

VIEWPOINT

THE BATTALION
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

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What's another radio station worth?

It could have been an old-time Hollywood movie script.

The noble new enterprise, destined for great things, is suddenly threatened by economic disaster. Things look grim. There's no money.

There seems nothing left to do but wait for the banker to come and foreclose on the ol' homestead.

But wait. At the last moment the stern banker softens. "Well, maybe there is a way, if you're willing to work hard and earn your keep..."

Praise the lord, salvation is at hand. There was something of that aura surrounding

University President Jarvis Miller's "last-minute" announcement Friday that the University will go 50-50 with local supporters of KAMU-FM to continue operating the public radio station for another year.

But disregarding the theatrics, it was the right decision. KAMU-FM has earned a place among Brazos Valley radio stations, offering music and programming that local commercial stations do not. It's also earned a audience all its own, an audience of people who'd rather listen to classical music and jazz than Mick Jagger, Andy Gibb or Tom T. Hall.

And now the station can and must earn its keep as well. Other public broadcasting stations earn income, in the form of donations, from their audiences in much the same way commercial stations earn advertising revenue based on their audiences. Without an audience, neither survives.

So KAMU-FM will have to prove how good it is. What's it worth to listeners? Will they pay for the privilege of having it there whenever they turn on their radio? The next year will tell.

It's time for all you KAMU-FM listeners to cast your votes for the station, the votes which bear George Washington's picture. L.R.L.

Some doubts about Proposition 13

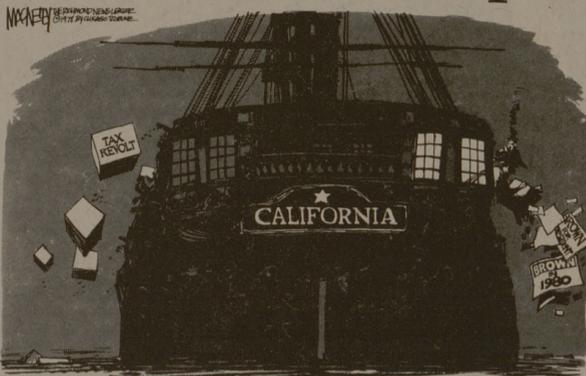
By ARNOLD SAWISLAK

United Press International
WASHINGTON — Things I doubt will happen:

1. That the state of California and all its subdivisions will go out of business as a result of the Proposition 13 tax cut.

The measure California voters approved last week certainly is going to cause some major readjustments in the financing, staffing and services of state and local government.

But painful as that may be to government officials and employees in terms of job conditions and to citizens in terms of programs they have come to expect, it



Washington Window

seems unlikely that California will "drop dead," to quote the solution to New York City's financial woes never uttered by Gerald Ford. For one thing, the state has a surplus of more than \$3 billion and that could help localities over part of the bumps.

As for the apocalyptic predictions of Proposition 13's impact, it should be recalled that when the Constitution was amended in 1913 to authorize a federal income tax, the end of capitalism and economic growth was forecast. When the fed-

eral minimum wage law passed and every time since that it has been increased predictions of massive unemployment followed. And, when California slapped tough exhaust controls on new cars sold in the state, there were statements that the industry would have to simply quit doing business there.

2. That the passage of Proposition 13 is the opening volley of a taxpayers' revolt that will end Big Government all across the United States.

California's example may be emulated in some other states and localities, but it will take more to dismantle the gigantic structure of government in this country.

It would be foolish to downgrade the California vote. But before any lessons can be taken from it, the public's reaction to the changes it will cause must be seen.

If Californians who voted for Proposition 13 thought its only effect would be to throw the loafers out of government jobs, there may be a surprised reaction when

some of the services they want from the government disappear. The next interesting development to watch for is public response to cutbacks in garbage collection, elimination of high school football or slow police response to trouble calls. Even if such services are already inadequate, it is not exactly logical to believe they will improve with less money to pay for them.

3. That politicians all over the country will respond to the California vote by pledging to cut government spending wholesale.

