

VIEWPOINT

THE BATTALION
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

WEDNESDAY
MARCH 8, 1978

Carter's patience is costly politics

We've said here before that President Carter's unwillingness to invoke the Taft-Hartley Act earlier in the coal strike was a big mistake. Carter will probably find out in the next month how big a mistake that was.

Collectively, the Appalachian coal miners are a very clannish group of people, fiercely independent and stubbornly determined. To them, a government back-to-work order is merely a piece of paper. The law is more the word of the local union boss than governmental edict. So it might be expected that unhappy miners will ignore the 80-day cooling off period of Taft-Hartley and take matter into their own hands. Carter has readied troops if there is violence, but that's a weak precaution for a situation that never should have arisen.

Carter waited too late to exercise his powers. The fuse was lit weeks ago after negotiations on the miners' contract bogged to a standstill, and belated injunctions won't stop what's coming. Taft-Hartley is only a delay, not a solution by any means. The miners are tired of waiting and leery of political machinery. Industry, too, is indignant after having conceded much in the bargaining process only to be flatly rejected. Taft-Hartley isn't going to cool many tempers now.

It's not too far fetched to predict escalating violence in the cooling off period. Some miners blow up a coal train, the local troops move in. Suddenly, the Appalachian mining family is enraged, and possibly federal intervention needed to back up the local authorities. If Carter was having problems with his national image last week, he best not look up yet.

If he's lucky enough to find only minor discontent among the miners in the next 80 days, he still won't be out of the woods. It's hard to fool the rest of the country when finally the results of this record-breaking standoff start hitting home. It will take some time to begin getting coal out of the mines and into homes and businesses again. Meanwhile, the costly shortage, eventually charged to the consumer, drags on and will continue for at least another



Preparing for the Flood too late... month. Even then, don't expect the higher prices of just about everything to go down. And since the strike is not really over, come June the process may start over again.

Carter has blown it coming and going in this one. Sure, it was a tough situation, but the use of Taft-Hartley as a temporary solution early on when it would have been stronger and less painful was not a hidden alternative. The extent of this mistake is now a matter of degree.

J.A.

Student campaign will set precedent

By JIM CRAWLEY

I have a confession to make. The mayoral prospect named Karl Crawley is not a front for me to run for mayor. The candidate with the same last name as mine also has the same parents I do. In fact, he's my brother.

Now I know how William F. Buckley felt upon hearing that his brother, James, was running for U.S. Senator from New York.

The 19-year-old candidate is an environmental design sophomore living in Aston Hall on campus. His motive for filing was just to get his name on the April 1 ballot. With the simple, no-cost filing system in College Station this presented no problems for Crawley.

With no filing fee, the prospective candidate only needs 25 signatures from registered voters in College Station. After handing these signatures to the city secretary and signing a financial statement and a loyalty oath, the prospect is on the ballot. It only took Crawley a few hours of asking friends, classmates and professors to sign his petitions.

Since getting his name on the ballot Crawley has taken to the campaign trail, albeit in a modest way. Where he originally planned only to get his name on the ballot and nothing else, he has begun to take aim at the issues of the campaign. He

doesn't plan to spend any money on the campaign. He is more than willing to answer any questions and to give his positions and solutions to the problems of the community.

Politics

So far, he has made no impossible stands on the issues concerning the residents of College Station. His main thrust has been for an increase of the city's recreational facilities. Crawley wants more park space and construction of an indoor recreation center.

The change in his stance, from laughing to seriously looking at the issues, is an important change for Crawley and the students of Texas A&M.

Students here are notoriously unconcerned with city politics. A streetside poll of students would elicit responses ranging from uninformed to "I have no right to be concerned with local elections since I won't be here in four years." Only a few students are of the belief that they should involve themselves in the politics of the area.

Most students don't realize that during the four years they attend Texas A&M, they are constantly influenced by decisions made by the local city councils.

As the city influences more students, Aggies will have to become more involved in the decision-making process of the city. Within the past two years, the Greeks and student government have been the only student groups to present their ideas and opinions before the council on a regular basis.

The Greeks have been concerned about a two-year old ordinance that restricts the building of fraternity and sorority houses within College Station. The ordinance requires that for each new organization's house a chapter must obtain a conditional use permit from the city. This permit places certain restrictions on the location and plans for the meeting house or apartments.

Student government has tried on and off to increase the drinking hours within the city. They were partially successful when they got the weekly total raised by one hour on Fridays. With a liaison on the council, student government should have more political clout than any other student group in the city.

These developments in the political maturing of the A&M student can be fur-

ther advanced by any student campaigning for a city-wide office. But the advantage is present only if the student-candidate is conscious of his actions and motives.

