

VIEWPOINT

THE BATTALION
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

THURSDAY
JUNE 15, 1978

The proposition

As the dust settles in California after the passage of proposition 13, the tax cut referendum, the shock waves are rolling across the country. Whether any city or state can just arbitrarily cut taxes by 60 percent and continue to function remains to be seen.

It should be obvious to lawmakers on all three levels of government — city, state and federal — that the taxpayer is fed up with waste and inefficiency. How to translate these sentiments into specific actions is going to be a lot more difficult than just getting people to vote "against" taxes.

One cannot revolt against taxes on one hand and protest about terrible roads, inadequate police and fire protection, and second-rate schools on the other.

There is a middle ground to be sought between the extremes of revolt and extravagance with tax money. Every single appropriation, whether it's before the Board of Estimate and Taxation, the General Assembly or the Congress, must be weighed prudently. There is no room for experimentation.

There are other factors which must be considered, and the most important is inflation. Government, especially at the national level, does more to contribute to it than control it.

Norwalk (Conn.) Hour

California taxpayers have revolted, and the rest of the country is going to watch carefully the results of that revolution. With the overwhelming approval of Proposition 13, the Golden State voters cut their property taxes by 57 percent.

Californians had seen those taxes triple and quadruple during the last five years. Many homeowners faced the loss of their homes because their property taxes were too high.

There have been gloomy warnings that the passage of the tax cut will result in closed schools and crippled public services since property taxes provide much of their financing.

Proposition proponents contend the cut will force government and public services to operate more efficiently. They deny the state's services will grind to a halt.

Everybody is watching to see which faction was right. Both sides probably will see some of their predictions come true. There will be reductions in services and schools will suffer. But government will cut out some of the fat and deadwood.

We may not see a taxpayers' revolt here, but no doubt there will be resistance to the bill for an increasing array of public services and projects.

Huntington (W.Va.) Advertiser

Indochina on the brink

By R. MUCHONTHAM

According to the UPI correspondent Joan Hanauer (Battalion, June 8, 1978), the CBS News Special on "What Happened to Cambodia?" was frightening and thought-provoking. One couldn't have agreed with her more.

It would be interesting to find out, however, if one could, what kind of thought it has provoked among the viewers, if at all. But such—as one can see—would be an overly-burdensome undertaking.

There is no question that what is happening in Cambodia is frightening. It frightens those who see it happen. It is also frightening, particularly to students of the Indochinese affairs, precisely because of the prospects that the whole Indochinese peninsula might one day be turned into a Cambodian-like situation with Marxist-Communist domination.

This is by no means new, ex nihilo apprehension. Most of us, although some may refuse to, remember John Foster Dulles and his Domino proposition. It would be interesting indeed if one could ask Mr. Dulles for comment and his feeling on the recent development in In-

dochina. But that is impossible.

And, to the students of Indochinese affairs, no matter how great our apprehension, if there is any, it can by no means be greater than that felt by those few remaining free Indochinese countries, who watch helplessly through their back doors the maniac atrocities committed daily by their new Communist neighbors and, ponder over the time when John Foster Dulles' apprehension will be fulfilled in Indochina. Now that is frightening.

Readers Forum

Thailand, a case in point, is only a stone throw away from Communist Laos and Cambodia. The recent tidal waves of Communism which swept through Laos, Vietnam and Cambodia have given a tremendous morale boost to the underground Communist Party of Thailand whose membership has been increasing at a rapid rate. It has resulted at the same time a

proportionate drop in morale among the country's top business, political and government leaders. Their morale was so low, it was known at one point that almost everyone of them possessed an exit passport.

This is understandable because in addition to the many problems which have burdened this fledgling country, the recent development has turned everything to the worst. Foreign investment in the country has dropped drastically. The already low subsistent per capita income is further strained by the influx of hundreds of thousands of refugees. And the country is now also burdened by constant border conflict with the Red Cambodians. If there is a single word to describe her outlook it is certainly not hopeful.

And if the future does not look bright for Thailand herself, it is certainly not bright also for the rest of free Indochina.