Some candidates surely will attempt to arouse the spirit of taxpayer revolt that appeared in California and some will be elected. But not all candidates will be under the same gun. It should be remembered Proposition 13 was not the child of politicians; it was a measure forced on government officials by outsiders. And not all states have the process that permits citizens to take law-making into their own hands through initiative and referendum.

Further, there is another deeply imbedded impulse besides tax cutting in American politics — the temptation to promise solutions to problems of special interests, whether they be disadvantaged or affluent. Like Lyndon Johnson in the mid-1960s, most politicians suffer from the illusion that they can make everyone happy — provide both "guns and butter" — and be reelected happily ever after.

The ironies of George Wallace

By DAVID S. BRODER

WASHINGTON — Of all the politicians of our time who did not become President, the two with the greatest influence were probably Hubert H. Humphrey and George C. Wallace. Humphrey is dead and Wallace has gone to the sidelines, dropping out of the U.S. Senate race in Alabama before it had fairly begun.

One has to say what is obvious: The real George Wallace, the uncrippled battler, would never have quit such a contest. It may have been, as his critics say, that Wallace's time was past in Alabama. But they cannot prove that theory on the evidence that the crippled, near-deaf, divorced Wallace of 1978 declined to drag himself through another campaign.

IN HIS PRIME, he was something else. He shared with Humphrey a vitality, a zest for combat, a gift for overstatement that somehow made others seem drab, even when they were defeating him.

But there was nothing of the "happy warrior" in Wallace. His was a sinister, even intimidating power, harnessed in those early years to the most primitive, malevolent emotion in our land: the fear of another race.

When I first encountered him in national politics — at Butler University fieldhouse in Indianapolis during the 1964 primaries — he seemed just a curiosity,

windmilling away against the onrushing tide of Lyndon Johnson's "Great Society."

But four years later, Wallace was no laughing matter. Rereading a report I wrote on a Wallace rally in Hammond, Ind., in the summer of 1968, I remember the chill of fear one felt when Wallace described how he would deal with the anti-war demonstrators if he were President: "I would have me an attorney general that would drag them in by their long hair and..." The crowd was screaming so loudly in the high school gym that the last words had to be imagined.

IN 1972, after four more years of war and unrest, of high prices and stiff taxes, the Wallace crowds were even bigger. He was getting semi-serious about winning the presidency, restraining his racial rhetoric, letting sly humor substitute for inflammatory threats.

I remember a double-header rally in Flint, Mich., just before he was shot, a night when he filled the hall twice, the overflow crowds waiting patiently outside for their turn to receive the message.

He talked that night about how the point-headed liberals would never put a young thug in jail, because they knew (and here his tone was oh-so-mincing) that the only reason he was bad was "he hadn't got his broccoli when he was a boy." This pointy-head laughed along with everyone else.

Offstage, he came to enjoy his combative friendships with the reporters for the "liberal Eastern press and television" he so regularly denounced.

He told us these last two years that he was a man ahead of his time, that the other politicians are saying today what he was denounced for saying ten years ago. Fortunately, this is not entirely true. Wallace had played the politics of racial antagonism, while others, wiser and more humane, upheld the cause of justice.

BUT HE WAS ahead of the game in other ways. Before Ronald Reagan and others discovered the trick, Wallace became the first full-time, non-stop, self-sufficient, perpetual presidential candidate, showing others the advantage of having a campaign organization always in readiness. Before Watergate tainted big-money contributions, he showed how to sustain a movement on thousands of small gifts. He was the godfather of direct-mail fundraising.

His slogan, "Send Them a Message," capsulized the anti-establishment rhetoric of alienated age. It was borrowed — but not improved on — by others aiming to advance their own ideological and personal causes. He was, in all these ways and more, a trailblazer.

He flatters himself to think that he

saved the way for another southerner, Jimmy Carter, to reach the White House. His graciousness toward Carter after his own defeat is widely admired among the White House southerners who grew up despising Wallace's appeals to racial hate.

"The irony," Hamilton Jordan said, the day after Wallace's retirement, "is that we really played off him. We told the voters in Florida, it was time to send a President to Washington, not just a message."

