



'In what other country are the people free enough to do this to their Bicentennial?'



David S. Broder

## Senate top spots due for overhaul

In their usual generous fashion, the Democrats have arranged enough leadership contests to keep political buffs on overtime, calculating the possible combinations that could result from the massive competition now underway for the top spots in the party's hierarchy.

Not only is the Democratic presidential nomination up for grabs in a fine, spirited race, but the party's Senate leadership is due for a similar overhaul and there is prospect for a similar change on the House side of the Capitol. The heady possibility is that the country's oldest party will present a whole new face in 1977.

With the announced retirement of Senate Majority Leader Mike Mansfield of Montana, it is certain that post will be in new hands. Mansfield's deputy, Sen. Robert C. Byrd of West Virginia, has two challengers for the job — Sen. Edmund S. Muskie of Maine and Sen. Ernest F. Hollings of South Carolina. Sen. Hubert H. Humphrey is eyeing that post with interest, as, of course, he is the party's presidential nomination.

There are strong indications that House Speaker Carl Albert may join Mansfield in retirement. His successor, by all odds, would be the present House majority leader, Rep. Thomas P. (Tip) O'Neill of Massachusetts. But there are three contenders to succeed O'Neill — Reps. Richard Bolling of Missouri, Phillip Burton of California and John J. McFall of California.

By the time these contests and the presidential nomination have been decided, the Democrats will have gone a long way toward defining the character of their party. The process is long overdue. While the leadership of the party's presidential wing has swung erratically from John Kennedy to Lyndon Johnson to Hubert Humphrey to George McGovern, the congressional leadership has been stuck in place, following a prescribed line of succession and gradually decreasing in energy and initiative. Mansfield, a kindly, decent man beloved for his personal qualities by his colleagues, has been directing the Senate in permissive fashion ever since Kennedy's election. Under his benign guidance, the Senate has displayed a few moments of magnificent independence and long months of legislative futility.

In the House, the rigid ladder-climb to leadership made John McCormack the speaker after the death of Sam Rayburn and elevated Albert to the speakership when McCormack retired. Neither man matched the demands of the job and neither was able to adapt to the enormous changes in the atmosphere and procedures of the House, brought on by the rapid turnover in membership during the past decade.

Now, through circumstance and coincidence, the majority party leadership in both House and Senate seems likely to be overhauled — perhaps in tandem with a new President and

perhaps to confront President Ford with new challenges and opportunities.

What happens in these contests will reveal volumes about the forces shaping the Democratic party — and particularly the extent to which ideological currents may influence the political inclinations of its officeholders.

Were there no question of ideology, Byrd would be a cinch to succeed Mansfield. He has been an exceptionally hard-working whip, taking more than his share of the onerous organizational duties and arranging the floor schedule for the maximum convenience of his colleagues.

Beyond that, Byrd is a man of intellectual brilliance and extraordinary diligence — a workhorse, whose work-product has been consistently of high quality.

Within the Senate, he has long since overcome the stigma of his youthful involvement with the Ku Klux Klan. But Byrd is still certifiably more conservative than the mainstream of his party. It is only four years since he was the keynote speaker for Bill Buckley's right-wing youth group, the Young Americans for Freedom, and on the 1975 scorecard of the conservative Americans for Constitutional Action, he rates five times higher than any of the party's presidential candidates.

