

VIEWPOINT

THE BATTALION
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

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State, federal taxes: take your choice

Only in the West is the public's unhappiness with property taxes as marked as was demonstrated by the vote on California's Proposition 13.

A new poll taken for the Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations and reported by the United Press International found that in most areas of the country the federal income tax and the property tax run "neck and neck."

The poll, taken just before the California vote, found no dramatic increase in antiproperty tax feelings during the past year.

Nationally, the poll showed 32 percent of those questioned felt the property tax was

worse, while 30 percent felt the federal income tax was worse.

Unlike polls taken after the passage of Proposition 13, the advisory commission's poll found that the largest number of respondents — 35 percent — felt the federal government "gave them the most for their money." Local governments, with 26 percent, and state governments, with 20 percent, followed in that order.

The Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations is made up of representatives of federal, state and local governments and the public. It was created to monitor intergovernmental relations and make recommendations for change.

Chicago riots still haunt Democrats

By DAVID S. BRODER

CHICAGO—It is 10 years ago this week that the Democratic Party, in its presidential nominating convention here, endured what were probably the most traumatic four days of its 20th century history. To recall those 96 hours of violence and epithets and embittered emotions is to measure the distance this oldest and largest of our political institutions has come in a decade.

REREADING THE DISPATCHES from the International Amphitheatre and the battle scenes in Grant Park, one recalls the barbed wire and bayonets, the acrid smell of tear gas and stink bombs, the sense of fear and defeat that made that week a sleepless nightmare for delegates, demonstrators and all of the others who were there.

And one is reminded, too, of how few of the principal figures of the Chicago convention survive as major political actors today. Lyndon Johnson, Hubert Humphrey and Richard Daley are all dead; Eugene McCarthy and Carl Albert, gray ghosts of the past. Ten years are a lifetime in politics.

But even though Jimmy Carter was nowhere on the scene, there are living links between the wounded, distraught Democrats of 1968 and the party which, a decade later, controls the White House, two-thirds of Congress, and three-fourths of the governorships.

WALTER F. MONDALE, who was Humphrey's co-chairman in Chicago, is now Carter's vice president. Anne Wexler, who was leading McCarthy's challenge to the seating of the Connecticut delegation, is now Carter's political deputy, a partner of Mondale in rallying support for the President's legislative program.

It would be convenient to conclude that the Democrats' resurgence is a tribute to their ability to blend the best of both sides in the fateful Chicago struggle. But history permits few such pat generalizations, and certainly not in this case. The seeds of

much of the strength and weakness of today's Democratic Party can be found in what happened in Chicago.

In all the chaos of that convention the Democrats did find the will and the wisdom to insist that southern delegations, like Georgia's, make room in their white ranks for such emerging black leaders as Julian Bond. They also found the energy to challenge the unit rule for delegation voting, much to the irritation of then-Democrat John Connally.

Without the integration of the party in the southern states and the opening of the nominating process, symbolized by the seating of Julian Bond and the abolition of the unit rule, a Jimmy Carter would not have been President ten years later.

BUT THERE WERE costs in that conflagration, even when viewed from the distance of a decade. Institutionally, the excesses of Chicago sent the Democrats off on an eight-year search for a set of delegate-selection rules that would be so symmetrically perfect and pure that no one could complain. In 1972, those new rules provoked credentials challenges that all but destroyed any hope of party unity again.

Now, that unrelenting pursuit has led to a monstrous marathon of 36 presidential primaries, denigrating any peer-group judgment about the qualifications of would-be Presidents and substituting a system that enhances the influence of super-ambitious challengers, handfuls of activists, and the manipulators of the mass media.

It is not a system which serves the national interest, and it had its origins in Chicago.

Ideologically, Chicago left the Democrats paralyzed for eight years. Having literally come to blows over the issue of Vietnam, they avoided serious issue debate within their party as if it were the plague. Because they neglected the internal debate that might have led to a genuine consensus on new policies, they find themselves today with more power



than they ever expected—and less ability to govern. The political disarray of the Democrats does not serve the national interest, and it has its roots in Chicago.

