

VIEWPOINT

THE BATTALION
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

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Just where do tax dollars go?

Most Americans probably have passed the point of being surprised at where some of their tax dollars go.

But they still need to be informed about some of the spending programs that simply don't make much sense. In this category is a recent grant to Cesar Chavez, United Farm Workers (UFW) of \$500,000 from the U.S. Labor Department.

The money is reported to be earmarked for teaching unemployed members of the UFW something about the English Language.

Secretary of Labor Ray Marshall was quoted as saying that this grant is just the beginning, and there also are plans to sign additional contracts with the UFW for an apprenticeship training program.

There appears to be plenty of government money available for such purposes — \$1.8 billion under the Comprehensive Employment and Training Act (CETA), which seems to have had questionable success in some of its other training programs.

There is so much money available that Rep. Bill Ketchum of California reported that the national director of CETA programs told his office "there is no way he can monitor the millions of dollars which cross his desk."

Rep. Ketchum said his office contacted three separate spokesmen at the Labor Department: "We asked exactly how a labor organization untrained in the implementation of an educational grant of this magnitude qualified for so many of the taxpayers' dollars. No one was able to provide an explanation."

It is difficult to understand how people who are charged with being national leaders can vote to waste huge amounts of money on things like this while the public debt grows larger by the day.



We keep thinking that the taxpayers are going to get indignant enough soon to make sure that some people are elected who will begin to weed out the big wasters and big spenders.

Tyler Morning Telegram

Land to spare but none to use

By R. MUCHONTHAM

Can you name two resources on this planet of which we have been increasingly aware of their limited supplies, and that affect millions of lives?

Obviously, energy — especially from crude oil — is the one most familiar to us all.

And what is the other? It is land. Land for new settlement. There is practically no more cultivatable land free from the existing national and political boundaries for new settlement.

Gone were the days when people could move on to find greener pastures. Remember the time when our European forefathers used to move to new places over this vast planet for fresh new land where the soil was rich and the climate not too dissimilar from that of the old places they left behind? Yes, good land was plenty then. And it was fortunate for our forefathers, who escaped famine, plague and wars, or who simply wanted new opportunities, to be able to move on to those

greener pastures. But, there no longer exists such green pastures nowadays that do not belong to an established national boundary.

Readers Forum

So, who needs land? You may ask. I can show you millions who need land. Land for settlement. Land which was plenty in the time of our European forefathers.

The Palestinians, for one, need land. If these were the days in the 19th century, a period in which land was still plenty and intercontinental migration was routine, I doubt if there would be many Palestinians left fighting in the Middle East. Nor would many of the Israelis, for that matter.

I can also show you the Laotians, the Cambodians and the Vietnamese, fleeing hunger, wars and tyranny, who need land. These are agrarian people like our

forefathers once were. But it is unfortunate that there no longer exists unclaimed land for these 20th century refugees from the Middle East, Asia or, for that matter, from anywhere at all.

Gone forever are the days of free settlement, and here to stay is the finite national boundary and nationalism. These two terms have many meanings, including the meaning of a system of distribution of resources. That is, all resources within an established boundary are to be shared only with people in that boundary. What a clever idea. The system of organization had finally reached and claimed the last frontiers. In effect, the rules for the game were established. They were established in man's recent history when land became precious. So, every inch of land on this planet now belongs to somebody.

Under this perspective then we can see the plight of those unfortunate 20th century refugees who are the victims of this limited planet. Our sympathy goes even deeper with

the fact that, in our recent history, nationalism with its national boundaries has prematurely intensified the shortage of land for new settlement. And the fact is that there exists within certain national boundaries (New Zealand and the continent of Australia for instances) vast regions of rich unsettled land.

But, with restricted access or immigration for settlement, due to the desires for a uniform race and along with other reasons, the land in these regions continues to be virtually unpopulated, while those in the 20th century who fled wars, hunger and tyranny — the situations not unlike those once confronted our European ancestors — can no longer find new settlement.

So, besides the energy shortage, there is a shortage of land. Land for settlement.

R. Muchontham is a graduate student of economics. The opinions expressed in this column are the author's only, and not necessarily those of this paper.

Up the down pay scale

By DICK WEST

United Press International

WASHINGTON — You will no doubt find it reassuring that your government has in continuous operation a Longitudinal Manpower Survey.

One may assume it is desirable to have a sizable longitudinal manpower pool on hand in case of emergency.

But there is more to it than that.

