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ACTION COMICS

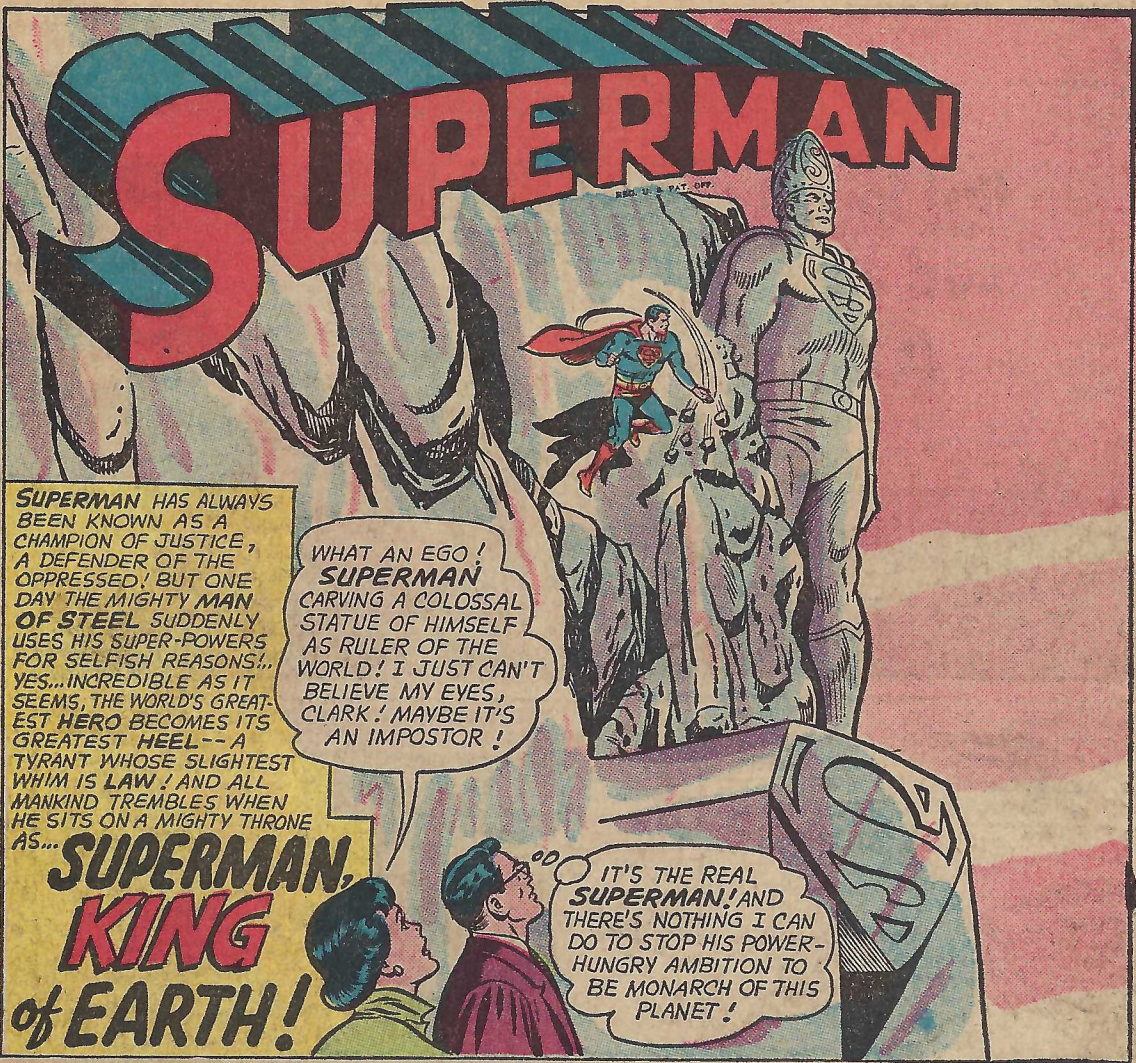
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APR. NO. 311

Featuring **"SUPERMAN, KING OF EARTH!"**

BAH! THE GIFTS YOUR COUNTRIES SENT ME WILL NOT WIN ANY FAVORS! NOW THAT I AM RULER OF THE WORLD, MY FIRST COMMAND IS THAT EVERY NATION REPLACE ITS FLAG WITH A **SUPERMAN** FLAG LIKE THIS ONE!





SUPERMAN HAS ALWAYS BEEN KNOWN AS A CHAMPION OF JUSTICE, A DEFENDER OF THE OPPRESSED! BUT ONE DAY THE MIGHTY MAN OF STEEL SUDDENLY USES HIS SUPER-POWERS FOR SELFISH REASONS... YES... INCREDIBLE AS IT SEEMS, THE WORLD'S GREATEST HERO BECOMES ITS GREATEST HEEL-- A TYRANT WHOSE SLIGHTEST WHIM IS LAW! AND ALL MANKIND TREMBLES WHEN HE SITS ON A MIGHTY THRONE AS...

SUPERMAN, KING OF EARTH!

WHAT AN EGO! **SUPERMAN** CARVING A COLOSSAL STATUE OF HIMSELF AS RULER OF THE WORLD! I JUST CAN'T BELIEVE MY EYES, CLARK! MAYBE IT'S AN IMPOSTOR!

IT'S THE REAL **SUPERMAN!** AND THERE'S NOTHING I CAN DO TO STOP HIS POWER-HUNGRY AMBITION TO BE MONARCH OF THIS PLANET!

ONE DAY, AS REPORTERS CLARK (**SUPERMAN**) KENT, AND JIMMY OLSEN COVER A CORONATION IN A MINOR TROPICAL KINGDOM...



IT'S A SHAME THE WAY ALL THOSE PEOPLE ARE FORCED TO BOW WHEN THE KING PASSES!

WE'D BETTER BOW TOO, CLARK! IT'S THE LAW OF THE LAND HERE!

BUT MEEK CLARK IS SUDDENLY DEFIANT...



BOW? NOT ME! AS AN AMERICAN, I DON'T HAVE TO GROVEL BEFORE ANYONE!

CLARK! IT'S A SIMPLE FORMALITY!... OH-OH! HERE COME THE ROYAL GUARDS!

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ACTION COMICS



MOMENTS LATER...

SO THE IMPUDENT FOREIGNER REFUSES TO RESPECT OUR KING, EH? DEPORT HIM AT ONCE!

WHAT A SWITCH! CLARK MAY BE A TIMID WEAKLING BUT HE'S TOO PROUD TO BOW TO ANYONE! SIGH! GUESS I'LL HAVE TO HANDLE THIS ASSIGNMENT ON MY OWN!

BUT SOON, AS CLARK IS BOOTED ACROSS THE BORDER...

I HAD TO GET AWAY FROM JIMMY SO I COULD SWITCH TO **SUPERMAN!** I LOOKED IN WITH MY SUPER-VISION AT MY **FORTRESS OF SOLITUDE** AND DETECTED TROUBLE! SINCE **SUPERGIRL'S** OFF IN THE FUTURE WITH THE **LEGION OF SUPER-HEROES**, I MUST ANSWER THE ALARM MYSELF!

