

Viewpoint

The Battalion
Texas A&M University

Wednesday
September 7, 1977

Carter 'demystifying' foreign policy

By DAVID S. BRODER
WASHINGTON — To the appraising eye of Richard E. Neustadt, the Harvard scholar of the presidency, one personnel decision by Jimmy Carter is far more significant and hopeful in its implications than all the organizational changes this President has been making in the White House.

Neustadt was in town for last week's convention of the American Political Science Assn. In a panel discussion there on executive branch reorganization, he said he was impressed, not so much by the changes Carter is making, as by the numbers of Nixon and Ford arrangements and procedures this Democratic President has accepted and continued.

In an informal discussion later, he suggested that the formal changes embodied in the Executive Office reorganization plan Carter has submitted to Congress are likely to be less important than Carter's use of his Vice President and principal staff assistant.

"What he is doing with Fritz Mondale and Hamilton Jordan is the most healthy thing that's happened in the White House in years," Neustadt said.

Specifically, what Neustadt applauds is Carter's decision to give two men deeply rooted in domestic politics — his running mate and his own campaign manager — a license to participate actively in the formulation and execution of foreign policy.

The Harvard professor believes as do others — that the divorce of foreign policy from its necessary domestic roots and the capture of foreign policy by an isolated set of non-political "experts" were one of the most damaging aspects of the Imperial Presidency.

Mondale himself reflected this view in his 1975 book, "The Accountability of Power." As he noted, "the pervasive at-



itude" in the recent past was that foreign policy experts "had such impressive intelligence, experience and information that it should be assumed to be superior to any other advice."

But after the searing experiences of recent years, he said, it has been seen that the "expert" judgments "were often flawed with error and illusion and often devoid of human understanding and compassion. Hopefully, these developments have taught us a crucial lesson: Presidential judgments must be tested by the normal standards of reason and by their acceptability to a fully informed public. They should carry no mystery."

Neustadt sees Carter's move to bring Mondale and Jordan into the foreign policy game as part of that "demystification" process.

Previous Vice Presidents were rarely in the room when the President sat down for intimate lunches or conversations with the National Security adviser or the Secretary of State. They were running around the country on secondary political or good will missions.

And Jordan's predecessors were senior staff aides so burdened with their administrative duties as managers of ever-expanding White House staff bureaucracy that they could rarely steal time for a policy debate.

Occasionally, in the past, the isolation of foreign policy-making has been breached. In the Truman years, domestic political strategist Clark Clifford kept a hand in foreign policy by helping draft the President's speeches in that area.

After the Bay of Pigs fiasco, John Ken-

nedly made sure that his brother, Robert, and his political-domestic aide, Ted Sorensen, were heard on international issues as well.

But for the most part, Presidents have made foreign policy under the influence of the interchangeable members of the non-partisan national security establishment, from the Dulles brothers and the Bundy brothers to the Rostows and Kissingers of more recent days. Carter's own "experts," Zbigniew Brzezinski and Cyrus Vance, are cut from the same mold.

But Neustadt's point is that they are not the only voices Carter is hearing on foreign policy. Mondale and Jordan are also — and increasingly — a factor.

The Vice President has limited experience in the international sphere, but he is a successful politician with a sensitive understanding of the temper of his former colleagues in Congress.

Jordan is a total novice in diplomatic affairs. But no one of any age has been more accurate or prescient in his reading of the mood of the American people in the 1970s than this young man.

Carter has provided them with easy access to the Oval Office and has encouraged them to turn their attention to issues of foreign policy. Both have responded eagerly to the opportunity.

The presence of these two men in the room when foreign policy is made does not guarantee the policy will be right. The current Carter administration difficulties with the Middle East, southern Africa, China and the Soviet Union are ample evidence of that.

But at least there is less risk that the "experts" will persuade this President, as they persuaded predecessors, to follow an imprudent course to its ruinous end in the face of clear signs of domestic discord.

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Air Mail Service returns

U.S. Pigeon Service

By DICK WEST
United Press International

WASHINGTON — I am endowed, as are a small percentage of other journalists, with a facility known as "news cohesion."

Simply stated, this means that news items that are unrelated or tenuously associated at best tend to stick together in my mind.

Recently I came across two items that had only postal service in common. One was the announcement that the U.S. Postal Service is renewing its policy of closing rural post offices that don't pay their way.

That program was suspended last year, mainly because of fears that small towns could lose their community identities if they lost their post offices.

In announcing resumption of the closings, postal officials promised they would do everything possible to help the small towns stay on the map.

The other item in question reported that rising postal rates were causing some places in England to consider using homing pigeons to deliver mail, messages and small packages.

