

## Still no faith in 'unequal' taxation half their income in taxes (mostly in

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A letter of mine was printed some time ago (Feb. 23) and when I skimmed through it then I disco-I thought I had written and discovered a more subtle and an even more devastating error. The word unequal had been changed to equal.-This rather effectively reduced my position to giberish. I am now quite ing, proofreading, printing or what-ever it was that ambushed my let-

the rich pay half of theirs (mostly in Federal income taxes).", became absence of that phrase reduced a sentence to nonsense I was rather upset, but not upset enough to make the effort to complain. How-ever over the holidays I reread what I thought I had written web k nonsense with the inept omission of word that I wrote) produces the sen-tence "I contend that some thought on her part would have eliminated both her confusion and her stary-eyed faith in unequal taxation." Since I was complaining about an editorial that called for more prosufficiently incensed and will now gressive taxation it would have been complain about your shoddy edit- quite impossible for me to take the writer of that editorial to task for faith in equal taxation which is what your misprint had me doing. Progressive taxes are inherently unequal since

More importantly I wish to make clear what I intended to say. First they insist upon taxing one class of

these sentences, "This is the situa-tion in America today. The poor pay With these corrections mad With these corrections made I

Slouch



"HAVE YOU NOTICED THAT IT'S THE SAME ONES WHOSE RIDES LEAVE EARLY WHOSE RIDES LEAVE LATE FOR COMING BACK?'

## **The Battalion** duction of all news dispatches cred of reproduction of all other matter Second-Class postage paid at College

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will restate the points I wished to make taxation. 1) The people who are taxed the heaviest in America about this subject but I will limit myself to restating these points and hoping that they are not garbled regressive state and local taxes) and are the poor who cannot afford it and the rich whose incentive to put their money to productive use is stifled. 2) It is unjust to tax one man more than another. 3) "Reformers" who insist upon piling layer upon layer of reform on the existing tax structure have created a legal miscreant with unnecessarily complex eformities. There is much more to be said fice, Reed McDonald 222. déformities.

> Why does Japan's postal system work?

once again.

### **By YASUSHI HARA**

TOKYO - Postal systems in most countries are troubled by delays and deficits. But the Japanese mail service claims to be the most efficient in the world, and there is much to substantiate that boast. The postal network reaching out

across Japan's islands handles some 35 million pieces of mail daily, and a good many envelopes bear foreign languages. In contrast to Western nations, there are no street addresses in Japanese cities and towns.

Yet most of this mail is delivered on the same day — or, at worst, overnight. And this year, as the result of a recent boost in rates, the system expects to match its expend-itures of \$2.8 billion with an equal sum in revenues.

Like so much else in Japan, the postal system functions effectively because the Japanese, who tend to view their society in family terms, eagerly and often voluntarily coop-

erate in its operations. Although hired and paid by the government, nearly half of the country's 134,000 postal employes are selected from among the residents of the zones in which they work. Many of those who manage district post offices are prominent in local cultural and welfare organizations, or belong to neighborhood associations

Thus their jobs, while a form of patronage, are considered to be a public service, and they generally enjoy the confidence and respect of their neighbors, who pitch in to make the postal system run

smoothly. The Japanese further contribute to the smoothness of the system by rigorously observing post office regulations designed to speed mail through automated devices now being installed throughout the country

. Tracie Nordheim, Mike Willy The Japanese postal system is meanwhile becoming increasingly sophisticated with the addition of machinery to read and sort mail as well as cancel stamps. These machines are mainly concentrated

at present in big cities like Tokyo and Osaka.

-H. Ed. Mendieta, '80

Editor's note: Any omissions or

shoddy editing in the letter was your fault and not the fault of The Battalion. The letter was published exactly as it was submitted except

for one minor spelling correction.

Your original letter is available for

To facilitate rapid delivery in large cities, where skyscrapers have mushroomed, the government re-bates the occupants of buildings who make arrangements to accept bulk mail and distribute it among themselves. The occupants of build-ings over three stories high that lack elevators are required by law to have ground floor mail boxes.

With all this, the Japanese system is not without problems, especially in the arena of relations between the government and the most militant of the two postal employes unions.

Strikes by public service employes in Japan are illegal. But unionized postal workers occasionally do strike, usually to complain that the government discriminates against union members. Some of these strikes can be bitter, with the government retaliating by docking employes a part of their wages.

The strikes rarely last long, however, and it is exceptional when a labor conflict in the postal system holds up mail for more than three days.

Compared to the United States, in which postage is still a bargain, Japanese rates are expensive. At the beginning of last year, the basic cost of a first-class letter was more than doubled to the equivalent of 17 cents. This rate increase should bring the postal budget into balance

Last year, the postal system here ran at a deficit of some \$430 million, the difference made up, by government loans. In the United States, where first-class postage is 13 cents, the operating deficit of the postal service was nearly \$1.2 billion.

The Japanese system, however has one thing in common with the American and other postal services. Dogs bark at mailmen - and occasionally bite them.

(Hara is an editor of the Asahi Shimbun, the Japanese daily.)