The frivolity of getting one's name on the ballot just-for-the-hell-of-it can do irreparable harm to student efforts to gain political power. Such stupidity by a single student could cause the non-student residents of College Station to vote down any and all future student-candidates.

The student-candidate, especially one for mayor, must not antagonize the non-student electorate, unless the political power of the students is strong enough to withstand any and all attacks by the political powers-to-be. The candidate must be honest in his wish to fairly and accurately represent all the citizens of College Station, not just the students.

Crawley has kept a low profile because of his refusal to spend campaign funds. This is advantageous at this time. If he had decided to run an emotional, high-profile campaign which attacked the incumbent mayor, he could have caused a backlash from the permanent residents of College Station that would have been felt for years to come.

Although he probably won't win the mayoral election, Crawley probably can't hurt the chance of another student running for a council position in the future.

Letters to the editor

Railroad track move is a costly alternative

Editor:

Due to recent events in Florida, the board of regents has asked the railroads to move their existing track away from campus. When the explosion in Florida occurred, I knew this would happen. People always seem to overreact every time a railroad accident occurs. The board of regents seem to be forgetting several important facts.

The explosion in Florida was caused by sabotage, not by bad track or equipment. The Southern Pacific's track was just upgraded last semester. Derailments on the section of track adjacent to the campus are not likely to happen.

Noise doesn't really seem to be a problem to me. I have found that the noise in dorms of people playing their stereos is louder than a passing train.

Laying new track is not exactly cheap. In order for the railroad to move, a new route will have to be planned, new land will have to be purchased and leveled, new track will have to be laid, and the old track will have to be removed. Who does the board of regents expect to pay for this, the Southern Pacific? A company does not make an expensive move just to keep some people happy. If the board of regents wants the railroad to move, they should help the railroad pay for the move.

I think the board of regents should take a harder look at their proposal.

— Peter Bonney, '81

Thanks, RHA

Editor:

On behalf of the Texas Residence Hall Association I would like to publicly thank my friends who did so much to make the TRHA Conference a success. Their untiring efforts yielded a super convention that will be remembered for a long time. My sincere thanks to Curtis Cline, Jim Snyder, Pete Brennan, Kristie Johnson, Ann Tessem, Troy Ross, Libby Wallingford, Dubb Smith, Dale Gaskill, Kathy McCoy, Nolen Mears, and the countless other workers and delegates who participated.

— Greg Henington
President TRHA

Canal vote

Editor:

In protest of the ratification of the Panama Canal Treaties, I write this letter for a matter of record and to express my deep concern. After visiting the Canal Zone and Panama (the difference of daylight and dark) on two occasions, I have reason to believe this ratification would bring devastating effects upon our country, our children and our children's children through the years to come. This is frightening when we know our future is in the hands of vote-seeking politicians, brainwashed by the Carter Administration.

After writing Senators Tower and Bentsen, I learned Senator Tower will vote to keep our canal in Panama. Senator Bentsen will vote to pay Panama to take it from us. To quote Sunday, March 5, 1978 Eagle "Bentsen said his office had received about 26,000 letters opposing the ratification compared to about 300 letters in favor. Texans were asked whether they favored the proposed treaties that would

turn ownership and control of the Panama Canal over to the Republic of Panama. Almost 80 percent responded with a 'NO' answer."

Yet, knowing this, Senator Lloyd Bentsen and a great number of other senators are going to vote "their way" and not vote the voice of their constituents! This is something to remember at election time. Panamanians received the privilege to vote on the treaty ratification. Why weren't we, the people of the United States, given that same privilege to vote on such an issue so vital and important to our very own future?

We are being "sold down the canal" without a boat or a paddle or a passport!

— Mrs. Helen Pugh

Little help

Editor:

This letter is not to you, it is to the good Ag who ran into my car (a green Gremlin, since you didn't stop long enough to notice). You will be happy to know that my car is drivable, and that I am not hurt, physically. You have, however, destroyed my faith in most Aggies. And to you Aggies who walked by and wondered whether I was crying and whether you could help, but then decided not to get involved — yes, I was crying and yes you could have helped. But that's okay. I have some friends (non-students) who came to my rescue.

But don't get me wrong. I have not lost my faith in all Aggies. I was in an accident two weeks ago (yes I am a jinx) in Giddings, Texas. Many people helped including some Aggies. So it appears there are some good Ags in the world, just not in Aggeland. Since I can think of no other way to ensure that there are good Ags in Aggeland, I am going to get up off my lazy can and become one myself. So:

To anyone, anywhere, who has a problem and needs a friend; if I am around I will help; if I am not around try to call me, I will try to help.