Instantly, these two items were clinging to each other like a nylon sock to a drip-dry shirt.

What we need now is a law that whenever the Postal Service shuts down a rural post office, it must provide the community with a flock of pigeons as a replacement.

Talk about community identity! No village or hamlet need fear becoming

a geographic nonentity as long as it has its own homing pigeons.

Letters sent by regular mail to, say, Mt. Molehill, Neb., could easily wind up in Clods, N.M., with or without a post office. But a message carried by a Mt. Molehill homing pigeon is going to wind up in Mt. Molehill, no matter what.

Pigeons have been known to fly more than a thousand miles through sleet and snow and gloom of night to return to their home lofts.

But identity isn't everything. There also is the matter of home town pride. Some communities undoubtedly would consider a pigeon loft less prestigious than a post office.

That blow to community ego could be avoided by upgrading the base from which the pigeons operate.

In addition to their homing instincts, pigeons have a natural inclination to perch on statues in parks, city squares and other public places.

Very well. In addition to providing a community with pigeons in lieu of a post office, the Postal Service should be required to erect a statue for them to land on.

Postmaster General Benjamin Bailar would be an appropriate subject for the sculpture.

Having a bronze or marble statue of its own should more than compensate a community for the loss of its post office.

And when the home folks see what the pigeons do to Bailar's effigy, it will reaffirm their faith in poetic justice.

Slouch

by Jim Earle



"ONE OF TH' GUYS IN MY KARATE CLASS IS PRETTY GOOD!"

Letters to the editor

Crocodile story didn't need grisly details

Editor:

I would like to comment on the article, "12-foot, 1,800-pound crocodile that killed boy, 6, is destroyed," which was printed in "The Battalion" on Monday, Sept. 5. The story is definitely newsworthy, but the style of the story is totally tasteless. Such details as "The crocodile shook his head violently, smashing the boy's head against the wall," are unnecessary. As I read the story, I could only be reminded of the grisly details attributed to the newspapers of Yellow Journalism days.

I realize that the story came from the United Press International wire service, and was not written by a Battalion reporter. But I think the editor of this paper should have deleted the details which can only be called sensationalism.

—Karen S. Cornelison

Editor's note: Yes, there is something "tasteless" about a reptile as big as a car killing a small boy. But it happened and the way it happened is the way it should be reported. We in the newspaper business try very hard to report both the good and the bad news as it is. The decision on when a story goes beyond report-

ing the necessary facts and starts dwelling on the gory details is a difficult one. But it remains the editor's decision and in this case the decision was to leave the story untouched.

'Job well done'

Editor:

On Aug. 11 at 10:30 a.m. World War II Rangers from every corner of these United States gathered at the grave of General James Earl Rudder, to honor his memory, with special memorial services. To Rangers of former Col. Rudder's 2nd Ranger Battalion, these services were an historic event, to all of us who attended, it was a great honor to be there, and I'm sure gave us memories never-to-be-forgotten, of something that happens only once in a life time. We were there to honor a great American.

On behalf of all members of the Ranger Battalions Association of World War II, I take this opportunity to thank all of the people at Texas A&M, from the Chancellor on down, who were in any way connected, in making our visit so special. Mrs. Rudder mentioned more than once that the cooperation received was just great. All of

the fine people at A&M, leaned over backwards, to make things easier for us, because of a very tight schedule.

The tours of the Rudder Conference Center and the Memorial Student Center were very well conducted. Rangers and their wives enjoyed the tours very much I'm sure, and must have learned something about Texas A&M and the great school that it is.

One again, we say "thanks" to Chancellor Williams and everyone at A&M, for honoring General Rudder, and the Rudder family, and for making our all-too-short stay, such a pleasant one. We as Rangers, a group that knows, and realizes when they are well treated, salute all of you at Texas A&M, for "A Job Well Done."

—Louis F. Lisko, Ranger Historian
Brackenridge, Pennsylvania

Ags get messy

Editor:

This letter is addressed to ALL Aggies

who utilize the snack bar and eating area in the basement of the MSC. I have never been so disappointed in my fellow Aggies nor have I ever seen such a mess. I'd be very embarrassed to take my parents down to the basement. That area was meant to be self-busing; in other words, throw your trash away. I don't know about anyone else, but I don't like sharing my lunch with flies.

In the three years I've been at this school, I've never seen an area so poorly taken care of. I'm appealing to you Aggies, please throw your trash away and if a trashcan is full, let someone know. I don't think that's asking too much.

—Another Proud Aggie,
Nancy Hansel Robin '78

Editor's Note: We've received complaints that several other areas on campus, especially some of the newly-opened buildings, are being left quite dirty by students. The biggest problems appear to be with soda water bottles and cans, and with candy and snack food wrappers. It seems that either the new students don't know or the returning students have forgotten that Aggies don't leave their good manners at home.