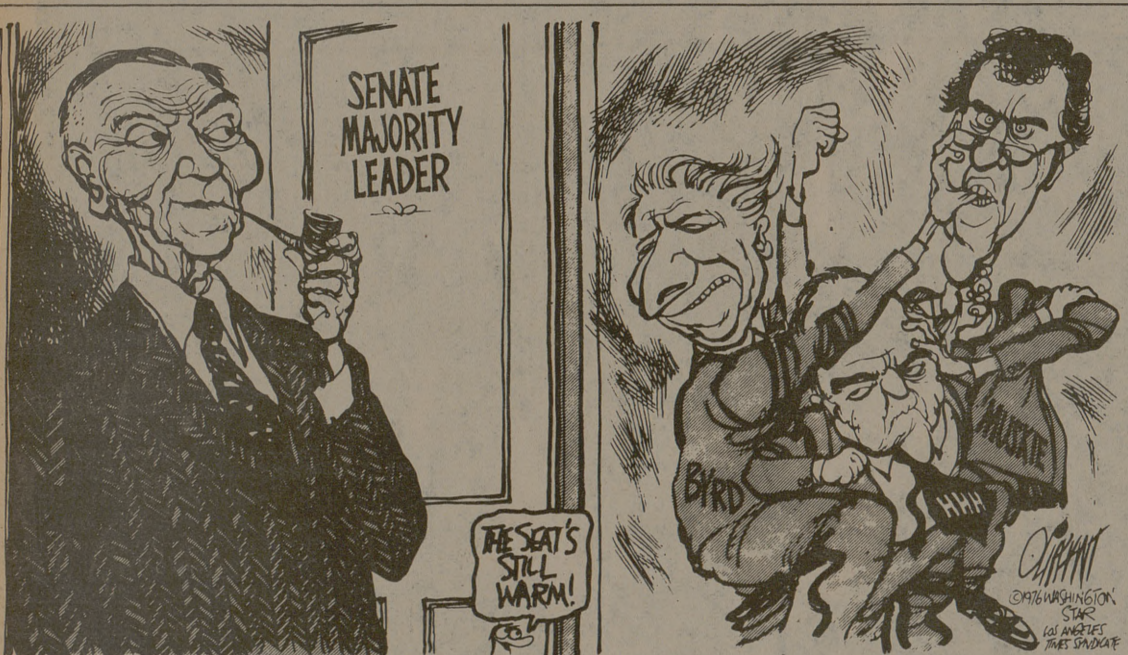
It is this fact that enables Muskie — a far pricklier character, in the eyes of his colleagues — to consider challenging Byrd. It is no accident that Mansfield has repeatedly called on Muskie as the party's spokesman in television replies to Republican Presidents, while keeping Byrd busy on the inconspicuous duties of scheduling Senate business. Judgments on outside image vs. inside convenience will shape the Muskie-Byrd contest.

Two things are striking about this leadership upheaval in the Democratic party. One is the enormous range of options available in this most diverse of our national political institutions. It is conceivable the Democrats could emerge from this with an all-liberal lineup of Morris K. Udall for President, Muskie and Sen. Alan Cranston of California as the top Senate leaders, Tip O'Neill, Phil Burton and Rep. John Brademas of Indiana as the House triumvirate.

But the party could also present as conservative a lineup as Jimmy Carter for President, Byrd and Sen. Frank E. Moss of Utah as the Senate leaders with O'Neill backstopped by McFall, who is now the House whip. The Democrats really do have a big tent.

The other striking thing is that nowhere in all of these leadership contests does one encounter the name of Sen. Edward M. Kennedy. The power is being parceled out in a way that could shape the party's next decade. But the senior Senator from Massachusetts — by choice and circumstance — on the sidelines in both the presidential and congressional struggles. One must wonder what thoughts are going through his mind as he contemplates the future.

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# Look at your phone book

## Editorial

The problem with the bicentennial is that it hasn't been commercialized enough. Anything worth doing is worth doing in big \$\$\$ terms.

Where would Christmas be without cardboard Santas pasted on store windows? Where would Easter be without plastic bunnies hanging from elementary school ceilings? And the Fourth of July without firecrackers? Come now. Take away those basics and the meaning is lost.

Look at what we have now. A country that desperately wants to celebrate 200 years of independence, paying tribute to such men as Thomas Jefferson, Benjamin Franklin and George Washington.

Is that enough for you? Surely it can't be. We are a race of people who would not settle for Christ's birthday as a simple holiday. No, we improved on it grandly with fat men in red suits, flying reindeer and unionized elves.

Nor did Christ's Resurrection hold enough mass appeal to warrant a celebration. However, that problem was promptly taken care of with

hard-boiled eggs and Rit dye.

For such an imaginative group of people, it's a wonder the bicentennial hasn't been grabbed. What we need is for every American business to manufacture products com-

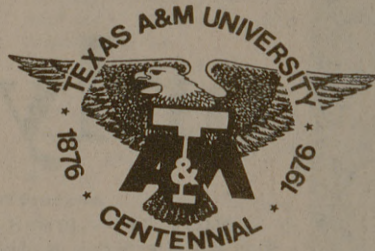
memorating the bicentennial. Products that will emphasize and honor all the ideals that sustained this country for 200 years. Products that will give new meaning to our celebra-

tion. Products that will improve on the ideals of Tom, Ben and George. Products like bicentennial toilet seats, bicentennial beer cans, bicentennial salt-and-pepper shakers, bicentennial belt buckles, bicentennial pizzas and you name the bicentennial rest. Ah, how refreshing it would be.

