

VIEWPOINT

THE BATTALION
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

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Democratic train year behind schedule

By DAVID S. BRODER

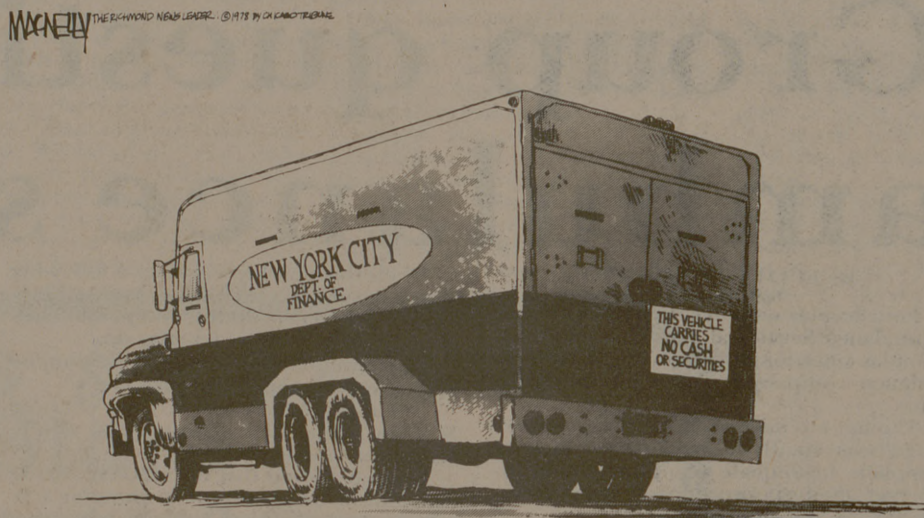
WASHINGTON — In organizational, financial and political terms, the White House and the Democratic National Committee are about one year behind schedule in their preparations for the mid-term election now 4-1 months away.

They are lagging largely because of the past inattention from the President and his political aides — an oversight they are now making haste to correct. But their exertions, it became clear at last month's meetings of Democratic Party leaders in Washington, are coming too late to let Jimmy Carter and his agents make much of a positive contribution to the November campaigns.

At this stage, about all that Carter can do is try to ease some of the frustrations party leaders have felt with him — and then hope that the Democratic candidates' independent resources, which are considerable, will enable them to survive the Republican challenge in November.

The record of past neglect is positively awesome. Last week, 17 months after Carter took office, the White House finally got around to the basic political courtesy of having the Democratic state chairmen and national committee members in for a drink and a chat. The gratitude these officials expressed for such small favors as a personal photograph with the President and a quick question-and-answer session with some of his aides shows how needless was the past year's negligence.

"We should have done this a year ago," said Tim Kraft, the newly designated presidential assistant for party affairs. But a year ago, able politician Kraft was managing Carter's personal schedule, and neither he nor anyone else on the senior staff could be bothered with anything having to do with the Democratic Party.



While the simple act of socializing quieted many of the past complaints from party officials, other damages from the last year cannot be repaired so easily. The national Democratic Party is broke — saddled with a \$57,000-a-month payment on past debts, still forced into short-term borrowing to meet its monthly \$62,000 payroll and rent. Its plans to build a solid financial base by repeated direct-mail prospecting for small contributors have been stymied by the incessant need for quick cash. Its corps of generous Jewish contributors has been thinned by distrust of the administrations' Middle East policies.

Organizationally, the national committee is nowhere. Its field organization is nonexistent. Major Democratic campaigns around the country are unable to find ex-

perienced managers, in part because the party has done little to train such managers since Carter took office.

The people whom Carter named in 1977 to run the party — and then left to sink or swim on their own — have all departed, unmentioned. The new leaders — John C. White as national chairman, Evan Dobbelle and Charles Manatt in fund-raising, and Dan Horgan in campaign organization — may be better qualified than what Horgan calls the "B-team" they replaced.

But all four are new to their responsibilities and struggling to find their footing. Horgan hopes to have the start of a field organization in place by September. Dobbelle hopes to clear the debt by next June. But both are aware that these long-term efforts are much too late to help in 1978.

Cooks spoiling Lebanese soup

By MICHAEL ROSS
United Press International

Lebanon in its latest crisis, which threatens to boil over into a more serious confrontation between Israel and Syria, is like the proverbial soup being spoiled by too many cooks.

