and *Global* and ABC somehow convince Moscow to give up its nuclear weapons — and, of course, Moscow will never do so while China has nuclear arms — where will this leave us? Outnumbered by over two to one by the Warsaw Pact in troops, tanks, guns, planes and warships.

Having rid ourselves of the very nuclear weapons that kept the peace for 38 years, we will now have to face the overwhelming conventional might of the aggressive Eastern Bloc. The only recourse for the West will be an immediate program of massive conventional rearmament.

The Soviet Union now spends 15-20% of its Gross National Product on defence. By contrast, the United States spends only 6.1% and Canada, a paltry 1.7%. Russian consumers still form bread lines so their armed forces can have huge quantities of the best equipment money will buy. Westerners are living lavishly exactly because their governments are spending on welfare, services and consumerism rather than on defence.

In order to match Soviet conventional power, the West will have to begin allocating at least 10% of the GNP to defence. This means that Canadians, who today spend only \$213 per capita on defence, would have to begin devoting at least \$1,257 — for every person in the country. The average family would thus face an annual tax increase of more than \$3,000 or unimaginable cuts in government spending on social services.

Boundless idealism

Are all the anti-nuclear protesters prepared to pay the true price of their boundless idealism? A return to military conscription and \$3,000 extra taxes per family are very sobering considerations. The Russians are paying this price; are we ready?

But these unpleasant realities hardly affect the wealthy liberal-leftists who run the TV networks. Liberals are always ready to spend other people's money and risk the lives of the working class, which they so despise. As for *Global* and ABC, it does not matter that their propaganda has dealt a serious blow to our national will: They have raised their audience ratings and promoted their gospel of defeatism.

Stalin, of course, said it all: "Arm at home; promote disarmament abroad." Yet why should we allow *Global* and ABC to do the Kremlin's work? Can we, in fact, afford to have a dedicated group of leftists in control of our media which is a vital component of a free society? If these liberals are so concerned with peace, why don't they begin their crusade by removing the rampant violence that permeates so many of the mindless programs that they foist upon us?

What can we as individuals do to protest the outrageous and seditious promotion by *Global* and ABC of mass hysteria and defeatism? Hit back at these liberals in their most sensitive spot — their pocketbooks. Boycott the products — and similar ones. Call the presidents of the TV stations and tell them to let Moscow make its own propaganda.

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