

VIEWPOINT

THE BATTALION
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

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Bentsen wants to stop turning cheek

Sen. Lloyd Bentsen has predicted that the Senate would not ratify a SALT II treaty this year "because the American people have lost faith in our negotiating partner (and) because the people know there is no such thing as a good agreement with an untrustworthy adversary."

He is right on target.
Let's hope Bentsen's remarks don't fall on deaf ears at 1600 Pennsylvania Ave.

In its relentless pursuit of a SALT II treaty with the Soviet Union, the Carter administration has scrapped the B1 strategic bomber program, waffled on questions regarding the cruise missile and delayed making a decision on the so-called neutron bomb, mindless of Soviet activity in other global areas.

So committed to getting a SALT II treaty to the Senate floor is the administration that it has looked the other way while the Soviets make a sham of the Helsinki Accord, involve themselves and their Cuban surrogates in Africa, arrest a U.S. businessman and order two U.S. reporters to court on trumped-up charges in exchange for two confirmed Soviet spies held in the United States.

Although the Soviet Union was Bentsen's intended target, much of what he said should not be lost on either the Carter administration or the American people.

Bentsen's Senate speech is that of a troubled man who may well be speaking for an equally-troubled Senate representing an increasingly worried U.S. public.

In his recent speech, Sen. Bentsen has risen to inform a Democratic president that a Democratic Senate is questioning his handling of SALT II. It is opposed to turning the other cheek to all-too-frequent Soviet diplomatic slaps.



Bentsen did not say the American people have lost faith in the administration's negotiating team — only our "negotiating partner." Bentsen has sent a warning to the White House that had best be heeded. Right now, it would be nice to know Bentsen's warning message was heard and understood.
The Dallas Morning News

Zero population growth is coming

By AL ROSSITER Jr.
United Press International

WASHINGTON — Countries with constant population levels would have relatively more old people who might be less subject to fads, less wed to the automobile and who likely would face less crime, a noted social scientist says.

Dr. Lincoln Day said the increase in the proportion of old people that eventually would result from lower birth rates also might mean increased demand for medical services and better pensions.

"The range of possible consequences is very wide indeed," he said in a report published by the private, non-profit Population Reference Bureau. "Life could be meager or bountiful, violent or peaceful, miserable or happy."

Day, now with Australian National University and former chief of demography and social statistics for the United Nations, said the age structure of a steady popula-

tion has prompted fears of "old people ruminating over old ideas in old houses." But he said the implications of a stationary population are far more likely to be desirable than undesirable, both for the society and for the individual.

Science

Although the world's overall population continues to grow, Day reported that large numbers of people actually are living under conditions of zero population growth or face that prospect in the foreseeable future.

"When this prospect first presented itself in the 1930s, there were cries of alarm and even fears of race suicide," he said. "It was widely assumed that, whatever they

were, the consequences of such a development were bound to be undesirable.

"While some cries of alarm are again to be heard, today's response is generally rather different. The cessation of population increase, if not invariably welcomed, is at least widely accepted as inevitable."

Six countries had a stable population in 1976, the year for which latest figures are available. They were Austria, Belgium, East Germany, West Germany, Luxembourg and the United Kingdom. Sweden almost has such a population.

Nineteen other nations, including the United States, are expected to have zero population growth in a generation or two. The others are Australia, Bulgaria, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Japan, Malta, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Singapore, Switzerland, the Soviet Union and Yugoslavia.

A stationary population will have a me-

dian age of about 37, compared with the 1975 median age of 29 in the United States. Proportions will be smaller in the younger ages and higher in the older.

Day disagrees with those who believe an older population necessarily would be more conservative and less receptive to change, but he said it is possible an older population "would be less subject to fad, whether in clothing, grooming, the arts, recreation or politics."

"One could reasonably expect that, in western countries, an aging of the population would lead to a decline in the market for private automobiles and a corresponding expansion in that for public transportation, thus reducing somewhat the pressure to accommodate this ubiquitous symbol of private affluence and cause of public squalor," Day said.

He said crime is likely to be less prevalent if statistics are correct in associating more crime with youth.

British plans over-ambitious

By RUDOLF KLEIN
International Writers Service

LONDON — Like most other Western countries, Britain launched an ambitious and expensive drive back in the 1960s to enlarge its opportunities for higher education. As a result, the number of British universities and community colleges has doubled, and so has the proportion of young men and women in these institutions.

But now the British authorities are going through an agonizing reappraisal of this strategy. Their reassessment will determine what kind of educational policies are to be pursued in the future.

The decision to reconsider the whole approach was partly inspired by fluctuations in the birthrate which would make the system, under continued expansion, too big. That would mean closing universities and dismissing teachers.

But the reassessment has also been motivated by disillusion with the way the system has worked until now. It has failed to fulfill one of its prime objectives, that of widening the opportunities in higher education for children of blue-collar families so they could enjoy the same chance to succeed as those from middle-class backgrounds.

