

VIEWPOINT

THE BATTALION
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

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H-H bill deceitful

Slouch

by Jim Earle

The Carter Administration is strongly urging Congress to pass the Humphrey-Hawkins "full employment" bill as a tribute to the late Sen. Hubert Humphrey, who deserves something better.

Although the Minnesota liberal's name remains on the measure, it has been amended into a phony, toothless and yet potentially dangerous bit of legislation that does Humphrey no honor.

When drafted in 1974, it was a radical command to the administration to drive down the unemployment rate to 3 percent and to provide a job on a public payroll to anyone who said he wanted work but could not find it.

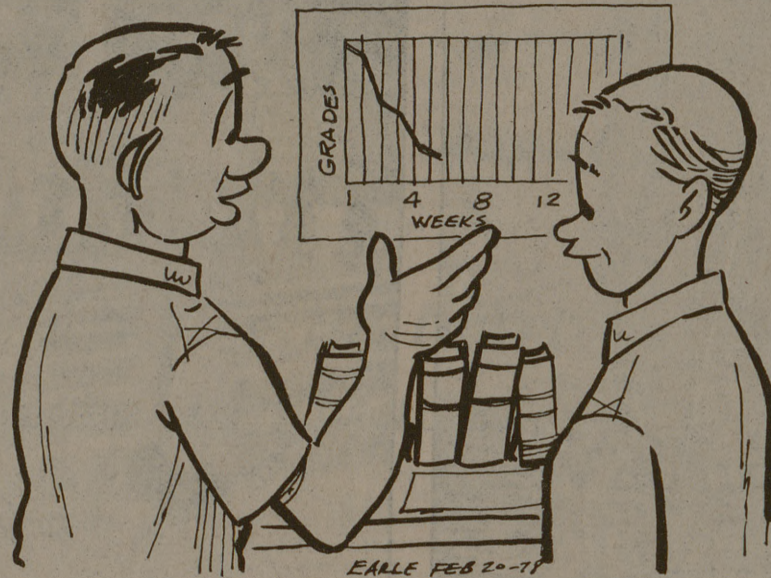
Since the bill would have turned us rapidly into a nation of bankrupt leafrakers, it was killed in 1975. Then it was riddled with loopholes but still failed in 1977. Finally it was weakened enough for President Carter to endorse it. And now his economic adviser, Charles Schultze, who blanched at the inflationary threat in the original bill, is pressing the present version on Congress.

Today's Humphrey-Hawkins sets a goal of 4 percent unemployment within five years. But at the same time it insists on "restraint of inflation", "adequate productivity growth", "high rates of capital formation", and "the well-being of the people".

To be honest, it also should have called for the legalization of marijuana, because any law that promises all the conflicting benefits of Humphrey-Hawkins is a pipe dream.

The bill sets up no machinery to lead us to its full-employment, low-inflation utopia. It is deceitful in holding out to disadvantaged groups flim-flam legislation instead of real help in getting jobs.

Scripps-Howard Newspapers



"AS BEST I CAN TELL, I THINK ANY TIME NOW I'D OPEN UP, IF I WERE YOU!"

Going overboard on distinction

By DICK WEST
United Press International

WASHINGTON — The first live broadcasts of a U.S. Senate debate not only are providing many Americans with everything they always wanted to know about the Panama Canal treaties.

The Lighter Side

The airwaves also are serving as an introduction to a quaint tribal custom known as senatorial courtesy.

Each day's debate generally begins when the distinguished senator who happens to get stuck with the job of presiding recognizes the distinguished senator from

West Virginia, Robert Byrd, also known as the distinguished majority leader.

Whereupon Byrd graciously yields the floor to whoever the day's first distinguished speaker might be.

It doesn't take much of this for even the most casual listener to get the idea — U.S. senators are utterly, thoroughly, overwhelmingly distinguished.

It should not be inferred, however, there is anything distinctive about being senatorially distinguished. The term is all-pervasive, applicable to the high and the low, the great and the near-great alike.

The distinguished minority leader, Howard Baker of Tennessee, made that point nicely when he referred to "the colloquy between the distinguished majority leader and the equally distinguished senator from Nevada."

Indiscriminate differentiation — that's the Senate way.

As a rule of thumb, senatorial courtesy demands that all senators hold all of the other senators in high regard.

In some cases, however, it is a minimum high regard. And by informal agreement, the minimum adjective of high regard is "distinguished." Which may explain why it is used so much.

Although distinguishedness is the better part of senatorial courtesy, other adjectives are thrown in occasionally for a change of pace.