Doctrinally, what were heresies when voiced by Eugene McCarthy ten years ago have become dogma for many of today's Democrats—not always with happy results. McCarthy warned about the dangers of unchecked presidential power and the risks of unexamined international commitments. He was right on both points.

BUT HE CARRIED his own position to extremes ten years ago this week, complaining that Johnson had overreacted when he summoned the National Security Council into emergency session when Soviet tanks rolled into Prague. The Democrats who have come along in McCarthy's wake have carried that campaign against presidential power and international involvement to the point that Jimmy Carter is often hamstrung in providing leadership to the nation, and the nation is

often hamstrung in providing leadership to the world.

That, too, does not serve the national interest, and it had its roots in Chicago.

Looking back, it was probably not a national tragedy that the Democrats were defeated after the devious convention ten years ago. If ever a party was in need of rest and repair, theirs was. But it was surely no boom to the country that so many people discounted, as partisan rhetoric. Hubert Humphrey's warning to the convention: "All of your dreams will be denied if Richard Nixon is victorious."

Six Augusts after Humphrey shouted those words into the wreckage of the Chicago convention, Richard Nixon's Republican successor began his own presidency with the words: "The long national nightmare is over."

Ten years after Chicago, one still has to hope that Jerry Ford was right.

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Victims of distance

By JOHN SHAW

International Writers Service

SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA—The "tyranny of distance" is a phrase commonly used by Australians to describe their geographic plight—which is their feeling of remoteness from Britain and the United States, two countries with which they feel a close kinship.

The enormous distances have been vastly shortened since the days of the clipper ships. But even so, Australia is a jet flight from either London or New York, and the air fare is expensive.

Thus various new American and British airline proposals have come up to shrink the costs, if not the miles, separating Australia from the Western world. These proposals, however, have been stirring controversy here.

AT THE CORE of the controversy has been the reluctance of the Australian government and Qantas, the national airline, to go along with the kinds of bargain fares that have made Atlantic crossings a popular experience.

Pan American Airways has suggested lower tariffs between the United States and the South Pacific, and Continental Airlines is prepared to compete with an inexpensive link from California to Sydney.

Sir Freddie Laker, the cut-rate pioneer, would like to offer the same sort of no-frill services that he runs across the Atlantic, while British Airways, which cooperates with Qantas, has been talking about reduced fares to London.

These are the longest commercial flights on earth. The 13,000 miles connecting Sydney and London, for example, takes about 24 hours, depending on whether the aircraft makes two or four stops. The trip between Sydney and San Francisco, non-stop, is 12 hours.

Pan American's recent proposal to cut some of its fares by 10 percent was rejected by the Australian government as "not in the public interest." An earlier Pan Am proposal for a 25 percent cut was also rebuffed.

MANY AUSTRALIAN TRAVELERS, who pay some of the world's highest fares for domestic as well as international trips, were somewhat puzzled by the government's judgment that lower rates are against the public interest. There has been no lack of understanding over the government's hesitation to move on reductions.

It is under pressure from the local tourist industry, which is deploying its considerable political influence to oppose changes that might prompt Australians to take their vacations abroad.

An overseas exodus would be a likely result of airline fare cuts, since internal flights and hotel rooms here are so expensive that Australians get better holiday package value by flying to such nearby resorts as Bali, New Caledonia and New Zealand.

AT THE SAME TIME, the government is seeking to protect Qantas, which could find itself confronted by stiff competition if all the airlines servicing Australia went into the cut-rate business.

Pan American, formerly the only U.S. airline that flew to Australia, was undoubtedly inspired to propose reduced fares after Washington approved a second route to the South Pacific for Continental, a company based in Los Angeles.

If both the American carriers were permitted to sell bargain tickets, Qantas might be faced with empty seats and declining profits—even though travelers would welcome the lower costs.

Laker, meanwhile, is shaking up the establishment in his customary manner by seeking Australian government endorsement for a Skytrain service between Australia and Britain that would run some 40 percent lower than the present fare.