AT SUPER-SPEED HE STREAKS TO HIS SECRET ARCTIC HEADQUARTERS, WHERE...

OH-OH! MY INTER-GALACTIC DANGER DETECTOR HAS SPOTTED AN UNKNOWN MENACE IN SECTOR **ALPHA IV!** IT'S APPROACHING EARTH RAPIDLY! I'D BETTER CHECK!

BEEP... BEEP... BEEP...

AS SUPERMAN'S FANTASTIC TELESCOPIC VISION SCANS THE DISTANT STARS...

STRANGE! EVERYTHING SEEMS PEACEFUL IN THAT SECTOR... THERE'S NO DANGER EXCEPT FOR THAT **RED KRYPTONITE METEOR SWARM** CLUSTERED THERE!

SWIFTLY, SUPERMAN CHECKS THE DETECTOR...

THERE'S NO MALFUNCTION... YET THAT BEEP INDICATES A HIDDEN MENACE STREAKING EARTHWARD! I CAN'T INVESTIGATE PERSONALLY OR THOSE **RED K** METEORS MAY AFFECT ME HORRIBLY IN SOME UNPREDICTABLE WAY!

BEEP... BEEP... BEEP...

WAIT! I FORGOT ABOUT A **RED K** ANTIDOTE I WAS EXPERIMENTING WITH. IF MY THEORY WORKS, I CAN MAKE IT OUT OF THIS CHUNK WHICH ONCE SPLIT ME INTO A **GOOD, NON-SUPER** CLARK KENT AND AN **EVIL, POWERFUL SUPERMAN!**



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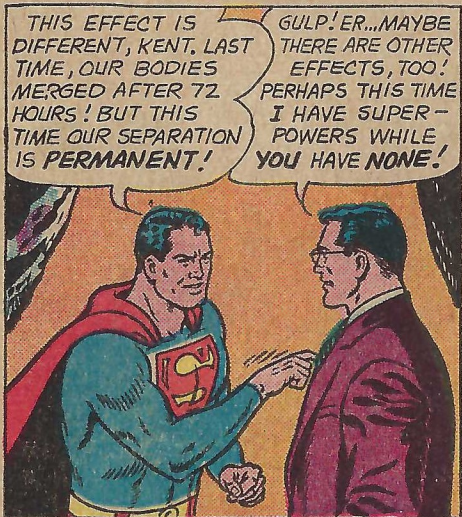
IF MY GUESS IS RIGHT, THIS SUPER-POWERFUL ACID WILL REACT WITH THE **RED KRYPTONITE**, CREATING FUMES THAT WILL IMMUNIZE ME FOREVER AGAINST THE EFFECTS OF **ALL VARIETIES OF RED K!**

SNIFF!



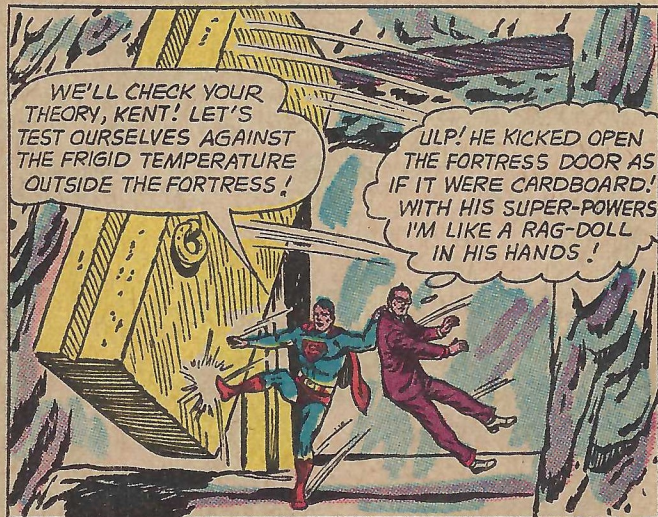
SUDDENLY, AN INCREDIBLE REACTION...

GASP! THE **RED KRYPTONITE** IS SPLITTING MY BODY INTO CLARK KENT AND **SUPERMAN** AGAIN!... BUT THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE! NO SAMPLE OF **RED K** CAN AFFECT ME THE SAME WAY **TWICE!**



THIS EFFECT IS DIFFERENT, KENT. LAST TIME, OUR BODIES MERGED AFTER 72 HOURS! BUT THIS TIME OUR SEPARATION IS **PERMANENT!**

GULP! ER...MAYBE THERE ARE OTHER EFFECTS, TOO! PERHAPS THIS TIME I HAVE **SUPER-POWERS** WHILE YOU HAVE **NONE!**



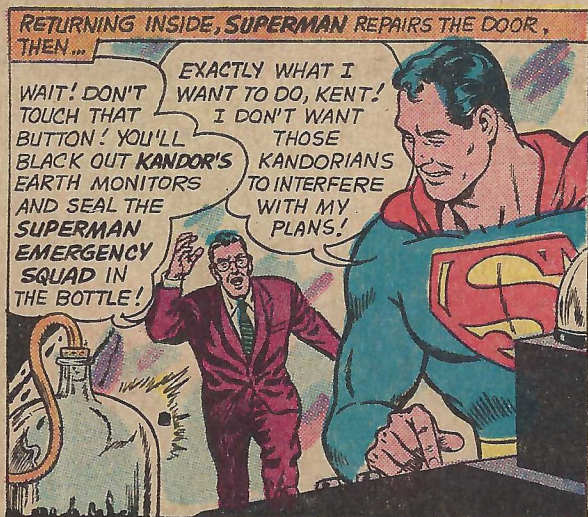
WE'LL CHECK YOUR THEORY, KENT! LET'S TEST OURSELVES AGAINST THE FRIGID TEMPERATURE OUTSIDE THE FORTRESS!

UHP! HE KICKED OPEN THE FORTRESS DOOR AS IF IT WERE CARDBOARD! WITH HIS SUPER-POWERS I'M LIKE A RAG-DOLL IN HIS HANDS!



HA, HA! YOU'RE TURNING BLUE WITH COLD, WHILE I'M PERFECTLY COMFORTABLE! WELL, WHICH ONE OF US IS SUPER NOW?

Y-Y-YOU ARE! I ADMIT IT! BRRRR! FOR PETE'S SAKE, TAKE ME INSIDE!