Twice during one day of canal debate Byrd referred to colleagues as "able." And listeners also may be treated to variations on the theme.

Beyond that, anyone who listens long enough and attentively enough eventually will be rewarded with that rare gem of senatorial civility — a genuine improvisation.

Sen. Clifford Case, R-N.J., came forth

with a bona fide original during an exchange with Sen. Orrin Hatch, R-Utah. Quoth Case:

"If I understand it correctly, the senator and I are very fond of each other and regard each other highly as individuals. We would not lift a finger not only to harm each other, but we would defend each other to the death against the panoplies that people from the outside might attempt to visit upon us."

It is not yet apparent whether broadcasting the canal debate actually will provoke radio owners into panopolizing themselves. In time, however, outsiders will come to appreciate the following truism:

If a legislative body has 100 members, and if 100 members of the legislative body are distinguished, people will need some other way of telling them apart.

TOP OF THE NEWS

CAMPUS

Silver Taps tonight

Silver Taps will be conducted in front of the Academic Building tonight at 10:30 p.m. in memory of Conrad Paul Schweichler, whose death occurred Feb. 13, 1978.

STATE

Pharmacist wants rebate system

An Austin pharmacist says the state welfare agency could significantly reduce the costs of a program that helps pay for prescription drugs for the needy. Frank Dannelley said the welfare agency through its Vendor Drug Program, in effect pays millions of dollars more per year for recipient's drugs than the Board of Control, which buys drugs for state institutions such as state hospitals. The agency could lower its costs by several million dollars annually by instituting a rebate system from prescription drug manufacturers, Dannelley said Saturday.

He recommended the department compute the monthly difference between its drug prices and the prices paid by the Board of Control and make the manufacturers "cough up the difference because it's all going to the state of Texas."

Heart patient 'stable'

Isolated in a sterile room in Houston and surrounded by medical specialists and technicians, a 21-year-old heart transplant patient was reported in "stable condition" late Sunday. A spokesman for the Texas Heart Institute said the young man, who has not been identified at his parents' request, "is in stable condition. Physicians remain pleased but cautious. He continued to talk today and be responsive to commands." The young man received the first complete heart transplant surgery performed at St. Luke's Hospital in eight years. He was reported in improved condition Saturday after two major heart operations in five days. He briefly talked with his father Saturday.

'Lozano died of neck injury'

A noted pathologist said late Sunday a neck injury probably killed Larry Ortega Lozano, who died last month in the Ector County jail in Houston. Harris County Medical Examiner Dr. Joseph Hachimeczky said he has been reviewing the findings of two earlier autopsies into the death of Lozano. Numerous Mexican-American groups alleged Lozano was beaten to death by police. State and federal law enforcement agencies are investigating. He said another autopsy might be needed if the two earlier autopsies did not reveal enough information on which to base a satisfactory conclusion about the death.

'Leaky lines — potential danger'

Antiquated and leaky natural gas lines that provide fuel for many small towns across the state are potential catastrophes, Texas Railroad commission records show. "It's a miracle that we haven't had a major disaster yet," said Joe Piotrowski Jr., director of the commission's gas utilities division. Piotrowski said none of the city-owned gas systems inspected by his staff thus far meet state and federal safety standards. He said his staff was just beginning to evaluate the more than 1,500 public and private pipeline networks in Texas. Until last year, when the state appropriated funds for additional safety engineers, pipeline inspections were haphazard and usually a result of complaints, Piotrowski said. Indicative of the problem however, was a 1977 survey that showed 123 billion cubic feet of natural gas was lost or unaccounted for in Texas in 1975. The survey led to a commission rule that financially penalizes utilities — no more than five percent of lost gas can be included in rate computations.

Green seeks intervention

A lawyer for District Attorney Bill Green in Palestine said he will seek federal court intervention of the disbarment ruling against Green issued by State District Judge Donald Carroll. The State Bar of Texas succeeded in having Green barred from practicing law, and thus considered unqualified to remain as district attorney on grounds of public misconduct. Green was convicted of public lewdness after he was arrested in a peep show for performing oral sex with another man. The misdemeanor conviction is being appealed. Green has said he was at the site to research pornography. Carroll, who granted a motion by state bar representatives for a directed verdict, excused the 11-member jury hearing the case and issued the disbarment ruling Wednesday.

WEATHER

Fair and cold today, tonight, and Tuesday. High today low 50s, low tonight mid-20s. High tomorrow mid-40s. Winds at 5-10 mph, becoming northerly and increasing during the night.

THE BATTALION

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