Israel accuses Syria of the "massacre" of Lebanon's not-so-helpless Christians. Syria insists the uncooperative Christian militias, members of the Maronite sect, must somehow be brought to heel. Lebanon's frustrated Christian president, Elias Sarkis, insists that everything will work out all right if everyone else will just leave him alone and let him get on with running the country.

To prove they meant business, the Syrians last week shelled the Christian sectors of Beirut, killing 170 persons. To prove the Israelis meant business, Prime Minister Menachem Begin sent warplanes to buzz Beirut while his aides spoke ominously about unspecified "steps" to be taken to save Israel's Christian allies from defeat.

Finally and more pathetically, to prove he meant business, Elias Sarkis threatened to quit.

The Syrian attack and Israeli saber-rattling obscures what is really at stake in Lebanon and the reasons each side has for overheating an already bubbling cauldron.

It was Israel's chief of military intelligence, Maj. Gen. Shlomo Gazit, who best explained Syria's intentions in Lebanon in a way that even Damascus radio could not refute.

Syria, Gazit told reporters, is out to disarm the Christian militias and impose a Syrian peace on Lebanon. What Gazit left unsaid was that Syria first sent its troops into Lebanon to save from certain defeat the very same Christians it is now busily attacking in Beirut.

That was almost two years ago when the Syrians intervened to stop the carnage of the Lebanese civil war and, more importantly for them, to gain control of the Palestinian guerrillas and restrict their movements everywhere in Lebanon except the south, where the Israelis warned the Syrians not to go.

Commentary

According to the Damascus game plan, Syria was to remain in Lebanon while Sarkis, installed in the presidency in Syrian-managed elections, was rebuilding the government and the shattered army into a Lebanese (albeit Syrian-supervised) force that could gradually take over peace-keeping duties.

But the self-serving leaders of Lebanon's right-wing Christian militias, realizing by then that the Syrians had outlived

their usefulness to them, did not play by those rules.

After having invited the Syrians into Lebanon, they refused to let them enter areas under their control. Capitalizing on Christian-Moslem distrust, they obstructed Sarkis' efforts to build an integrated army from the ruins of what was, before the civil war, a predominantly Christian force.

To Syria's further dismay, the right-wing militias formed a military alliance with Israel in the south and refused Sarkis' orders to turn over their positions to the U.N. peacekeeping troops dispatched after the Israeli invasion in March.

And to spark the latest explosion, they assassinated Tony Franjeh, leader of the one Christian militia still on good terms with Syria and a personal friend of Rifaat Assad, younger brother of Syrian President Hafez Assad.

Assad did not take the decision to com-

Fortunately for the Democrats, their officeholders have not been waiting for the laggard White House and Democratic National Committee. Democratic incumbents (who comprise three-fourths of the governors, two-thirds of the representatives, and three-fifths of the senators) are doing just fine, thank you, in using the advantage of office to build their own campaign treasuries and personal campaign organizations.

Most of them have also taken the precaution of separating themselves from those Carter policies which are poison in their states and districts.

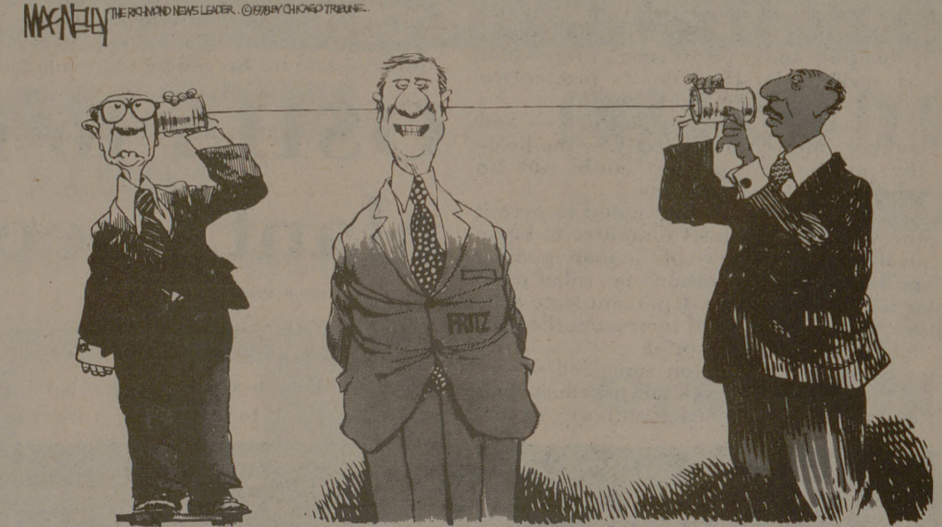
Only one incumbent Democratic senator whose seat was up this year supported Carter on both the Panama Canal treaties and the Middle East jet sales package. That man, Sen. Paul Hatfield, was defeated in the Montana Democratic primary. His loss will confirm the determination of other Democrats running this year to go their own way, regardless of Carter's wishes.

