Viewpoint

The Battalion **Texas A&M University**

Tuesday. September 20, 1977

Baker squiriming on Panama 'hot brick'

By DAVID S. BRODER

WASHINGTON — Tomorrow, some 30 Tennessee leaders are expected at the White House for a briefing on the Panama Canal treaty. Such briefings have become routine events, as President Carter and his aides mobilize grass-roots support for the coming struggle to have the treaty approved in the Senate.

But this one is a little special, because Tennessee occupies a special place in the politics of the treaty fight. The reason is as plain as the full-page ad that ran in a Nashville newspaper the other day. In big, bold letters, the headline proclaimed: "Senator Baker Alone Can Save the Panama Canal.

Sen. Howard H. Baker Jr. (R-Tenn), the Senate Minority Leader, has been chosen by anti-treaty forces as the prime target for pressure. In the three days after the American Conservative Union ad ran, Baker received 3,600 letters on the treaty

— overwhelmingly opposing its approval. Sen. Jesse Helms (R-N.C.), a leading treaty foe, told a rally last week that Baker 'is squirming like a worm on a hot brick' over the issue

The day after Helms' speech, Baker showed no visible twitching, as he showed a reporter a letter of apology he had received that morning from the fiery North Carolinian. "He blamed it on the public address system," Baker said, laughing, "and I told him I'd been called a lot worse than that.

But the issue is a tough one for Baker. As expected, it has split the Republican party down the middle, on lines parallel to the schism of 1976. Ronald Reagan is against the treaty; Gerald Ford is for it. And Howard Baker, who hoped to be the running mate of either man in 1976 and now aspires to head the ticket in 1980, will have to make up his mind which side he's on.

His decision, White House officials be-lieve, could be the key to whether there are enough Republican votes to make up the necessary two-thirds Senate majority for approval.

Baker has seen this kind of situation before. Fifteen years ago, when his father-in-law, the late Sen. Everett McKinley Kirksen (R-III.), was the Senate minority eader and John F. Kennedy was President, emotions were similarly roiled by two other foreign policy issues. In 1962, it was a \$100 million loan to finance United Nations peace-keeping operations. In 1963, it was the nuclear test ban treaty. In both cases, Dirksen's support was regarded as critical. And in both cases—after he had milked it for everything he could get—he helped the

Democratic president win. Baker acknowledged the similarities, but said, "I didn't set out to create this situa-

MATELY MALING WAR OF THE MALINE

cratic President on several parts of his domestic program. Then, as now, the Se-nate Republican leader was looking at a reelection campaign in a state the Demo-cratic President had carried. The stage was set for an act of politically beneficial biparti-

san statemanship. There is one difference, however. Kennedy was not worried about Everett Dirksen running for President in 1964. Carter has been served ample notice of Baker's ambition to oppose him in 1980. In the 1962 Illinois Senate race, there was a widespread impression that the Ken-

nedy White House did nothing special to help Rep. Sidney Yates (D-Ill.) in the race against Dirksen. Dirksen won handily.

A few months ago, there were reports that the Carter White House was encourag-ing strong opposition to Baker in 1978. But, at this point, a leading Tennessee Democrat says, "We are down to our perennial candidates. Baker says he sees no sign that the White

House is playing political footsie with him. But he is not blind to other ways in which his role in the treaty debate can be useful to him. As a member of the Foreign Relations Committee, he says, "I will be active in the treaty hearings." And he is pressing for television coverage of them "so the country will get a more balanced, less emotional view of the issue.

He has met twice with Carter on the canal and has counseled privately with treaty negotiators Sol Linowitz and Ellsworth Bunker on the way to approach various Republican senators, always being

Careful not to tip his own hand. He says he will not make up his mind until the hearings have been held. But when he does, "I will do my best to make my view prevail.

The betting at the White House and in the Republican cloakroom is that, in the end, Baker will vote for the treaty. One Republican senator close to him said: "Ultimately, he has no other place to go. He can't be with Reagan and Helms and against Ford and Kissinger if he wants to be President.

That decision is months away. But there is a line from Everett Dirksen's speech on the United Nations bond issue that will do nicely for Baker's big moment. "I would not charge my conscience with any act or deed which would contribute to

the foundering of peace," the old master said. And then, with a wink to the galleries: "I have not forfeited my faith in John Fitzgerald Kennedy." (c) 1977, The Washington Post Company

Shakespeare speaks on Tongsun Park

United Press International WASHINGTON — Any day now, or at least any year, the House ethics committee will swing its terrible swift sword at the Tongsun Park case. Meanwhile, I've been gathering back-

ground material from various reference sources. Today's briefing comes from William Shakespeare, immortal bard and erstwhile lobbyist for Elizabethan Eng-

Q. Mr. Shakespeare, how is the investi-gation of South Korean influence buying in Congress coming along

"Wisely and slowly

Q. The slower, the wiser, I imagine. When is the committee going to hold public hearings?

A. Tomorrow, and tomorrow, and to-

Q. It seems like a thousand tomorrows have gone by already. At this petty pace, how is the inquiry ever going to end?A. That old common arbitrator, Time,

The Lighter Side

Q. I've heard that Tongsun Park, the South Korean businessman, tried to influties. What sort of parties did he give? A. Every room hath blazed with lights and brayed with minstrelsy. Potations

pottle-deep." Q. How late would a Park party last? "Night's candles are burnt out and

jocund day stands tiptoe on the misty mountaintops.