Thailand at the moment is the largest free Indochinese country left. Her 42 million people and 200,000 square miles serve as the last floodgate that stops the red waves from flooding the rest of the peninsula (e.g., into Malaysia and the

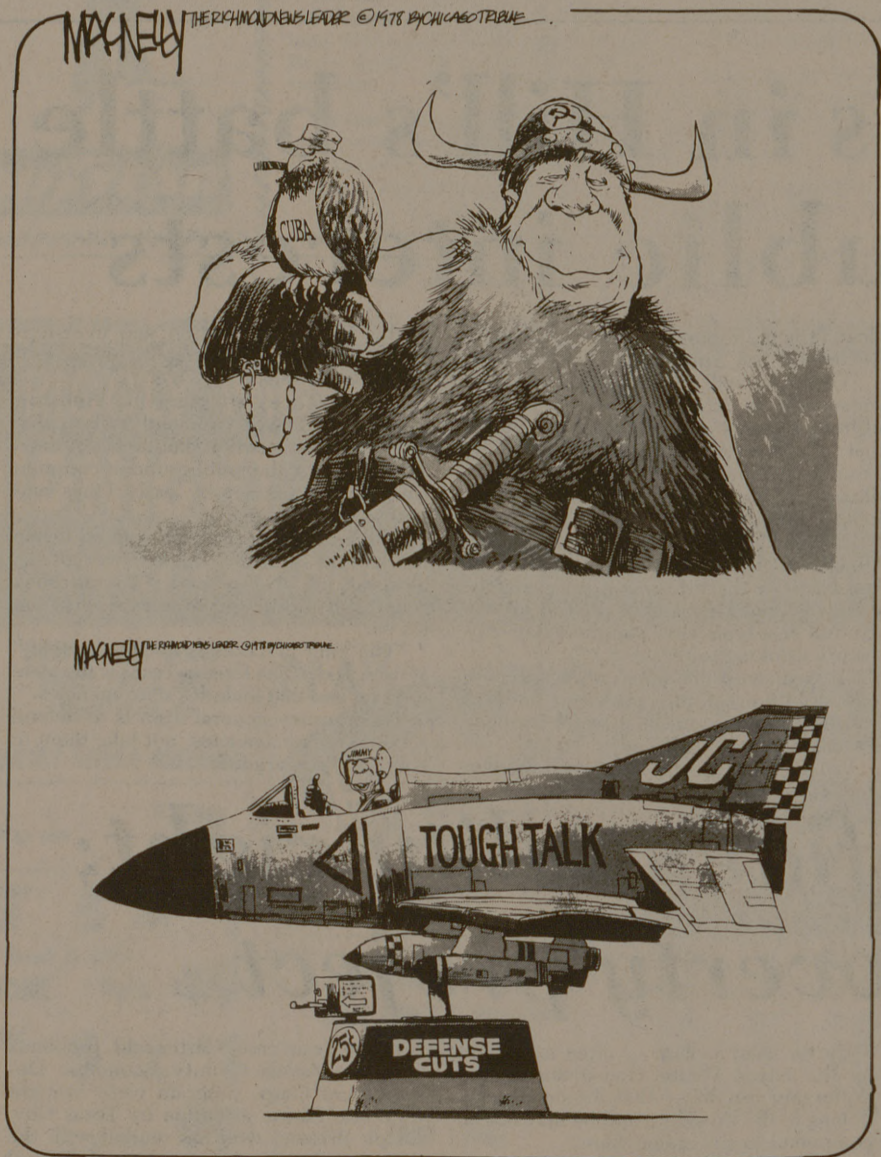
end). Her friendly front door neighbor, Malaysia, as opposed to her fervent revolutionist back door neighbors who are ready to march through her door, is only slightly better off by perhaps \$300 per capita income above the Thais.

At any rate, be that as it may, there is always hope even in the least hopeful situation like this one. We hope that Thailand will solve her wretched social and economic situations in due time. Among her priorities will be to solve the immediate refugee problem and on down the list.

Only an economically strong nation can resist the Marxist and Maoist revolutionary fever which, we know, feasts on the poverty-ridden masses and the remaining free Indochinese countries are most vulnerable to it in this crucial time.

The survival of Thailand will be the survival of the rest of free Indochina. We hope the floodgate will be strong enough eventually to stop Red tidal waves from spilling over and wash away what is left of free Indochina.

Muchontham is a graduate student in economics.



TOP OF THE NEWS CAMPUS

Adult driver education offered

The Safety Education Program at Texas A&M University will sponsor an Adult Driver Education course during July. Four phases of instruction will be included: classroom instruction, simulation, multiple car and on-the-street instruction. The multiple car phase includes driving exercises in an off-street area. Cost for the course is \$50.

STATE

Bus company found negligent

The Texas Supreme Court Wednesday in Austin upheld a lower court decision finding a bus company negligent for ejecting a passenger who was killed by a vehicle shortly after the ejection. Lucille Lee sued Continental Trialways for negligently ejecting her father, Andrew Lee, from the bus. Lee was struck and killed about an hour later by a vehicle near the location where he was let off the bus. The bus driver claimed he ejected Lee because the passenger was creating a disturbance.

