

David S. Broder

## Foreign policy to play major role in campaign

WASHINGTON — Even if he did nothing else in his try for the Republican presidential nomination, Ronald Reagan washed the word "detente" out of President Ford's mouth and guaranteed that the policy it represents will be part of the political debate in the coming months.

One of the surviving Democratic contenders, Sen. Henry M. Jackson of Washington, has criticized the fundamental policy of seeking cooperative relationships with the Soviet Union, in terms almost identical to those Reagan used. The other Democrats have found fault with the execution of the policy, in the military, diplomatic and economic areas. And President Ford, while abandoning the word, has shown a commendable willingness to defend both the precepts of the policy and the way in which it has been carried out during his tenure in office.

Despite Henry Kissinger's frequent bleats of alarm that such a debate can do damage to the national interest, there is little doubt that it is not only healthy but vital for the foreign policy issues to be highly visible in this election year.

The fact is that the national consensus on foreign policy has been shattered, not by the wicked machinations of ambitious politicians, as the Secretary of State would have us believe, but by a series of disturbing events. These events have forced Americans to examine the consequences of their previous beliefs.

The failure of American policy to achieve its goals in Indochina — which was successfully concealed from the voters by Dr. Kissinger and his then-President during the 1972 election campaign — requires a re-

thinking of the assumptions underlying that policy.

So, too, do the altered relations with the Arab world and Israel, resulting from the operations of the oil cartel and the changing configurations of power in the Middle East.

And so do the changes in the political parties in many of the Western European countries, the alterations in economic and political conditions in Japan, and the prospect of early changes in leadership in both Russia and China.

With all the upheavals that have occurred since the last election and all those changes in store, the 1976 campaign constitutes an opportunity that must not be lost. That opportunity is to define the alternatives facing American foreign policy and to evoke from the American voters a response that will guide policymakers in Washington for the next four years.

This mandating function is particularly important as we come to realize that, for better or worse, we may have to blunder through the next administration without Dr. Kissinger's shining star to guide us.

The serious question is not whether we need to have a foreign policy debate in this election but how well that debate can be conducted. The question is whether we can get beyond the clichés that insist we see detente either as "a one-way street" or as a policy that guarantees "peace through strength."

A preface to a more intelligent discussion — and useful reading for both candidates and voters — is the short article titled "Is Detente Worth Saving?" George F. Kennan wrote it for the March 6 issue of Saturday Review.

Kennan — former ambassador to Moscow, author of the containment doctrine and scholar of diplomatic history — is a notably non-sentimental student of foreign policy.

He begins by making a most sensible comment: that the current criticism of detente represents "an almost predictable reaction" against the way in which the policy was "rather seriously oversold" at the time it was propounded by Kissinger and Richard Nixon four years ago. That is a bad American habit — overselling the "new model" in everything from autos to national policies. But it need not be fatal to innovative change, so long as the customers get a chance to look past the fancy wrappings and examine the package for what it contains. In that sense, Mr. Ford may have performed a national service — and not just a neat campaign maneuver — in dropping the label, "detente."

Historically, Kennan reminds us, Russia and the United States have exhibited both striking parallels and enormous contrasts in their national developments. Certain aspects of Russian national life caused us problems long before it was a Communist state. As far back as 1911, Congress was forcing President Taft to abrogate a trade agreement with Russia in protest of its treatment of its Jewish citizens.

But the geographical, ideological and strategic conflicts with Russia would probably never have posed a threat to world peace, except for the fact that these are now both nuclear powers.

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## Housing

(Continued from page 1)

for more than two days. Boarding houses have a waiting list long before a new semester begins.

Rents usually include utilities. Rapidly changing utility rates will cause more and more apartment tenants to pay their own electrical bills.

More students this fall will not be able to rent an apartment for just a semester. It is advisable to have your roommates sign a tenancy agreement. This is a form holding each roommate responsible for his or her share of the rent. Forms are available from the Student Legal Advisor.

Lists of available apartment vacancies are posted outside of YMCA 108. The Student Y MSC 216 keeps a list of private rooms and apartments that are available for rent. The Student Affairs office operates a free roommate service.

To find the names of other students who need roommates, men should check in YMCA 103 and women should go to YMCA 108.