Another explanation of the survey's function recently was given by Arnold Packer, Assistant Labor Secretary, in testimony before the — hold on tight — House Budget Committee Task Force on Distributive Impacts of Budget and Economic Policies.

Still with me? Very well. Let us push bravely onward.

Packer was discussing the distributive impacts of federal programs to generate

more jobs. Now what would you suppose the basic objective of such programs might be?

The Lighter Side

Well, everyone is entitled to his own opinion, of course. But Packer, speaking for the government, said, "We feel the basic objective of such programs should be to raise the earned income of participants."

Do you see the subtle connection there? Packer seems to be implying there is a cause-and-effect relation between jobs and incomes.

Putting it another way, people who obtain jobs are likely to earn more money

than they did when they were unemployed.

This is where the Longitudinal Manpower Survey comes in.

"Determining if such an increase has occurred involves looking at the post program experience of either geographically or demographically defined groups to see how their experience compares to what we expect," Packer told the task force.

Presently, the continuous Longitudinal Manpower Survey provides the basic information which will allow us to make this determination.

Interesting work, this. Two points, however, were not covered in his statement.

Packer gave no explanation as to why the survey is conducted longitudinally. Nor did he say what happens if a job-stimulus program results in reduced in-

come for the participants.

So we shall have to do a bit of hypothesizing here.

It could be job program participants are surveyed longitudinally for the same reason psychiatrists put their patients on couches.

If persons undergoing psychoanalysis tend to "ventilate" better while supine, perhaps job program participants find it easier to fill out questionnaires while longitudinal.

"Have you noticed any difference in your earned income since obtaining a job under this program? Yes. No.

"If answer is yes, is income more or less?"

Should the survey show a composite income loss, my supposition would be that the jobs program was too longitudinal for its own good.

Letters to the editor

Blame the government, not the oil companies

Editor:

I would like to take issue with the editorial entitled "Step Up Audits" from the Norwich, Connecticut *Bulletin* published in the Monday, Feb. 27 Battalion. The article expresses what is evidently the majority view in Connecticut concerning oil companies. These views are a result of a

basic lack of knowledge about oil and gas companies specifically and in general about the free enterprise system upon which all material wealth in this nation is based.

The first mistake in the editorial was the use of the terms "get-rich schemes" and "fast money." The purpose of every corpo-

ration is to make money, but these terms seem biased to say the least. Where does the income of any company go? The majority, 65-70 percent or so, goes to producing the product by paying people for doing a job. Oil company employees work 40 hours or more a week at their jobs every year for a normal salary. Of course, any salaried employee is not "getting rich quick." Another big chunk of money pays taxes, 25-30 percent. This conceivably might be called a "rip-off" but the oil companies are not responsible for that. The money left over, usually around 4-6 percent of sales, is called profits. Profits go one of two places. They go to retained earnings which means investment in new equipment, exploration for new oil, etc. (which, by the way, creates more jobs). Or, profits are distributed to stockholders of the company. Who are these stockholders? There are 14 million people in the United States who own stock in oil companies directly. They use the dividends they receive for supplemental retirement income, putting their children through college or buying that new car they have been wanting. They are paid because they loaned their money to oil companies risking the loss of that money. This does not sound like a "fast money" scheme to me. Not only are the American people direct stockholders of oil companies, but millions were indirectly dependent on oil companies through the investments of their insurance companies, banks, and savings and loan associations.

The second mistaken assumption made was that the government's pricing laws are perfect. They are not. They are extremely complicated rules that take lawyers and the courts much time to decipher. Most "price violations" are honest disputes over the definition of "new" or "old" oil. A simplified definition of "new" oil is oil that was discovered after a certain date. "Old" oil is the oil discovered before that date. Problems start from questions such as should oil from a new well in an old field be counted as new oil.

The third mistaken assumption is that the major cause of inflation is oil price hikes. This is not the case. In fact oil prices have risen less than the consumer price index over the past 30 years. The major cause of inflation is governmental deficit spending. When the government spends more than it takes in in taxes, more money must be created by borrowing from lending institutions. This excess money in circulation cheapens the existing dollars, and prices go up.

In conclusion, it is the government that is responsible for the majority of the energy problems today. I think it is high time we allowed the American oil companies to continue to provide us with abundant energy for the lowest prices in the world without constant harassment.

— Tom Glass, '79

Sign vandalism

Where have all the Aggies gone that were here at A&M? There don't seem to be too many here now. Candidates' flyers have been ripped from bulletin boards or covered up by other student organizations' posters. What's worse is the way that candidates' wooden signs have been torn apart.