Q. Don't call me madam, sir. Some of the congressmen who received political contributions from Park now say they never met him. Why is that?

A. "New-made honour doth forget men's

names. Q. Park has been indicted by a U. S. grand jury but he refuses to come here from Seoul to testify. What will happen if he does return?

A. "They'll give him death by inches.
Brain him with his lady's fan."
Q. And what is the attitude of House members toward cooperating with the investigation? A. "Have more than thou showest, speak

less than thou knowest. Q. What would you say the final upshot of the inquiry will be?
A. "Nothing will come of nothing."
Q. Thank you, Mr. Shakespeare.

Top of the News

State

Texas losing \$30 million a month

Texas is losing \$30 million a month by not participating fully a federal food stamp programs a U.S. Agriculture Department officia said Monday. Lewis Straus, Food and Nutrition Service administrator with USDA in Washington, spoke at a conference on nutrition in

"Texas presently has approximately 800,000 needy people using food stamps," Straus said. "But it is estimated that about 2.3 million are eligible. This represents a loss of somewhere around \$30 million a month in food stamp benefits not only for the Texas families who need the help, but also for the entire Texas economy."

Legionnaire disease in-Texas?

A 52-year-old man is hospitalized in Temple with what expert suspect is the first case of Legionnaire's disease in Texas. Dr. Chales Webb, state epidemiologist, said Monday that tests indicated the patient had been attacked by the bacteria linked to the disease. The patient is almost fully recovered now after becoming ill in early Au gust. Although the mortality rate among Legionnaire victims was 30 to 40 percent, Webb said experts believe the disease occurs often with much less severe symptoms. Early indications suggest one in 30 people may have had the disease at one time or another, he added There is no reason to suspect an epedimic in Texas, Webb said

Hill fights Briscoe for top office

Attorney General John Hill formally announced Monday that he will challenge Gov. Dolph Briscoe in the race for governor. Hill said he thinks most Texas voters believe 10 years is too long for anyone to be governor. He criticized Briscoe's record of representing Texas viewpoints on energy matters. Hill said Texans complain that Briscoe has failed to measure up to their expectations and to live up to his promises. They feel he needs to spend more time in Austin working on the job of being governor, he added. Hill also criticized Briscoe for not involving himself in the appointments to the state boards by referring to the governor's appointment of a dead man to one state board.

Nation

Polanski sentenced to 90 days

Movie director Roman Polanski was sentenced Monday to 90 days in a correctional institution for having unlawful sexual intercourse with a 13-year-old girl. During his stay in the institution, a study will with a 13-year-old girl. During his stay in the institution, a study will be made to see if he deserves a harsher penalty. After two cour-appointed psychiatrists agreed that Polanski could not be classified as a "mentally disordered sex offender." Judge Laurence J. Rittenband pronounced the sentence. If Polanski had been found to be mentally unbalanced, the judge could have committed him to a mental institu-tion for an indefinite period. After the three months of diagnostic study, Rittenband said a final sentence will be determined.

Saccharin not banned yet!

Saccharin is likely to be available for at least 18 more months although it may have a cancer-hazard warning on its label. The senate voted last week to delay the Food and Drug Administration's ban on saccharin for addittional studies. They want to make sure saccharin causes cancer in humans-not just in rats. This week the House laterstate and Foreign Commerce Committee marks up its version of the legislation. It would give federal officials authority to requi warning labels on saccharin as well as requiring warnings at the place of sale and in the print and broadcast advertisements.

World

Israel seeks U.S. aid in probe



will one day end it.

ence congressmen by inviting them to par-

Letters to the editor GTE needs to change telephone deposit policy

I was glad to see the article concerning If a student has had telephone service nized only last spring to provide a com- dent is to be familiar.

General Telephone (GTE), (Sept. 15, 1977). I feel that the present policy is an sible enough to pay his bills, then he should a munications link with students who live off campus and the organizations with whom a spectrum and the field, it has been my experience that the course, as not be required to pay a deposit the next they interface. We are presently applying time he wants telephone service. I am pleased to see that GTE is considering changing this present policy. for membership in the BBB, the N.C. Business Assn., and the Apartment Own-ers Association. We have a representative changing this present policy. Deborah Holcomb attend the College Station city council meeting. We have a vice-president in Class of 80 charge of university relations who will soon have a cubicle in the Student Programs Office. Other vice-presidents of whom there are four are housed in Puryear Hall Lounge with Hassel Free From Oct. 13 to 19 students who live off campus can file for one of 22 elected representative positions in Room 216 of the MSC. The election will be held Oct. 27 concurrent with the Freshmen elections. The role of these representatives will be to provide input to the O.C.S.A. concerning problems which affect all off campus students so that O.C.S.A. can contact the appropriate organizations concerning a mutually acceptable solution. Yes Ana, there is an off campus student association "the Day Ducks", but we're small and we need all the help we can get in forming an effective organization. We'd by Jim Earle like to send you some more information on our program along with a list of our officers and their committee responsibilities if you will send a self-addressed stamped envelope to O.C.S.A. Rm. 216 MSC

matter. abilities.

