

VIEWPOINT

THE BATTALION
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

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The snail darter or common sense?

Even the best of ideas can get out of hand. That's the case with the Supreme Court's decision last week to ban further work on a \$116 million Tennessee dam because it would destroy the home of a rare 3-inch perch.

The court said the Endangered Species Act forbids the Tennessee Valley Authority from completing construction on Tellico Dam because the dam would destroy the only known habitat of the 3-inch snail darter.

Now we have here a question of priorities. Congress passed the Endangered Species Act in 1973 to protect animal species threatened with extinction. It was a long-overdue law. One section of the act, the one under which Tellico Dam was challenged, provides that projects authorized, funded or carried out by government agencies can not endanger species threatened with extinction. Again, a noble idea.

But to people along the Little Tennessee River, the Tellico Dam is a pretty noble idea too. The dam means thousands of new jobs to people who need them. The dam would mean hydro-electric power that TVA and plenty of American consumers need.

The dam if it has to be abandoned would mean \$116 million in tax money spent and wasted for what Justice Lewis Powell, Jr., called "a conversation piece for incredulous tourists." The dam itself is virtually complete.

But there's at least some question whether the law should even apply to Tellico Dam. Construction on the dam began six years before Congress approved the Endangered Species Act. Proponents of the dam maintain that the law applies only to government construction that began after 1973.

It seems very likely that because of the Tellico Dam decision Congress will act either to clarify the

law or to provide for exceptions. Senate Minority Leader Howard Baker, himself a Tennessee Republican, has proposed a bill establishing a federal board authorized to make exceptions in cases like that of the snail darter. Such a board would "give the Endangered Species Act an additional dimension of common sense," Baker said.

That sounds like a good idea. The same law designed to protect alligators or buffalo won't always work for every species and every situation.

But there are potential problems. An independent, judicious board could improve the law; an eager-to-please board granting exemptions right and left could destroy the law. And we surely don't need any more benevolent-but-bureaucratic boards.

But we could use some common sense from Congress.

L.R.L.

Detente at crossroad

By HELEN THOMAS
UPI White House Reporter

WASHINGTON — President Carter has made it clear that detente with the Soviet Union is at the crossroads.

Addressing the naval academy's 1978 graduating class, the president threw down the gauntlet. "The Soviet Union can choose either confrontation or cooperation. The United States is adequately prepared to meet either choice."

"WE WOULD PREFER cooperation through a detente that increasingly involves similar restraint for both sides, similar readiness to resolve disputes by negotiations and not violence, similar willingness to compete peacefully and not militarily," he said. "Anything less than that is likely to undermine detente."

other nations, and said their form of government is becoming increasingly unattractive to other nations.

Furthermore, he said the Soviet Union's economic growth is slow, its agricultural production remains a serious problem and it cannot match the United States in productivity or scientific and technological capability.

IT HAS BEEN a long time since an American president has been so vocal on the communist system. In recent times, the issue of an internal dictatorship, particularly when President Richard Nixon and Secretary of State Henry Kissinger were making policy, was soft pedaled in pursuit of detente.

Some observers believe that Carter is taking too tough a stance. But hardliners like what they hear and are applauding him.

To the more cynical, domestic politics also has come into play. Since Carter has been viewed by some of the foreign policy critics as indecisive, and his own pollsters see that such an image is hurting him, there is some feeling that a more assertive president is in order.

So far, Carter has not projected the image of a president who enjoys saberrattling, putting pins on maps, or calling the shots in the 24-hour White House situation room, as some of his predecessors did. And no one doubts the sincerity of his desire to reduce the arms race and to eliminate the threat of nuclear war.

IF CARTER'S PRESENT policy could be reduced to simple cliché terms, it is the carrot and the stick. The least that can be said, however, is that although the Russians are getting the message, there is a breakdown in true dialogue.