The argument in favor of this plan was that Britain, by democratizing the possibilities for higher education, could mobilize reserves of hitherto hidden talent, contribute to a more equitable society and improve the efficiency of the economy.

The model appeared to be the United States, where one out of three 18-year-

olds enters a university or college. In Britain, when the expansion program began, only one out of 14 youths of the same age was in higher education. Allowing for some differences — such as a lower dropout rate in Britain — the contrast was both glaring and shameful.

As it has turned out, however, the British program has fallen short of its goal, and the disappointment is all the more serious because of the expectations it had raised.

Looking back, it is clear that higher education has not been significantly democratized. More than half of all university students still come from middle-class families, even though these represent only

16 percent of the total British population, they contemplate the years ahead.

If class representation in the institutions of higher learning cannot be broadened, it obviously makes no sense to expand the system in the decades to come. The question, then, is whether a higher proportion of working-class students can be attracted to the universities.

The problem, in contrast to the United States, is not financial. British students receive adequate if not generous government grants, and tuitions are nowhere as astronomical as they are in American colleges. So universities are theoretically open to everyone regardless of back-

ground. The obstacle lies at the secondary school level.

Until recently, British children were divided at the age of 11 between those with academic potential and those without. The former could go on to higher education, while the latter prepared for less sophisticated occupations. But this system has been scrapped, and all children are now entitled to opt for higher education at the age of 18.

Even so, most youngsters from working-class homes leave secondary schools at 16, the legal minimum age, because the temptation to take jobs is greater than the attraction of higher education, particularly for those under pressure to contribute to family incomes.

Not long ago, in order to persuade these teenagers to stay in high school, the government announced its intention to furnish cash incentives to those who continue their secondary education to the end.

It is hoped that the high rate of unemployment in Britain at the moment will induce high school students not to drop out in quest of jobs. The government estimates that the plan to provide cash incentives will not prove to be more costly than paying benefits to unemployed kids, as it now does.

But even if these working-class teenagers remain in high school until 18, it is not certain that their university prospects will be improved. Many may just hang on for the sake of the money, and if so, the experiment will have failed.

(Klein, a professor of social policy studies at the University of Bath, writes on social issues in Britain.)



Founding Fathers meet George Carlin

By DICK WEST
United Press International

WASHINGTON — When the First Amendment was adopted in 1791, neither radio stations nor record albums had been invented and George Carlin wasn't born yet.

Nevertheless, the Supreme Court has been able to perceive that the Constitution upholds the government's right to warn a station about broadcasting one of Carlin's records.

The Lighter Side

The court's decision in the famous "seven dirty words case" has precipitated a public debate that appears likely to continue all summer. All of which started me to wondering what the Constitutional Convention might have been like if the framers of that document had been confronted with a similar issue.

Somewhat like the following, do you suppose?
George Washington, who presided:

"Very well, gentlemen, I'd say we've been making good progress. Thus far, we've adopted a preamble and seven articles that provide for two houses of Congress, an executive branch headed by a president and vice president, a judiciary system and diverse and sundry federal processes.

"Moving right along, we have under consideration today a proposed draft of Article VIII. Here with all the details is Gouverneur Morris."

Morris: "Thankee, sire. The genesis of Article VIII is a letter we received from a woman in Upper Middlesex, Connecticut, complaining that the town crier in her village used offensive language."

"This article gives the government power to regulate public communicators and establish rules governing the propriety of their utterances."

Ben Franklin: "Hold on there, Gouv. I'll be hanged if I want a bunch of bureaucratic busybodies telling me what words I can or can't put in the magazine I'm trying to publish on Saturday evenings."

Morris: "Now, now, Ben. Nobody's talking about the printed word. This part of the Constitution would only apply to the use of public streets for oral disseminations."

Alexander Hamilton: "What are the offensive words you are proposing to ban?"

Morris: "It is reported that in recounting the latest tidings in Upper Middlesex the town crier used the words 'bloody,' 'zounds' and 'gadzoos.'"

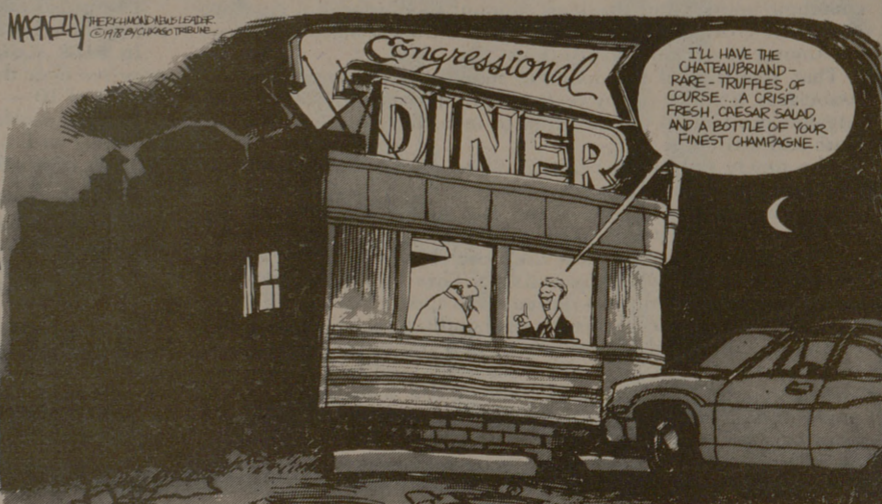
James Madison: "Oh, stop blushing, Gouverneur. Most of us hear those words every day."