Q. I'll bet some of the guests were a little misty, too. Is it true that Park also supplied some congressmen with girls? A. "Out-paramoured the Turk. In bes-towing, madam, he was most princely."

unneccessary inconvenience to students.

When my roommates and I went to the GTE office to get our telephone service we were told that our deposit plus installation charges and the charge for two phones would be \$128.82. Fortunately, one of my roommates had prior credit with South-western Bell and asked GTE if this credit would transfer

After some discussion with the GTE representative we discovered that my roommate's credit would transfer; thus, we were billed only for the installation and the cost for two phones, which amounted to \$33.82. Our bill was \$95.00 less than it would have been if we had been required to pay a depo-

I feel that the present policies of GTE are somewhat unfair. According to these policies, students who have had telephone service for less than 12 months do not meet the requirements necessary to establish credit.

Slouch

Day ducks unite!

Editor's note: The following is a response to a letter in yesterday's Battalion. That letter, by Ana Quintana, complained that off-campus students were being ignored by information being released from the University.

Dear Ana:

I appreciate your writing about the problems of off-campus students because it gives me the opportunity to mention the off-campus student association. O.C.S.A. was newly formed and recog-

Texas A&M

College Station, TX 77843 We will be pleased to forward this infor-

—Mike Mitchell President, O.C.S.A.

Getting it right

Editor

On Friday, September 16, 1977, an article appeared (in the Battalion) entitled Authorities advise pre-professionals to study with tests." As the local administrator for the Stanley H. Kaplan Educational Center, I would like to correct erroneous information and misrepre-

Most importantly, the Kaplan program does not provide students with material on "the real tests" in any way. The program provides students with materials so that he/she can prepare for a test in an or-ganized, thorough manner accompanied a series of tests designed to measure the students achievements. The course material is reflective of the areas of knowledge with which the pre-professional stu-

prepared by the Stanley H. Kaplan Educational Center, has been of great benefit to those students who invest the amount of time necessary to complete all of the material available to them. It is important to realize that the success of a student's reaching his/her maximum potential in tests of this nature is dependent upon many variables. Proper preparation can be a crucial factor.

Finally, I do not know if "almost all" of the pre-medical students in the Northeast take the Kaplan course or if the scores are rising. There is no mention of a "magical formula" in the lease agreement that the students sign. It's purpose is for the materials loaned them.

Thank you for your consideration in this

-Nancy M. Zettelmoyer Stanley H. Kaplan Educational Center

Editor's note: The Battalion regrets an incorrectly reported statement that Kaplan Educational Center provides students with material that appears on standardized tests. The center, in fact, only provides the kinds of material that may appear on the tests. It should be clarified that no "magic formula" is given to replace a student's own testing

Words do hurt

Editor:

We are writing concerning the attitude this semester of the "men" (particularly those living on campus) towards the wo-men. It seems you men feel that the women on campus enjoy rude and embarassing comments. We women would like to be respected as sensitive human beings and not as meat on a rack. We fail to understand why you must make crass remarks to any female, regardless of their appearance, that passes by, just because you didn't have a date Friday night.

The old adage, "Sticks and stones may break my bones, but words can never hurt me, " is a fallacy. Words can hurt worse than mything. Are you men so shallow as to think that a woman can merely ignore remarks too crude to mention here? We are not asking you to refrain from making comments among yourselves. We simply ask that you keep them to yourselves. You are not doing womankind a favor by advertising your opinion of a girl you don't even know. And it certainly is no proof of your manhood to make such remarks. —CAB '79, PAW '79, TAT '79, ASA '79

Israel asked the United States Sunday to help establish an interna tional commission to investigate the murder methods of the Palestine Liberation Organization. Political sources said the request was made at the suggestion of Prime Minister Menahem Begin, who was inspired by Arab calls for inquires into the actions of Israeli authorities in occupied lands. The request asks the United States to support the setting up of an international commission of inquiry into the methods of murdering civilians, men, women and children, persistently and with premeditaion by the Palestine Liberation Organization. The request was sent to Secretary of State, Cyrus Vance.

Sextuplets born in 70 seconds

Sextuplets born Sunday to a young Dutch couple are in good condition and already have an agent to handle their business. The four boys and two girls born in a hospital near Amsterdam are the first sextup lets born in Holland and only the second set known to have lived more than a few hours after birth. The actual birth took only 70 seconds for all six, by Caesarian section, doctors said. The babies were two months premature and weighed between 2.2 pounds and 2.7 pounds. A medical team of 15 was on hand for the operation. The mother, who had been taking fertility drugs, entered the hospital 14 weeks ago in anticipation of the multiple births.

Weather

Mostly sunny and warm today. High today mid-90s, low tonight low 70s, high tomorrow mid-90s. Partly cloudy tomorrow. No chance of rain today or tomorrow.

The Battalion

ports Editor

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