And what about our own hometown contributions? After all, A&M has its own bicentennial that could use a little spicing-up. A major

step has been taken already. I believe the dullness of the celebration of "100 years of rest." Appearing on university stationery and brochures is our own centennial emblem. It has an eagle which is strongly reminiscent of those used by the Reich. (The designer is not likely to be a former student.) Even the celebration lacks the obligatory atmosphere of an obligatory god-down-home-meaningful bute.

Traditions must be upheld. Costs. What we need is a concerted effort to make this the best bicentennial we ever had.



memorating the bicentennial. Products that will emphasize and honor all the ideals that sustained this country for 200 years. Products that will give new meaning to our celebra-

**LAKEVIEW CLUB**  
3 Miles N. on Tabor Road  
**Saturday Night: Jim Ed Brown & The Gems**  
From 9-1 p.m.  
**Ladies \$1.00 STAMPEDE Every Thursday Nite Men \$2.00**  
**(ALL BRANDS BEER 40 cents)**  
Every Tuesday Nite  
**LADIES \$1.00 All Brands Beer 40c MEN \$2.00**  
8-12  
Dance every Tuesday and Thursday

**Tower Dining Room**  
Top of the Tower  
Texas A&M University  
Pleasant Dining — Great View  
SERVING LUNCHEON BUFFET  
11:00 A.M. - 1:30 P.M.  
Each day except Saturday  
\$2.50 DAILY  
\$3.00 SUNDAY  
Serving soup & sandwich  
11:00 A.M. - 1:30 P.M.  
Monday - Friday  
\$1.50 plus drink  
Available Evenings  
For Special  
University Banquets  
Department of Food Service  
Texas A&M University  
"Quality First"

**NOTICIAS DE CUERVO**  
Recipe #456.78cR  
**THE TAXCO FIZZ:**  
★ 2 oz. Jose Cuervo Tequila  
★ Juice from one lime (or 2 tbsp.)  
★ 1 tsp. sugar  
★ 2 dashes orange bitters  
★ White of one egg  
★ A glass is quite helpful, too.

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UNIVERSITY SQUARE SHOPPING CENTER 846-6714 & 846-1155  
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ENDS THURSDAY! 7:30 & 9:30  
7:50 & 9:40  
julie christie · goldie hawn  
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WHERE DEATH IS JUST THE BEGINNING  
The Film You Will Remember All Your Life!  
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2:30 & 4:00  
ALL SEATS \$1.50  
**My Side of the Mountain**  
An unbelievable adventure! A boy conquers the wilderness with only a raccoon and a falcon to help him!  
TEDDY ECCLES and THEODORE BIKEL  
CINEMA I FRIDAY! 4:30; 6:15; 8:00; 9:45  
**GETTIN' BACK**  
Michael Murphey Willie Nelson  
Epic's Gold Record artist - "New Source of Energy" - cover story Cash Box Magazine December 1975  
Hall of Fame Grammy Award winner "The Man Who Beat the System" by Pat Carr ecl. Country Music Magazine  
**ALSO STARRING**  
Earl Scruggs - John Lee Hooker  
Clifton Chenier - Big Mama Thornton - The Lewis Family  
Come join the heroes of grassroot music for a whoop'n' holler good time Happening!  
COLOR BY MOVIELAB  
CINEMA II FRI, SAT, & SUN 5:30; 7:30; 9:30  
**BRONSON AT HIS BRUTAL BEST!**  
Starts FRIDAY!  
Joseph E. Levine presents An Avco Embassy Film  
**Charles Bronson "Rider on the Rain"**  
JOSEPH E. LEVINE presents AN AVCO EMBASSY FILM A SERGE SILBERMAN Production starring CHARLES BRONSON MARLENE JOBERT in "RIDER ON THE RAIN" Story and Screenplay by SEBASTIEN JAPRISSOT with GABRIELE TILLI JILL IRELAND ANNIE CORDY and with the participation of CORINNE MARCHAND - Produced by SERGE SILBERMAN Directed by RENE CLEMENT. Prints by MOVIELAB. COLOR. PG  
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