

David S. Broder

# Carter, Congress taking serious look at each other

WASHINGTON — In this new phase of the presidential campaign, aimed not only at accumulating the delegates he needs for nomination, but consolidating the diverse elements of the Democratic Party, Jimmy Carter is turning serious attention for the first time to the congressional Democrats.

And having observed his rise with the same disbelief that has been felt by others, the members of Congress are trying now to get Carter in clearer focus. What they see is a campaigner who can help the ticket in almost every district, North and South, big city and suburban, small town and rural. They also see an organizer who has enlisted the whole corps of talented political newcomers in the political game.

A few members of Congress are also beginning to think of what Carter might be like as a President. And for those who have perceived that the former Georgia governor is a man who chooses his words with care and expresses his thoughts with uncommon precision — at least when he has a clear position to enunciate — his standard discourse on presidential-congressional relations sends an unmistakable message.

"I believe," Carter says, "that the nation is best served by a strong, independent, aggressive President working with a strong, independent Congress — with mutual respect, for a change; in harmony, for a change; in the open, for a change; and with a minimum of secrecy, for a change."

### Statement worth studying

That sentence is worth parsing. To go at it backwards, the emphasis on openness has been characteristic of Carter's political career and is supported by his record as governor and the practices in his current campaign. He and his staff are open with each other and both are accessible to the reporters covering them. There is no reason, at this point, to suppose a Carter White House would be a closed shop.

The pledge of "harmony" is less supported in Carter's record. His relationship with the Georgia legislature was anything but harmonious, which is not necessarily a criticism of Carter. That legislature is accustomed to dominating one-term governors, who are lame ducks from the day they take office. And Carter is not one who is inherently ready to compromise.

He is, by the testimony of both his supporters and critics in Georgia and in the observation of this reporter, an extremely tough politician, with

an immense drive to succeed — one who will fight doggedly for his goals and worry later, if at all, about his relations with other politicians.

The commitment to "harmony" needs to be read in that light, even if one assumes that a tough Democratic President would veto fewer bills from a Democratic Congress than a "nice guy" Republican like Jerry Ford who has basic disagreements with the Congress' liberal majority.

What Carter is really saying is that he does not anticipate Congress being a policy initiator if he becomes President. It is no accident that his ideal President is described as "strong, independent and aggressive" while the ideal Congress is called "strong and independent" — period. That interpretation is made explicit when Carter himself spells out what he means by the "respect" a President should show Congress.

### Congress unable to lead

"I respect the Congress," he says in his standard speech, "but the Congress is inherently incapable of leadership. Our founding fathers never thought that the Congress would lead this country. There's only one person that can speak with a clear voice to the American people, or inspire the American people to reach for greatness or excellence, or call on them to make a sacrifice, or set a standard of morality, or set out the answers to complicated questions, or correct discrimination and injustice, or provide us with the defense posture that would make us feel secure or a foreign policy that would make us feel proud again. And that's the President."

That is quite a catalogue of functions, and if there are those who think that would leave Congress little room for initiative in a Carter administration, they may be right. Take oversight. Carter says he has no objection to Congress "monitoring" the activities of the Central Intelligence Agency. But the real answer to its abuses is for him as President "to take on my own shoulders the responsibility for telling you (the public) when something has gone wrong, who did it and how I intend to correct it. You can hold me re-

sponsible for it, not some committee."

Take legislation. "Congress has been talking about tax reform since I was a child," he says. "But when they get around to it, it's behind closed doors in the Ways and Means Committee, and the only people who ever know what's going on are the lobbyists and special interests." The solution: Congress should wait for a comprehensive tax reform package, which President Carter is pledged to send to Capitol Hill no sooner than one year after taking office.

Carter is careful to add that "I don't believe in an imperial President. I believe in a humble President who doesn't think he has all the answers." His model, he says, is Harry Truman, a revered figure whose many and bitter battles with both Republican and Democratic Congresses tend to be forgotten in the current wave of Truman nostalgia.

Whatever one calls it, Carter's concept of presidential leadership is plain. And his current campaign shows he deserves to be taken seriously when he says he will do something.



## The Consumer Alert

by John L. Hill  
Attorney General

AUSTIN — "Break Channel 11. This is KSD-8627. I'm looking for Pokerface."

