



Democratic race muddled

WASHINGTON — With nearly one-third of the delegates to the Democratic National Convention selected, frontrunner Jimmy Carter would have to more than double his delegate capture rate to assure himself a first-ballot nomination for president.

For the other contenders, the numerical task is even tougher. Bandwagons and political firestorms, of course, can wreck delegate trends and projections. But the pattern of the first one-third of the race illustrates how difficult it will be for any candidate to win on the first ballot.

The picture is different on the Republican side, where President Ford is leading in delegates selected and the candidate preferences are not as fragmented as on the Democratic side.

Although challenger Ronald

Reagan says the GOP nominee will not be picked on the first ballot, he has not explained how, with only two candidates in the race, neither will get a majority on the first ballot.

Before last weekend's events, Democrats had selected 943 of the 3,008 delegates to their July convention. That's 31.4 per cent. It will take 1,505 votes to win the nomination.

Carter, with 264 delegates, led the pack — but still had won only 28.0 per cent of the delegates so far chosen. To capture the 1,505 needed to win the nomination, he would have to be the candidate of 60 per cent of the remaining delegates yet to be chosen.

Sen. Henry M. Jackson is winning delegates at an 18.8 per cent rate, Rep. Morris K. Udall at 13.7 per cent, and Gov. George C. Wallace at 11.0 per cent.

But one in every six delegates chosen so far is listed as uncommitted.

This group, plus the assortment of delegates committed to favorite sons and trailing candidates, will be targets of the leaders. But some of them also are regarded as an advance force ready to rally to the support of unannounced candidate Sen. Hubert H. Humphrey.

Ford now is moving at a pace which, if sustained, would almost certainly guarantee victory.

The GOP has selected 531 of its 2,259 delegates, or 23.5 per cent. Ford has won 47.7 per cent of those. Reagan only 15.6 per cent. The other 36.7 per cent are committed.

If only one in every 15 of the uncommitted leans toward Ford, then he has an effective majority of delegates picked to date.

Unless a third candidate gets into the race, there is nowhere for the uncommitted to go except to Ford or Reagan — meaning one or the other would win on the first ballot unless some delegates didn't vote at all.

Army starts language program

BERLIN — After three decades of service in Germany, the U.S. Army has launched a mandatory program to teach its troops the language of the host country.

The educational work done in the Berlin Brigade is held up as a model of what can be accomplished in classroom work now under way at all Army installations in West Germany. The Army also is taking steps to expose new commanders to German before they leave the United States.

Getting often reluctant GIs to study German is a pet project of Gen. George S. Blanchard, commander of U.S. Army Europe.

In a West Berlin interview, Blanchard said he has broadened an original 40- to 50-hour concept for younger new arrivals to include a mandatory program of up to 120 hours of instruction for senior officers and noncommissioned officers.

The Army chief of staff, Blanchard

said, has approved giving all new battalion, brigade and division level commanders assigned to Germany a 120-hour course at the Army language school in the United States before they depart for Germany. This program takes full effect July 1.

A knowledge of German is indispensable to better community relations as well as important operationally, Blanchard declared.

He said that added language capability is but another logical step for the Army in Europe as it becomes more qualified in its men and much better equipped.

On the personal side, Blanchard added, it becomes a question of helping to give, especially to the young soldiers in Germany, a sense of fitting in among the German population.

"I've never seen an American soldier who has a good German friend who is unhappy in Germany," the four-star commander observed.

Blanchard said the most effective teacher he has seen so far was a

young German girl teaching at one Army post.

