

# Is Carter-Humphrey bout coming?

By DAVID S. BRODER  
MILWAUKEE — Ronald Reagan's upset victory over President Ford in North Carolina was the latest sharp reminder to the politicians not to count their chickens before they are hatched. But when it comes to prenatal prophecy, be it fowl or fair, the politicians are incurable recidivists.

Thus, it is not surprising that even as Mr. Ford is trying to remove the traces of Tarheel from the Superman cloak he was wearing after five straight wins, a number of leading Democratic thinkers have leaped ahead of

the primary game and are mulling the odds on the race they expect to begin on June 9 — the contest between Jimmy Carter and Hubert Humphrey.

What makes this exercise in mental gymnastics a bit more than theoretical is that two of the more vivid players happen to be the former Governor of Georgia and the distinguished junior senator from Minnesota.

When Hamilton Jordan, the widely admired manager of the Carter campaign, visited in Washington last week with a group of labor politicians, they found his mind fixed on the shape

of a Carter-Humphrey showdown.

And when Carter himself started talking out here this week about his main enemy being "not the candidates who run against me" but "the establishment" that is "hoping and praying for a deadlock convention," it was obvious that he was looking ahead to Humphrey.

"The establishment" is a code word for Humphrey in Carter's lexicon, in much the same way that "the Washington buddy system" is a euphemism for the Ford administration in Reagan's speeches.

As for Humphrey, he confirmed what everyone has long known when he told Carl Leusdorf of the *Baltimore Sun* last week that he "wouldn't foreclose the possibility" of plunging into an active bid for the nomination if — as he thinks likely — the final day of primaries on June 8 leaves the front-runner substantially short of the 1,505 votes needed for nomination.

Repeatedly this week, Humphrey has told reporters that the Democrats cannot win the election by running "against Wash-

ington" and the whole system of federal programs they themselves have legislated into being over the last 40-odd years. "You don't win many elections by going around and repudiating your inheritance," he said. It was an obvious jab at the Georgian — who has, in fact, made a major virtue of his skepticism toward Washington and its ways.

What has brought both Humphrey and Carter — and a significant number of others concerned with the opposition party's future — to their current preoccupation with this theoretical race is the realization that Carter could be as few as two wins away from eliminating the active opposition.

A clear victory over Rep. Morris K. Udall of Arizona in Wisconsin on April 6 and a similar win over Sen. Henry M. Jackson of Washington in Pennsylvania on April 27 and, voila, Carter's the One.

The only difficulty with this script is that while written, it has not yet been produced.

Udall stubbornly refuses to go quietly to his "political burial" as he called it here this week. He has enlisted a formidable array of Wisconsin congressmen and labor leaders on his behalf. His chances of winning the Wisconsin primary or the nomination are rated low even by some of

those nominally supporting him in this state.

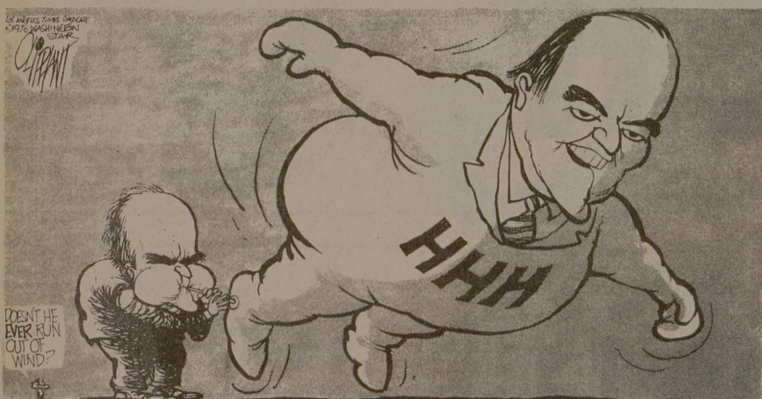
After all, he has never finished first so far, they note.

In New Hampshire, Carter finished 4,663 votes ahead of Udall. In Massachusetts, the only other state where both campaigned, Udall finished 26,227 votes ahead of Carter.

