

VIEWPOINT

THE BATTALION
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

TUESDAY
JANUARY 31, 1978

One man, one vote?

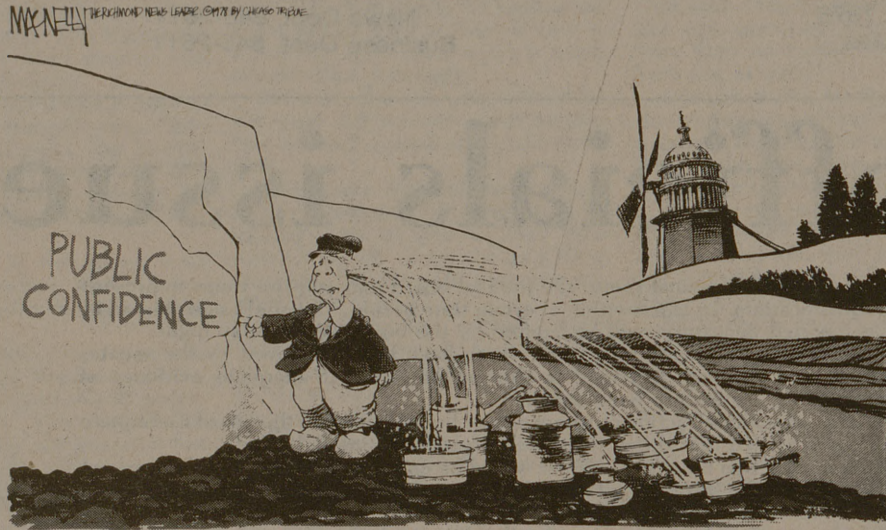
We all remember the lady who won first prize at the state fair for the best apple pie and then never made another. She quit while she was ahead. Chile's President Augusto Pinochet shares her philosophy.

When the United Nations General Assembly condemned the Pinochet regime for abuses of human rights, Pinochet called the motion "international aggression" against Chile and staged a referendum. He asked Chileans for a vote of confidence on his way of governing. He got it.

Some 5.4 million votes were cast, 75 percent voting yes in support of Pinochet, 20.4 percent voted no.

Accepting this handsome victory, Pinochet announced that there will be no further elections, votings or consultations in Chile. Quite right. He is quitting while he is ahead.

The Houston Post



Carter's address: same song, second verse

By ARNOLD SAWISLAK

WASHINGTON — Sen. Barry Goldwater wins the John Peter Zinger award this year for the most telling comment on President Carter's State of the Union address: "I made that speech in 1964 and I was defeated."

But the Grand Old Man of the Right wasn't joking. Carter's first report on the condition of the country was a statement that almost any moderate conservative in either major political party could have delivered without discomfort.

Four times during the speech Carter made the point that private business must provide the impetus for national prosperity. Four more times he stressed that government cannot solve all the problems of the nation.

To be sure, the body of the Carter speech also contained some specifics that would have warmed the cockles of Hubert

Humphrey's heart, but the generalities — particularly in the economic area — were vintage Gerald Ford.

All of which demonstrates several things.

First, as noted here before, Carter is not an economic liberal and never claimed to

Washington Window

be. Those Democrats who now may claim they were led down the path by candidate Carter should recall that it took the most strenuous political pressure to get him to say something nice about the Humphrey-Hawkins full employment bill in 1976 and that he insisted on substantial changes in 1977 before he would embrace it as president.

Second, the economic and government

tal theories in the Carter speech were well within the mainstream of American politics, which means that they are acceptable to large numbers of Democrats as well as Republicans.

His repeated warnings against pervasive government might have sounded like heresy or Republican doctrine from Ronald Reagan a few years back, but the new crop of Democrats in both Washington and the state capitols no longer push the theory that government action can solve all social and economic problems. The example is Gov. Edmund Brown of California, who some political observers think might be riding the wave of the very near future.

Finally, Carter obviously is trying to solve an image problem with the speech. As a Democratic president coming to the White House after eight years of Republi-

can occupancy, he knows many business people assume he is no friend of theirs. With Bert Lance and Arthur Burns out of government, Carter may have felt he needed to reassure business. The speech sounded as if it was supposed to perform that function.

But if the stock market is any barometer, Carter's efforts to cozy up to business was a flop. The market fell more than eight points in the first two trading days after the speech, indicating that it will take more than soothing words to settle business jitters.

Which probably qualifies the entire exercise as a true irony: there is an economic moderate in the White House presiding over a political party that is questioning its own big government dogma, but business, which prides itself on hard-headed realism, appears to be trapped by its own preconceived notions.

Taxation by misrepresentation

By DICK WEST

WASHINGTON — As if the Social Security tax increases that hit us this month weren't enough of a strain, many Americans are now finding their credulity taxed.

A tax on credulity is no novelty, of course. During the latter days of the Nixon administration, when the Watergate scandal was cresting, the capacity for belief in White House statements was being taxed right and left.

