

BATTALION EDITORIALS

Congressmen Hide Behinds Trifles

Napoleon is credited with having said, "Men are lead by trifles."

As forces begin to line up for the battle of the presidential election year, one might become inclined to agree with the great general. It appears that the game is going to be played on a field marked with trifles rather than the real issues confronting the U. S. In our day and time we have come to refer to some of the trifles as technicalities. Or as many people say, mountains are made from molehills.

The most recent example at hand would center around President Lyndon Johnson's State of the Union address to Congress Wednesday. With the exception of a few who disagree with everything, including the shining of the sun, congressmen generally agreed with proposals made by President Johnson for the year ahead. However, both Republican and Democrats were quick to disagree with the way in which the President worded some of his proposals.

It seems that Congress spends a great deal of its time trying to say how the nation should do something that everyone is suppose to want done. But, the high paid representatives of the people spend days, weeks and even months arguing over the wording within a piece of legislation. Only yesterday the chairman of the House Rules Committee said that he and the chairman of the House Judicial Committee could not agree on the meaning of words in the civil rights legislation.

We have no intentions of underrating the complexity which pieces of federal legislation entails; but, we certainly do question the earnestness of the men who are to act on that legislation to reach a compromise. It seems that in many cases a gentleman of the Congress who is opposed to a piece of legislation would rather pick a technicality to beat on than to openly state that he is opposed to the legislation.

This nation was founded and built by men who were ready to state their opinions on issues and who did not hide behind technicalities. It makes one wonder what type men we are sending to Washington when they hide behind a fine point rather than state that they flatly oppose or support a measure.

It's Only A Rumor

Rumors are somethings that float freely around the A&M campus. One rumor among the many that have found their way to The Battalion office is concerned with the A&M-TU basketball game this Saturday.

The rumor is that TU students are making an effort to buy up all the tickets for the game. They are in hopes, so the rumor goes, that there will not be any tickets left for Aggies when they get to Austin Saturday.

There is no way for The Battalion to confirm this rumor, but we do feel that we have an answer if such a situation does greet Aggies in Sipville. The secret to the answer is for everyone going to the game to carry a handy transistor radio with him.

Should Aggies get on the sip campus and find that there are no tickets available for the game, we would suggest that they wait patiently until the game is about to start. We would hope that when the game starts all Aggies who cannot get into Gregory Gym will be just outside with radios in hand. From that same position those Aggies listen to the game and still support their team with yells just as they ordinarily would. In no uncertain terms they would let the sips and the national TV audience know that Aggie Spirit never quits.

As we said, we don't know that the rumor is true, we have just offered a solution if it is.

CADET SLOUCH by Jim Earle



"I think he's beginning to realize that there's no time left this semester!"

— Sound Off —

Editors Note: Because the past contributors to Sound-Off have shown a tendency to make their contributions too lengthy The Battalion has found it necessary to limit all letters addressed to Sound-Off to 200 words. Any letter exceeding this length will be edited to meet this requirements.

Editor, The Battalion: The recent "Wright or Wrong" columns by Mr. John Wright are examples of the most one-sided and misrepresented slanting of the "news" that has yet appeared in The Battalion. Mr. Wright's blind faith in the Democratic Party and President Johnson, as evidenced by his column of January 9, speaks poorly of him; but his vicious attack on Barry Goldwater which is void of any truth or accuracy is a slander not only on Mr. Wright himself, but also on The Battalion. It is a sad state of affairs when a newspaper which supposedly represents the entire A&M student body prints only one side to a vital national issue which concerns all of us. I hope there will be some action taken about Mr. Wright's very Wrong column in the near future! Sam F. Rhodes, '66

Editor, The Battalion: While sitting at my desk working very hurriedly, one of our secretaries "disturbed" me with my daily Batt. As usual, I paused to glance at the headlines and noticed the usual Christmas driving warnings. Upon turning to the second page, I was confronted with a very warm, truthful account of Silver Taps by Dan Louis, Editor, Battalion. My first thought was — "another interpretation of Silver Taps;" but such was not the case. This is undoubtedly the best "written" description of Silver Taps I have ever read. It expresses exactly one's feel-

CIVILIAN YEARBOOK PORTRAIT SCHEDULE

Civilian Students will have their portrait made for the "Aggieland '64" according to the following schedule. Portraits will be made at the Aggie Studio, between 8 AM and 5 PM on the days scheduled. TIES AND COATS SHOULD BE WORN.

