



Improved services for consumer latest campaign drive by Soviets

Associated Press
MOSCOW — On March 19, Moscow's evening newspaper published a glowing report about the city taxi drivers of Motor Pool 15. They had pledged themselves to "excellent service," had posted little signs to that effect on their dashboards and praise from customers was rolling in. But on a recent night outside Moscow's biggest hotel, the model drivers of Motor Pool 15 were nowhere to be found and the surly, more traditional cab drivers of Moscow were, as always, demanding exorbitant fares and insulting anyone who complained. The contrast points up the difficulties the Soviet government is having with its latest drive to improve service in taxis, restaurants, stores, government offices and other bases of the long-suffering consumer. The controlled press, aided by the Communist party and the Young Communist League, has no trouble finding model citizens to write about. But when it comes to convincing the average worker that he has something to gain from giving good ser-

vice, the message obviously still hasn't gotten through. This year's campaign is not the first time the Soviets have tried to perk up the service industries, but the stakes in the current campaign are higher than ever. The 1976-80 economic plan calls for a 27-29 per cent increase in retail turnover, aimed at getting more money into circulation and moving the goods and services that many citizens consider the best test of how well their government is taking care of them. If citizens aren't satisfied with the assortment of goods, perhaps smiling service will convince them to buy something anyhow. As M. Golubitsova, a department head at Moscow's Detsky Mir children's department store, said in a newspaper article: "Our goal is to give such good service that no one leaves our store without buying something." The Soviet image abroad also depends increasingly on what kind of treatment foreign visitors get in restaurants, taxis, hotels and shops.

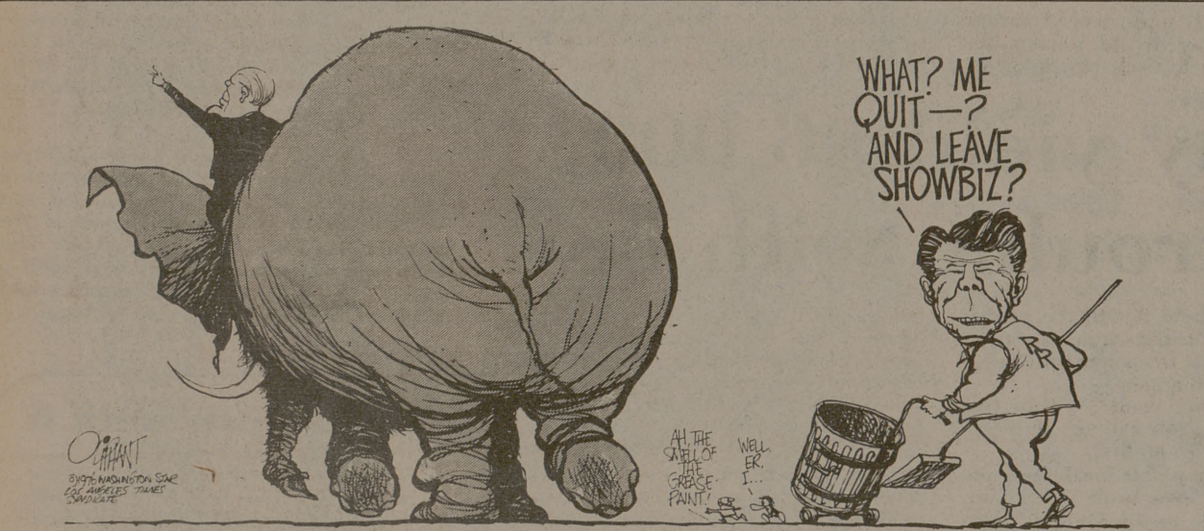
Fifteen million foreigners came here in the past five years and 37 million are expected to come between now and 1980. Particularly in 1980, when Moscow hosts the Winter Olympics, officials don't want the thousands of visiting sports fans and correspondents to go home with stories of insolent waiters and organizational foul-ups. So the campaign is under way. One tool, as usual, is the barrage of press publicity. More substantive techniques, though, are also being tried. The number of self-service stores is increasing, as opposed to the still widespread Soviet system of the customer waiting in three lines: one to see goods, one to pay for them and a third to pick them up. Customers are also being urged to order hard-to-get goods — such as certain vegetables or new volumes in sets of books — in advance. This may decrease the long, excited lines that form in Soviet cities whenever scarce products go on sale.

