

VIEWPOINT

THE BATTALION
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

WEDNESDAY
SEPTEMBER 13, 1978

Heaven save us from the 'junk mailman'

By DAVID S. BRODER
WASHINGTON—So much has been said about the 15-cent postage stamp and the five-day deliveries from neighboring cities that one would suppose the flow of mail was being strangled.

No such luck. To return to the office after a two-week tramp through the Northeastern political woods is to bury oneself in a blizzard of unsolicited, unneeded, but impossible-to-ignore mail.

It is absolutely astonishing what people will spend good money to send to their uncomprehending postal pals. THE AFTERNOON MAIL at the Washington Post on the day after Labor Day is lighter than most deliveries. But there were more than 30 letters, tugging one's attention this way and that.

Charles (Pug) Ravenel, a Democratic Senate candidate in South Carolina, wishes to share his schedule for the week, beginning with the Men's Club of the Mauldin United Methodist Church and ending with the Association of Utilization Review Coordinators in Litchfield Beach. The latter are identified, helpfully, as medical personnel, which one never would have guessed. The Methodist Men's Club is presumably what its name implies.

The French Embassy reports that, "President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing sent a congratulatory message to

Chad's President Felix Malloum Aug. 30 after that country made public the provisions of its 'fundamental charter.'"

In the same news release, the nomination of former rebel leader Hissene Habre as prime minister is described by the French foreign ministry spokesman as "a step toward national reconciliation in Chad, which the French government has never ceased to envision."

ONE WONDERS BRIEFLY if the U.S. government has also "never ceased to envision" reconciliation in Chad, but somehow, the question does not seem worth pursuing.

Not when, in the same mail: —Minnesota Gov. Rudy Perpich (D) is offering a copy of his 1977 income-tax return, which includes a \$7,070 item for the sale of accounts receivable when he closed his dental practice and became a full-time governor.

—Life Letter No. 12 of the Ad Hoc Committee in Defense of Life, Inc., reports, with uninhibited imagery, that, "Rumors abound on Capitol Hill that an abortion 'fix' (by the leadership) is already in, and that both Houses will emerge, Houdini-like, from the multiple abortion chains in time for members to go home with some kind of 'acceptable compromise' fig leaf to wear in November."

—The White House office of media

liaison, in a background report on the public works bill, offers the following helpful colloquy:

"Q.—Isn't the President just renewing his war on the West by going after these water projects again?"

"A.—There never was a war on the West. . . . The President's water policy demonstrates a great deal of sensitivity to the West."

—The American Institute of Architects announces that it "has been awarded an initial \$120,000 contract by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to develop plans and administer a comprehensive review of approximately 12,000 defective housing claims in ten older urban areas."

—Rep. Helen Meyner, D-N.J., reports that her survey of more than 10,000 constituents shows that "people are terribly concerned with inflation and government spending," but 74 percent of them believe "U.S. military strength should keep pace with, or exceed, that of the Soviet Union, even if it means higher taxes."

—Rep. Maryon Allen, D-Ala., reports she has turned back to the Treasury some \$100,000 in funds allocated to the Senate subcommittee on separation of powers. She says: "This proves that

government can operate efficiently and fully on less money." She does not say why the subcommittee is needed at all.

AFTER ABSORBING ALL this mimeographed information of doubtful value, one turns gratefully to a personal letter from August L. Williams, the chairman of the social sciences division of Bee County College, in Beeville, Texas.

Professor Williams flatteringly mentions that, in a recent column by this reporter, he "detected the concept of geography," and seizes that self-created opening to advance a pet scheme of his own. He believes the nation's capital should be moved from Washington to a point south of Springfield, Mo., to be closer to the population center of the nation.

He broaches the subject diffidently, noting that "it might sound unreal to you," but adding that "new ideas need time...before politicians accept them."

No need for diffidence, Professor Williams. You may count on my full support for the proposal, as long as we can move the capital and its morning newspaper without giving the Post Office our forwarding address.

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Iran's future grim

By SAYID RIZVI

United Press International
TEHRAN, Iran — An exclusive group of powerful Moslem high priests has made one thing clear in its critical showdown with Shah Mohammed Reza Pahlevi — Iran must turn to Islam or suffer a blood-bath.

It may already be happening. Violence which has wracked Iran for the last 10 months has accounted for hundreds, and some say thousands, of lives. When the rioting led inevitably to martial law, the scale of bloodshed rose sharply.

Behind the turmoil there is a complicated skein of motives, both political and religious, alliances and historical forces.

The new dream of Islamic rule is an outgrowth of political demands and now has assumed a dominant force headed by 70 clerical men known as ayatollahs — who like to equate themselves in influence with cardinals — backed by hundreds of thousands of followers.

The half century of methodical modernization — and, to some extent, westernization — undertaken by the shah and his father gave the Moslem zealots their opening.