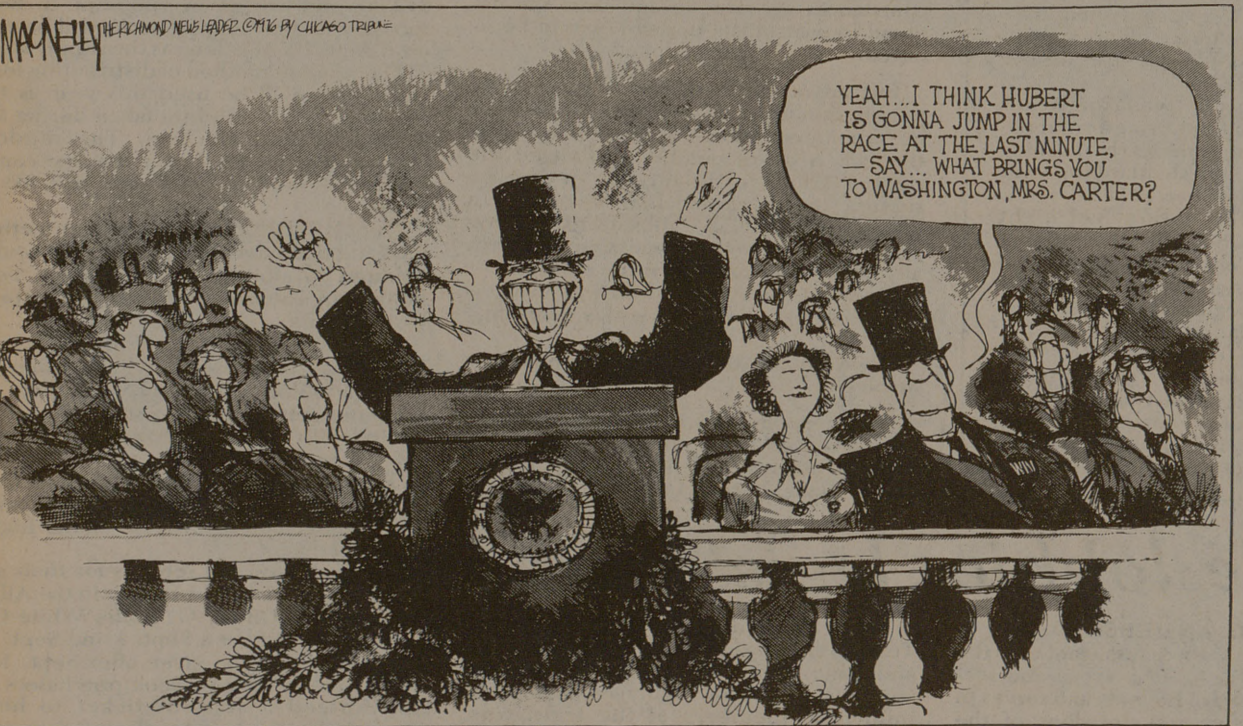
"The first thing she taught the soldiers was how to meet a young German girl without getting their faces slapped," he said. "You don't just say, 'Hello, Baby'."

Blanchard maintained that changed times, tighter money, fewer marks to the dollar and other influences have caused the GI in Germany to turn in on himself more and more.

But, he said, the effort to get the men out of the barracks and circulating is an objective that must be undertaken.

Sgt. I.C. James White of Louisville, Ky., who is taking the course in West Berlin, said:

"I've been in Germany 11 years, three tours, and this is the first time I ever studied German. Before I learned it all mixed up. This program is straightening it out for me. But how well it comes across is still up to the ability and interest of the guy taking the course."



The Battalion

Opinions expressed in The Battalion are those of the editor or of the writer of the article and are not necessarily those of the university administration or the Board of Regents. The Battalion is a non-profit, self-supporting enterprise operated by student as a university and community newspaper. Editorial policy is determined by the editor.

LETTERS POLICY

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.

Address correspondence to Listen Up, The Battalion, Room 217, Services Building, College Station, Texas 77843.

Represented nationally by National Educational Advertising Services, Inc., New York City, Chicago and Los Angeles.

Mail subscriptions are \$16.75 per semester; \$33.25 per school year; \$35.00 per full year. All subscriptions subject to 5% sales tax. Advertising rate furnished on request. Address: The Battalion, Room 217, Services Building, College Station, Texas 77843.

The Associated Press is entitled exclusively to the use for reproduction of all news dispatched credited to it or not otherwise credited in the paper and local news of spontaneous origin published herein. Rights of reproduction of all other matter herein are also reserved.

Second-Class postage paid at College Station, Texas.

Editor: Jerry Needham
Managing Editor: Richard Chamberlain
City Editor: Jamie Atken
Campus Editor: Kevin Venner
Sports Editor: Paul Arnett
Photo Director: Jim Hendrickson
News Editor: Lloyd Lietz



David S. Broder

Reasons for increased congressional retirements deserve closer scrutiny

WASHINGTON — In a week like last week, when the presidential candidates were making little news, some newspapers deemed it a story of front-page importance that retirements from Congress have reached a record high.

They were right in the significance they attached to that trend, but not for the reason you might think. There is no danger that Capitol Hill will be depopulated to the point that the housing market in Washington will collapse. But the reasons for the retirements are important, and so are some of the consequences — both good and evil.

First, let's get the picture in perspective. The announcement that put the story on Page 1 — the straw that broke the editors' indifference, so to speak — was that of Rep. Joe Karth of Minnesota.