Soviet leader Leonid Brezhnev and his cohorts have rejected the idea of a get-acquainted summit with Carter until the time approaches when they could announce concrete results in the strategic arms limitation negotiations. But in this case maybe a bit of face-to-face personal diplomacy might help.

Washington Window

The president chose the two-track approach, which the Soviets describe as a series of ultimatums, for many reasons, not the least is the growing anger of Russia's expanding influence in Africa.

There is no doubt that the pressure was on Carter to make some counter moves to warn the Soviets and the Cubans that their operations were a threat to U.S. interests. Carter made several harsh comparisons between the United States and the Soviet Union while at the same time recalling the countries were allies in World War II. He accused the Soviets of abusing human rights in their own country, of refusing to tolerate free expression of ideas or a loyal opposition, or to allow free movement for its peoples.

"The Soviet Union attempts to export a totalitarian and repressive form of government, resulting in a closed society," he said. Carter also charged that the Soviets have "difficult political relations" with

Good town hard to find

More corruption

By ED ROGERS
United Press International

WASHINGTON — Government-financed researchers have found that only one locality out of 10 that studied was free of such corruption as bribes, kick-backs or other crimes involving public officials.

"Corrupt practices were found in all the areas except Arlington Heights, Ill., which was chosen for study because of the lack of corruption and because cases of corruption turned up in communities around it," the report said.

The other areas studied were Fairfax County, Va.; Hoffman Estates, Ill.; Broward County, Fla.; Cincinnati; New York City; Oklahoma City; East Providence, R.I.; San Diego, and Santa Clara, Calif.

"Like Fairfax County, Broward County and Hoffman Estates," the report said, "Arlington Heights was developed after World War II as tract after tract of cornfields was bought up by developers."

"Unlike many other suburbs," it said, "the village of Arlington Heights has made this transition from farm town to upper middle-class suburb with a total absence of corruption."

This "conservative enclave" of upper-class residents pays high salaries for a competent professional manager and his staff has adopted policies aimed at "keeping this community free of scandal," the report said.

The study, which required two years, was made by SRI International (formerly called Stanford Research Institute) and financed by a \$265,000 grant from the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration.

The findings are being compiled into six volumes. The LEAA made public a preliminary draft of the first volume — a 189-page document focusing on corruption in land use and building regulations.

Some of the findings: —Fairfax County: Following a development boom during the 1950s, some county supervisors accepted zoning bribes in the form of campaign contributions or no-interest loans.

—Hoffman Estates: Conspiring developers devised complicated payoff schemes to get housing projects approved

by the Planning and Zoning Commission and the Village Board in the late 1960s. Voters later ousted the corrupt officials.

—Broward County: Grand juries in 1973 and 1974 heard accusations that zoning commissioners, city attorneys, councilmen and mayors in some of the county's 29 cities were accused of misdeeds but returned no indictments.

—Cincinnati: City investigators in the 1970s found employees of the housing rehabilitation office were receiving cash, gifts and services in exchange for giving favors to local contractors.

—New York City: An undercover investigator posing as a building inspector was offered payoffs in 44 of 66 instances.

—Oklahoma City: In 1973 four city electrical inspectors and five outside contractors pleaded guilty to bribery and nine contractors lost their licenses.

—East Providence: Investigations in 1973-74 zoning board members were "selling their decisions," which resulted in a number of perjury and bribery convictions, guilty pleas and nocontest pleas.

—San Diego: In 1974 a planning commissioner and a lawyer were charged with accepting campaign contributions in exchange for favorable land-use decisions.

—Santa Clara: On Aug. 12, 1975, a planning commissioner, also president of the Chamber of Commerce, pleaded guilty to felony corruption charges and was sentenced to 1 to 14 years in prison.



Back to the bus

By LeROY POPE
UPI Business Writer

NEW YORK — Corporate enchantment with suburbia may be waning under pressure of the energy crunch.

Soaring transportation costs are forcing more workers — and executives — out of their cars and into mass transport where it is possible.