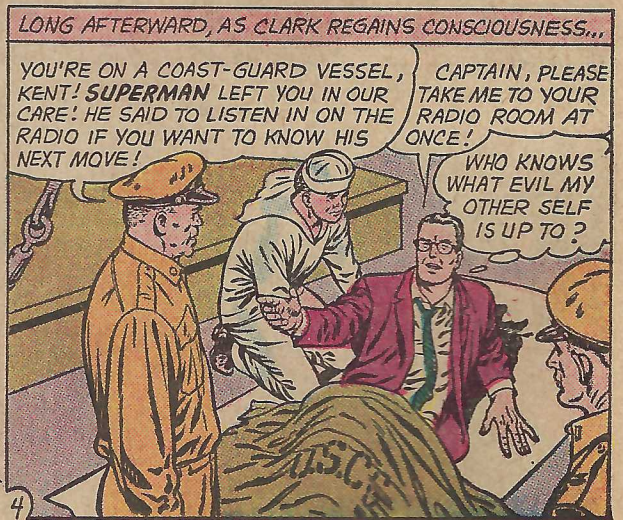
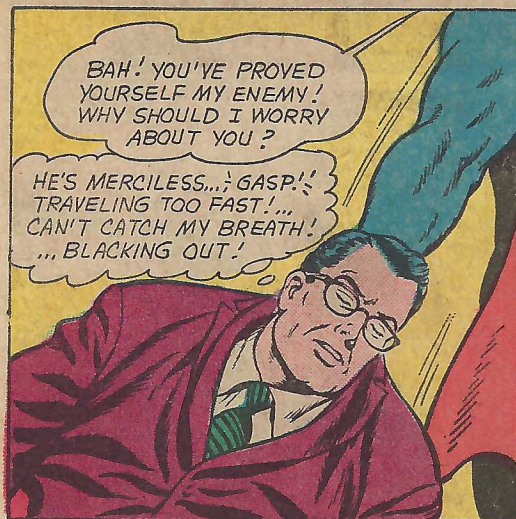
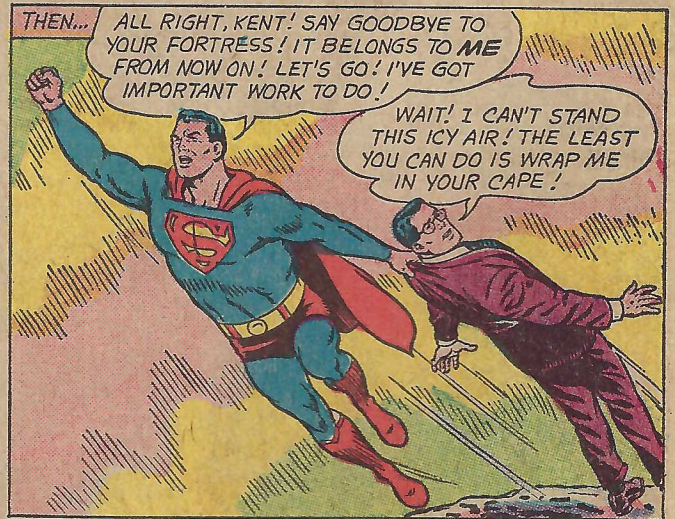
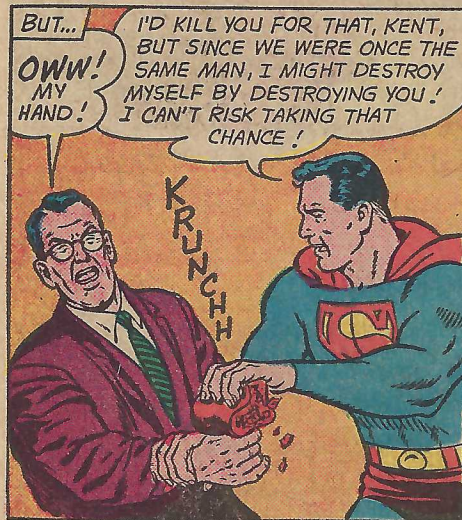
RETURNING INSIDE, **SUPERMAN** REPAIRS THE DOOR, THEN...

WAIT! DON'T TOUCH THAT BUTTON! YOU'LL BLACK OUT **KANDOR'S** EARTH MONITORS AND SEAL THE **SUPERMAN EMERGENCY SQUAD** IN THE BOTTLE!

EXACTLY WHAT I WANT TO DO, KENT! I DON'T WANT THOSE **KANDORIANS** TO INTERFERE WITH MY PLANS!



ACTION COMICS





ACTION COMICS



SOON, ON THE SHIP'S RADIO...

...AND NOW A FLASH FROM THE WMET NEWSROOM! **SUPERMAN** HAS REQUESTED AN EMERGENCY MEETING OF THE UNITED NATIONS TOMORROW, TO HEAR AN IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT!

A U.N. MEETING! GROAN! HE MAY BE PLANNING SOME SINISTER DEED AGAINST THE WORLD! I MUST GET ASHORE AT ONCE!



LATER, AS A HELICOPTER FLIES BY TO PICK UP AN OFFICER FOR AN EMERGENCY FLIGHT TO SHORE, CLARK SHOWS HIS PRESS CARD AND HITCHES A RIDE...

HOW IRONIC! THE TRIP BACK TAKES AN HOUR! BEFORE, I COULD FLY THAT DISTANCE IN A FLASH!



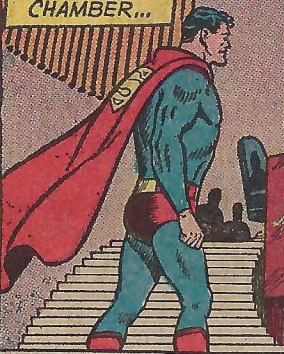
RETURNING TO METROPOLIS, CLARK JOINS THE PLANET STAFF AT THE U.N. MEETING...

HOW EXCITING! CORRESPONDENTS FROM THE WORLD OVER HAVE COME TO HEAR **SUPERMAN'S** ANNOUNCEMENT. I'LL BET IT'S SOME PRICELESS GIFT FOR MANKIND!

GULP!! HOW CAN I TELL HER THE TRUTH?... THAT **SUPERMAN'S** FAR MORE LIKELY TO DO HARM THAN GOOD!



BUT AS THE MAN OF STEEL ENTERS THE CHAMBER...



A STANDING OVATION! HE'S BEING HONORED BY EVERY NATION IN THE WORLD! BUT WAIT TILL THEY FIND OUT HOW HE'S CHANGED!

BRAVO, SUPERMAN!

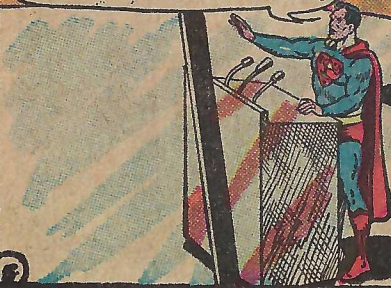
OLÉ, SUPERMAN!

VIVE, SUPER-HOMME!