A special section on the College Station city council and school board elections will be printed next week in The Battalion.

## The Battalion

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# Ford heads to California

Associated Press

President Ford headed his campaign for the Republican nomination into California today, where the presidential primary is 10 weeks away, while Democratic contenders focused on the more immediate future — voting April 6 in New York and Wisconsin.

Former Georgia Gov. Jimmy Carter — winner of five of six Democratic primaries — turned his attention to upstate New York after seeking votes in Wisconsin. Washington Sen. Henry M. Jackson, winner of the other Democratic election, has been stumping New York for several days. And Arizona Rep. Morris K. Udall, another of the Democratic candidates, prepared for more work in Wisconsin.

The President's two-day schedule listed a day of fund-raising and soliciting support in San Francisco and Los Angeles, and another day of similar activity in Wisconsin.

Ford's challenger for the GOP nomination, former California Gov. Ronald Reagan, was at home as the President aimed his campaign for the West Coast.

Reagan, who beat Ford in North Carolina's Republican primary this week, was busy planning a new tactic for his campaign — a nationwide television address.

"They don't know the day as yet," an aide said of the television talk. "They're still shopping for TV time."

Carter was sprinkled with peanuts Thursday as he and Udall sought voter support in Wisconsin. Carter, a peanut farmer in Georgia, ran into hecklers as he campaigned in Madison. He smiled and waved at the young demonstrators.

At a luncheon, Carter fielded several questions, including one on amnesty for Vietnam war draft dodgers.

"Amnesty means that what you did was right," he said. "Pardon means what you did, right or wrong, you're forgiven. I'm just going to say, 'Come on home where you belong.'"

Udall, at the University of Wisconsin at Stevens Point, also was asked about amnesty. He said he

Reagan's national campaign chairman, Sen. Paul Laxalt, R-Nev., said in Chattanooga, Tenn., that the challenger has an excellent chance of winning the Tennessee, Georgia, Alabama and Texas primaries and carrying most of the West.

Laxalt predicted the only Western States Reagan may not win are Oregon and Hawaii.

Meanwhile, there were these other political developments yesterday:

—Former Oklahoma Sen. Fred Harris, a candidate for the Democratic nomination, said in Dallas he has information that the administration has gone beyond contingency planning in preparing for a blockade of Cuba.

Such a tactic, Harris said, would be "an interventionist policy, secretive and elitist." Harris said Cuba "is

no threat to this country, and had enough killing."

—New York's highest court turned down challenges to the new primary election law, setting the April 6 Democratic primary Jackson-Carter-Udall fight.

—Rhode Island's secretary of state officially removed Minnesota's Hubert H. Humphrey's name from the state's June 1 presidential primary ballot, at Humphrey's request. Humphrey has said he is not a date, though he would accept it at the convention.

—Reagan's backers surprised election officials in Ohio when filed delegate slates in its state's 23 congressional districts plus a full slate of 28 for at least seats. There had been reports the GOP challenger would win Ohio's June 8 primary.

### Political Roundup

favors unconditional amnesty, since, he said, "Richard Nixon has been granted complete and unconditional amnesty following Watergate."

Jackson, in New York City, proposed a six-point plan he said would "save American cities." He said the program, costing between \$140 billion and \$160 billion, would be paid for with income taxes from Americans who are now unemployed.

Unemployment would be cut to 3 per cent under the program, he said; the federal government would take over the funding of welfare and a new national health system, federal aid to education would be increased, construction begun on 2.6 million new dwelling units, and the government would begin to insure municipal bonds.

In Washington, White House aides said Ford is ready to pull back a bit on the use of presidential authority during the campaign. They said Ford and his strategists have been stung by Reagan's efforts to portray the President as a Santa Claus offering presents to voters in key states.

Said one official, "We may even bend over the other way a bit."

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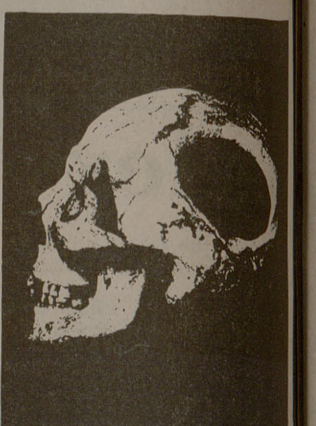
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