The problems of workers who drive to their jobs in Chicago's suburbs have caused the state of Illinois to start moving offices with 8,000 employees back into the city's rapid transit loop district.

The Continental Bank, one of Chicago's biggest, is moving its computer operators into the loop district for the same reason — so employees can get to work by elevated train or bus.

Business

Eva Maddox, Chicago office designer and planner, sees these examples as manifestations of a developing trend which may see hundreds of offices and other commercial and industrial facilities move back into urban areas served by rapid transit or high density bus lines as the price of gasoline and the cost of buying and maintaining automobiles becomes more and more burdensome.

Her firm, Maddox Associates, has just completed a survey of publicly-held corporations in the Chicago area. That survey indicates 60 percent of the companies are considering a move.

Of those who intend to move, 61 percent said the main purpose would be to locate on the city's rapid transit lines so employees would not have to drive their cars to work. The companies said 67 percent of their workers presently arrive in their own cars, 18 percent by elevated or

commuter trains and 15 percent by bus. The average firm surveyed employs 1,400 current and potential mass transit riders.

Should this trend become general around the country, Ms. Maddox said, there could be a significant impact on the urban real estate market.

The downtown industrial districts and areas near the railroad stations in virtually every city in the country contain abandoned or half-empty buildings constructed years ago. These buildings, she said, could be remodeled into offices, showrooms and even manufacturing facilities if the cost of driving to work goes so high companies are forced to depend on buses and rapid transit systems to get people to work.

Ms. Maddox said many other office planners around the country are well aware of the problem and are busily re-evaluating buildings and vacant land lying close to railroad stations, the remaining trolley lines and high density urban and interurban bus lines for office and light industrial use.

The Maddox company asked workers and junior executives how high the price of gasoline would have to go before they would be compelled to give up driving to work and find a job they could reach by bus or train.

Twenty-six percent wouldn't hazard a guess. Forty-four percent said gasoline at \$1.50 a gallon would be more than they could pay. Ten percent said even 85-cent gasoline would force them to look for jobs they could reach by public transportation and 20 percent said they couldn't pay \$1 a gallon.

There's another factor the survey didn't go into: the current high cost of replacing a worn-out automobile or even of keeping a car in tires and batteries if it is driven to and from work every day.

TOP OF THE NEWS STATE

Kiss brings new drug charges

Bobby Dale Jensen had just been given a break that would keep him out of prison. State prosecutors had tried to have Jensen's two-year probation for a drug charge revoked after he was arrested for misdemeanor assault two months ago. But he agreed in Houston Wednesday to join drug rehabilitation program and the judge dismissed the state's motion. After the ruling Jensen's girlfriend embraced and kissed him and apparently slipped him a pill believed to be a depressant. Now Jensen and his girlfriend, both 19, face charges of possession of a controlled substance.

Man beaten with artificial leg

Police have arrested three men who robbed a crippled man of about \$50 Sunday in Dallas, then beat him with his artificial leg. Salvadore Martinez, 28, who lost his leg three years ago in an automobile accident, was in fair condition at Parkland Hospital as a result of the beating. Pedro Zapata told police he had just left a bar when he spied the three men beating Martinez. He said when he went to Martinez' aid, he also was attacked. Zapata was treated at a Dallas hospital for minor injuries, and released.

Upgrading jail health care begins

The Texas Medical Association spokesman in Austin Monday announced plans for a statewide effort to upgrade health care in jails. Beginning in mid-July TMA will contact Texas sheriffs to see if they are interested in making their jails meet voluntary standards for minimum care set by the American Medical Association. Five jails will be selected to receive advice and technical assistance from TMA doctors for the following 12 months. Texas is one of eight states participating in a pilot program to improve jail health care.

NATION

Juvenile rights inquiry expanded

The Supreme Court Monday in Washington broadened the scope of its deliberations on the rights of juveniles whose parents want them committed to state mental institutions. The justices accepted for review next term a case involving Pennsylvania's procedures for commitment of both mentally ill and retarded juveniles. Previous decisions have related mainly to student activities and appearances in juvenile court. Now the court is going into the more delicate question of their rights as opposed to parental control.