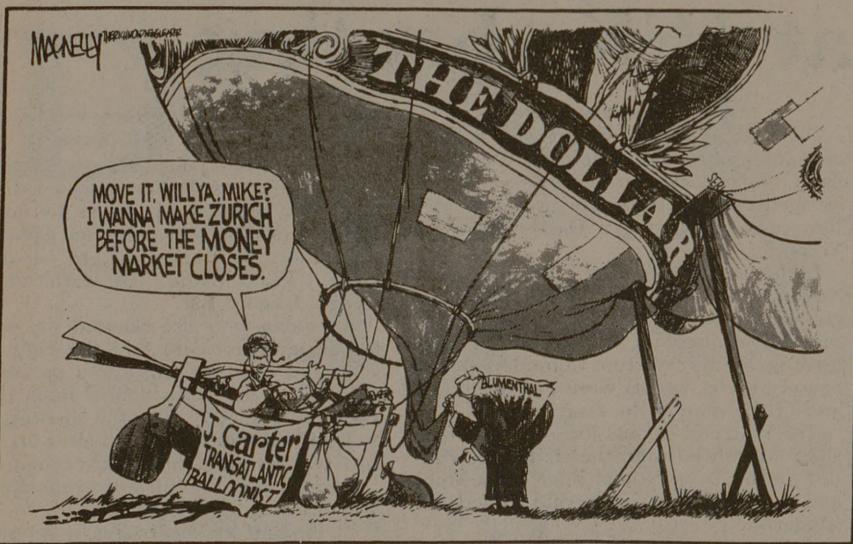
Here again, the government is stalling on its response, contending that it is conducting its own fare structure studies in order to estimate the prospects for reduced Qantas rates.

ALL THIS IS TESTING the patience of the Australian public, which would like to get into step with the rest of mankind, so both the Laker and Pan American fare proposals are gathering wide support.

Not long ago, for instance, the conservative Sydney Morning Herald accused the government of "blatant delaying tactics" in postponing decisions on fare cuts, and urged it to "face the challenge of a competitive market place."

The chances are that the government will concede sooner or later, and that lower air tariffs will be okayed. But Australia will still be a long way off, and getting there and back will take a hard day's night.

(Shaw, a columnist for the Sydney Sun, writes on current affairs in Australia.)



Et tu, Oswald

By DICK WEST

United Press International

WASHINGTON—Public hearings that the House Assassinations Committee began recently will be resumed next month and are expected to continue sporadically for the rest of the year.

You might think that after all this rigorous investigating the committee would be content to rest on its laurels. But you would be wrong.

I have it on good authority that next year the committee intends to launch an

inquiry into the assassination of Julius Caesar.

The Lighter Side

My sources say the decision to look into Caesar's fatal stabbing was prompted by publication of a book "Rush to Parchment" by Marcus Lanus.

In the book Lanus challenges the commonly accepted version of the assassination as set forth in Shakespeare's play "Julius Caesar."

He offers conjecture that Caesar actually was killed by a single assassin rather than a group of conspirators.

Lanus claims Shakespeare was having second act problems that were making it difficult for him to finish the play in time for its scheduled production at the Globe Theater.

Under deadline pressure according to Lanus, Shakespeare conveniently based

his plot on available source material rather than trying to dig up fresh facts.

Lanus says Shakespeare relied almost exclusively on the works of the Greek biographer Plutarch, who blamed Caesar's death on a conspiracy headed by Brutus and Cassius.

In dramatizing that account of the slaying, Lanus writes the bard brushed aside conflicting theories that the assassination actually was perpetrated by Mark Antony, who acted alone.

Following are the main points in the book:

—Antony was known to have a quick temper and a lust for power. Hoping to ride to glory on Caesar's coattails, he tried to put the crown of Rome on Caesar's head. When Caesar rejected it Antony decided his best shot at becoming head of the empire was to do Caesar in.

—The fact that Caesar had 20 stab wounds caused Shakespeare to assume it was a group effort. Later tests prove that the same number of cuts could have been made by one ambidextrous assassin wielding a two-bladed dagger.

—Shakespeare failed to appreciate the significance of the warning "Beware the Ides of March" treating it as premonition rather than inside information.

—Caesar's cry "Et tu Brute!" was wrongly interpreted as dismay over Brutus joining the attack. Caesar had previously observed that Cassius had "a lean and hungry look."

The "you too" cry was simply his reaction upon noticing that Brutus also had been dieting.

