

Titel: BREV TIL: Eli Fischer-Jørgensen FRA: Stephen Anderson (1986-06-30)

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Anvendt udgave: Louis Hjelmslev og hans kreds

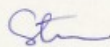
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so much more concerned with what they see as "practical" issues, and so determined to be "non-ideological" (which is of course a much more pernicious ideology than most) that this most vigorous and energetic source of constraint on foolishness in government is completely lacking. There is beginning to be some outcry among academics about the consequences and desirability of accepting "Star Wars" funding (though all of the usual rationalizations are still well in place), but not nearly as much as one might expect. Since linguists have shown little aptitude for improving the accuracy of particle beams or the like (despite the frequency of terms like "binding", "barriers", "chains", "weak-crossover prohibitions", and other vaguely violent notions in the syntactic literature), we seem unlikely to get a chance to say "no" ourselves.

I also have a great sense of frustration with the fact that not just once but twice in a row the American people have elected such an embarrassingly fatuous man as president. Amazingly, the majority continue to be satisfied (indeed, quite happy) with him: especially amazing when you consider that there is a substantial majority opposed to virtually every one of his major 'policies' (if his positions are worth dignifying with that name) when the issues are put to them in isolation. Somehow, he manages to escape any association with what he apparently believes, says, and does: the "Teflon president" phenomenon. Since I am reluctant to believe that there is something peculiarly evil (or even peculiarly fatuous) about Americans, this seems a sad comment on human nature.

I am hoping to arrange another extended sabbatical in Europe: probably during calendar 1988, and perhaps a bit beyond if I can find a temporary place. If possible, we'll go back to Geneva; but Wolfgang Dressler says there's a possibility for me to have a visiting position for a while in Vienna, and that might be nice too. In any event I'll try to spend some time in Denmark as well, where I haven't been since the International Congress of Phonetic Sciences. But I'll probably see you next summer in Berlin, if not before.

Sincerely yours,



Stephen R. Anderson
Professor of Linguistics

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