

# VIEWPOINT

THE BATTALION  
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

FRIDAY  
APRIL 28, 1978

## Contempt comes in small candy bars

We are firmly convinced that if there is ever another American Revolution it will not come because of grave constitutional crisis but because of candy bars in schools.

The Great White Father in Washington has become so insatiably paternalistic-dictatorial that he will solemnly decree that local schools may not sell candy, soft drinks, chewing gum and other "junk foods" until after lunchtime.

Such continued congressional-bureaucratic treatment of the citizenry as so many little children who must be firmly disciplined is intolerable.

Whether real children should have access to a soft drink before or during lunch is completely beside the point. That is for parents and thousands of local school trustees and administrators to decide.

It is an outrageous intrusion on their rights for

Washington to think otherwise.

There is in this type of thinking an unstated — perhaps unconscious — but nevertheless quite clear contempt for the public's capability to handle its own affairs.

The more Washington makes this contempt unmistakable in small matters, the harder it will become for Washington to lead the people in large and important policies.

## What's in a name?

By JIM CRAWLEY

Dolph Briscoe had a tough decision before him. Jesse James, state treasurer for 30-plus years, had died while in office. Who was to succeed this legend of governmental longevity?

Briscoe found his man. He appointed Dallas County Treasurer Warren G. Harding to serve out the rest of James' two year term. The appointment was perfect. Replace a familiar name with another familiar name. Being a Presidential namesake, who needs to campaign?

Democratic primary time is here and Harding has decided he liked his job as the state's number one money man. But, he wasn't to be lonely on the ballot. He drew an opponent that should make Aggies sing with glee. Not Emory Bellard. But close. HIS OPPONENT is a former Texas A&M quarterback by the name of Harry Ledbetter. The former student, class of 1967, has taken to the countryside and cities in an effort to shorten Harding's time

### Politics

in office. Ledbetter has been active in the Texas A&M Former Students Association and is using that friendship in an effort to unseat Harding.

The battlelines are drawn between the big banks, supporting Harding, and a wide assortment of consumers, businessmen, and Aggies, backing Ledbetter. Harding has the big artillery, while Ledbetter has some troops. This makes the race interesting.

Harding's support from the big banks is not surprising. The State of Texas has millions of dollars deposited in Texas banks where the money is earning money for the banks. And that's what makes Ledbetter furious with Harding. Ledbetter thinks the state should also make some money on the state deposits.

THE SITUATION is complex, but the idea behind the concept is simple: Try to make money for the state by depositing state funds in Texas banks. Currently, much of the state's funds are deposited in non-interest bearing accounts. Other state funds are deposited in accounts which draw interest like a person's saving account. Many other states place almost every penny not currently being used in interest-bearing accounts so the state makes money on its money.

## Go South, old crook

By DICK WEST  
United Press International

WASHINGTON — Two young businessmen here are trying to foment a national "Don't Buy Books By Crooks" movement.

Although several likely targets present themselves, the instigators say their main

### The Lighter Side

objective is to depress the sales of former President Nixon's forthcoming memoirs.

To that end, they are distributing posters, bumper-stickers and T-shirts bearing the slogan "The Book Stops Here" and other catchy sayings.

Why does Nixon, four years out of office, continue to arouse such animosity?

His son-in-law, David Eisenhower, suggests that one reason may be that Nixon is a native Californian.

Throughout his political career Nixon represented California in all of its meanings

in American politics," Eisenhower says in an interview in *Your Place* magazine.

"And therefore he faced the emotional resistance and enmity of a substantial number of Americans who were uncomfortable with what California has become in the United States — a place untempered yet by the limits that characterize cultural and intellectual life in the East."

You can, of course, draw your own conclusions as to the validity of that observation.

It may help you to know that elsewhere in the interview, in explaining why he spends so much time on the golf course, Eisenhower observes that "a three-foot putt is really a test of your moral and intellectual capacity."

Since he did not elaborate, I'm not sure whether that sort of intellectual challenge was what he meant by the limits on intellectual life in the East.

Anyway, the reasons for the hostilities directed at Nixon, as well as the cerebral effort required in putting, undoubtedly are subject to varying appraisals.

It does seem beyond dispute, however, that some states are more adorable than others.

And it is logical to assume that a state's popularity, or the lack of it works to the political advantage, or disadvantage, of its native sons.

In that light, I think it is fair to say that had Nixon been born in a more lovable state, Watergate would never have happened.

