



VIEWPOINT



THE BATTALION
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

FRIDAY
JANUARY 26, 1979

Reflections

Kim Lyson

Williams resigns— gives no reasons

Dr. Jack K. Williams is no longer chancellor of the Texas A&M University System.

We all knew that Tuesday. But we still don't know why. Did he resign on his own, or was he asked by the Board of Regents to leave? For now, neither Williams nor the board will say.

His resignation came as a surprise to some professors and students. But for those close to Williams and familiar with the actions of the board, it really was no shock. The action Tuesday was the end of a long, deliberate trail of events.

Williams came to Texas A&M in 1970, continuing an already distinguished career as an educator. He was the first commissioner of the Texas Coordinating Board, Texas Colleges and University System, and served on many national educational and corporation boards.

After his heart problems in 1976, the regents chose to have him relinquish many of his former duties. They removed his responsibility for the main campus and made him "chancellor" in 1977.

Surely, this was the start of something that led to his resignation Tuesday.

During the last year and a half his powers have eroded away. Moody College, which has a separate president, began reporting to Texas A&M President Jarvis Miller instead. The board's creation of vice presidents for agriculture and renewable resources made the Agriculture Experiment and Extension Service and the Engineering Experiment and Extension Service also report to Miller.

And then there's the Georgian house on the main campus. It was given to the Texas A&M president this fall.

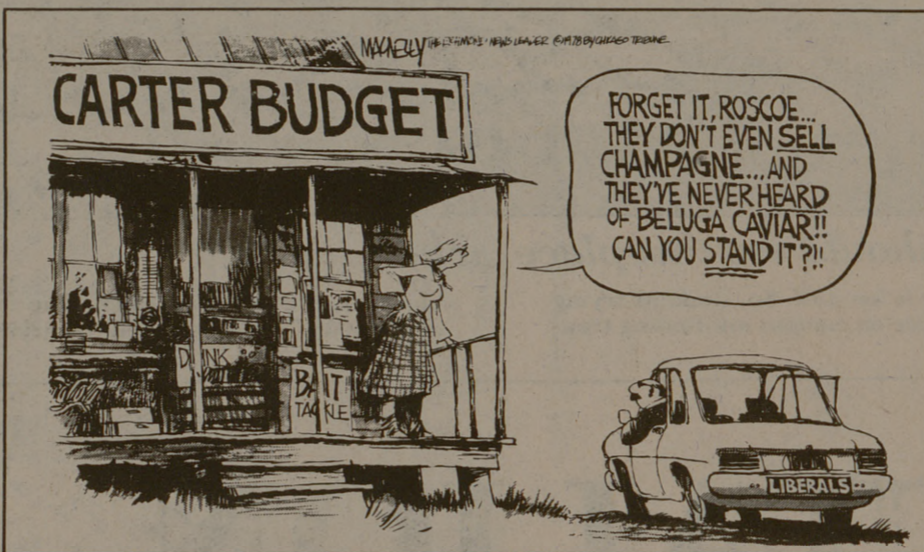
For a man who had headed the whole show and proven his abilities many times, this must have been hard to take.

Williams wasn't known for going along with all the actions of the regents. An educator by profession, he didn't always agree with men whose background was a corporate boardroom instead of a university classroom.

The two new regents could have reversed this trend — made his position less of a figurehead and more of a job. Maybe.

His resignation, though, came during the new regents' first meeting — an indication he saw no new changes coming.

But we don't know for sure. It seems that either Williams had enough, or that the regents decided to cut the few remaining strings.



Carter philosophy: take the middle road

By HELEN THOMAS
UPI White House Reporter

WASHINGTON — President Carter is approaching the new Congress from the middle of the road.

His \$532 billion budget for fiscal 1980 has renewed the "guns and butter" controversy between liberals and conservatives.

Republican leaders, traditional foes of big government, say the cuts could be deeper. Sen. Edward M. Kennedy, D-Mass., on the other hand, is leading the liberal onslaught which condemns the budget as an excessive burden on "the poor, the black, the sick, the young, the cities and the unemployed."

Somewhere in between, stands Carter. By reducing the estimated deficit to \$29 billion and reducing federal spending, Carter believes he is being responsive to the first demand of the American people — to fight inflation.

"The policy of restraint is not a casual one," he said in his budget message. "It is imperative if we are to overcome the threat of accelerating inflation."

He said his budget "supports a balanced fiscal policy" and will slow inflationary pressures while permitting growth. The fight for the federal dollar was anticipated. But Carter is in effect laying down his blueprint for smaller, more effective government and "a balanced budget as soon as economic conditions permit."

To those who criticize him for increasing the defense budget by 3 percent, Carter says: "As president, it is my central responsibility to ensure that our defense forces are strong enough to deter aggression."