By financing and organizing their own campaigns and taking their own policy stands, incumbent Democrats may survive. But even a good showing by the party in the mid-term election would not necessarily help President Carter.

Because of the past year's neglect, Carter now faces a heads-I-lose, tails-you-win situation. A Democratic mid-term victory to which the White House contributed little would only tend to increase the political independence of those re-elected governors and members of Congress. A serious defeat would inevitably bring severe scapegoating of Carter and his policies.

Either way, the neglect of party affairs the past year will exact a price from the President.

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Uncle Sam's inequality game

By ARNOLD SAWISLAK
United Press International

WASHINGTON — Before we get talked to death about the Supreme Court's Bakke decision, two facts ought to be recognized: The decision did not establish equality in college admissions, and it does not clash with either national policy or practice.

In the first instance, the ruling specifically endorsed giving minority applicants an advantage in selecting students to fill

classes with limited space. Justice Lewis Powell, the swing man on the decision, cited admission systems that give special weight to an applicant's racial or ethnic background along with other qualities such as academic standing, leadership potential and athletic ability. Such plans, he said, stand the test of "equal protection" that numerical quota systems do not.

The system the court threw out was like a card game which Bakke could win while playing against other whites, but never

against blacks. The kind of plan Powell approved would require everyone to play in the same game, but permit the dealer to give minority students an extra card.

To some people this looks like one of those legal fictions which judges and lawyers love but which defy lay understanding. Why, the non-lawyer might ask, is it illegal to establish a numerical quota for minority students, but okay to establish admission standards that are intended to achieve the same result?

Obviously, this isn't equality. It favors

minorities. And we know the reason: to attempt to rectify the injury of decades during which the benefits of American society were denied to blacks and other minorities in this country.

What we need to face is that this policy of giving an edge to minorities is not some whim of bureaucrats or judges, but a commitment of the entire United States government.

It is the result of the civil rights protests of the 1960s, the great national debate that they provoked and a series of presidential actions, judicial rulings and congressional enactments intended to end discrimination and to varying degrees rectify past wrongs.

In one way or another, every element of national government — Congress, the federal courts and the presidency — took part in development of the policy before Allan Bakke ever went to court. The Bakke decision provides guidelines for the application of the policy, but does not change its substance.

National policy providing benefits to particular groups is not a new concept. For years, we have given military veterans extra test points in civil service examinations. We favor American companies in awarding government contracts. We give an edge to economically-distressed states and localities in allocating federal grants. We provide aid to the physically handicapped.

All of these programs help specific people and, in areas where resources are limited, can be said to discriminate against others. We do it because, after examining the values that underlie our society, it is right.

Letters to the Editor

Injuries don't stop for holidays

Editor:

Is there some mysterious power that protects Aggies from illness and injury over the holiday weekends? Evidently those at the Beutel Health Center believe so.

On Monday July 3 approximately 8:30 p.m., a young lady was injured off campus. Upon arrival at the emergency room at the Beutel Health Center it was discovered that they were closed for the holiday weekend. Since this was not a life or death matter (6 stitches), this delay was more of an inconvenience than the cause of a catastrophe, but the situation could have been different.

This raises questions in our minds as to the purpose of the health center, and the corresponding fee. A sign on the door said the center was closed for the holiday and

care could be obtained at St. Joseph's Hospital at our own expense. Unfortunately injuries do not stop for holidays and we do not feel our health center fees should cease coverage either.

Cheer up Aggies, the University library remained open over the holiday! In an emergency you may check out a medical book and treat yourself.

— Steven A. Boone, '78
F. Harold Hollister, '79

Slipping by

Editor:

Recently I visited the A.P. Beutel Health Center and, approaching the desk to check in, an employee informed me that students must have their fee slips in order to receive the services of the facility. Of

course, she had to make sure that my Health Center fee had been paid.

Not being in the habit of carrying around receipts, this necessitated a trip back to the apartment for me and, consequently, about a two hour delay in seeing a doctor. A number of other students seemed to be encountering the same problem. It is understandable that the Health Center must know you've paid for the services they provide, but shouldn't they have this information instead of relying on students to carry around fee receipts?

