CHESS

Hail Bobby

by Murray Chandler

IT SEEMS that the US Government has not been too preoccupied with arms deals and fund diversions to overlook chess. Last year the House of Representatives passed a resolution, put forward by Congressman Charles Pashayan of California, that "... the United States Government recognises Bobby Fischer as the Official World Chess Champion". As Fischer has not played a single serious game since he turned recluse after storming the world championship back in 1972, even the United States Chess Federation strongly opposed the motion. Nor does the chess community at large seem particularly impressed with this particular piece of US foreign policy. One master of modest strength immediately wrote an open letter challenging Fischer for his title. "Just don't ask me to play a match on equal terms against Karpov or Kasparov first," he said.

Remarkably this spurious resolution appears to have the support of 27-year-old American grandmaster Yasser Seirawan, who recently announced he was running for US president (Chess Federation president that is). Seirawan believes that anything should be done to get Fischer playing again and that calling Fischer World Champion (or similar accolade) would not necessarily undermine Garri Kasparov's claim to the throne.

Seirawan's most recent tournament victory was in March at the 12th International Open in Lugano, Switzerland, where he picked up over $NZ10,000 with a score of 7½ points from nine games. Lugano is Europe's strongest annual event run under the Swiss-system of pairing, which allows for a large number of competitors, and 194 players including 23 grandmasters competed in this year's top section.

Normally in such cut-throat competitions, where wins are essential to stay up with the leaders, risk-taking and aggressive attacks are almost obligatory. But, as this following masterpiece shows, there is still scope for subtle and delicate play. Watch out for the instructive moment when Seirawan gives up his most powerful piece, the queen, for rook, minor piece and pawn. This is something many players find very hard to do.

GRUNFELD DEFENCE

Y SEIRAWAN	R SIMIC (Yugoslavia)
1. d4	Nf6
2. c4	g6
3. f3!?	

An off-beat and interesting counter to the Grunfeld.

3. ...	d5
4. c×d5	N×d5
5. e4	Nb6
6. Nc3	Bg7
7. Be3	0-0
8. f4	f5

The game Gheorghui-Korchnoi, Zurich 1984 went 8. ... Nc6 9. d5 Na5 10. Bd4 Bg4 with unclear play. Grandmaster Simic's choice leads to a blocked centre, but one where the black bishop on g7 is somewhat shut out of action.

9. Qb3 ch	Kh8
10. e5	c6
11. Nf3	Nd5
12. N×d5	c×d5
13. Be2	Nc6
14. Kf2!?	

A novel alternative to the obvious 14. 0-0. Does White want to keep kingside attacking options open, or is he envisaging an endgame where his king will be nearer the centre?

14. ...	e6
15. Rhc1	Rf7
16. Bd2	Rc7
17. Bb5	Bd7
18. B×c6!	R×c6

If 18. ... b×c6 19. Ba5, or 18. ... B×c6 19. Ba5 b6 20. Ng5 b×a5 21. R×c6! as Black cannot allow 21. ... R×c6 22. Nf7 ch forking king and queen.

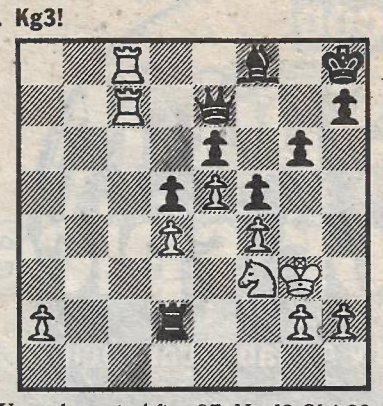
19. Q×b7	Rb8
20. Q×a7	Ra8
21. Qb7	Rb8
22. Q×c6!	

Typical Seirawan; White will be left with rook, knight and pawn for the queen. Materially matters are equal, but very soon Simic is in trouble along the back rank.

22. ...	B×c6
23. R×c6	R×b2
24. Rac1	Bf8

After 24. ... Rb8 25. Ng5 the e6-pawn falls.

25. Rc8	Qe7
26. R(1)c7	R×d2 ch
27. Kg3!	



Very elegant. After 27. N×d2 Qb4 28. Nf3 Kg8 29. Rd7 g5 Black has swindling chances, but now 27. ... Qb4 is met by 28. Rf7! winning. Simic returns the queen to try his luck in an endgame.