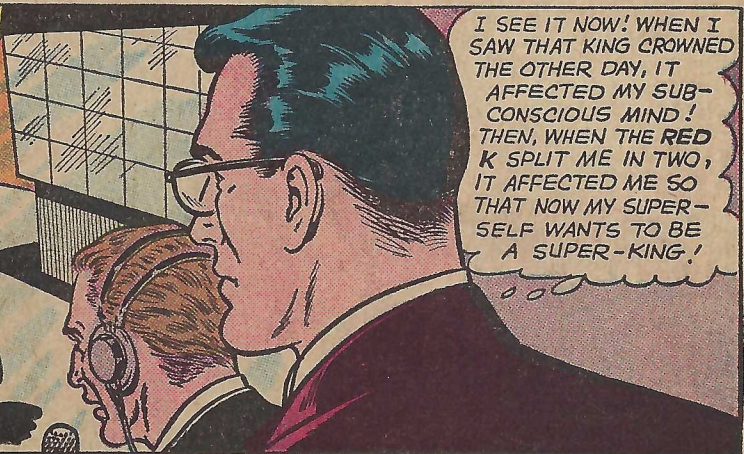


A SHOCKING MOMENT LATER...

KEEP YOUR APPLAUSE! IT'S TIME I WAS REWARDED FOR CONSTANTLY GUARDING YOUR PLANET! I DEMAND YOU ELECT ME KING OF EARTH!



I SEE IT NOW! WHEN I SAW THAT KING CROWNED THE OTHER DAY, IT AFFECTED MY SUBCONSCIOUS MIND! THEN, WHEN THE RED K SPLIT ME IN TWO, IT AFFECTED ME SO THAT NOW MY SUPER-SELF WANTS TO BE A SUPER-KING!





ACTION COMICS



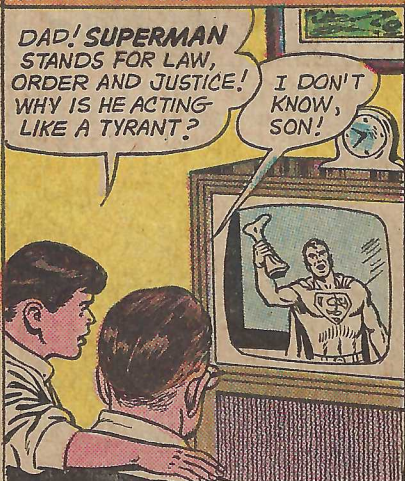
SUPERMAN'S DEMAND BRINGS AN UPROAR...



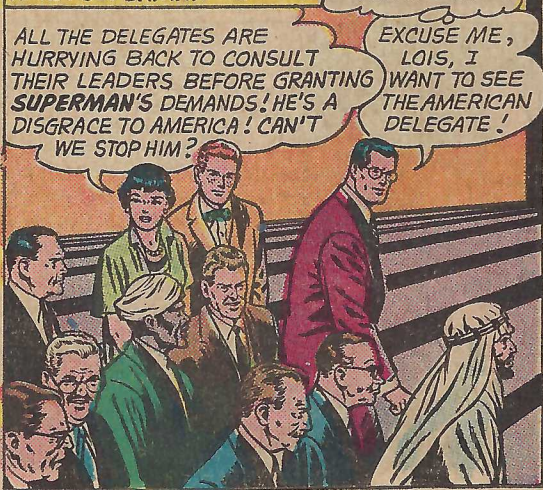
BUT TAKING OFF HIS SUPER-BOOT, THE SPEAKER PROVES HIS IDENTITY...



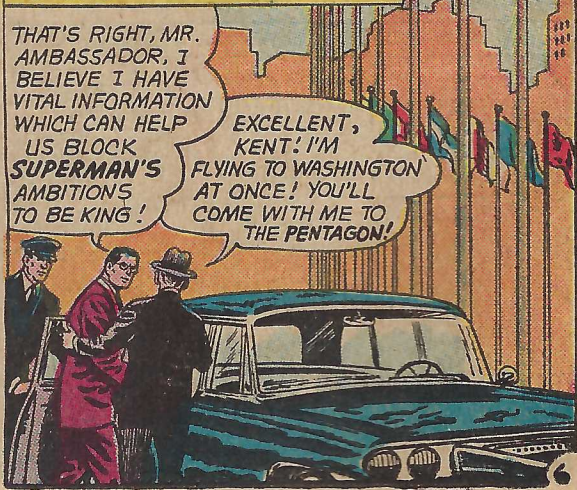
AS THE INCREDIBLE SCENE IS WITNESSED ON THE NATION'S TV SCREENS...



AFTER SUPERMAN LEAVES... I THINK I CAN!



MOMENTS LATER, OUTSIDE THE U.N....





ACTION COMICS



THAT AFTERNOON, CLARK ADDRESSES THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF...

GENTLEMEN, I KNOW HOW TO FOIL SUPERMAN'S PLANS! THE ANSWER IS IN HERE!

GASP! SUPERMAN HIMSELF BUILT THAT SECURITY-PROOF VAULT! HE STORED WEAPONS CAPABLE OF DESTROYING ANY EVIL SUPER-BEING THREATENING EARTH INSIDE! BUT NO ONE KNOWS THE COMBINATION, AND WE CAN'T BLAST IT OPEN--IT'S MADE FROM AN INDESTRUCTIBLE METAL FROM ANOTHER WORLD!



BECAUSE I'M VERY CLOSE TO SUPERMAN, HE TOLD ME ABOUT THE VAULT AND GAVE ME THE SECRET COMBINATION BEFORE HE BECAME POWER-HUNGRY!

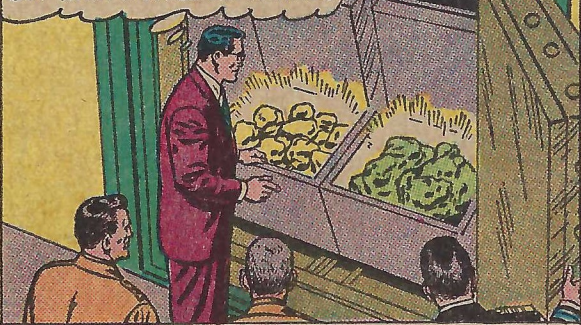
LUCKILY HE TRUSTED YOU, KENT!! I'LL BET HE NEVER DREAMED YOU'D USE THIS SECRET AGAINST HIM!

THEY DON'T REALIZE I KNOW THE COMBINATION BECAUSE I STILL HAVE SUPERMAN'S MEMORIES, EVEN THOUGH I NO LONGER HAVE HIS POWERS!



THERE! AN ANTI-SUPERMAN ARSENAL! GOLD KRYPTONITE WHICH CAN REMOVE HIS POWERS AND ENOUGH GREEN K TO KILL HIM!

SINCE I'M NOT SUPER NOW, THESE KRYPTONITE SAMPLES CAN'T AFFECT ME! IT'S GREAT TO BE IMMUNE TO THE STUFF FOR A CHANGE. BUT WHAT A PRICE I'M PAYING!



BUT TO CLARK'S DISAPPOINTMENT...

SORRY, KENT, WE CAN'T ALLOW YOU TO USE KRYPTONITE AGAINST SUPERMAN! IT WOULDN'T BE LEGAL! SO FAR, HE HASN'T COMMITTED ANY CRIME EVEN THOUGH WE DON'T TRUST HIS MOTIVES, HE'S ENTITLED TO HIS RIGHTS!