But, you protest, Nixon is no longer in politics. True enough. It must be noted, however, that he still lives in California.

Presumably, the emotional resistance and enmity inspired by his birthplace lingers on into private life.

If, upon leaving the White House, Nixon had moved to, say, Georgia, he wouldn't now be harassed by people trying to keep his memoirs off the best-seller lists.

When a public figure who resigns under fire retires to Georgia, his private life becomes strictly his own business.

Just ask Bert Lance.



## Are they listening?

By HELEN THOMAS  
UPI White House Reporter

WASHINGTON — President Carter, frustrated by a stubborn Congress, is appealing to the people. But are they listening?

The Democratic Congress seems bent on thwarting Carter at every turn. Rarely in modern history has there been less party loyalty and less party discipline.

### Washington Window

SO MANY of Carter's proposals have been blocked, weakened, shelved and killed by Congress that he is frustrated — to put it mildly.

True enough, he won Senate ratification of the Panama Canal treaties by one vote. But those were squeakers — hardly the kind of vote of confidence a leader needs to plunge ahead.

Carter is having a hard time getting any legislation across his desk without a battle, and often major compromise on his part. It is clear that he is not on the same wave length with Congress. He is president at a time when White House power had diminished so drastically that he can no longer call the tune.

Carter does not relish the cajoling, arm-twisting, threatening style of some of his predecessors, who had to pull out all the stops to get their bills through. He apparently grins his teeth and gets on the telephone to seek commitments for votes he badly needs.

But it is not his style, and that is why he is getting some glad-handers around him — party pros who know the ropes and who know how the game has to be played.

PROBABLY NO PROGRAM Carter has proposed has been subjected to more of a tug-of-war than his energy program. On that measure — which after a year is still not on its way to the White House — the president saw the full force of lobbying, with the consumer and liberal legislators

fighting to maintain price controls on natural gas, and the lawmakers from oil-producing states pushing for deregulation.

Carter has denounced the "special interests' lobbyists on several other scores. In his view, they have all but made a mockery of his tax reform proposals and have the key tax writers on the House Ways and Means Committee going along with them.

The three-martini business lunch and write-offs for yacht owners have been spotlighted by the president in hopes of rallying public support. But there apparently has been little pressure from the people on Congress to bring about the reforms Carter is seeking.

In the field of Civil Service reform, Carter also is running into a brick wall. Entrenched lobbyists and other "special interest" groups, as he puts it, are fighting his proposals and they have members of Congress long committed to their point of view.

"BEFORE I BECAME President, I realized and was warned that dealing with the federal bureaucracy would be one of the worst problems I would have to face," Carter said at a news conference Tuesday.

"It has been even worse than I anticipated. . . . Of all the steps that we can take to make government more efficient and effective, reforming the civil service system is the most important of all."

The president also has found that his attempt at a more even-handed approach in the Middle East is running into obstacles. His decision to sell fighter planes to Israel, Egypt and Saudi Arabia in a package approach has resulted in warning signals of a confrontation with Congress from members who are rallying behind Israel's protests.

On deferring the production of the neutron bomb and shelving the B-1 bomber, Carter has not been spared the wrath of Congress.

It seems that Carter's only recourse is to pressure Congress by going to the people. And it seems that he will be doing more of that in the future. But are the people listening?

### Letters to the editor

## Sbsia: Aggie home of 'great tastes' . . .

Editor:

I wish to commend the management of Sbsia Dining Hall for the dramatic improvement in the quality of food in the last week or so. While I am sure the improvement of the food during pre-registration week is purely coincidental, I am looking forward to pre-registration next semester also!

— Keith S. Albright, '79

### . . . and sounds

Editor:

Congratulations to the designers of Sbsia

for their creation of the world's largest audio frequency resonance chamber.

— George Welch, '79; Wayne Baggett, '79; Olin Hartin, '79

### Good 'Morning'

Editor:

I would like to thank Doug Graham for his review of Morning in Monday's Battalion. I did not see the act last weekend, but have several times in the past and thought Graham's assessment accurate.

The point I most appreciated was the

observation that the members of the group do not project enough of themselves into the popular music they perform. Morning is a talented, entertaining showband, but sometimes appear too well rehearsed. The jokes often sound as though they have been

done night after night in some Steak and Ale in San Antonio. The "bread and butter circuit," as Graham called it, can be more stifling than places like the Basement where music is the only attraction.