If you recognize that as a citizens band radio transmission, you're probably one of a growing number of CB enthusiasts who operate an estimated 11 million CB transmitters across the nation. The citizens band on the radio spectrum is a low cost, low power, short range system of two-way communications for consumers. Texas, with the largest number of licensed CB'ers in the country, is a center of citizens band activity.

But even with all the interest in CB radios, attorneys in our Consumer Protection Division say some purchasers of the units may not be familiar with regulations governing their use.

The Federal Communications Commission, which is the licensing and regulatory agency for CB's, says all CB users must be licensed, and FCC spokesmen point out that there are now two types of licenses: a permanent license costing \$4, which takes about two to three months to obtain, and a temporary license purchasers may use in the interim. The temporary license is free and valid for 60 days.

Licensed transmitters are assigned call letters consisting of three letters and four numbers, such as the example used above. Temporary licensees use the letter "K" plus the initials of their first and last names, then their zip code. The five-digit zip code indicates to other CB'ers that the transmitter is a temporary licensee.

FCC regulations regarding use of CB's include the following: (1) Operators must not transmit "Mayday" or other distress signals; (2) Transmissions must not be used for purposes prohibited by federal, state, or local regulations; (3) Operators must not transmit obscene language or messages in anything other than plain language; (4) Operators must not intentionally interfere with commercial radio

transmissions, re-transmit programs, or use the citizens band advertising.

Also, (5) Transmissions are limited to 150 miles and five minutes duration; (6) Operators must observe a minute of silence between transmissions; and (7) CB equipment must be low-powered and must be FCC approved. Sale of certain amplifiers is prohibited.

Licensed operators who violate these regulations may be fined \$200 or have their licenses renewed or both. Unlicensed operators face a \$10,000 fine or one year in prison or both for a first offense.

Our Consumer Protection attorneys suggest that persons buying CB for the first time avoid possible consumer problems by noting tips from the CB Center of Austin and other citizens band experts.

Remember that the number channels and range of the CB are greatly affected price, so analyze in advance what you will want from your unit. Ask local CB'ers for recommendations, then comparison shop for the best equipment and warranty on service and parts for the best price. Choose a CB set with both positive and negative ground so your radio won't become obsolete when you trade in your car.

And keep in mind that a CB antenna may mark your car for a thief. You may want to equip your car with detachable antenna or removable mounts. Antennas which disappear into the car trunk are also marketed.

If you're considering a used CB, be sure it's an FCC-approved unit. Have it checked before buying in a good service center. And try the "on the air" to find out if you like and its operation.

If you have questions about regulations, check with the FCC. You have a complaint about misleading or deceptive trade practices, the sale of a set or in a warmer contact the Attorney General's Consumer Protection Division.

## Listen Up

### Bit of Aggieland lost?

Editor: Much has been written about the construction going on at A&M; about the complaints of having to walk through mud, and how the trees on the Drill Field are dying because bulldozers damaged their roots. This is only a comment on these so-called improvements.

Located at the rear of Dormitory 10 (Byrd White Hall) was a small memorial, placed by members of "C" Artillery more than 30 years ago. The memorial was dedicated to Spot, the company's mascot, who was buried at this location. I use the past tense because the memorial is no longer there — apparently obliterated by the bulldozers working behind Dormitory 10.

It was only a small monument left behind by an outfit that has been gone for many years. Perhaps it's been moved to a safe place until the construction ends and can be put back. But it seems, right now, that the Board of Regents 'needs' for a 'Showcase of America' has lost forever a small piece of Aggie land.

Mark Lyons  
To advance in the name of progress, one must necessarily leave some things behind.

### Spirit erosion

Editor: I am dumbfounded that Aggies are down on organizations that divide the student body. Why, Ro McDonald, do you write of a few Greeks? On this campus we have a much larger organization that divides and isolates students from each other. And members must walk, talk and look the same in order to climb its 'social ladder.' That's right, I'm speaking of the corps. The corps has the same basic goals as Greeks though their methods differ.

But, back to the issue. If we are going to be down on groups, let's start with the non-regs. A&M was originally all-corps, so we non-regs started the erosion of that certain spirit, or did we? But let's not stop there. Let's complain about dorms creating functions for just their people while excluding others. What about the girls. What greater difference can there be which could divide that spirit? Did it?

