

# VIEWPOINT

THE BATTALION  
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

THURSDAY  
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## Some only take, never give

By DAVID S. BRODER  
WASHINGTON — When Secretary of the Treasury W. Michael Blumenthal came back from the economic summit conference in Bonn, he felt that the meeting had not only achieved greater substantive results than the skeptics had expected, but had served to reaffirm a too-easily-forgotten point about the American President.

"Willy-nilly," he said a day later, "there was a clear turning of eyes toward the United States and an expectation of leadership. The sense that the U.S. President has to be in the lead and set the tone was just as much there as ever."

THAT CAME AS A relief to Blumenthal and such colleagues as Ambassador Henry Owen, who had managed the preparatory work for the Bonn meeting. Like others, they had wondered how much the slump in Carter's domestic fortunes and the impasse over his energy program in Congress might damage his influence with his European and Japanese counterparts.

But at the moment both men describe as the turning-point of the meeting, when Carter met that expectant gaze from his colleagues and asserted that his government would achieve the goals it has set for curbing inflation, energy consumption and balance-of-trade deficits, the president passed his test.

Carter, from all accounts, convinced the other summiters that he could keep his commitments. And, on the basis of his assurances, the Germans went further than had been expected in pledging to spur their economic growth and the Japanese did the same with their pledge to reduce their trade surplus.

BLUMENTHAL WENT off to Capitol Hill on Tuesday "feeling fine." There, he was reintroduced, bluntly, to the quite different realities of Washington.

He reviewed five basic pieces of administration legislation with House Ways and



Means Committee Chairman Al Ullman, D-Ore., and learned that "not only are all five facing problems, they are tied in knots." He also reviewed the prospects for the administration's tax-cut measure with House Speaker Thomas P. (Tip) O'Neill, Jr., D-Mass., and got more bad news about the fractionated Democratic factions on Ways and Means.

By the time I saw Blumenthal, late in the day, the ebullience of Bonn was plainly beginning to wear thin. He probably would have been a lot gloomier, though, had he known that a key piece of the President's anti-inflation strategy had been struck down that very day by the unexpected vote-switch of a Chicago-area Democratic congressman.

Without a word of warning to the administration, the House leadership or his

own committee chairman, Rep. Martin A. Russo, D-Ill., a 34-year-old second-termer, decided to vote to gut the hospital cost-control bill. Carter has made it a centerpiece of his effort to cap the exploding health care sector of consumer prices.

Russo told me, the next morning, that although he had supported the administration up to that point, he had decided over the previous weekend that the bill was "becoming a regulatory nightmare" and should be scrapped. His vote killed mandatory controls and substituted a "voluntary" plan.

WHEN ASKED if he had felt any obligation to communicate his doubts to anyone in the House leadership or the administration, Russo said: "They don't come to me when they have any doubts, so I don't see why I should reverse it. I don't feel any obligation to them."

Last March, however, Russo was happy to have Vice President Mondale come to Chicago and appear at a fund-raising breakfast which netted, he said, \$20,000 for his campaign. He was pleased to obtain James T. McIntyre, Jr., the director of the Office of Management and Budget, as a speaker for an auto convention in his district.

But he felt no compunction about keeping, as a personal secret, the decision that cost the administration 16 months of work on a major Carter bill. In his attitude and action, Russo is anything but unique. Like other young Democrats elected to the House in recent years from previously Republican districts, he is ready to bend to what he takes to be the prevailing anti-government, anti-tax sentiments.

The Democrats on the Ways and Means Committee, who buried Carter's proposed tax reform and are balking at the oil tax the president promised his Bonn partners he would get passed, are playing the same game. They are taking Carter for what they can get, and ignoring him when it suits their purposes.

IT IS EASY to be critical of the president's leadership shortcomings, as I have often been. But there is something strange about a situation in which foreign heads of government turn automatically to the president for their cues, and junior members of his own party in the House feel no such inclination or obligation.

Both Blumenthal and Owen remarked on the fact that, at the economic summit, the leaders decided to look beyond the domestic political troubles almost all of them face, and seek such strength as they could find in reaffirming their common purposes.

Something of that attitude would be welcome among the Democrats on Capitol Hill.

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# TOP OF THE NEWS

## STATE

### Power agency settles tangles

Texas Municipal Power Agency has settled two legal tangles over a planned Grimes County power plant and, among other things, has agreed to make payments in lieu of taxes to the county and three school systems. In U.S. District Court in Houston, TMPA Friday committed itself to obeying environmental restrictions in the plant, but it won court recognition of its right to challenge those restrictions administratively or in court.

### Waco police hold suspect

Although police in Waco are holding a man for investigation as a possible suspect in the killing of six Oklahoma City steakhouse employees, Oklahoma authorities say they do not believe the man being held is connected with the case. Police arrested a Fort Worth man Wednesday they believe may have been involved in the killings at the Sirloin Stockade restaurant.