THAT'S TRUE! BUT HOW ELSE CAN WE STOP SUPERMAN? HE'LL BE BACK AT THE U.N. FOR THEIR ANSWER, SOON!



THE NEXT DAY, THE U.N. REASSEMBLES UNDER THE EYES OF SUPERMAN...

THE QUESTION BEFORE US IS WHETHER OR NOT TO MAKE SUPERMAN THE KING OF EARTH! THE MEMBERS WILL NOW VOTE!



YES!

NO! NEVER!

NYET!

NEIN!

NON!

SI!

OUI!

ABSTAIN!



ACTION COMICS



ALL LISTEN BREATHLESSLY FOR THE RESULTS OF THE VOTE...

IT'S 50 VOTES FOR YOU, AND 50 AGAINST! THE REST ABSTAINED! IT'S A DEADLOCK! WE'LL HOLD ANOTHER VOTE TOMORROW!

TOMORROW, EH? I'LL USE THE EXTRA TIME TO DO SOME ELECTIONEERING FOR MYSELF!

WITHIN TWO HOURS I'LL GIVE YOU A PREVIEW OF WHAT MAY HAPPEN SHOULD YOU FAIL TO ELECT ME KING! MY DEMONSTRATION WILL TAKE PLACE AT 10° WEST LONGITUDE AND 250° NORTH LATITUDE!

AS SUPERMAN STREAKS AWAY...

MR. CHAIRMAN! THAT LOCATION IS IN OUR COUNTRY! WE HAVE A MILITARY BASE NEARBY! WE'LL ORDER IT TO FOCUS TV CAMERAS ON SUPERMAN WHEN HE GOES INTO ACTION!

GROAN!! I'M WORRIED SICK WONDERING WHAT EVIL PLAN MY OTHER SELF HAS IN MIND!

HOURS LATER, DESERT SENTRIES SEE A WEIRD SIGHT...

BY THE PROPHET! SUPERMAN SWEEPED OVER THE DESERT AND LEFT A PATH OF SUPER-FROST BEHIND HIM!

THE DESERT BLAZES WITH HEAT! YET HIS SUPER-BREATH FROZE EVERYTHING IN ITS PATH!

AND AS SUPERMAN SWEEPS OUT OVER THE SEA...

A BRIDGE OF ICE LEADING TO THE OFF-SHORE ISLANDS! IT IS A FEAT OF MAGIC!

NO! IT IS A SUPER-DEED PERFORMED BY THE MIGHTY ONE THEY CALL SUPERMAN! JUST AS YOU AND I CAN COOL A HOT BOWL OF SOUP BY BLOWING ON IT, A BLAST OF HIS BREATH CAN FREEZE AN OCEAN!

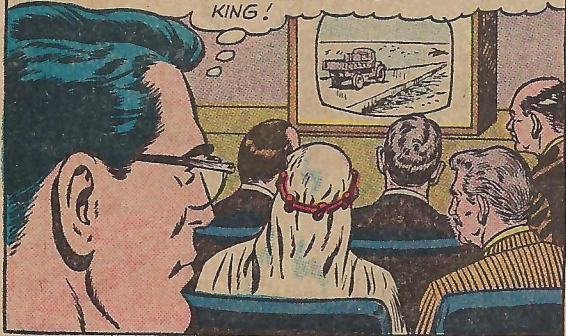


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MEANWHILE, THE TELSTAR SATELLITE TRANSMITS THE STARTLING EVENTS TO THE U.N. ...

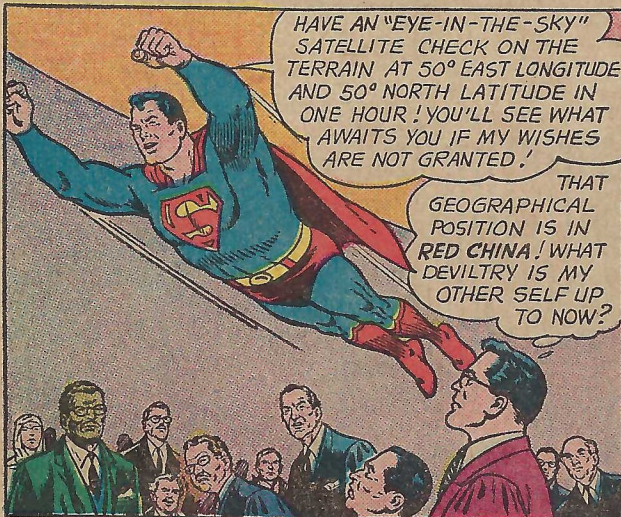
!GULP!! A BAND OF SUPER-FROST SOLIDIFYING-A ROAD INTO THE OCEAN! THE RED K MUST HAVE MAGNIFIED HIS SUPER-BREATH TO THE ULTIMATE! !GROAN!! THAT'S AN OPEN THREAT HE'LL FREEZE THE ENTIRE WORLD UNLESS WE MAKE HIM KING!



FLASHING BACK OVER THE SEA, SUPERMAN REVISITS THE U.N. ...

WE SAW YOUR SUPER-DEED, SUPERMAN! WE KNOW YOU'RE TRYING TO FORCE AN IMMEDIATE DECISION! BUT WE NEED MORE TIME FOR DEBATE!

WHAT YOU NEED IS MORE CONVINCING TO HELP YOU MAKE UP YOUR MIND!

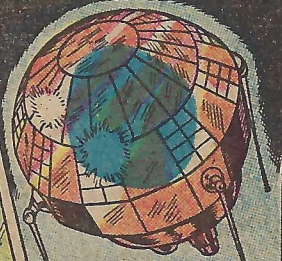


HAVE AN "EYE-IN-THE-SKY" SATELLITE CHECK ON THE TERRAIN AT 50° EAST LONGITUDE AND 50° NORTH LATITUDE IN ONE HOUR! YOU'LL SEE WHAT AWAITS YOU IF MY WISHES ARE NOT GRANTED.

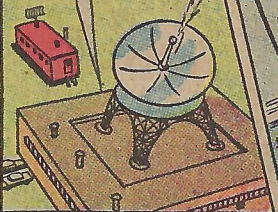
THAT GEOGRAPHICAL POSITION IS IN RED CHINA! WHAT DEVILTRY IS MY OTHER SELF UP TO NOW?

SOON, IN A SECRET CONTROL ROOM IN FLORIDA...

A SPECIAL REQUEST FROM THE U.N.! THEY WANT OUR "EYE" SATELLITE TO FOCUS ON THIS POINT IN ASIA! ACTIVATE THE TELEPHOTO LENS!