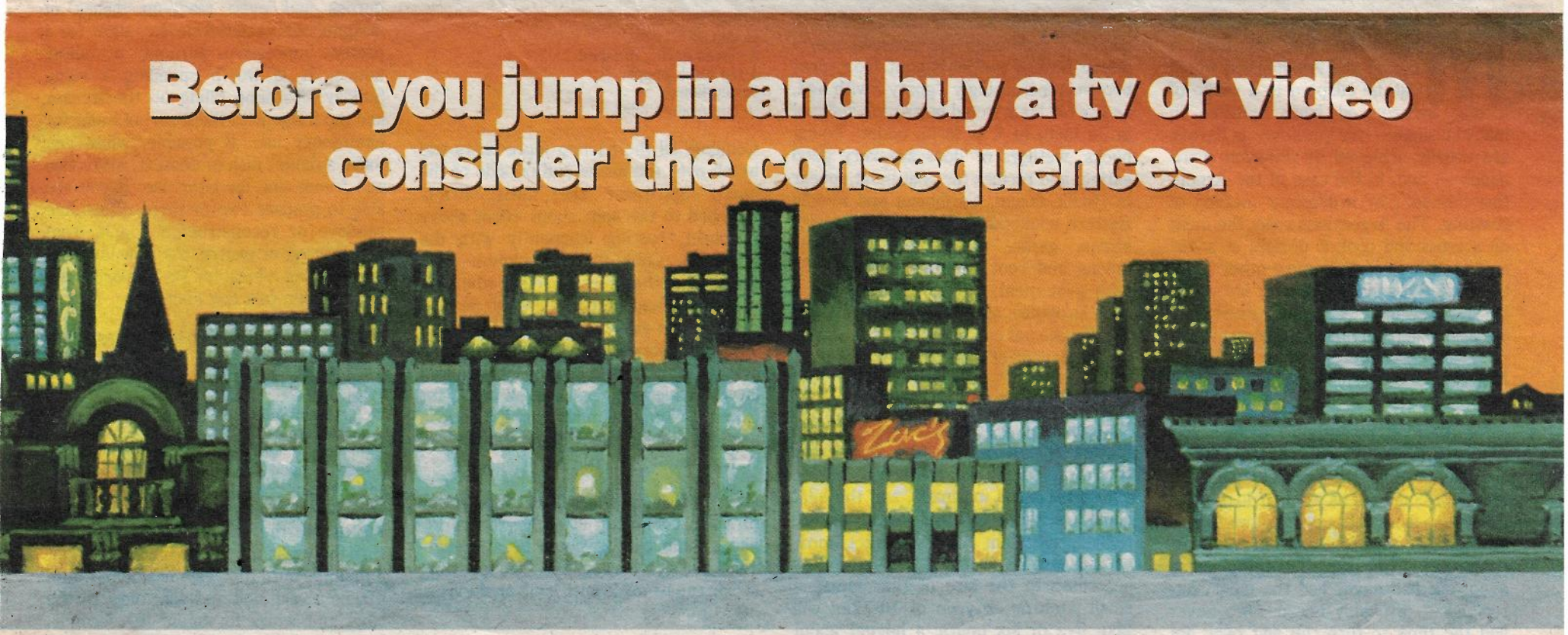
27. ...	Q×c7
28. R×c7	R×a2
29. Ng5	h6
30. N×e6	Bb4
31. Rd7	Ra6
32. Nc7	Ra3 ch
33. Kf2	Ra2 ch
34. Kf1	Ra1 ch
35. Ke2	Ra2 ch
36. Kd3	Ra3 ch
37. Kc2	Rc3 ch
38. Kb2	Rc4
39. Rd8 ch	Kg7
40. Rd7 ch	Kh8
41. Ne8	

The time control reached, Seirawan begins to weave his final mating net. The immediate threat is 42. Nf6 and 43. Rh7 checkmate.

41. ...	Kg8
42. Nf6 ch	Kf8
43. e6!	R×d4

Most sporting; Black is quite lost after 43. ... Be7 44. N×d5 R×d4 45. N×e7 R×d7 46. N×g6 ch! Kg7 47. e×d7.

44. Rf7 checkmate.



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