### Children freed

A Texarkana man whose three youngest children were found locked in a chicken-wire cage has given up all his children to a special care home in Oklahoma where he spent part of his own youth. In an emergency hearing two days prior to a scheduled custody hearing, James J. Williston, 57, of Hooks, Texas, surrendered the three children found June 29 caked with their own filth in an outdoor cage. He also voluntarily gave up custody of four older children and relinquished all claim to two unborn children now being carried by his legal and common-law wives.

## NATION

### Non-Indian vendors banned

The Santa Fe, N.M., district attorney has put non-Indian vendors on notice they are barred from the portal of the Palace of Governors beginning Wednesday. The move follows a federal judge's ruling last week that the Museum of New Mexico policy in allowing only Indians to sell jewelry and crafts outside the palace was unconstitutional. U.S. District Judge Edward Mechem found the policy was based on cultural considerations and not racial discrimination.

### One-room school closed

A one-room school house, founded 102 years ago on the southern Nebraska prairie, will be closed because only two brothers are enrolled for the fall session. The Hartman School District 34, located northeast of the city, will be consolidated with the Center School District 28, officials decided. At its prime in 1936, the school had 10 grades and about 30 pupils. It currently has seven grades, including kindergarten but only two students were enrolled for the fall term.

### Anthony may be on new \$1 coin

Susan B. Anthony has been suggested as the emblem for a new \$1 coin, rather than the symbolic Miss Liberty. The Treasury Department pushed Miss Liberty, but women's groups lobbied vigorously for the image of an actual woman. The full banking panel is expected to consider the bill before Congress recesses Aug. 18. The Treasury estimated that issuance of the coin will save the government millions of dollars annually in printing costs. The new metal dollar will replace the unpopular Eisenhower version. It will be smaller than a half dollar but larger than a quarter.

### FBI fugitive suspected

Oklahoma police Wednesday sought an FBI fugitive whose criminal activity pattern closely parallels the robbery of a roadside steakhouse in which six employees were herded into a freezer compartment and executed. Investigators said the man usually works with an accomplice, strikes restaurants just before closing time, and habitually herds his victims into walk-in freezers. However, he was not believed to have killed any of his previous holdup victims.

## WORLD

### Suburb engulfed by fire

Heavy weapons fire engulfed a southeast suburb between the presidential palace and the Beirut, Lebanon airport Wednesday, shattering a two-day lull between Syrian peace-keeping troops and Christian rightist militiamen. President Elias Sarkis maintained indirect contact with both sides in an attempt to end the worst Syrian-Christian clashes since fighting raged through the Christian eastern half of Beirut early this month, government sources said.

### Carter policy tough

The Communist party newspaper Pravda said Wednesday President Carter was toughening his foreign policy line due to a sharp drop in popularity and an inability to cope with domestic problems. Pravda said Carter rapidly abandoned his election promises "and the haste with which the election manifestos were swept aside like fallen autumn leaves, like rubbish, was amazing." The newspaper said that from the beginning Carter yielded to pressure from right-wing forces. It said he promised to cut the Pentagon budget, but that it is steadily growing.

## WEATHER

Partly cloudy with chance of showers and thundershowers today and tomorrow. High today and tomorrow low 100s. Low tonight mid-70s. Wind from the southeast 10 to 15 mph. 20% chance of rain today and 30% chance of rain Friday evening.

## THE BATTALION

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## The John Browns' one-of-a-kind-baby

By ROBERT MUSEL

UPI Press International

LONDON — The parents were of course delighted, the doctors naturally proud. But the birth of the world's first test-tube baby brought with it a new dimension to a controversy already perplexing both church and state.

The 5-pound, 12-ounce daughter delivered by Caesarean section at Oldham and District Hospital to Mrs. Lesley Brown, 30, is perfectly formed and appears quite normal.

During the delivery, husband John, 38, paced the floor like any other father and arranged to hand out cigars.

### Analysis

But there the resemblance between their daughter's arrival on earth and that of any other child ends.

Baby Brown was conceived in a piece of laboratory glass.

Around the tiny form, the living proof that conception can take place outside the body of the mother, gathered the hopes of thousands of childless women.

But many churchmen, politicians and scientists fear that man has unlocked one of the doors that, without adequate safeguards, someday could lead to a race of manufactured human beings.

No one questions that the successful birth marks a milestone in the science of reproduction. But does it also mark the beginnings of Aldous Huxley's "Brave New World" — where man will be able to order up superior "Alphas" for leadership and dronelike "Epsi-

lons" designed for servitude?

There is the chance, of course, that baby Brown is not only now unique, but will remain that way. Patrick Steptoe, the highly regarded gynecologist who pioneered the technique, is reported to have had at least 100 failures before succeeding with Mrs. Brown.