NOTE: JANUARY GRADUATES should have their portrait made before leaving school, disregarding any conflict in schedule dates.

CIVILIAN SENIORS AND GRADUATE STUDENTS
January 9-10 A-D (surname)
13-14 E-J
15-16 K-P
20-21 Q-T
22-23 U-Z
CIVILIAN SOPHOMORES AND JUNIORS
February 4-5 A-E
6-7 F-K
11-12 L-R
13-14 S-Z

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'HE'S FORGOTTEN HIS HEART'

Johnson's Long Work Days Create National Concern

By TEX EASLEY WASHINGTON (AP) — President Johnson's 12 to 14-hour work days are causing many people to worry.

He and Mrs. Johnson are getting mail from all over the country urging that he take it easy. That, however, would require a radical change in Johnson's makeup — which isn't likely to happen.

Those who know him best say he thrives on drive. He was that way as a member of the House, as a senator and then as vice president. His 1955 heart attack only slowed his pace for about a year.

Robert Waldron, who was an aide of Rep. Homer Thornberry, D., Austin for years has a healthy respect for Johnson's vigor.

"I went with him on that trip to Holland, Belgium and Luxembourg early in November," Waldron observed.

"He had all of us around him dragging, we were so worn out. Yet he was meeting with officials here and there, attending all kinds of functions and kept looking fresh and fit. I don't know how he does it."

Waldron said the same thing happened when he accompanied

Johnson on a 1961 world tour. On that two-week trip, which took place six years after his heart attack, Johnson was able to snatch only a few hours sleep a night and one night didn't get any.

One expansion of how he does it, according to a close friend, is that he is thoroughly relaxed with friends or even strangers at semi-social or outright social gatherings. He seems to enjoy it, where some men would not.

As a congressman, the President also maintained a fast pace because of requirements of the job as well as through inclination.

That this speed is required of anyone serving in Congress is attested to by Rep. Jim Wright, D., of Fort Worth, in a recent letter to constituents.

"From the time a congressman tumbles wearily out of bed to grope sleepily for the morning paper and his first cup of coffee," wrote Wright, "every minute of his day is spoken for several times over."

"In fiscal 1963 (ending last June 30), a total of 18,450,000 pieces of mail were delivered to Congress. Into my own office each day come about 160 letters.

"So, the congressman must spend his first few hours of the day getting his mail organized and dictating as many replies as he can. Some will require telephone calls to Administrative agencies.

"Soon it will be 10 o'clock — the hour when one of his committees goes into session. This is important, because most of the actual legislative business of Congress is handled in Committee. With a few parting instructions to a secretary who feverishly tries to jot them down in shorthand on her dictation pad,

the congressman bolts out the door in an effort to hear his committee's first witness ...

"But as he is passing through the outer office, he runs head-on into a family of constituents entering from the hallway. He wants to visit with them, of course, for they have to come to the Capitol to see him and they deserve attention.

"Realizing he is missing the first order of Committee business and yet trying not to appear hurried or hurried, he greets the constituents warmly and invites them to have a cup of coffee from the 30-cup urn he keeps bubbling in his office.

"Before long it is 11:45 a.m. and the buzzers imperiously summons members to the House floor. On the way he may grab a hamburger at the House restaurant ... Once on the (House) floor, he takes advantage of a lull in proceedings to dash into the cloakroom to try to return several long-distance calls his office received while he was in Committee ...

"When the House adjourns, perhaps around 5 o'clock, the congressman dashes back to the House Office Building. There he takes up where he left off — dictating, checking, signing the mail and returning last-minute telephone calls.

Bulletin Board

FRIDAY Pan American Club will meet in Rooms 3-A and 3-B of the Memorial Student Center at 7:30 p.m.

MONDAY Electrical Engineers Wives Club will meet in the YMCA Building at 8 p.m.

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PEANUTS By Charles M. Schulz I GUESS SOMEBODY'S GETTING HUNGRY!