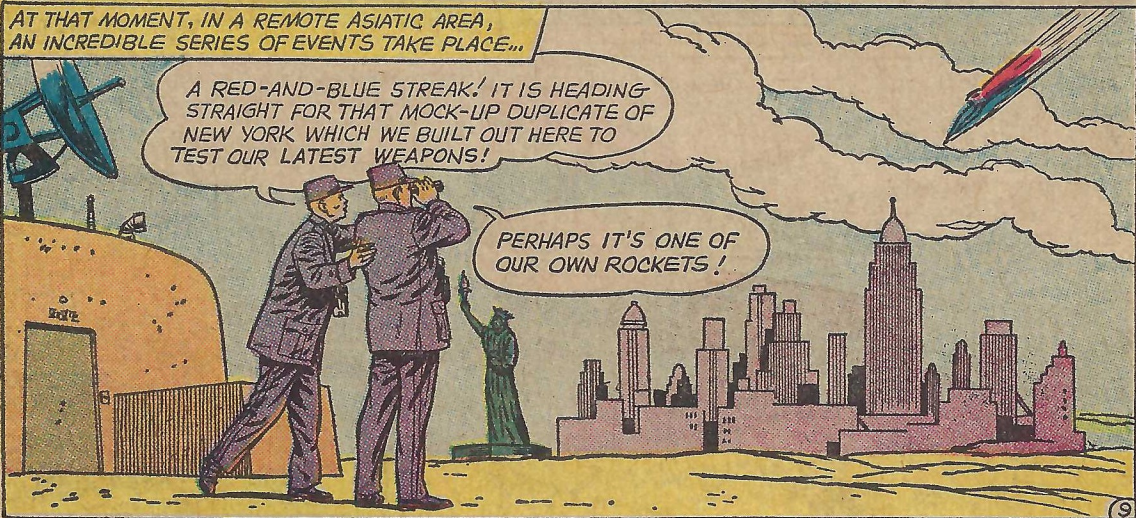
CLICK HMMM!



AT THAT MOMENT, IN A REMOTE ASIATIC AREA, AN INCREDIBLE SERIES OF EVENTS TAKE PLACE...

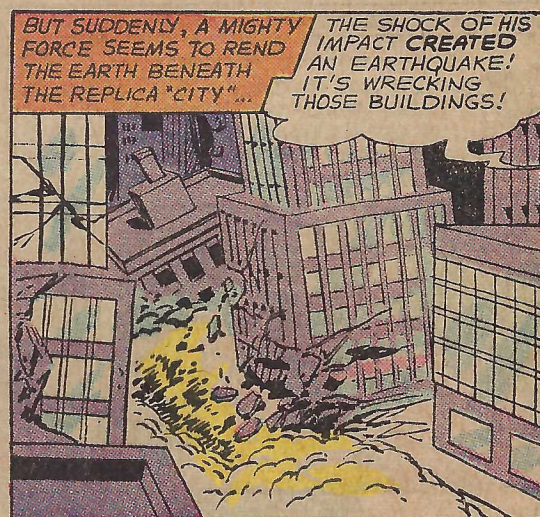
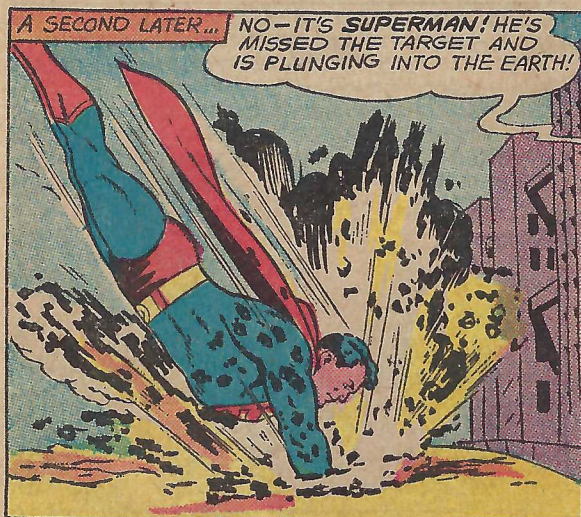
A RED-AND-BLUE STREAK! IT IS HEADING STRAIGHT FOR THAT MOCK-UP DUPLICATE OF NEW YORK WHICH WE BUILT OUT HERE TO TEST OUR LATEST WEAPONS!

PERHAPS IT'S ONE OF OUR OWN ROCKETS!

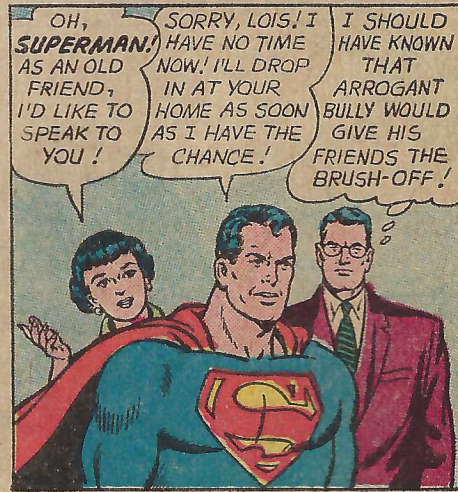
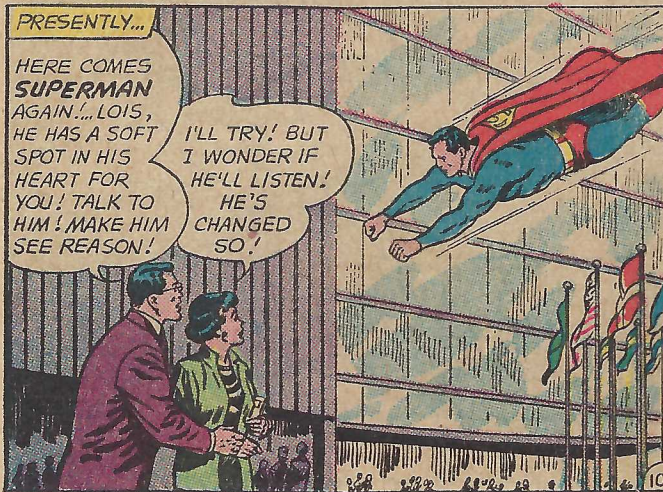
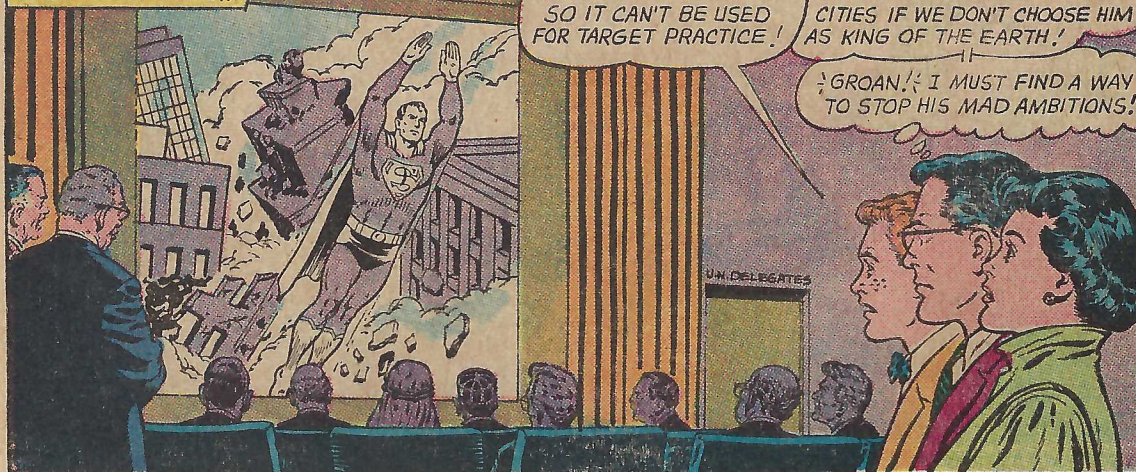




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MEANWHILE, SATELLITE CAMERAS RELAY THE EVENTS TO THE U.N., WHERE THE **PLANET** STAFF IS WATCHING...