— Cathy Pudlewski, '80

Slouch

by Jim Earle



"WITHOUT QUESTION, ONE OF THE MOODIEST GUYS I KNOW!"

TOP OF THE NEWS

CAMPUS

Influenza drug study reports due

Volunteers in the Influenza Drug Study are reminded to turn in their weekly reports and receive their payment at the University Beutel Health Center reception desk on Thursday or Friday, during normal clinic hours.

Bookstore profit funding meeting

There will be an informal meeting for all eligible student organizations who wish to apply for bookstore profit funding. The meeting will be at 5 p.m. Thursday in Room 301 of Rudder Tower. Budget requests must be submitted by March 31.

Deadline for Parents of the Year

Deadline for submitting recommendations for Parents of the Year is 5 p.m., March 20. Recommendations will be available in and should be submitted to the Student Government office, Room 216 in the Memorial Student Center.

Applications for grants due soon

The last day for receiving applications for Basic Educational Opportunity Grants for the 1977-78 academic year is next Wednesday. The applications must arrive at the Basic Grant Office, P.O. Box B, Iowa City, Iowa 52240 by that date to be processed for this 1977-78 academic year.

STATE

Canal impact on Texas reviewed

Texas Speaker Bill Clayton has asked a special panel to decide whether ratification of the Panama Canal treaties would cost Texas jobs. Monday Clayton told the panel in Austin he hoped they could submit an impact statement to the state's senators by the end of the week. Clayton said a similar study showed Maryland would lose about 700 jobs if the canal treaties are ratified by the Senate. "None of us knows exactly what the impact on Texas would be," he said. "We have some suspicions it could be a severe impact on Texas under certain conditions."

S.A. mayor asked to resign

In a squabble between the five Anglo and six minority members of the San Antonio city council, a Mexican-American councilman has asked Mayor Lila Cockrell to resign. "I don't think she has any business being at the helm of this city," Councilman Joe Alderete said. The ethnic split began when five Mexican-Americans and one black were elected to the council from single-member districts forced on the city by a Justice Department edict two years ago. The split widened the past few weeks when Cockrell and the other four Anglo council members lined up in opposition to a \$98.4 million capital improvements bond issue.

Striking farmers stop trucks

Dissident farmers from the Dakotas to Texas peacefully stopped trucks Tuesday urging the men who transport the nation's food supply to respect their strike against low agriculture prices. There was no reported violence and, for the most part, the picketing consisted only of handing out pamphlets and pressing American Agriculture Movement stickers on vehicle bumpers. "We're trying to disrupt the supply of food to the grocery stores," said Mike Paschel at the American Agriculture Movement's Texas headquarters in Hereford, Texas. "We don't want to starve anybody," he said. "We'd just like to get their attention. We want to make sure Congress knows we're still out here."

NATION

Vicksburg explosion injures 3

A Vicksburg, Miss. chemical plant that produces a cotton poison exploded Tuesday spewing fire, smoke and noxious fumes that injured at least three persons and forced the evacuations of thousands from schools, homes and businesses along both banks of the Mississippi River. Authorities sealed off the area around the Vicksburg Chemical Co., which exploded during the late morning hours. Highways and a major river bridge were closed by police.

Bullet remains in Hustler editor

One of two bullets that struck Hustler magazine publisher Larry Flynt remains lodged in his abdomen and will have to be removed later, a spokesman for Flynt said Tuesday in Lawrenceville, Ga. Flynt underwent a second operation early Tuesday to stop excessive bleeding from two bullet wounds in his abdomen. He was reported in critical condition but stronger and more alert. Flynt was shot by a sniper Monday. Police are still searching the area of the shooting for clues.

Non-union miners to be protected

The governor of Virginia today declared a state of emergency Tuesday and joined other coal-producing states in providing protection for non-union miners and truckers. Gov. John N. Dalton doubled the number of state police assigned to coal fields in southwest Virginia and placed hundreds of National Guardsmen on alert in case they are needed to protect miners who want to comply with President Carter's order to end their three-month strike and return to work. "We are intent in Virginia to see to it that anyone who wants to move coal or mine coal is protected," Dalton said.

WEATHER

Mostly cloudy and cool today turning and cold tonight. High today upper 50s, low tonight near 40. High tomorrow upper 60s. Winds from the north at 10-15 mph. Fair and warm through the weekend with highs in the upper 70s and lows in the low 50s.

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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Readers' Forum

Guest viewpoints, in addition to Letters to the Editor, are welcome. All pieces submitted to Readers' forum should be:

- Typed triple space
- Limited to 60 characters per line
- Limited to 100 lines