Morris: "Maybe so, Jim, but we're talking about a town crier making his rounds

at a hour when children are listening."

Franklin: "What if the offensive words are part of a direct quotation from Shakespeare or some other distinguished personage?"

Morris: "That situation is covered in the proposed draft of Article IX. It requires that under the Constitution all town criers must be equipped with beepers."



TOP OF THE NEW CAMPUS

A&M receives June donation

The Texas A&M University Development Foundation received \$189,908 during June from private contributors, almost all of the donations going to scholarship funds. Baker Walker, vice president for development, reported total contributions to the non-profit foundation since last September were \$4,943,245. Not included in the total was a gift from Mrs. I. Gerlach of Abilene of Volumes 1 through 252 of the Southern Reporter, legal reference books to the Student Legal Advice file.

STATE

Ethnic group's patterns studied

The American Heart Association awarded a \$51,700 grant for a three-year study to determine whether there is a relation between culture patterns of Mexican-Americans and the risk of heart disease. A team of researchers at the University of Texas Science Center at Antonio will study smoking and diet habits of 2,000 Mexican-American men and women aged 30 to 69 to observe how closely they adhere to traditional cultural patterns. Mexican-Americans appear to have a high prevalence of diabetes and that diabetes seems to increase heart disease risk in women more than in men.

Four cities receive federal grant

The second round of the Urban Development Action Grant program has awarded \$111.9 million to 35 cities including four Texas cities.

Housing Secretary Patricia Harris said the new round of grants will be backed up by more than \$465.1 million in private funds and will create 13,000 new jobs, save 11,600 other jobs and generate 12,300 construction jobs. The four Texas cities and the amounts will receive include: El Paso, \$2.3 million; Galveston, \$3 million; Texarkana, \$2.3 million; and Waco, \$1.4 million.

Firm remains under court power

A state district judge has refused to lift a June 1 order placing receivership a securities firm that allegedly mishandled investments for the University of Houston Judge Wyatt H. Heard had the company petition for lifting of the order under advisement and a hearing June 8. He rejected the request Monday and a motion by Percy D. Williams, will continue to operate the business. The firm was placed under court management after the State Securities Board and the Texas attorney general's office alleged CKI had engaged in a scheme to defraud the university.

Giving government the 'bird'

Two Texas state representatives said they will initiate a series of awards to state agencies and departments to recognize exemplary wasteful government spending. Reps. Ben Grant, D-Marshall County, and Ron Bird, D-San Antonio, said the awards will be similar to the Golden Fleece Awards made by Sen. William Proxmire. They said they will call their award "The Texas Bird." Grant and Bird said they will periodically present a second award, called the "You-Tot For-Granted" award, to state agencies or departments saving taxpayers money.

NATION

John D. Rockefeller III dies

John D. Rockefeller III, oldest of the five Rockefeller brothers, killed Monday night in a three-car auto crash near the family's Pico Hills estate north of New York City. Rockefeller, 72, was a passenger in a car driven by his secretary who was injured. A 16-year-old driver of one of the other cars was killed and two people were injured. Rockefeller and the other driver were pronounced dead at the scene.

WORLD

Congressmen warn Soviet Union

Members of Congress, some calling for suspension of the arms talks, warned the Soviet Union Tuesday that its prosecution of dissidents is jeopardizing chances for a new strategic arms pact. Senate Republican Leader Howard Baker joined the anti-Soviet charge urging Carter to suspend the SALT talks because the American people "are fed up with being pushed around in Africa, the Middle East and now these trials."

Chinese planes buzz border

Chinese warplanes penetrated Vietnamese airspace twice during the weekend in what appeared to be a pointed warning to Vietnam not to get too friendly with the Soviet Union, Hanoi radio said Tuesday. The official Vietnamese radio, monitored in Bangkok, said that Chinese jetfighters violated Vietnamese airspace twice last Saturday, with one flight reaching the Quang Hoa district in Cao Bang Province, 95 miles from Hanoi, the Vietnamese capital. Diplomatic sources in Bangkok interpreted the flights as a warning to Vietnam not to stray too far over into the Soviet sphere of influence.

WEATHER

Partly cloudy skies and continues hot temperatures today and Thursday with highs in the 100s. Low tonight in the 70s and 20% possibility of isolated showers.

THE BATTALION

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