Also, he is girding himself for the day when he starts selling a strategic arms limitation pact — after it is reached with the Soviets — to the many Senate hardliners.

"The spending restraint in this budget means that in some areas the government will simply not be able to do as much as it has in the past," Carter said. "Inevitably, real sacrifices must be made if we are to

overcome inflation. In formulating this budget, I have made every effort to spread the burden fairly and objectively."

The document itself is a signal to Democrats that the party leader is ready to retrench on the "Great Society" and other programs that typified past Democratic presidencies.

He believes his approach is "compassionate and competent" but that there are no new breakthrough solutions to the problems that have plagued American society for decades.

"I have ensured that my budget include adequate funds for programs that help those Americans most in need," he said.

Carter believes he is in tune with the wave of the future and that the new Congress, in closer touch with the homefolks, agrees with him that the time has come to put the brake on the scope of federal government and the tax burden.

"He is in the mainstream of American politics," said press secretary Jody Powell. If that is true, then Ted Kennedy, a potential rival for the presidency, is out of step with the public.

On the other hand, California Gov. Edmund Brown is moving to the more conservative side of the party spectrum. Some believe Brown may have gone farther than his own party could ever go with his call for a constitutional convention to force a balanced budget.

But somewhere in the middle is Carter — becoming more and more the moderate that he probably always was before the presidential campaign. He may wind up in the Eisenhower mold. But his aides don't think that's so bad. Eisenhower won two terms which no one doubts Carter wants.

From here to austerity

By DICK WEST

WASHINGTON — Although a reaction consensus would be hard to isolate and identify, congressional comment on President Carter's fiscal 1980 budget was heavily laced with the word "austerity."

"... stops short of imposing the austerity needed." —Sen. Pete Domenici, R-N.M.

"To describe such a budget as 'lean and austere' is like talking about a 'crash diet' that permits banana splits and lemon cream pie." —Sen. William Armstrong, R-Colo.

"We are in a period of economic austerity." —Sen. Gary Hart, D-Colo.

Since there apparently is strong bipartisan support for a national austerity policy, the chief remaining decision is how to achieve that goal.

Some economists, among them Prof. John Kenneth Galbraith, favor the so-called "trickle up" approach.

"Give the low income brackets a good shot of austerity and it eventually will trickle up into the high brackets where it is most needed," Galbraith said in his analysis of the budget.

Why not apply austerity measures to the upper brackets directly?

"The upper brackets have a powerful barrier against austerity," Galbraith said. "It is called money. Very drastic measures would be required to start an austerity wave in the upper brackets."

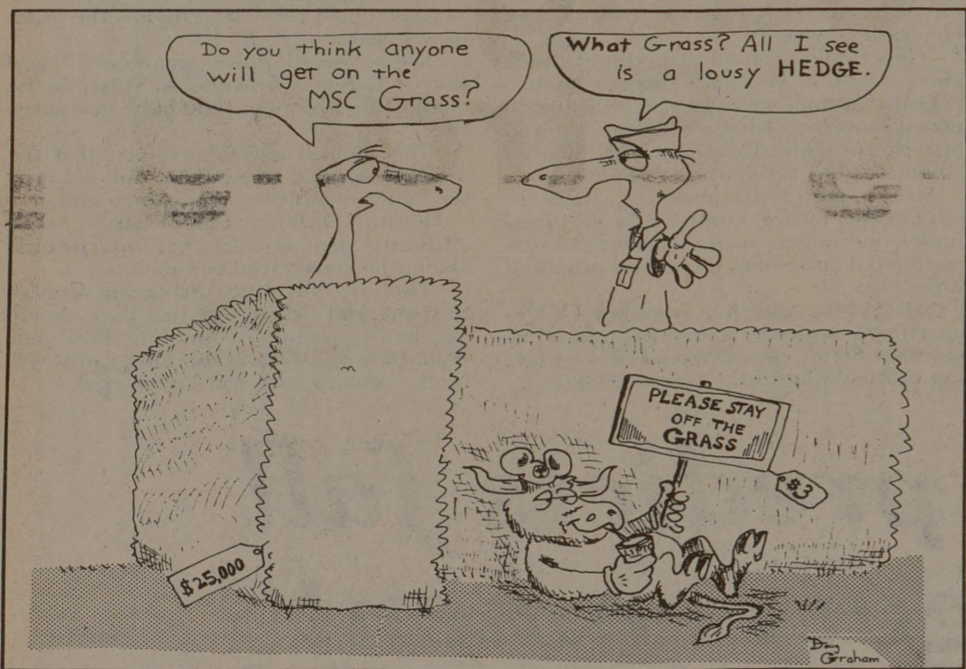
"By contrast, a relatively small amount of austerity will make itself felt in the lower brackets. So the best policy is to aim the austerity program in their direction. Sooner or later, the higher brackets will feel the effects of it, too."