You speak, Mr. McDonald, of your gratefulness for not needing to buy friends through monthly dues to a fraternity. Each unity has its price. Dorms have campus rules and restricted visitation. The corps has even more stricter rules and hours. If you live on campus, you pay a price to belong to a group.

Speaking for myself and a few others, I'm grateful that joining a group is not a prerequisite for making friends. I'm also grateful that this school continues to expand the number of organizations that give a person a sense of belonging; and spend the time to create an atmosphere for the development of lifelong friends for all the lonely freshmen who don't wish to join the corps and who are forced to live off campus their first year.

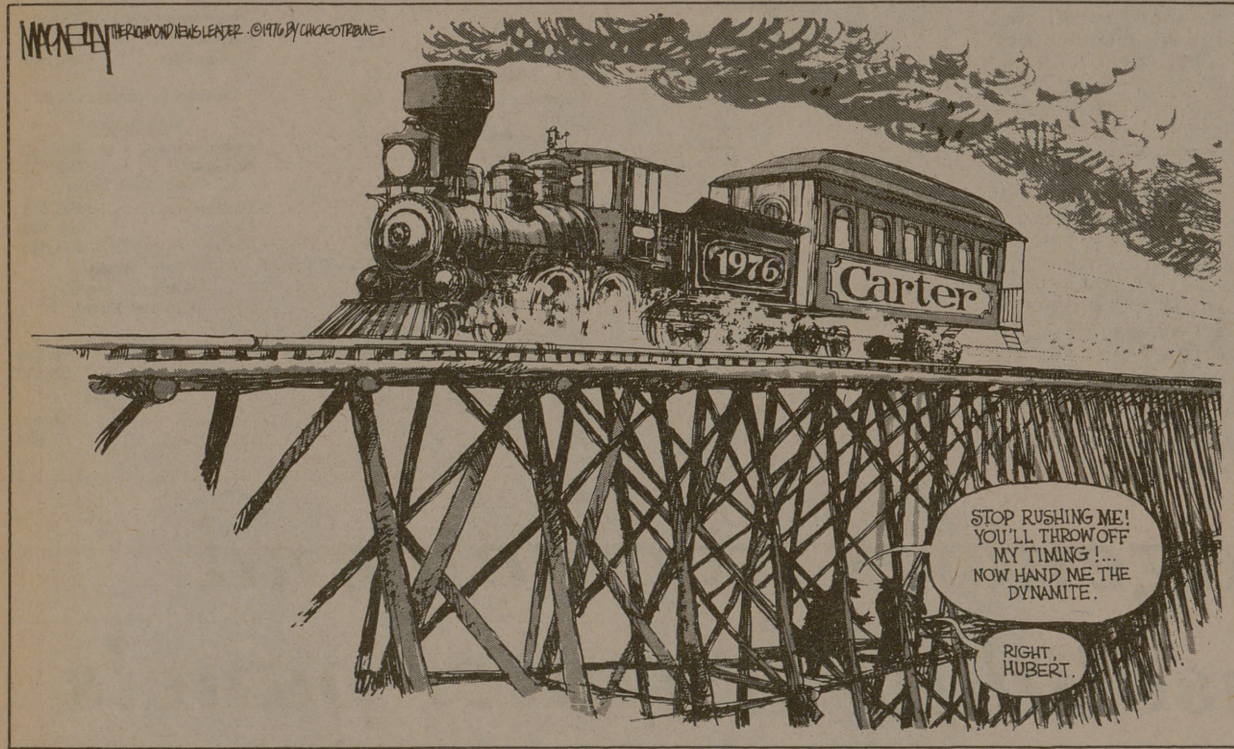
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### Aggie Forum

Guest viewpoints, in addition to Listen Up letters, are welcome. All pieces submitted to Aggie Forum should be:

- Typed triple space
  - Limited to 60 characters per line
  - Limited to 100 lines
- Submit articles to Reed McDonald 217, College Station, Texas, 77843. Author's phone number must accompany all submissions.

Editor



# The Battalion

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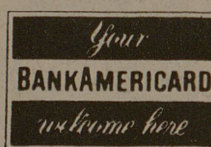
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