Rapid material growth fueled by Iran's \$23 billion-a-year oil revenues eroded old traditions and created an ever-wider chasm between rich and poor. Added to economic distress was the shah's determination not to let his opponents block his path. The result: charges of political oppression.

The priests led a loose movement of political groups of all shades and leanings. At first their demands were for increased democracy and they forced several major concessions from the shah, including the end of a ban on political activity. As a result, parties mushroomed and the clergy began to realize their tremendous political powers. From this grew their religious demands.

As demonstrations widened, Moslem traditionalists began shouting anti-shah

slogans, claiming that the monarchy and an Islamic government could not go together and that it was the clergy, not the politicians, who knew the answers to the country's problems.

The chief clergy leader, Ayatollah Khomeini, proclaimed from his exile in Iraq: "There will be no monarchy, but the rule of Islamic law. The clergy will sit in council and rule by virtue of its wisdom."

Politicians riding Khomeini's bandwagon wondered if that would not simply lead to a church dictatorship instead of the democracy they were fighting for. They worried that the ascendancy of the Islamic movement would dwarf their objectives of restoration of basic liberties.

Although few clergymen in Iran support the amputation of the hands of thieves and the flogging of rapists, their interpretation of Islamic law is strict. The clergy insist they must scrutinize all laws for un-Islamic elements and be able to scrap any it deems unfit. This would affect not only nearly all existing laws, based on French jurisprudence, but would also leave no room for a legislature.

The country's intellectuals, for the time being, cannot hope to win popular support without patronage of the clergy. That means intellectuals cannot hope to counter the rising tide of the clergy movement with a democratic alternative, at least until political awareness grows substantially among the public.

In the heat of the moment, the people may perhaps not realize they have pledged to return to an old order, the society they shunned to enter the Twentieth Century, one political analyst said.

The current situation in Iran stemming from these motives and movements is bleak.

The shah's handover of Tehran and 11 other towns to the military has slammed the door on a compromise with the opposition that never seemed quite possible anyway. It has also left him with few alternatives if it fails.

'Shifty 50' aim to weaken Clayton clout

By ROLAND LINDSEY
UPI Capitol Reporter

AUSTIN — The "shifty 50" group organized during the special legislative session because of opposition to Speaker Bill Clayton has scheduled a meeting Sept. 23 to discuss proposed changes in House rules.

The group intends to push for new rules in January that would dilute the power of the speaker and increase the power of House members.

Rep. Bob Maloney, R-Dallas, a committee chairman under Clayton, and Rep. John Hoestenbach, D-Odessa, who did not seek re-election, are leading the preparation for the Sept. 23 meeting, with Maloney drafting the proposed rules changes.

One representative who attended the group's previous meetings, which have been closed to the public, said there is consensus at this point on only one thing: "Cullahorn has to go."

Jack Gullahorn is administrative assis-

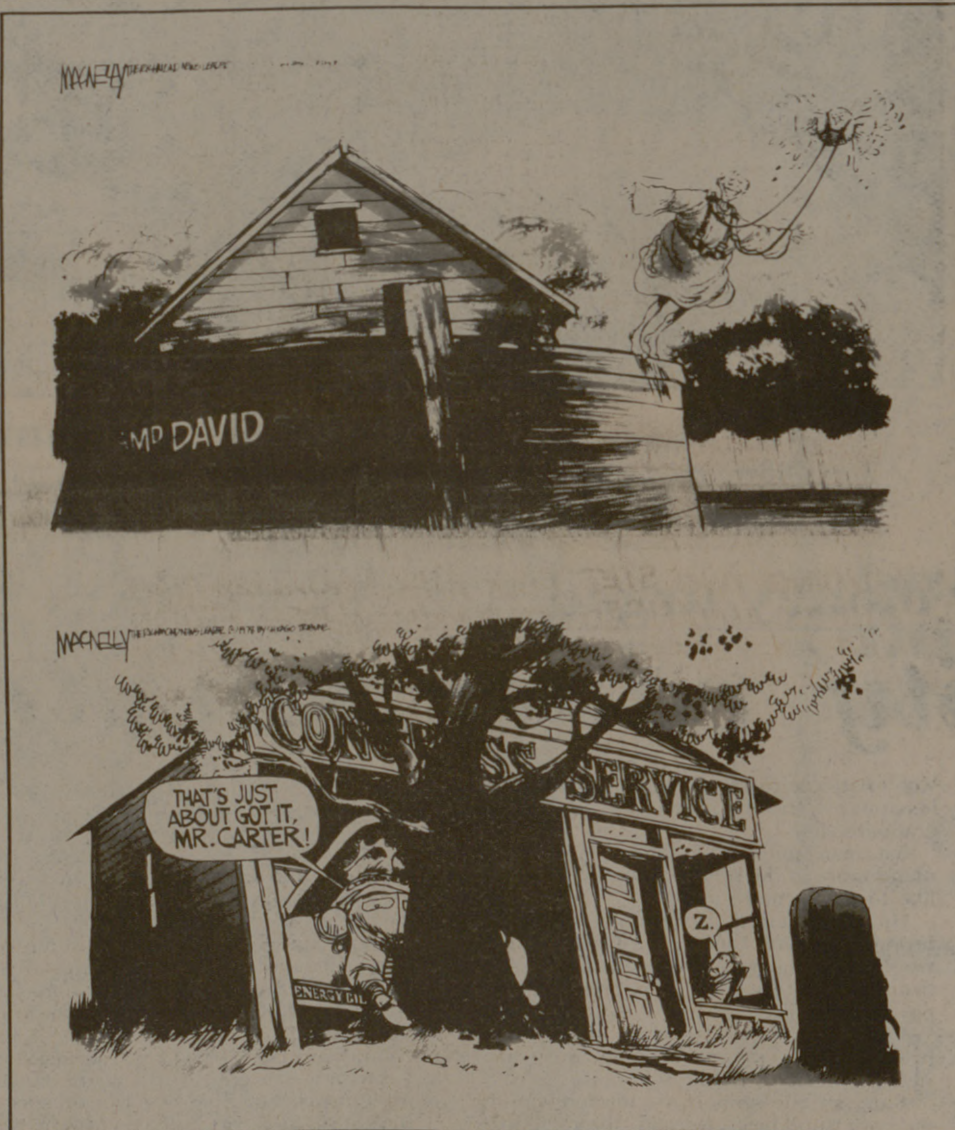
tant to Clayton, and sparked considerable hostility during the special session by preparing vote tabulations showing which House members had voted with Clayton and which had opposed his stands.