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BUT LATER, SUPERMAN VISITS LOIS' HOME...



STOP TO THINK, **SUPERMAN!** THESE ARE PICTURES OF TROPHIES WHICH WERE GIVEN TO YOU BY A GRATEFUL WORLD! HOW CAN YOU LET EVERYONE DOWN LIKE THIS?

BAH! THESE CHILDISH MEMENTOES MEAN NOTHING TO ME!

YOU BROUGHT ME HERE TO SOFTEN ME UP! WELL, I'M TIRED OF BEING SO NOBLE AND DOING THINGS FOR OTHERS! FROM NOW ON, MY DESIRES COME FIRST!



SUPERMAN! HOW COULD YOU?

PLEADING IS USELESS! I MUST BECOME **KING OF EARTH!** TO SHOW YOU HOW FAR I'LL GO, TELL THE ARMY I PLAN TO EXPLODE A SUPER-NUCLEAR BOMB AT **WHITE SANDS PROVING GROUNDS,** TOMORROW MORNING!



ALERTED BY THE WARNING, THE **PLANET STAFF** FLIES TO THE PROVING GROUNDS TO COVER THE STORY...

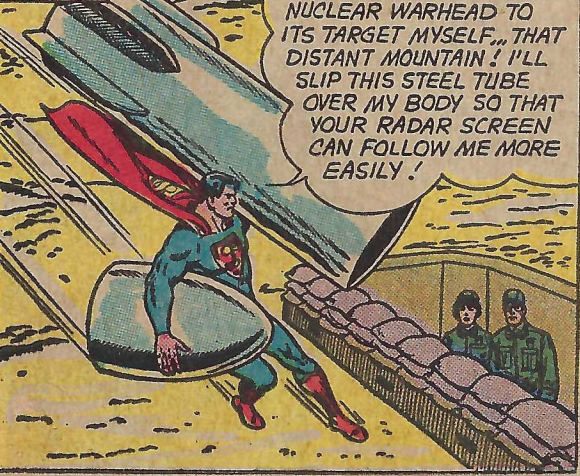
THANKS FOR THE TIP-OFF! WE'RE EVACUATING ALL TROOPS! THOSE ANTI-RADIATION SUITS AND GOGGLES SHOULD PROTECT YOU IF YOU WISH TO OBSERVE **SUPERMAN'S** NUCLEAR TEST!

THANKS, COLONEL!



SHORTLY, AS **SUPERMAN** ARRIVES...

EVERYONE READY? GOOD!... I'M GOING TO FLY THIS NUCLEAR WARHEAD TO ITS TARGET MYSELF... THAT DISTANT MOUNTAIN! I'LL SLIP THIS STEEL TUBE OVER MY BODY SO THAT YOUR RADAR SCREEN CAN FOLLOW ME MORE EASILY!



AS **SUPERMAN'S** DEMONSTRATION BEGINS...

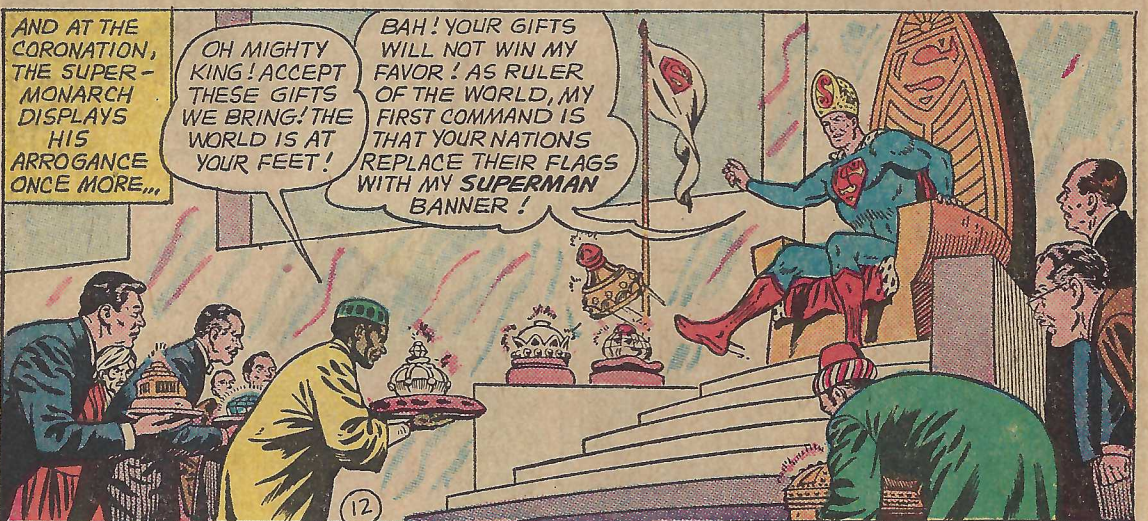
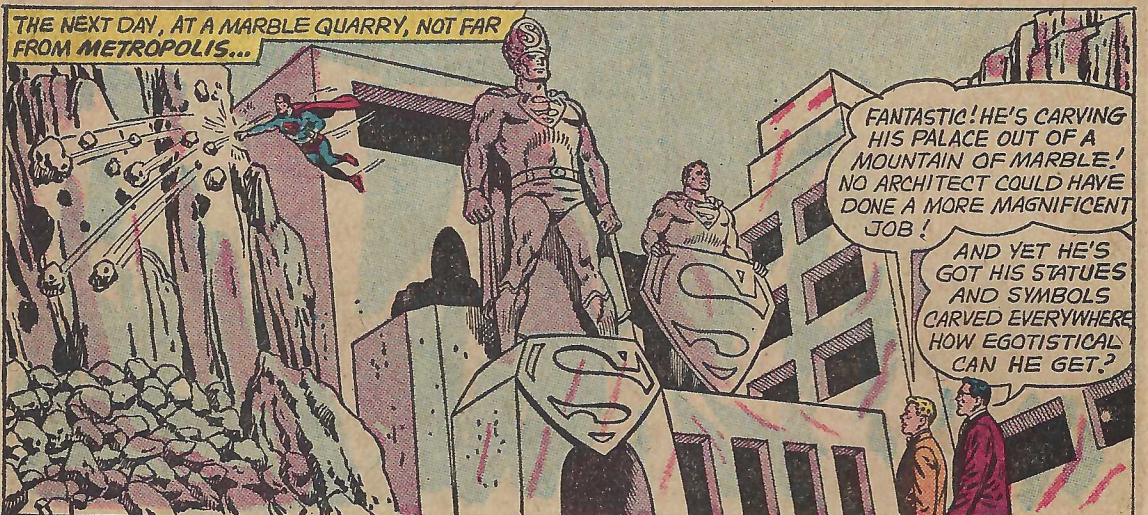
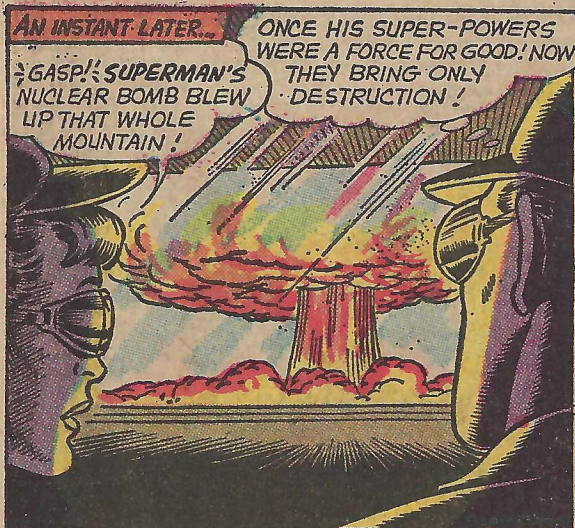
THERE HE GOES! HE LOOKS JUST LIKE A MISSILE, CLARK!