I know about that because I was one of the taxes. Or, to use the Latin plural, one of the taxi.

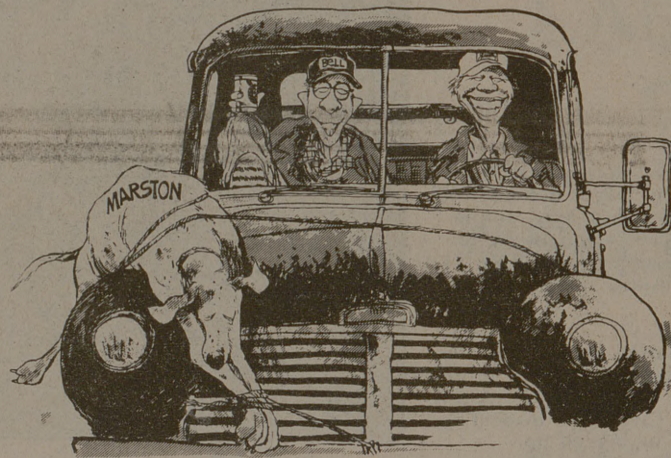
But with the election of President Carter, taxation by misrepresentation was supposed to cease.

Didn't Carter repeatedly vow during the 1976 campaign that "I'll never lie to you?" And didn't he assure us that U.S. attorneys would be appointed on a non-partisan basis with merit the only consideration? Yes.

Nevertheless, numerous credulities have been taxed by the ouster of U.S. Attorney David Marston of Philadelphia.

In fairness, it should be noted that this outbreak of dubiety does not necessarily mean that Carter has gone back on his

McKeely



promises. It could be that Marston's ejection was indeed devoid of political motivation.

Just because the president is a Democrat and Marston is a Republican who reportedly was investigating two Democratic congressmen doesn't prove there isn't better U.S. attorney material available.

And the fact that one of the congressmen, Rep. Joshua Eilberg, telephoned Carter urging him to expedite Marston's departure doesn't prove that Eilberg was taking a partisan approach.

It all depends on the context in which the call was made. The conversation would have gone something like this:

Eilberg: Good morning, Mr. President.
Carter: Morning, Josh. What can I do for you?

Eilberg: Well, I was wondering, sir, if you might prod the attorney general to move a little faster toward getting us a new federal prosecutor up in Philadelphia.

Carter: That sounds like a reasonable request. What happened to the old prosecutor?

Eilberg: Nothing yet. That's what I'm calling you about.

Carter: As you know, Josh, I'm committed to appointing federal prosecutors strictly on the basis of merit. There wouldn't be anything political or self-serving in your desire to get rid of the incumbent, would there?

Eilberg: Good gracious no, sir. That's the furthest thing from my mind. I'm suggesting that he be removed for his own good.

Carter: What do you mean by that?

Eilberg: Well, some of us feel that he's been working too hard and that if he keeps at that pace he might ruin his health.

Carter: That's mighty sweet of you, Josh. Your concern and consideration for a member of the other party is really touching. I'll get Griffin Bell on the matter right away.

TOP OF THE NEWS

Campus

Daly drawings at MSC gallery

Stephen J. Daly, Texas A&M University's artist-in-residence, is exhibiting recent drawings in the Memorial Student Center through Feb. 3. Daly, winner of the 1974 Prix de Rome award of the American Academy, was named in December to receive a \$5,000 grant from the Tiffany Foundation of New York to support his work here. He was one of 20 persons chosen from 2,200 applicants. He is currently on leave from Humboldt State University in California and teaches a class in contemporary sculpture at Texas A&M.

Amphibious warfare program

A program on amphibious warfare will be presented Friday, at Texas A&M by a special Marine Corps team. The program is sponsored by the Naval Science Department and includes film clips, slides and special effects. It will be at 1 p.m. in the Rudder Theater. A 10-member team from the Marine Corps Development and Education Command at Quantico, Va., will make the presentation on roles and mission of the Corps.

State

Training jet crashes, crew safe

An F-4 Phantom reconnaissance jet on a training mission from Bergstrom Air Force Base crashed shortly after take off in a Central Texas pasture Monday, but the two crewmen ejected safely. A base spokesman said the craft developed technical problems an estimated 20 miles from the base. Pilot Lt. Richard Barnes and navigator Maj. Dave Benson parachuted before the plane went down. The plane was on a routine training mission and cause of the crash will be investigated.

Aikin ends legislative career

The father of Texas' modern school system announced Monday he will end his unprecedented 45-year legislative career in January. Sen. A.M. Aikin Jr., D-Paris, said he decided not to seek re-election because rheumatoid arthritis is making it increasingly painful for him to walk. "I love the Senate and know I will miss it," he said. "But my health is such that I am afraid I could not carry my part of the load, and that would not be right." In addition to co-authoring the Gilmer-Aikin Laws that created Texas' modern education system in 1949, the 72-year-old Senate dean sponsored more school legislation than any other lawmaker in Texas.