Hearst may marry bodyguard

Patty Hearst plans to marry one of her former bodyguards, Newsweek magazine reports. The magazine said Hearst, now serving a prison sentence for bank robbery, plans to marry Bernard Shaw, 30, who was her private bodyguard during the 18 months she was free on bond. He has been granted a divorce from his wife and that divorce becomes final soon. Newsweek said she refuses to comment, but doesn't deny the report that he and Miss Hearst plan to marry, possibly before she is eligible for parole in another year.

Hovering light puzzles citizens

A strange hovering light witnesses said was ringed with a blue haze has baffled local authorities and area weather forecasters in the central Nebraska city of North Platte. The light was seen briefly above a park by two patrolmen about 10 p.m. Saturday, but vanished while the officers tried to find a better location from which to view it. The National Weather Service said there were no weather balloons in the area and authorities said they could not explain the phenomenon.

Soundproof autos may be unsafe

Automobile options such as stereo tape decks, soundproofing and air conditioning pose a major threat to the safety of ambulance crews during emergencies, a paramedic contends. Lloyd Mackie, chief paramedic at Denver General Hospital, said during the weekend new automobiles tend to be virtually soundproof and hamper attempts by ambulance drivers to get motorists out of their path.

WORLD

Dayan explains Israeli decision

Israel Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan met with U.S. Ambassador Samuel Lewis Monday in Jerusalem to explain the Israeli Cabinet's statement about its intentions in the occupied territories after a five-year interim period. Dayan said following the Cabinet meeting Sunday verbal explanations would be given to the Americans about the government's decision that it is willing to negotiate the future of the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip five years after the establishment of peace in the Middle East.

OPEC continues oil price freeze

Oil ministers of the Organization of Oil Exporting Countries (OPEC) agreed Monday in Geneva, Switzerland to maintain the freeze on oil prices at current levels until the end of the year. Oil Minister Ali Khalifa Al-Sabah of Kuwait, who presided at the ministerial conference, said "no decisions" were reached on increasing prices, currently \$12.70 a barrel.

WEATHER

Partly cloudy and hot today and tomorrow with highs in the low to mid-90s. Low tonight mid-70s. Winds from the southeast at 5-10 mph. Continued partly cloudy and warm through Saturday.

THE BATTALION

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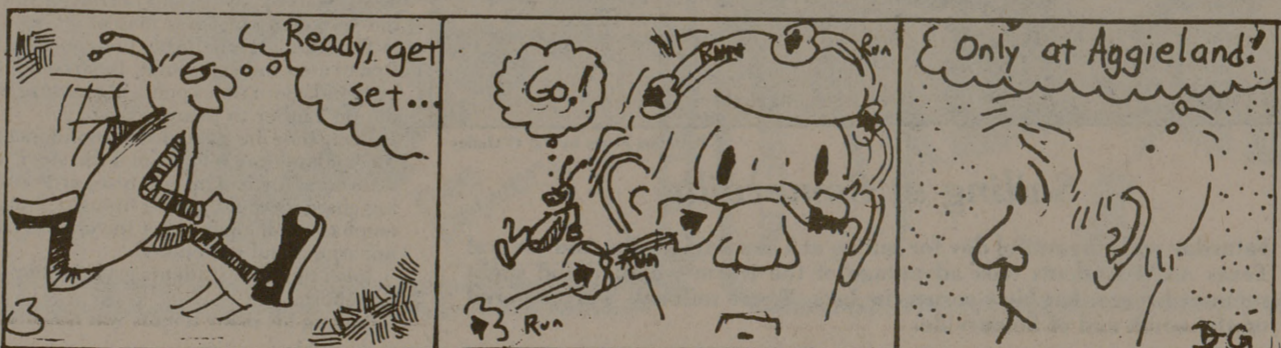
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by Doug Graham