For Morning to realize its full potential, the group will have to perform more often in places where creativity is appreciated more than jokes and high-energy boogie.

— Lyle Lovett

## TOP OF THE NEWS CAMPUS

### Fund drive, open house set

Planned Parenthood Center will hold an open house at its new location, 303B College Main in College Station next Wednesday from 4 to 6 p.m. El Shuara Arabian Farms and M-Shahna Farm Arabians have donated a registered purebred Arabian gelding as a door prize. With each \$1 donation to the fund raising drive, a person becomes eligible for the drawing of this prize. The drive is being sponsored by the Texas Aggie Medical Student Association.

### Turn clocks ahead one hour

Daylight-saving time begins Sunday at 2 a.m. Don't forget to turn your clocks ahead one hour.

## STATE

### Byrd admits he supplied gun

William E. Byrd, saying he was now ready to testify against his fellow Houston police officers, Thursday pleaded guilty to the charge of supplying a .22-caliber pistol found in the hand of dead 17-year-old Randall A. Webster. Byrd admitted that he tried to justify another officer's report that the youth had pulled a gun on him. Assistant U.S. Attorney Lupe Salinas said Byrd's plea was part of a bargain in exchange for testimony at trials that might arise from the case. Byrd will not be prosecuted beyond his guilty plea, which could lead to a three-year sentence and a \$500 fine.

### Plans for new prison may change

Gov. Dolph Briscoe said Thursday in Austin that he wants the Texas Board of Corrections to abandon plans to purchase land in Hidalgo County for a new prison and look for a location within 75 miles of Huntsville. Briscoe sent a letter to James M. Windham, chairman of the board, asking the board to prepare to sell the Blanton Ridge Farm prison property and start looking for a new location. The head of a prison reform group called Citizens United for Rehabilitation of Errants, suggested the Board of Corrections purchase the Harris County Rehabilitation Center instead of looking for other sites for larger prison facilities.

### Some military bases may close

The Pentagon's list of proposed military bases realignments and closures in the Southwest will not go into effect until officials complete environmental impact studies and economic studies. In San Angelo, the closure of Goodfellow Air Force Base would affect 1,000 military persons and 325 civilians. In El Paso, the possible closure of an Army training brigade at Fort Bliss would affect 608 military persons and 41 civilians.

## NATION

### Collapse kills 51 workmen

State police said 51 workmen were killed Thursday in Willow Island, W. Va., when scaffolding collapsed and plunged about 170 feet inside a huge cooling tower under construction. Police were searching through the rubble and debris for additional bodies. Sixty workmen were believed on the scaffolding at the time of the collapse. The scaffolding was near the top of the half-complete tower, which measures about 360 feet in diameter at its base and is nearly 200 feet high.

## WORLD

### Afghanistan coup claimed

Rebel military units shelled the presidential palace and other key buildings in the Afghanistan capital of Kabul Thursday. They captured the radio and claimed to have seized power in a coup. Radio Pakistan, monitored in New Delhi, reported in its morning broadcasts that Kabul radio, which had been off the air for several hours, resumed broadcasting to announce the coup. Radio Kabul announced "the end of the rule of President Mohammed Doud, and an end of the reign of the imperialists." Gen. Abul Kader, who described himself as the Chief of the Board of the Defense Services, announced over the radio that a military revolutionary council had taken over. Diplomats said air force fighter planes roared over the city and fired rockets at the strategic downtown buildings. Reports from diplomats of several Western nations said it was unclear how much of the army and air force supported the coup. The heavy fighting broke out hours after Afghan authorities said they had crushed a leftist plot aimed at overthrowing the government of President Doud.

## WEATHER

Partly cloudy skies today, tonight and Saturday. Slight chance of thundershowers tonight increasing on Saturday. High today mid-80s, low tonight mid-60s. High tomorrow mid-80s. Winds from the south-southeast at 15-20 mph. 20% chance of rain tonight increasing to 30% on Saturday.

## 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. Address correspondence to *Letters to the Editor*, The Battalion, Room 216, Reed McDonald Building, College Station, Texas 77843.

Represented nationally by National Educational Advertising Services, Inc., New York City, Chicago and Los Angeles.

The Battalion is published Monday through Friday from September through May except during exam and holiday periods and the summer, when it is published on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

Mail subscriptions are \$16.75 per semester, \$33.25 per school year, \$35.00 per full year. Advertising rates furnished on request. Address: *The Battalion*, Room 216, Reed

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