But other economists, one being Dr. Sigmund Waterstock, argue that the lower brackets already operate on an austere level, thus making any further belt-tightening in that area ineffectual.

"To make austerity work, we've got to have a program that attacks the roots of sumptuousness. This means taking it right at the upper brackets," Waterstock told me.

I'm sure that Congress, which has shown exquisite wisdom in resolving such issues in the past, will come forth with a workable compromise — sometime in the next decade. Meanwhile, there are foreign policy implications to consider.

It is axiomatic that no nation can long exist as an island of austerity in a world that is striving for prodigality. To avoid offending our neighbors, we shall have to avoid adopting an air of austerer-than-thou.



Letters to the editor

Waggies face discrimination, rudeness

Editor: Aggies have always fought to protect others from injustice and persecution. In World War II we sent 18,000 Aggies to fight to protect the rights of the persecuted. That is a record to be proud of.

But, look at our own backyard. I am talking about the Waggies. They are constantly discriminated against. There isn't a day that goes by, that some Waggie isn't recipient of obscene insults and outright hatred. Freshmen refuse to meet Waggie upperclassmen. And when Waggie fish try to meet male upperclassmen they get ignored or cursed out.

I know most of the class of '80 in both women's outfits. And I find them, without exception, to be ladies of outstanding qualities. They have gone through as much as, if not more, than I have in the past two and a half years in the Corps. Yet they don't have the privilege to wear senior boots next year. A privilege they have more than earned. Nor can they work on bonfire, join Ross Volunteers, or many other activities the Corps in general take for granted.

The inscription on Sully says, "Soldier, Statesman, Knightly Gentleman." The Corps teaches their fish to believe this noble sentiment, however, we are nothing but hypocrites as long as we stand by and allow such injustices to go on.

We should stand by the Waggies, not hate them. Surely we men in the Corps are not so insecure in our masculinity that we are afraid to treat the Waggies like human beings. I am not saying that we should treat the Waggies special just because they are women. But we certainly shouldn't treat them like second-class people either. I will be proud to wear my boots side by side with a Waggie in boots.

—Gary R. Brock, '80

Petition against vote

Editor: I have just returned from the student senate meeting where the proposal for a hedge around the Memorial Student Center passed. However, it passed after a limited 30 minute debate without any input from the student body (non-senate) that was attending. I maintain this vote did not

approach the true feelings of the student body but rather the sentiments of the senators.

For these reasons, and not my personal desires, I would like to initiate a petition for a referendum of the entire student body regarding this issue. Hopefully this will result in a more representative result.

The views I expressed in a letter in Wednesday's (Jan. 24) Battalion were motivated by anger, however their veritability remains the same. I only regret not speaking out sooner.

Perhaps it is because of where I've been, and where you've got to go, that my viewpoint is different. War is not nice, any representation of it otherwise is an obscenity. The phrase "a P.O.W. never has a nice day" was and still is very true. The amnesty allows the ex-patriots to return home but nothing allows the maimed or crippled freedom from the prison their body or mind has become.

I can't escape from the thought of how those that died in our country's service — preserving ideas and concepts for the living — would feel about injuring the needs of the living for the needs of the dead. How the survivors' relatives feel about

this? How do their buddies feel about their sacrifices?

This I spoke of in my letter before. The expenditure of \$20,000-25,000 for a hedge remains a touching but empty gesture in comparison to the deserving living whose sacrifices have so often been forgotten.

This issue can be taken up by a formal petition signed by one-tenth of the student body causing it to become resolved by the popular vote.

—Jeff O. Bogert, '84
Dianne Brown, '82

Move to the front

Editor: This short note is directed to Mr. Christopher D. Stewart, '79, and concerns his comment about "Waggies" being in the "trunk" at Texas A&M.

I feel everyone deserves a little more respect than that. So I'd like for him to remember during elephant walk this year that the trunk is in the front and not in the back.

—Janet Kirken, '79

'States' rights' return

Editor: I am writing this letter to draw attention to Wyoming's heroic attempt to challenge the national government's ever-growing circle of power. I quote from a UPI release. "The Wyoming Senate tentatively voted to ignore the nationwide 55-mph speed limit and raise the state's limit to 65 mph."

The issue is not the speed limit, it is whether or not the government has the right to dictate, through the threatened withdrawal of funds, actions totally withing the state that have no effect on the rest of the nation.