Briscoe wants electronic surveillance

Associated Press
SAN ANTONIO — Legislators will be asked next January to approve court-ordered and court-supervised electronic surveillance in the war against organized crime, Gov. Dolph Briscoe said Wednesday. The governor said in a speech before a district convention of Rotary International that battling crime would be the No. 1 legislative priority of his administration during the next session. Briscoe said his organized crime legislation package would:

- ✓ Define organized crime and make engaging in organized criminal activities a felony.
 - ✓ Allow court-ordered and supervised electronic surveillance in investigation of organized crime.
 - ✓ Permit a defendant to be tried for all organized criminal activities at one trial.
- The governor said his staff was drafting legislation to reduce non-organized crime as well, including a measure on repayment of victims by convicted criminals and tougher parole laws.

His suggested legislation would be aimed mainly at habitual offenders and those who commit certain serious crimes. Gov. Briscoe said he would recommend also that juries be permitted briefings on parole laws before sentencing. "It's time to take the blindfold off the jury and give them the same information a judge has when he sentences a criminal," he said. Another proposal would require supervision of offenders released from prison, regardless of whether they had served their full term.



The Battalion

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Humphrey gets through

Pickets stop presidential hopefuls

By **DON McLEOD**
 AP Political Writer

WASHINGTON — Hubert Humphrey and three Democratic presidential candidates ran into a picket line Wednesday, but avowed noncandidate Humphrey got through to steal the show.

Humphrey, often mentioned as a possible compromise candidate this year, was the only one of the quartet to keep his date as a speaker at the American Society of Newspaper Editors convention.

"To prove I am a noncandidate," Humphrey quipped, "the pickets left when they heard I was coming."

But, really, the pickets had withdrawn before Humphrey's arrival in compliance with a court order.

Sen. Henry M. Jackson, Rep. Morris K. Udall and former Georgia Gov. Jimmy Carter, however, did not make it because of the picket line before the Shoreham-Americana Hotel. They addressed the meeting through a telephone hookup.

When the candidates learned the hotel was being picketed, all three refused to cross the lines. However, they learned later that the National Labor Relations Board had ruled the picketing an illegal secondary boycott and a federal judge had issued a temporary restraining order limiting the pickets to a single entrance.

All three candidates and Humphrey were asked by a panel of reporters why they had honored a picket line adjudged illegal. The three candidates said they hadn't known about that part when they made the

decision. Members of the National Association of Broadcast Employees and Technicians, on strike against the National Broadcasting Co. since April 1, threw up the picket line in front of the Shoreham-Americana Hotel in an effort to keep NBC camera crews from covering the event.

Carter told the editors that the furor over his use of the term "ethnic

purity" in relation to residential neighborhood integration had been good for the country by bringing the issue out for discussion.

While Carter has apologized for the term "ethnic purity," he said "I don't have any apology to offer for my position on housing." He said he still thinks the federal government should not deliberately destroy what

he now calls the "ethnic neighborhoods."

All three candidates espoused essentially the same stance on neighborhood issue by opposing discrimination but also disliked having their names placed in front of large, low-income projects in them.

Humphrey still noncommittal on candid

By **HARRY F. ROSENTHAL**
 Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — How do you introduce Hubert H. Humphrey to an audience? That has become one of Washington's most perplexing, if least important, problems.

Eugene C. Patterson of the St. Petersburg, Fla., Times, handled it this way on Wednesday:

"Our speaker today," he told the American Society of Newspaper Editors, "is a former vice president, was the mayor of Minneapolis at one time, is a former presidential nominee, a leading senator, a happy warrior, and we can't rudely disregard his insistence that he isn't running for anything."

Humphrey, who says he is not a candidate for anything but another six years in the Senate, was then questioned by the ASNE panel.

He said he didn't know why, as a noncandidate, he was visiting the editors, who represent newspapers from all over the country, except that

"someone sent me an invitation and I'm a creature of habit."

There was the inevitable question of whether his decision not to allow his name to be entered in any presidential primary was final.

"That's my present judgment," said Humphrey.

"Could it change before...?" began the questioner, William Eaton of the Chicago Daily News.

The audience roared. Humphrey repeated, "That is my present judgment."

"In the next two weeks? How long do you think it will be in the 'present,'" Humphrey was asked.

"Most of the time, I imagine."

"You thinking it over?"
 "Not particularly," said Humphrey.

He explained that never is very finite in politics, "but I'm a political man and I know the pressures that are brought to bear on you and I don't expect to yield."

Humphrey was asked about a Democratic convention with no clear favorite. He said something startling happens upcoming. Pennsylvania, none of the candidates was the nomination from the convention. He said, "I feel perfectly physically, emotionally, and politically of conducting a campaign if I needed to do a question is do I want to do it? isn't because of any physical condition. You go up to the stage and take a look at what you get and take a look at me. Done."

And about that Humphrey Presidential Committee news operating? "I don't know a committee. I've authorized to speak for me, talk for me, or endorse me, but I'm not authorized to speak for me, talk for me, or endorse me," Humphrey said. "That for myself."

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