The St. Paul Democrat was the 44th member of the House to announce his retirement at the end of this session. Along with the eight announced Senate retirees, that makes 52 members of Congress who are voluntarily quitting — either to run for other offices or to return to civilian life. That beats the previous record of 51 who left in 1974.

The rate of retirements has obviously been on the increase in recent years — a fact which can be attributed both to the increasing hazards

of the political game and the improved pensions members of Congress voted themselves a few years back. But the figures still mean that nine out of ten House members and three out of four Senate members whose terms expire this year are, as of now, planning to run for reelection.

It is largely members who already have given their best years to Congress who are stepping down. The eight senators average 20 years of service in that body and all of them held prior public office. Seven of the eight are past the normal retirement age in private industry and the eighth has only one year to wait for Social Security.

The retiring House members present a greater age range, for a significant number of them are running for other offices — governor or senator. They cite two sorts of reasons for quitting. One is the increasing political hazard or pressure in their jobs. The ceaseless demands of constituents plus the unforeseen risks of politics — which burdened the Democrats with George McGovern in 1972 and the Republicans with Watergate in 1974 — all make the game uncomfortable for some members and their families.

That argument will not — and should not — elicit too much sympathy. Constituent demands grow

proportionately with the size of the government that Congress has created, and members of Congress should not be immunized from the consequences of their own bureaucratic creations. Nor is the answer to keep expanding congressional staffs; Capitol Hill is quite bureaucratic enough already.

The financial squeeze is real for members with young families, but the recent automatic cost-of-living salary adjustment is a better protection against inflation than most of the constituents enjoy. Nor should we weep when the congressmen are afflicted with "extraneous" political burdens, be it an unpopular nominee or a scandal in their party's administration. It is, after all, their party.

But there are also some retirees who speak of their frustration as legislators. Because these include many of the younger men of real talent who are leaving the House, these complaints deserve greater consideration.

Some Democrats who were in line to become committee chairmen in the near future are leaving without achieving that status, observing that recent House rules changes have left too many chairmen with authority that falls well short of their responsibility.

Some Republicans have said those same "reforms" have diminished the

capacity of minority party to contribute to the legislative process, by bringing an air of atavistic partisanship to even the preliminary bill-drafting process at the subcommittee level.

Some retirees in both the House and Senate have expressed the hope that rationalizing its committees enough to enable its members to focus on the real policy problems of the nation.

These complaints are not enough to justify the Joint Congressional Operations study. Retirements provide the seats where most of the changes in Congress occur. And retirements are a way for advancement up the ladders, a necessary if continued service by other members.

What we have in short, wave of congressional retirements is big news that, blessedly, is news.

Brazos Valley Art League
presents **May 8 and 9**
County Courthouse 9am-6pm

JUBILEE
ARTISTS SALE

NOW AVAILABLE IN COLLEGE STATION
PASSPORT PHOTOS IN LIVING COLOR — INSTANT!
UNIVERSITY STUDIO
115 College Main • Northgate • 846-8019

THE BAR
Happy Hour 4:30 p.m.-7 p.m.

Live Entertainment
Thurs., Fri., Sat.

TWO BIT MARY
12:00 A.M. TO 1:00 P.M.

The Station
Fine Dining in a Rustic Railroad Atmosphere
FEATURING **PRIME RIB**
5-10 P.M.
AT THE **Aggieland Inn**
1502 S. Texas Ave.

Harry J's Discotheque
Upstairs

Introduces
The Munchie Shoppe

Hot Sandwiches
Ham
Turkey
Roast Beef

Hot Coffee Plus

AFTER HOURS ENTERTAINMENT
Friday 9 P.M.-1:30 A.M.
Saturday 9 P.M.-2:30 A.M.

At The
AGGIELAND INN
1502 TEXAS AVE.

AGGIE CINEMA presents

Popular Series

SHAMPOO
Fri., Sat. April 23, 24 8 and 10 P.M. Theater \$1.00

THE PERSECUTION AND ASSASSINATION OF JEAN-PAUL AS PERFORMED BY THE INMATES OF THE ASYLUM OF CHARENTON UNDER THE DIRECTION OF THE MARQUIS DE

INTERNATIONAL SERIES
TUES. 8:00 P.M. APRIL 27 THEATER \$1.00

Starring: Patrick Magee, Glenda Jackson, Ian Richardson, the Royal Shakespeare Company.

MEL BROOKS' **BLAZING SADDLES**

POPULAR SERIES
FRIDAY APRIL 30 8 & 10 P.M. Auditorium \$1.00

COMING SOON: CARNAL KNOWLEDGE, PAPER MOON, GREAT WALDO PEPPER.