Would it be that difficult to get a computer printout of those who have paid Health Center fees? The Library, for example, doesn't seem to have any problem obtaining information on students with overdue books.

— John T. Duke, '79

TOP OF THE NEW CAMPUS

File graduation applications

Texas A&M University students who expect to complete degree requirements during the second summer term must make application to graduate by Friday, July 21. A degree application will be set up during summer school registration in G. Rob White Coliseum on Friday, July 14, said R. H. Baine, assistant registrar. The \$8 graduation fee can be paid at that time. The students who do register on July 14 must pay the fee in the College Building Fiscal Office before filing applications. Graduate student applications are in the Graduate College, 125 Teague and undergraduates apply at the Registrar's office in Heaton Hall.

STATE

Organized crime in Texas up

Organized crime activity continues to flourish in Texas despite stepped up efforts to combat it, the Texas Organized Crime Prevention Council in Austin has reported. The council, headed by Attorney General John Hill, said in its annual report that organized crime in Texas \$3.3 billion during 1977. The council said drug traffic is the dominant form of organized crime activity in Texas, although there is evidence of organized crime involvement in fencing of stolen merchandise, prostitution, pornography, theft, arson, smuggling and fraud.

Woman kills son

A Tomball woman awakened by noises at 4:30 a.m. Thursday and killed what she thought was a prowler, but it turned out to be her son. Police said Anne Sebree, 67, heard noises in her home, took a .38-caliber pistol and fired once in the face of a man inside her house. The man turned out to be her son, Earl Lynn Sebree, 27, of Oklahoma City, Okla., businessman, who had intended to surprise his mother by giving her a surprise birthday party and family reunion.

SALT talks stressed

Secretary of State Cyrus Vance, speaking at the trials of two Soviet dissidents opened in Washington, said Monday that arms limitation negotiations (SALT talks) are so important they must be kept on track. Vance told a news conference on the eve of the departure for strategic arms limitation talks with Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko that U.S.-Soviet relations have been "gravely" by the Soviet campaign against dissidents.

NATION

Hospital holds visitor

When George Price drove a friend to the Veteran's Administration Hospital in Providence, R. I., last winter, somebody apparently didn't believe he was just a visitor. Price, 42, of Providence, has filed a \$2 million suit against the VA Hospital and officials of the state Medical Center in Cranston, charging he was put in a straitjacket, drugged and held as a patient for four days.

Shooting investigation opened

Miami police were looking for a 72-year-old man Monday in the shooting death of his 73-year-old girlfriend during an argument over another man. Police said Joseph Thomas was last seen as he drove away from the home of Sadie Sheffield, who died of a .38 caliber bullet wound in the face. Police said the couple had lived together until one year ago, when she asked him to move out of the cottage just north of downtown Miami. He moved into a furnished room around the big corner from her home. "He accused her of fooling around with someone else," the homicide detective said. "He'd been threatening her before."

ERA needs Congress approval

Backers of the Equal Rights Amendment, buoyed by a huge women's rights demonstration, fanned out across Capitol Hill in Washington Monday in an effort to salvage ERA with a seven-year extension of its ratification deadline. Supporters of the provision to ensure "equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged on account of sex" concede the survival of ERA lies with Congress, which returned Monday from a 10-day recess. Without extension of the ratification period beyond its current deadline next March 23, supporters acknowledge they are unlikely to muster the needed approval of 38 states.

WORLD

Hanoi to exchange embassies

Vietnamese Vice Foreign Minister Phan Hien, in a major policy aboutface, said Monday in Tokyo that Hanoi is ready to exchange embassies with the United States without a pledge of aid by Washington. "Even if the U.S. Congress rejects the reconstruction aid, we look forward to establishing full diplomatic ties (with the United States)," Hien said.

Italian President sworn in

Italy's first Socialist president, 81-year-old wartime resistance hero Sandro Pertini, pledged at his swearing-in ceremony in Rome to defend the nation's independence and paid his respects to assassinated former Premier Aldo Moro. Pertini, elected as a compromise candidate to save the shaky alliance of the ruling Christian Democrats with the Socialists and Communists, took the oath of office Sunday at the heavily guarded Chamber of Deputies building.

WEATHER

Fair to partly cloudy today, tonight and tomorrow with hot days and warm nights. High today upper 90s, low tonight mid-70s. High tomorrow upper 90s. Winds from the southeast at 10-15 mph diminishing tonight.

THE BATTALION

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