Statistics indicate that the reduction of fuel consumed after the 55 mph speed limit's introduction resulted mainly from a reduction in miles traveled. Since the price of gasoline took a large jump the

same year as the speed limit reduction, the resulting fuel consumption reductions previously credited to the speed limit are grossly over-estimated. In 1976 and 1977, accidents per mile driven actually increased.

You probably haven't heard these two interesting facts before, and we think communists are the only ones who use propaganda.

I applaud Wyoming's action and am looking forward to the government's reaction. Again from the UPI article, "Proponents vowed a court fight if the government cuts off cash because of the action."

If other states would follow Wyoming's lead, the government would be forced to return the right of speed limit determination to the states.

—Dudley Smith, '81

TOP OF THE NEWS STATE

Blown-out gas well monitored

Oil field workers and public safety officials Thursday monitored a rogue gas well that blew out of control near Beaumont. No one was injured and there was no fire in the Wednesday blowout of a 4,000-foot-deep Stovall Oil and Gas Producers well in Spindletop Field south of the city. Wild Well Control Inc. of Houston was called to control the well. However, a Texas Department of Public Safety Official said he didn't know if the well would be capped or not. "It's about to blow itself out," he said. "It's trying to sand over."

Strauss to leave Carter post

Foreign trade ambassador Robert Strauss will leave the Carter administration as soon as he has completed a round of trade negotiations in Tokyo between the United States and 100 other countries, Dallas newspaper said. The Times Herald Wednesday said Strauss, former Democratic national chairman plans to return to his private law practice, and plans to be active in Carter's 1980 re-election campaign.

NATION

Snow stalls farmer tractorcade

One of two snowbound tractorcades headed for Washington, western Illinois Thursday, but the other remained stalled near Greenville, Ill. The two groups, totalling 800 farmers and families, belong to American Agricultural Movement caravans traveling to the capital to lobby against higher farm prices. The stalled farmers busied themselves clearing snow from Greenville street. "We had two snowplows break down Wednesday night, so they're really helping," Greenville Police Chief Robert File said.

Carter appoints four to bench

President Carter Thursday named four people — including a woman and a black — to the federal bench in Massachusetts. The woman is Rya W. Zobel, a Boston lawyer; the black is David Nelson, associate justice on the Superior Court of Massachusetts. Others are Robert E. Keeton, an associate dean at Harvard Law School, and John J. McNaught, associate judge of the state supreme court. All are subject to confirmation by the Senate Judiciary Committee, whose chairman, Sen. Edward Kennedy, D-Mass, said he is eliminating the old confirmation system under which senators have veto powers over nominees from their state. The appointments are the first under the new omnibus judgeship law which provides for 10 new federal judgeships, the most any president ever has been authorized to appoint.

Talmadge records subpoenaed

A federal grand jury has subpoenaed Senate records on Sen. Strom Thurmond Talmadge's office expense claims in 1973 and 1974. Talmadge, a Georgia Democrat in his 23rd year in the Senate, already faces discipline by the Senate Ethics Committee for five possible violations, including illegal expense claims and the conversion of campaign funds to personal use. The jury's subpoena is the first indication the Justice Department may be pursuing an indictment against Talmadge or any of his staff.

Troopers ready for police strike

Louisiana state troopers are preparing for possible emergency duty if city police strike, state police Commander G.W. Garrison said Thursday. The 800-member Patrolman's Association of New Orleans has threatened a chaotic Mardi Gras strike unless the city restores vacation and sick leave benefits which were reduced to help cover 10 to 30 percent pay raise.

WORLD

Britain threatens force in strike

Britain's Social Services Secretary David Ennals said Thursday the government will use force if necessary to break a blockade by strikers that is preventing deliveries of medical supplies to hospitals. More than 50 cancer patients were sent home from Birmingham Queen Elizabeth hospital because striking public health service workers prevented medical supplies from getting through. The blocking of drugs was the latest blow to a country already hit by weeks of railroad shutdowns, food shortages and walkouts by public service workers and gravediggers.

1,500 Chinese apply for visas

Applications by mainland Chinese to enter the United States last week reached 1,500 this month, a U.S. consul spokesman in Hong Kong said Thursday. "We expect this figure to top 2,000 by the end of the month," the spokesman said. He added he expects an even higher figure in February. A year ago, the consulate handled only 30 visa applications, but an easing of Peking's restrictions after the establishment of diplomatic relations with the United States has sent the number up.

WEATHER

Overcast skies with 100% chance of rain. High today mid 40's and low tonight in the low 30's. Winds will be E.N.E. at 10 m.p.h.

THE BATTALION

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Letters to the editor should not exceed 300 words and are subject to being cut to that length or less if longer. The editorial staff reserves the right to edit such letters and does not guarantee to publish any letter. Each letter must be signed, show the address of the writer and list a telephone number for verification.

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