TOP OF THE NEWS

CAMPUS

Research symposium slated

Texas A&M University is sponsoring the Olin E. Teague National Science Policy Symposium Sept. 16 at which research-oriented governmental, educational, industrial and agricultural leaders will attempt to define solutions for practical implementation of national policies affecting science. The symposium will be held in Rudder Theater beginning at 1 p.m. Symposium attendance is open to the public without charge.

LOCAL

A&M dinner to honor Teague

U.S. House Majority leader Jim Wright and Oliver Meadows, former veterans affairs official, will be among the key speakers at the Sept. 16 "Salute to Tiger Teague" at Texas A&M University. Each speaker will focus on a major segment of the life and work of retiring U.S. Rep. Olin E. Teague, said Texas A&M President Jarvis E. Miller, co-chairman of the committee planning the appreciation dinner. Leon Jaworski, prominent Houston attorney who led the federal government's Watergate and Koreagate prosecution forces, was announced as master of ceremonies. The dinner is set for 7:30 p.m. at Duncan Dining Hall. The dinner is open to the public. Tickets, priced at \$25 each, are on sale at financial institutions throughout the 6th Congressional District or may be ordered by contacting Steve Pringle, Box OET, College Station, Tx. 77840.

STATE

Tugboat saves carrier in Gulf

A commercial tugboat from Corpus Christi went to the aid of a bulk carrier 85 miles out in the Gulf of Mexico that was disabled by a fire in the engine room Monday. The fire broke out Sunday night aboard the M.V. Maritime Hawk. It was placed under control Monday morning without injuries, the Coast Guard spokesman said. The Coast Guard cutter, Durable, reached the scene about two hours after the fire started and aided crew members in firefighting efforts. The blaze was contained in the engine room.

NATION

U.S. Pact signed with Zaire

The Agriculture Department announced Monday in Washington that a sales agreement has been signed with Zaire to provide the African nation with \$18 million of American wheat, flour, rice, tobacco, and cotton. Fred Welz, acting general sales manager for the department, said the convertible local currency credit agreement signed last Friday calls for the sales of \$6.4 million of wheat and wheat flour or about 50,000 metric tons. In addition it includes \$4.6 million of rice, \$4 million of tobacco, and \$3 million of cotton. Sales will be made by private U.S. traders. The department said Zaire announced plans at the signing to carry out agricultural self-help measures with emphasis on contributing directly to development progress in poor rural areas and enabling the poor to participate actively in small farm agriculture. It also provides budgetary support for Zaire's Agricultural Service and staff for vocational schools and training and for agricultural credit efforts. Programs of the North Shaba Rural Development Project also are to be augmented.

Conservation needed for loans

The Agriculture Department announced Monday in Washington that rural electric cooperatives will be required to develop energy conservation programs to obtain government loans or loan guarantees. Assistant Agriculture Secretary Alex Mercure said the department's Rural Electrification Administration will require more than 900 cooperatives to assign fulltime personnel to assist consumers in using electric energy in the most efficient manner. Mercure said the decision on what types of conservation measures to implement will be left up to the individual.

WORLD

Soyuz 31 links with Salyut 6 lab

Two Soyuz 31 cosmonauts who linked up with a manned Salyut 6 space lab arrived bearing gifts of books, newspapers, watches and one stuffed bear. Soviet cosmonaut Valeri Bykovski and East German "cosmonaut researcher" Sigmund Jaehn docked Sunday with the space station at 12:38 a.m. EDT Sunday. "I've brought presents for our friends," Jaehn said after floating into the small station. Then Bykovski passed him boxes of goodies through the open hatch from Soyuz 31. The two cosmonauts, Alexander Ivanchenkov and Vladimir Kovalenok have been aboard the station for 71 days.

WEATHER

Cloudy skies with cooler temperature towards the weekend. Showers or thundershowers expected. High today near 90s and low in the low 70s. Wind is invariable. Probability of rain 30% today, tonight and Wednesday.

THE BATTALION

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Letters to the editor should not exceed 300 words and are subject to being cut to that length or less if longer. The editorial staff reserves the right to edit such letters and does not guarantee to publish any letter. Each letter must be signed, show the address of the writer and list a telephone number for verification.

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