THERE IS MORE to it than that. Wallace was immensely useful to Carter in other ways. Carter raised much of his early money from liberals who had no earthly reason to support him except his confident assertion that he could beat Wallace in the Florida primary and thus spare the party from that threat. And only because there was a Wallace to beat did Carter gain his stature as the front-runner for the Democratic nomination.

Wallace asked little of Carter in return. In fact, said Jordan, adding an ironic footnote to this curious saga, "The only time Wallace has called me since we've been here was on behalf of a black businessman in Alabama who was having a terrible problem with one of the agencies. He said, 'I know how close the President feels to black people and I know he wouldn't want anything as unfair as this to happen.' That's all he ever asked for."

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Hill hits issues, Clements attacks personality

By EDWARD A. FULTON

United Press International
POINTBLANK — Democratic governor candidate John Hill chose to discuss the issues, but Republican nominee Bill Clements found time to make a personal attack on the attorney general.

Hill and Clements had their first face-to-face confrontation of the campaign during the weekend in a one-hour debate at the Texas UPI Editors Association convention at Waterwood Resort in Southeast Texas.

"Mr. Hill has a record in the attorney general's office of a bloated bureaucracy," Clements said. "He is typical of the bureaucrat in Austin who talks about tax reform and gives us higher taxes."

"I doubt if he knows the difference between zero base budgeting or the 10 to 12 other systems. I do. We have ample revenue. It's a question of how we spend it."

"He's the politician, I'm the businessman," Clements said.

Both candidates, however, agreed economic issues would dominate the campaign — especially tax procedures.

Hill said the attorney general's office budget increased by providing increased services which paid for themselves outside the state budget.

Hill said he supported new administration of the property tax system to achieve reform and would meet with legislative leaders this week to discuss specific changes he supports, including taxing farm property on its production value rather than on sale value.

"Have we become bloated? Maybe there will be some areas where we will need some increases. We must admit that to be honest," Hill said. "Now is the time for hard work, not political rhetoric."

"Overall, I can and will cut spending. The tax dollar will be stretched to the maximum. I have no sympathy for freeloaders or loafers. I like hard work."

After the debate, Hill met with President Carter's energy chief James Schlesinger in Austin to discuss Hill's opposition to provisions of the administration's energy bill.

Clements said there was nothing in the

custody of police and to protect law enforcement agencies.

Referring to several recent instances of prisoners dying while in police custody, Hill said, "We need to indicate to our people and to the nation that we are concerned in this area and have moved to address this problem."

Both candidates said Texas needs strong civil rights legislation to protect citizens in

the custody of police and to protect law enforcement agencies.

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Letter to the editor

Of English and Englishmen

Editor:
I am referring to the picture captioned "Must've been that high-octane gas..." at the bottom of page 1 of The Battalion Monday, June 7. The write-up reads, "A College Station fireman looks over the foreign car that's engine burst into flames etc." This must be an oversight on the part of editorial staff. I really can't believe that anyone with a working knowledge of the

by Doug Graham



English language would make such a grotesque blunder. And this is all the more remarkable in the light of the attitude of the authorities of this University to foreign applicants.

One is led to believe that the native students are superior in their use of the English language to foreign students, both graduates and undergraduates, from English-speaking countries, many of whom have had to pass exams in English set by renowned British institutions. Yet many of these students are humiliated by being compelled to write such absurd exams as the "Proficiency in English Test," as a prerequisite to registration at Texas A&M.

— Lennox Applewhaite

Editor's note: Believe it or not, journalism majors are required to take an English proficiency test of sorts before entering the communications department too, and we still goof sometimes. We humbly admit our error.

TOP OF THE NEWS STATE

Drifting craft rammed by tanker

An 18-foot pleasure craft that had broken its anchor line and drifted into the Houston Ship Channel was rammed Sunday by a 710-foot oil tanker. Two men were killed and two others were injured. Deputies said the survivors told them an anchor line broke and their small boat drifted into the path of the Montpelier Victory while those aboard the small craft struggled unsuccessfully to start its engine.