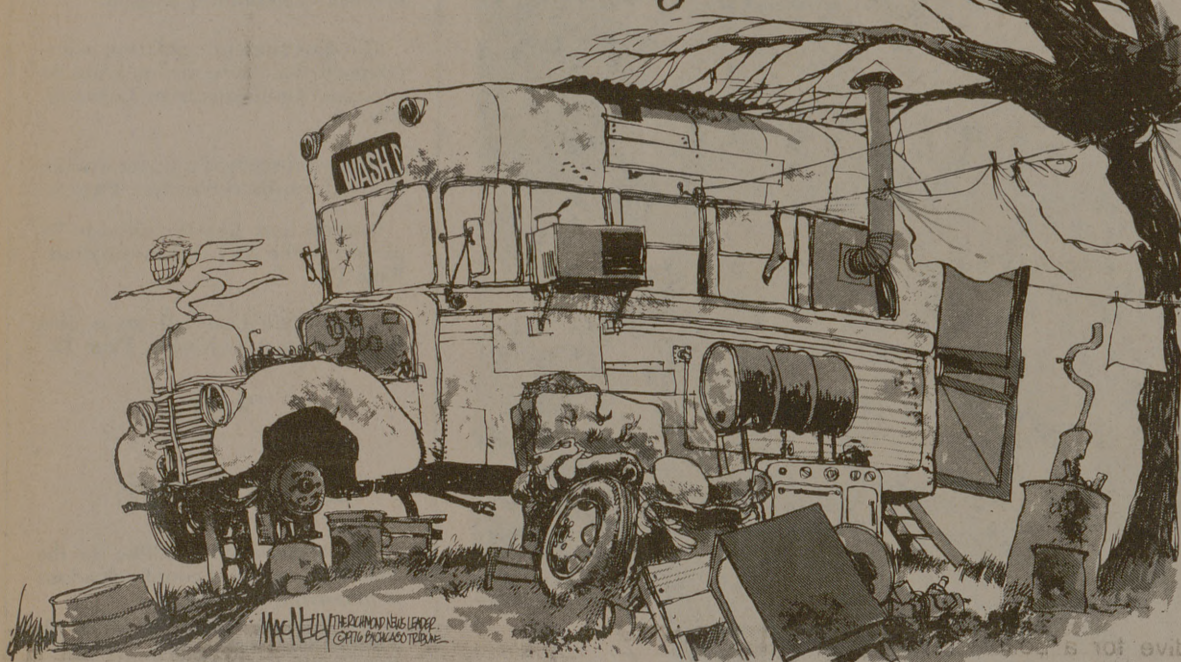
A similar point can be made about the assumption that Carter would be any kind of favorite to defeat Jackson in Pennsylvania in what many see as an April 27 showdown for those two men. Jackson beat Carter in their first meeting in Massachusetts, lost to him in Florida, and is strongly favored to finish in front of him in New York on April 6.

Why that should leave Jackson vulnerable in Pennsylvania is hard to calculate. But the belief in Carter's "momentum," and the near shock his series of victories has induced among many who had dismissed him earlier this year, have now made the Georgian seem almost invulnerable in their eyes. Just as invulnerable as Mr. Ford was moving into North Carolina.

There are two axioms that apply in politics: Many prophecies are wrong. But some prophecies are self-fulfilling. The prospect of a Carter-Humphrey race is — you may be confident — one or the other.



The Carter Plan for Streamlining Government



## Rape

### Campus prevention, awareness urged

**Editor:**  
It was recently brought to our attention that there have been numerous rapes on campus and even one incident in our own dorm (Moshers). None of these rapes have been reported in *The Battalion*. We realize that the innocent victims should be protected from publicity to minimize their trauma but the other women on campus have the right to know that they are not safe to walk alone or even leave their doors unlocked while in the room.

Ignoring the problem will not make it go away. A&M needs a campus-wide Stop-rape program which we believe you, as the voice of the students, are in a position to initiate. At the very least, we feel that it

is imperative for you to print the facts, so that in the future women will be aware of the very real danger that exists.

Rhonda Kay Reger  
Pat Wofford

The editors have taken your suggestion under consideration — Ed.

### Poor facilities

**Editor:**  
With all the building on campus why not construct something many A&M students would appreciate and use: more recreational and physical education facilities.

Over 22,000 students have to share less than 20 tennis courts, rac-

ketball and handball courts; seven basketball or volleyball courts; two gymnastics rooms and one weight room. Intramurals are limited by the lack of facilities. P.E. classes are overcrowded, and if you just want to play — Good luck!

Anyone who's ever looked for a court to play on, been in a P.E. class or participated in intramurals knows there's a demand for more facilities. Our existing ones are in constant use, and there is always someone else waiting for a chance to use them.

If we can have new sidewalks, fountains, walls and landscaping, why not additional recreational facilities? We certainly need them.

Remelle Marlow

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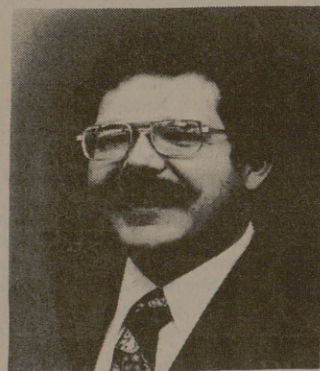
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