## Race on for Young's seat

that a white has succeeded a black

Fowler argues, with great plausi-

in the House of Representatives.

bility, that Atlanta no longer needs to prove its racial tolerance by send-ing a black to Congress. And since the district is estimated to be about

60 percent white in its population

he was able to gain substantial white

support against white opponents ----

Fowler is certainly as "representa-

To an outsider, at least, both men

possess enough leadership potential to make themselves valuable in the

House. Despite frequent clashes with Atlanta Mayor Maynard

Jackson, Fowler has been regarded

as a progressive force in the city

government. And Lewis, though

lacking Young's elegance and style,

has done a solid, important job as

the director of the Voter Education

Project, which has registered

thousands of blacks across the

If there is any one factor that weighs in the balance, it is the claim

that there is a special interest -

n preserving whatever small footh-

olds blacks have gained in the Con-

That consideration should have

weighed in Young's own mind,

perhaps even a national interest

South.

gress.

tive" of the district as is Lewis.

- Young having won only because

ATLANTA - In the almost 50 years since Rep. Oscar DePriest of Chicago became the first black elected to Congress since Reconstruction days, there has been one unbroken rule. Once a district sent a black Member to the House, the seat could be considered safely black.

Slow as the progress of blacks has been in their struggle for a voice in the national government now, they have only 16 House members and one senator - there at least has been no slipping backward.

But that record may be broken here on April 5 when a runoff election is held for the seat of former Fifth District Rep. Andrew Young. He resigned to become the Ameri-can ambassador to the United Nations.

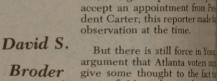
the survivors of a 12-person don-nybrook held last Tuesday — are Wyche Fowler the white president of the Atlanta city council, and John Lewis, the black civil rights worker endorsed by Young as his successor.

Fowler is the early favorite for the April 5 runoff, which tests the voting strength of two liberal Democrats with few visible differences on the issues.

The council president led Lewis by 8,000 votes in the first round. Even if Lewis picked up all the votes that went to the other black candidates, while Fowler got only his own votes again on April 5, Fowler would still win.

But Fowler is expected to get the backing of most of those who supported the third-place finisher, Re publican State Sen. Paul Coverdell, or at least of those who bother to return to the polls for the runoff.

Fowler is the better-known of the two survivors and raised three times as much money as did Lewis for the first stage of the race. He boasts the



But there is still force in Your argument that Atlanta voters min-give some thought to the fact to

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when he gave up his elected po

east of Memphis and south onde of com-Philadelphia, there is no out medial part House district that has been to your state of the second s would seek When he was here before thein

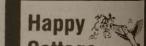
election, plugging for Lewis, Yo said: "I happen to believe that Th Fifth Congressional District tional district. I was forced sent 2-1/2 million blacks wh Pro been denied representat reapportionment, by disen isement, by literacy tests, long history of denials. I was not the congressman from this di but from the southeast region.

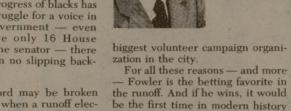
The argument is open to reb Blacks in other districts may well-represented by their congressmen as whites in A were by Young. Our system of resentation, fortunately, rigidly religious, racial or ethn

But, as Young pointed out, e one black congressman can have Unle important effect on the overal resentation for his whole re "We were able to help good candidates across the South elected," Young said, "because could go to the black community their districts) and say, "This good man; you may not know hi but I work alongside him day day, and on the tough issues wea count on him."

In that sense at least, the hand of black Representatives are a pr cious asset to the country, not pr to their own districts. And that why the Atlanta runoff, testing no-retreat principle, is of unor mon importance.

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# **TOWN HALL**

Kevin Venr

is now accepting applications for new members.

Sign-up sheets and applications are available in the Student Programs Office. Rm. 216 M.S.C.

Deadline for signing up is 5:00 P.M. Wednesday, March 30th.

ALL INTERESTED UNDERGRADUATES ARE URGED TO APPLY.

THE CRAFTS AND ARTS COMMITTEE, an MSC Cottage Committee, is looking for interested and enthusiastic committee members. There will be Has Moved an organizational meeting Thursday, March Across the Street 24, at 7:30 p.m. in the Arts and Crafts Center from Luby's in the MSC. We will discuss upcoming events to 709 S. Rosemary) and new programs and we would like your We're Still ideas. Your Gift Headquarters ALL YOU Carla Dee Beauty CAN Salon EAT OFFERING 10% DISCOUNT WITH ID. CAR - ON HAIR CUT AND BLOW DAY QUICK SERVICE ONLY. 99 **STEAKS & SEAFOOD** UNIPERMS, AFROS AND ALL Chicken Fried Steak, Texas Toast, Mashed Potatoes, Salad LATEST STYLES. SUNNYLAND SHOPPING CENTER BETWEEN CAVITT AND TEXAS AVEN 1700 Texas Ave. (Hwy. 6) Bryan ALL YOU CAN EAT — 5:00-9:00 p.m. Thursday & Sunday 822-2623 We Appreciate Your Bus 317 College Avenue 846-8741 Embrey's Jewelry We Specialize In Aggie Rings. **AGGIES!** Diamonds Set -Sizing -Reoxidizing-Douglas All types watch/jewelry Repair Jewelry Aggie Charge Accounts 9-5:30 offers **Student ID Discounts!** LANDE'S LI **RENTALS:** low rates for all rivers SALES: Aluminum & ABS Canoes Maps, Paddles, Eureka Tents Camp Trails Backpacks 15% off of \$50°° or more 10% off of under \$50°C Also your TEXAS CANOE TRA CASH PURCHASE ONLY We reserve the right to regulate the use of this privilege. rental agent for canoe, kayak, a rentals on the GUADALUPE RIVE Includes car shuttle. Phone for deta 212 N. MAIN 822-3119 and reservations Dr. Mickey Little DOWNTOWN BRYAN College Station (713) 846-7307