Arson suspected in hotel fire

A bulldozer piled up debris from the Coates House hotel in an effort to uncover bodies believed buried under tons of bricks and plaster from a devastating weekend fire. Police said 15 bodies had been recovered from the 19th-century hotel, but feared many of the 20 still missing had died in the blaze. Fire Chief John Waas said it may take authorities until the end of the week to find all the victims because several parts of the building cannot be searched until parts of the shabby structure are leveled. Waas said arson was being investigated as a possible cause of the four-alarm blaze. "There's some suspicious characteristics in the building that makes us raise some questions about arson," Waas said.

Eerie lights cause UFO reports

Eerie bright balls of light raced across the skies from Missouri and Texas to Florida Saturday and Sunday nights prompting hundreds of reports of UFOs, falling planes and meteors. The sheriff of north Florida county flew over dense pine woods Monday trying to locate where one was reported to have fallen with a loud explosion. Many of the observers believed the balls of light were meteors or meteorites, the latter being meteors which fall to Earth. They apparently moved swiftly across the night skies but not as fast as shooting stars, prompting some observers to believe they saw a plane falling in flames.

World

Mideast military talks to resume

Assistant Secretary of State Alfred Atherton arrived in Egypt Monday carrying new Israeli "ideas" for a political compromise to get the stalled peace negotiations started again. Only hours later, Egypt announced military talks would resume tonight in Cairo — the first direct negotiations between Egypt and Israel in two weeks. The talks between the Egyptian and Israeli Defense Ministers, Gen. Mohammed Gamassy and Ezer Weizman, were interrupted Jan. 13 after reaching a deadlock on the future of 19 Jewish settlements in the Sinai. Atherton's visit is viewed as an important prelude to President Anwar Sadat's scheduled talks with President Carter at Camp David this weekend.

Weather

Cloudy and continued cold with a chance of drizzle or light rain. High today mid-40's. Low tonight upper-30's. High tomorrow low-mid 50's. Winds from the Northeast at 10-15 mph. 30 percent chance of rain today & tonight decreasing to 20 percent tomorrow.

THE BATTALION

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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.

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Letters to the editor

Here comes the cavalry for Metcalf & Co.

Editor:

After reading Mr. Harte's letter saying that Coach Metcalf should disappear, I must say that I was damn mad. Obviously Mr. Harte hasn't been at TAMU very long. I have been here since 1974 and I've seen the basketball team win, lose and win the SWC championship. Yes, I am disappointed that the Aggies are not doing well, but don't blame Coach Metcalf. Yes, we have talent, but it takes more than just talent. The players must be able to work together as a team, too. The Aggies do that, but of the games I've seen this year, I would say the team's main problem is that they miss too many shots. These things unfortunately happen. No, Mr. Harte, the solution is not to get rid of Coach Metcalf. He is not only a fine man, but a fine coach.

Here's one Aggie who supports him and the team no matter what they do. All I can say to them is to hang in there and keep trying, and do your best.
— Nancy Hansel Robin, '78

Hello, Shelby

Editor:

I'm writing in response to Will Harte's letter in Friday's Batt. I just can't believe the rude comments he made about wishing Coach Metcalf would disappear. But I will agree with one point you made Mr. Harte, you surely do not know anything about coaching a basketball team. And more obvious, you do not know anything about A&M basketball in general.

Coach Shelby Metcalf is the most successful coach in Texas A&M history. His teams have won the SWC championship four times including the recent 1975 and 1976 titles. His SWC mark stands at 128 wins — 72 losses, giving him the best winning percentage of any conference coach with a minimum of 12 years service.

The Aggies under Coach Metcalf play a very exciting brand of basketball. They are always well taught, competitive, physical and fun to watch. I'll admit this season hasn't been as good as everyone predicted it would be but there is still a half season left to improve on our record. This team is capable of playing great basketball as witnessed in the Texas game. With the team's potential, desire to win and with coaches like Metcalf, Reuther, Gobin and Davis the Aggies have a great chance to still finish high in the conference standings and go to the SWC tournament in Houston.

Win or lose, the Aggies need the support of the student body. So Ags, come to G. Rollie and back Coach Metcalf and his crew. They deserve your support!

— Melissa Kildus, '81
Cindy Koldus, '83

Courts a mess

Editor:

The layout and condition of the Texas A&M tennis courts is appalling. Their designer must have been a golf enthusiast. For only that could explain the potential dangers of these courts.

The grass which borders the court surface has effected countless twisted or sprained ankles. The fence (which, on some courts, is ridiculously less than 12 feet from the playing area) has caused many bruises. The courts are also in terrible condition. Only a few years old, these courts have numerous cracks, and they are

McKeely