But might it happen in the future that other scientists, encouraged by his success, will experiment with genetic engineering and cloning — the reproduction of identical human beings from master cells?

The test-tube baby could be the first step towards the creation of a Hitler-style master race," said Leo Abse, a member of Parliament. He has asked the government to hold a special debate on genetics in the House of Commons.

The Roman Catholic bishop of Middlesbrough, the Rt. Rev. Gerard McClean, believes the medical breakthrough is "unlawful" in the eyes of the church.

"It is not the conception of a child as nature intended and I am opposed to it. Artificial insemination was condemned in a ruling from Rome some years ago by Pope Pious XII. What we are talking about now is the same sort of thing and must be covered by the same decision."

The Church of England, however, is not opposed to the new method.

"I can see nothing theologically wrong with it," said Prof. Robert Berry, who is a Church of England spokesman.

"There is a warning in the background," said one scientific commentator. "Clones and genetic engineering may be light years away so far as the expertise and the desire for such a step in humans is concerned. Yet a fertilized egg in the laboratory at least capacitates their development to some extent and the potential cannot be ignored."



## Economic team beating inflation?

By LEONARD CURRY

UPI Business Writer

WASHINGTON — President Carter's economic team insists inflation will begin to ease before year's end and jobs, factory and farm production continue to improve in 1979.

Robert Strauss, the president's top inflation fighter, says the administration's first problem already has been overcome.

"People now recognize how serious inflation is," said Strauss. "They were not so concerned a year, or even six months ago."

But Strauss admits the next battle will be more difficult. He told an interviewer reducing the inflation rate is largely a problem of psychology and emphatically ruled out any enforced restrictions through mandatory controls.

"There is a tremendous cynicism that nothing voluntary will work," said Strauss. "Those in the business community are the loudest voices. They say 'We need less regulation, get them off our backs.'"

But he said the business community also is the most critical of the administration's attempts to get business and labor to reduce price and wage demands without government influence.

"They're the same people who say 'Oh, this program won't work. It's voluntary.'"

Strauss said. He said business leaders "hang their heads like sheep-killing dogs" when he appeals to them for help in reducing inflation. If the voluntary program won't work, Strauss said, there are many in Congress

### Business

and some in the administration who are just hoping government can get into the act through controls.

Strauss said he tells business leaders "We can sure get the government into

your business, pal. That's easy. We've got people who want to do every single thing for you."

Combating inflation is largely a psychological war that will not be won in one pitched battle, Strauss said.

"You can't take our temperature every hour," he said. "You can't keep checking the pulse rate and asking 'How're you doing now?'"

But the administration will have progress to show by late summer, Strauss said. His views are echoed by other members

of the administration's economic team and the independent counsel of Federal Reserve Chairman G. William Miller.

"My hope is that we are nearing a time that we will be at or near the top of the interest rate cycle," Miller said.

Strauss said private enterprise can curb inflation, if business and labor agree to moderate demands. But the next few months are critical.

"If we don't get a psychology that this program will work, it won't work," Strauss said bluntly.

## Farm price skyrocket slowing

By SONJA HILLGREN

UPI Farm Editor

WASHINGTON — Annual farmland price increases, while still high, appear to have leveled off last year.

American farmland prices rose an average of 9 percent for the 12-month period ending Feb. 1. It was the smallest annual percentage increase since 1972.

The Agriculture Department predicts, in a report to come out Friday, that the average increase for the 12 months ending

Feb. 1, 1979, will range from 6 to 10 percent.

Increases in many prime farm states were greater than the average. States with gains of 13 percent or more included Wisconsin, South Dakota, Maryland, Mississippi, Louisiana, Missouri, Ohio, Kentucky and California.

Nebraska, with an average farmland price decrease of 4 percent, was the only state to show a decline. However, be-

tween Nov. 1, 1977, and Feb. 1, land values also dipped slightly in Kansas, New York, North Carolina and West Virginia.

The national average per acre was \$490, with the highest average at \$2,051 in New Jersey and the lowest average at \$93 in New Mexico.

The average farm increased somewhat in size during the 12-month period, so that the average value per farm increased by 9.7 percent. The average farm was worth \$195,800.

According to the survey, the total value of farm real estate was \$524 billion, up \$42 billion from last year. Building values accounted for 17 percent of the total value.

The rate of farm transfers dropped during the survey period by 3 percent, to 41.7 tracts per 1,000 farms. Because the number of farms decreased, the total number of transfers declined 4 percent, to 104,500 farms.

Farm enlargement accounted for 58 percent of farmland purchases in the last survey year. In the previous year, a record 63 percent of purchases were by farmers enlarging their land holdings.

Credit availability has tightened, but lenders were still willing to lend money for real estate.

By Doug Graham



## FEEM