A case in point are the signs of Wayne Morrison. Each morning this week he has been having to nail his signs back together again because they had been torn down the night before. This isn't good bull, it's bad bull. Lets start acting like Aggies and not like tea-sips.

— Ray Godsey, '79

Correction

Friday's Battalion incorrectly reported that recognized student organizations had until 5 p.m. March 24 to request funds from bookstore profits. That deadline is this Friday, March 31. Budget request forms can be picked up in the Student Finance Center, MSC 217, and returned there when completed.

TOP OF THE NEWS CAMPUS

'March to the Brazos'

Texas A&M's Corps of Cadets will march to the Brazos River Saturday, April 1, for the March of Dimes. Corps units will compete for a guidon streamer and the "battered boot award" on the roundtrip 13-mile march. Points for games at the river, percentage participation and, most heavily weighted, pledges for the March of Dimes will determine the top three units. The "March to the Brazos" starts at 7:30 a.m. Units led by Corps commander Mike Gentry of Huntsville will leave the campus by Joe Routh Blvd. and cross to FM 60 by west campus road. Lunch for the 2,000 cadets will be trucked to the river. Games competition there, conducted on an outfit elimination basis, will involve tug of war, three-legged races and a four-man stretcher relay race. The river site activities will run from about 10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Units are expected to return to the campus in time for finals of the Senior Invitational Drill Meet. The 1977 "March to the Brazos" was the first in more than 30 years.

Animated films presented

In celebration of National Library Week, Dr. Harriette Andreadis, assistant professor of English, will present a program of animated films in the Sterling C. Evans Library, Tuesday, April 4. There will be no admission charge.

Teague praised by VFW

A \$1,000 check to the Olin E. Teague scholarship fund at Texas A&M was presented during a private reception by the Veterans of Foreign Wars in Washington recently. Democratic Rep. Teague, a World War II hero who formerly chaired the House Veterans Affairs Committee and is retiring from Congress this year, was praised as "one of the great Americans of our time" by John Wayflik, VFW head. Fourteen former national commanders of the VFW and representatives of the organization's national office turned out.

LOCAL

Board candidates questioned

College Station residents are invited to meet A&M Consolidated School Board candidates tomorrow at 7:30 p.m. in South Knoll Elementary School cafeteria, sponsored by the South Knoll P.T.O. All candidates for the school district have accepted to come to the question-answer session with the residents of College Station. It will be the last opportunity before the election for citizens to have their questions individually answered.

STATE

Land once felon's sold to State

The State of Texas is preparing to buy land for a new prison that until two months ago belonged to long time associate of reputed key syndicate figure Meyer Lansky. State officials are scheduled to vote tomorrow on buying the land from Big Five Farms, a partnership of five men. The 14,500 acres of Hidalgo County and new Edinburg was purchased January 17. Big Five Farms purchased the land from Wallace Groves, a convicted felon and longtime associate of Lansky. Groves, according to numerous published reports, prepared the groundwork for Lansky's establishment of gambling operations in the Bahamas.

Drug bust in Galveston

Police Sunday said day-long patrols by undercover officers at crowded West Beach in Galveston resulted in arrests of 96 persons for marijuana possession during the Easter weekend. Ten pounds of marijuana and quantities of hashish, barbiturates and PCP, or angel dust, were confiscated, a police spokesman said. Eighty of those arrested had less than two ounces of marijuana, a class B misdemeanor, and two were charged with trying to sell marijuana to an undercover officer. Seven persons also were charged with disorderly conduct for interfering as police arrested suspects.

NATION

Evangelist undaunted

The Easter Sunday prayers in Reeds Spring, Mo. of Daniel Aaron Rogers for resurrection of his 80-year-old mother from her freezer-coffin went unanswered but the evangelist said more supplication might raise her from the dead. Rogers, joined in the private prayer service by his wife, Elizabeth — has been told by health officials he must raise his mother from the dead by Wednesday. Otherwise, he must prepare to bury the body of Gladys Rogers, who died Feb. 2 of the flu at Harrison, Ark. The body had been moved to a nearby Missouri mortuary after a month-long battle with courts and health officials who wanted the body taken from the freezer and buried. Rogers said late Sunday he would return to the funeral home today and tomorrow. "We're still hoping and believing for mother to be raised," he said.

WEATHER

Sunny and mild today turning cooler tonight. Partly cloudy and warm on Tuesday. High today mid-70s, low tonight near 50. High tomorrow mid-70s. Winds from the south at 5-10 mph becoming light and variable.

THE BATTALION

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