No referenda power, no tax limits

With Texas voters unable to wield real power in referenda, it would be difficult for the state to adopt tax limits similar to California's Proposition 13, says a state legislator. Sen. Walter Mendgen, R-Houston, said that California's recently passed tax limitation measure would never have been adopted if that state did not have the initiative and referendum method of enacting legislation.

NATION

Cuba may exchange prisoners

The administration is exploring an indirect offer by Cuba to exchange an American imprisoned in Havana for a Puerto Rican woman convicted of a 1954 terrorist attack on the U.S. Capitol, the Washington Post reported Wednesday. U.S. officials are not certain about whether the offer has the full backing of the Cuban government. The Post said the White House is considering whether to have the State Department make direct contact with Havana on the matter, which comes in the midst of the increasing tension in U.S.-Cuban relations.

Embezzler denied tax refund

The 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals has refused to refund income taxes to a convicted embezzler for illegal money he returned to the government. The appeals court Tuesday said in New Orleans that Herman E. McKinney, who embezzled more than \$91,000 from the Texas Employment Commission in 1966, could not "be made whole tax-wise" for returning the embezzled money to the government.

Police kill dogs trapped in house

Police say they had to kill more than 20 German shepherd dogs trapped in a filth-caked house Monday in Flint, Mich., because officers feared for their safety. Authorities said another 12 dogs removed alive from the house also would have to be destroyed. Police were searching for the woman who owned the house who apparently abandoned it several days ago. Authorities found the dogs late Sunday living in rooms packed with excrement. An animal control officer said authorities tried to capture as many dogs alive as possible.

Police brutality hearings slated

The U.S. Civil Rights Commission will hold police brutality hearings in Houston, where several officers recently have been indicted or convicted in prisoner deaths, a spokesman announced in Washington Wednesday. The six-member fact-finding body which monitors civil rights in the United States has no enforcement authority. "Both the pros and the cons" of allegations against Houston police will be aired at the Texas hearings scheduled for Dec. 11 and 12, the spokesman said.

WORLD

Coin collectors stampede bank

About 20 persons were injured in a stampede of 20,000 collectors trying to shove their way into the Bank of Korea in Seoul, South Korea, to buy commemorative silver coins, police said Wednesday. Police said coin collectors began gathering at the central bank soon after the midnight to 4 a.m. curfew ended Tuesday to buy silver coins issued in commemoration of the 42nd world shooting championship to be held in Seoul Sept. 24-Oct. 5.

Zaire strike force to be trained

France and Belgium will train an elite 15,000-man strike force for Zaire, capable of carrying out hot-pursuit raids into neighboring countries, military officials said in Kinshasa Saturday. The special army unit eventually will replace the 2,700-man inter-African peace-keeping force now being flown in by U.S. transports and assembled to protect the country's troubled southern copper belt, the officials said.

WEATHER

Partly cloudy and warm Thursday. Continued fair and mild tonight and Friday. High both days in mid 90s. Tonight's temperature in low 70s. Winds from south-southeast, 5-10 mph.

THE BATTALION

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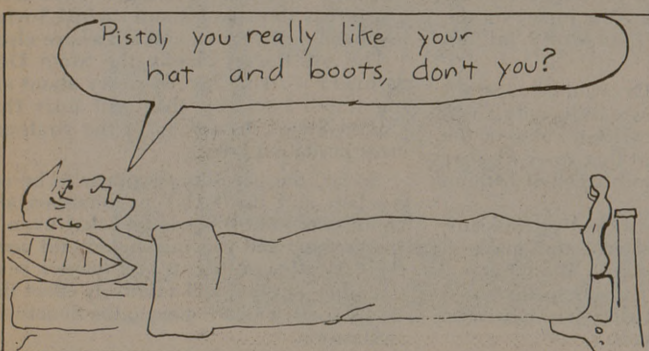
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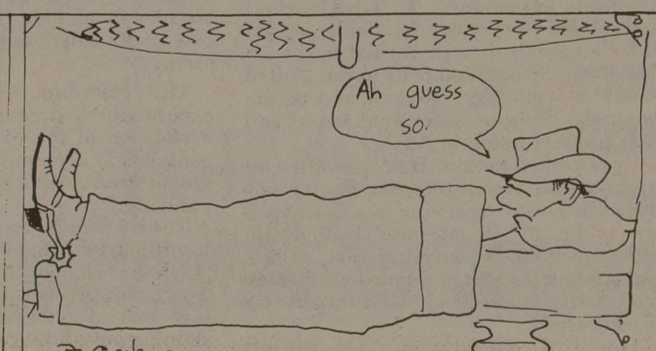
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FEEM



by Doug Graham



Readers' Forum

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