Hill discusses energy proposals

Federal energy chief James Schlesinger went to Austin to discuss energy proposals, and Attorney General John Hill told him Texas wants more influence on national policies. Hill also said he impressed on Schlesinger that he believed strongly in coal conversion for electrical production and asked the energy czar to work toward lowering utility bills for Texans.

Voting close on pari-mutuel betting

The Texas Horseracing Association officials are not discouraged by last month's referendum in which Texans voted against legalizing race track betting. Douglas A. McCrary of Calvert, association chairman, called a Capitol news conference Friday and said latest figures he has indicate 702,666 voters favored pari-mutuel betting and 734,791 opposed it in the referendum.

Children drown in motel pool

Two children died Sunday in Garland hospitals from injuries received in an unsuccessful attempt to save their grandfather from drowning in a motel swimming pool. Police in the Dallas suburb said Theodore Lee Fithian, 53, a two-year resident of the motel, apparently struck the side of the pool Saturday night while swimming and was knocked unconscious. His grandchildren, Lisa Gossett, 9, and Harold Gossett Jr., 7, of Royce City, Texas, apparently went in to try to save him.

NATION

Son of Sam sentenced

"Son of Sam" murderer David Berkowitz was sentenced Monday to serve 25 years to life in prison for the .44-caliber nighttime ambush murders of six young New Yorkers. Berkowitz was subdued and quiet, in contrast to his previous appearance for sentencing. But a spectator began screaming at him after the sentence was handed down for the last of the "Son of Sam" victims, 20-year-old Stacy Moskowitz. "Berkowitz, you're going to burn!" shouted spectator Daniel Carrique, a close friend of Moskowitz.

Convicts escape in plane

Three inmates, including two convicted of first-degree murder in a gangland-style slaying, escaped from jail in Omaha Monday, overpowering an airport attendant and fled in a twin engine plane. The plane was last seen headed south. It had enough fuel for at least a five-hour flight, authorities said. The inmates are facing possible death sentences for their conviction by a district court jury last month in two 1975 contract slayings.

Mysterious satellite launched

The weekend launch of a military satellite under the tightest security measures ever seen at the Cape Canaveral still remains a mystery. The Air Force won't budge on providing any information about Saturday's launch of a classified military payload. A spokesman would say only that a powerful Titan 3-C had been used as the booster rocket. And no explanation has been made of the extraordinary security measures — which included Air Force commandos on standby and perimeter patrols by attack-trained guard dogs in addition to the regular guards. It was the second secret satellite launch in 64 days.

Shooting investigation opened

Louisiana state police Sunday shot and killed a teen-ager in West Monroe they said ran over a state trooper with a stolen car. The trooper rolled over the top of the car and suffered only minor injuries. The Ouachita Parish district attorney's office and sheriff's department were investigating the shooting of the teen-ager, Jerry L. Smith, 16, of West Monroe.

WORLD

Soviets accuse U.S. of spying

In a counterattack to U.S. charges of Soviet electronic bugging of the U.S. Embassy, the Soviet press said Monday an embassy official was caught last summer delivering spy equipment under a Moscow bridge and was responsible for passing on poisons that killed an innocent Soviet man. The story in the government newspaper Izvestia followed warnings last week that the Soviet Union would reveal acts of American spying in Moscow if the United States did not refrain from pressing the issue of a bug found in the U.S. Embassy May 25.

Nuclear device detonated

The Soviet Union has exploded a powerful underground nuclear device measuring 6.8 on the Richter Scale, an Uppsala Seismological Institute spokesman said. The spokesman said the explosion Sunday was located in the Semipalatinsk area of the Soviet Union in eastern Kazakhstan. The Soviet Union's two main nuclear testing areas are in the region. "It is one of the most powerful detonations ever recorded in this area," a spokesman said. "This explosion is in a class of its own."

WEATHER

Partly cloudy and hot today and Wednesday. Cool and partly cloudy tonight. High today mid-90s, low tonight low 70s. High tomorrow mid-90s. Winds from the east at 10-15 mph decreasing to less than 5 mph tonight. Little or no variation in temperature through Saturday with no significant shower activity through this period.

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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