Top of the New Campus

No sign-painting in MSC basement

Student organizations will no longer be allowed to paint banners or posters on the loading dock of the Memorial Student Center basement. A memorandum was handed down from Dr. Woessner, director of operations, as a result of this summer when portions of the MSC basement were burned. Signs painted outside the loading dock doors, either on the ledge or driveway. Large signs may be stored in the basement until a cage is built in the loading dock area.

Career day planned Saturday

Saturday is Career Day '77 for Texas high school students interested in attending Texas A&M University. More than 3,000 Aggie Aggies will inspect the university's educational options and visit with counselors and view exhibits. Dr. Billy Lay, academic director, said the academic departments will present information exhibits across the campus. Career Day '77 is planned in conjunction with the Texas A&M-Kansas football game. Exhibits will be from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

State

Daniel runs for Atty. General

Price Daniel Jr. called news conferences for Wednesday to announce he will be a candidate for Texas attorney general. Daniel was speaker of the House from 1973 to 1975. He replaced House Speaker Gus Mutscher who resigned following indictment from the Sharpstown bank scandal. Daniel's announcement said news conference concerns his 1978 political plans, but there is no doubt he will be a candidate for attorney general. Attorney General John Hill said he will not seek re-election and is expected to challenge Gov. Dolph Briscoe for the Democratic party's nomination.

Feud turns to shooting spree

A 24-year-old man and his female cousin remained in custody Tuesday in connection with a Labor Day shooting spree in Dallas which left one man dead and seven others wounded. The shooting capped a three-day feud between residents of two homes across the street from each other in a southside neighborhood. Officers Percy Lee Fitzgerald, 45, was shot and killed as he attempted to help friends in a domino game outside a house on the street. Dallas Homicide Sergeant Gus Rose said Fitzgerald was apparently an innocent bystander and was not a part of the feud that exploded when people on the northside of the street opened fire on the southside house. Rose said the argument goes back further than the three-day feud. "There's a whole lot more involved than just a fight," Rose said.

Carter refuses to meet workers

Texas farm workers who walked 1,500 miles to protest low wages have been refused a meeting with President Carter. The Texas Farm Workers Union's "March for Human Rights" which began in Austin, Texas, ended Monday in a Labor Day rally on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial. About 500 members of the TFWU and their supporters gathered at the monument to hear speakers call for legislation guaranteeing migrant farm workers the right to organize, to hold union elections and to bargain collectively for union contracts. TFWU president Antonio Orendain said the group asked to meet with President Carter but was told he "was too busy."

Nation

Telethon garners \$26 million

More than \$26 million was pledged in the nationwide muscular dystrophy telethon, sponsored by comedian Jerry Lewis over the Labor Day weekend. The telethon, which ran for 21½ hours, gained a record \$26,841,490 in pledges, compared to last year's \$21.7 million. The money is used for research into the causes and cures of muscular dystrophy.

Men firebomb D.C. night spot

Washington, D.C. police said yesterday they were seeking three men suspected of firebombing a crowded Northwest Washington night spot and injuring at least 15 persons. Revenge may be the motive of three men who were told to leave the Shepherd Park Restaurant because they were not drinking enough. Bouncers at the club, which features topless dancers, said the men vowed to return and "get them". Witnesses told police they saw one man hold the front door open while another threw a container of flammable liquid into the bar. Three of the fire victims were listed in critical condition in area hospitals and several others were seriously burned.

World

Leader sees support for treaty

In his second round of talks with Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko, United Nations Secretary General Kurt Waldheim said he was impressed by the strong support expressed for a new strategic arms limitation treaty with the United States. Waldheim said Gromyko expressed the great interest of the Soviet Union in concluding an agreement but he added that the outcome does not depend on the Soviet Union alone. The U. N. official, who is making his official visit to the Soviet Union in four years, said he and Gromyko also discussed Middle East peace prospects extensively in their days of talks. Waldheim will meet with Soviet President Leonid Brezhnev next Monday.

Weather

Partly cloudy and hot today and tomorrow with highs in the low 80s. 10 per cent chance of late afternoon and evening showers. In tonight '72.

The Battalion

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

The Battalion is published Monday through Friday from September through May except during exam and holiday periods and the summer, when it is published on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

Mail subscriptions are \$16.75 per semester school year; \$35.00 per full year. Advertisements on request. Address: The Battalion, Reed McDonald Building, College Station, Texas 77843. United Press International is entitled to use for reproduction of all news dispatches. Rights of reproduction of all other matters Second-Class postage paid at College Station, Texas.

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