AND THAT'S JUST WHAT HE IS! MY "ALTER-EGO" IS A DESTRUCTIVE FORCE CAPABLE OF WIPING OUT THIS PLANET! GROAN!





ACTION COMICS





ACTION COMICS



LATER, OUTSIDE THE U.N....



WE HAVE REPLACED OUR FLAGS WITH YOUR OWN, YOUR ROYAL MAJESTY!

GOOD! I NOW DISSOLVE THE U.N.! THE WORLD IS NOW ONE TERRITORY, AND NOW IT BELONGS TO ME...**KING SUPERMAN!**

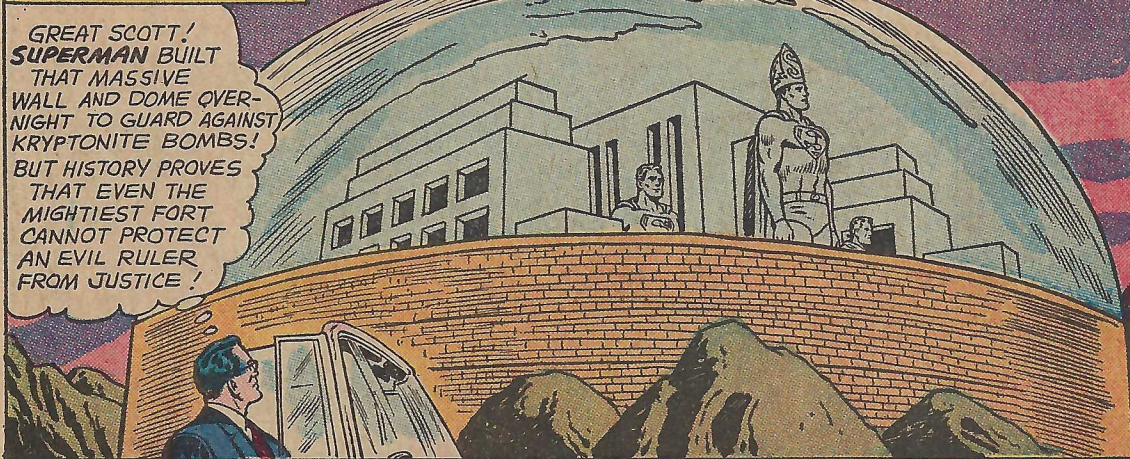
THE DAILY PLANET STAFF HAS COVERED THE GRIM STORY. AND NOW...



WHY DO WE STAND FOR THIS? AS CITIZENS OF A FREE WORLD WE SHOULDN'T HAVE TO BOW TO A TYRANT LIKE THAT!

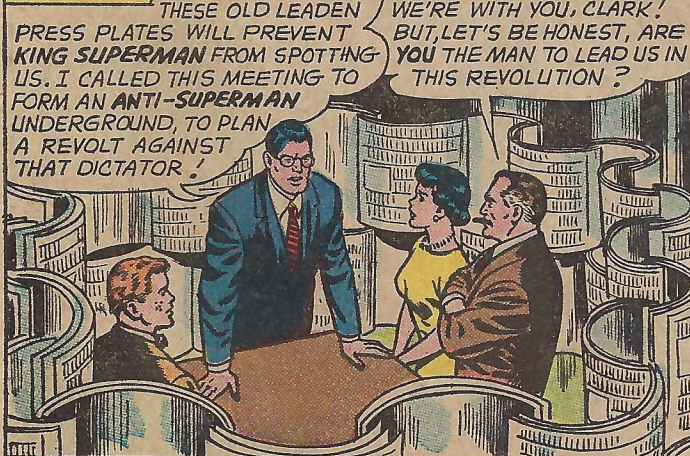
STRANGE! I'VE NEVER SEEN CLARK SO ANGRY! I HARDLY RECOGNIZE HIM.

AT DAWN THE NEXT DAY, CLARK SLIPS OUT TO THE PALACE, AND...



GREAT SCOTT! **SUPERMAN** BUILT THAT MASSIVE WALL AND DOME OVERNIGHT TO GUARD AGAINST KRYPTONITE BOMBS! BUT HISTORY PROVES THAT EVEN THE MIGHTIEST FORT CANNOT PROTECT AN EVIL RULER FROM JUSTICE!

THAT NIGHT, CLARK CALLS A SECRET MEETING IN THE **PLANET** BASEMENT...



THESE OLD LEADEN PRESS PLATES WILL PREVENT **KING SUPERMAN** FROM SPOTTING US. I CALLED THIS MEETING TO FORM AN **ANTI-SUPERMAN** UNDERGROUND, TO PLAN A REVOLT AGAINST THAT DICTATOR!

WE'RE WITH YOU, CLARK! BUT, LET'S BE HONEST, ARE YOU THE MAN TO LEAD US IN THIS REVOLUTION?

PERRY'S RIGHT! CAN I DO IT? CAN I OVERTHROW **SUPERMAN** WITHOUT THE HELP OF MY SUPER-POWERS, AND WITHOUT THE AID OF ANY OF MY SUPER-FRIENDS?



SEE THE NEXT ISSUE OF THIS MAGAZINE FOR THE CONCLUSION OF THIS MIGHTY DRAMA! **THE END**

JIMMY OLSEN AND ROBIN THE BOY WONDER TEAM UP AGAINST **SUPERMAN** AND **BATMAN** IN THE MAY ISSUE OF **WORLD'S FINEST** (NO. 141.)