REPUBLICAN JIM BAKER, who is opposing Mark White in the general election campaign for attorney general, got a taste of dirty tricks at a news conference he called last week to announce a detailed anti-crime platform.

Sue Lowe sat with reporters at the news conference and questioned Baker about his stands and how his proposals differ from present law, and used a tape recorder to record his comments.

Reporters were aware Ms. Lowe had not been employed with any local news media, and one asked her at the conclusion of the news conference who she represented. She said she was on the staff of Sen. Oscar Mauzy, D-Dallas.

She has been on Mauzy's staff for some time, but now is working full-time for



White's campaign, doing what White's newsletter called "research."

A TEXAS FRIEND of former Rep. Sarah Weddington told Democratic national chairman John C. White he wasn't doing Ms. Weddington any favors by recommending her appointment to the White House staff.

"I know that," White reportedly told the Texan. "But I need somebody over there with some sense that I can talk to."

SPEAKER BILL CLAYTON left Labor Day for an extended visit to the Republic of China.

The speaker is due to be back in his office Sept. 22.

ATTORNEY GENERAL JOHN HILL has scheduled a full week of airport rallies and news conferences beginning Sept. 18 to launch his fall campaign. Hill will make a state-wide telecast from the state Democratic convention in Fort Worth Friday.

DEMOCRATIC LEADERS WERE excited that the large turnout for a dinner honoring retiring party chairman Calvin Guest, with Vice President Walter Mondale as guest, exemplified a new era of unity in the party.

Not so, said one person at the party. "I think the Democrats are so happy to get together and drink and have a little fun that they'd come no matter who was here," he said.

Letters to the editor

Transfers cheated

Editor:

As a recent transfer student, I have discovered a discrimination concerning the transfer of credits.

It is known to many of us that Texas A&M does not give credit for any band or choir activities with the exception of the members of the Aggie Band. They receive P.E. credit for marching. It is common practice at many colleges and universities to give marching band members credit for P.E., and they deserve it.

My objection is this: I was in the marching band at Sam Houston State University, but A&M will not give me credit for it. It was told at admissions that I couldn't get credit unless I was in the Aggie Band!

This seems very unfair to me. For one thing, if I'm a transfer student I couldn't have possibly been in the Aggie Band. However, I still marched in a band, and I

feel I have earned the credit. For another thing I am female and would never be admitted to the Aggie Band! I feel I am being discriminated against as a transfer student and a former member of the SHSU Marching Band.

What do you think?

— Elizabeth Stephens

Correction

Tuesday's Battalion incorrectly quoted Ron Sasse, assistant director of student affairs for the University. The article should have said that 700 women may be without dorm space if renovations on Legett Hall are not finished before the start of school next fall.

The Battalion regrets the error.

TOP OF THE NEWS CAMPUS

Bryan firefighters in A&M course

Four Bryan fire fighters are trainees in the 24th Recruit Fire Training School at Texas A&M University. One of the four is second woman to attend the school since it started eight years ago, said David White, training specialist. Eleven trainees are in class, which will qualify the firemen for state certification.

STATE

Hit-and-run injures UT runner

A hit-and-run driver injured a University of Texas track runner early Monday. Eric M. Scott, 19, suffered a broken kneecap, broke pelvic bone and a possible concussion when he was hit while jogging with 15 UT track teammates. Scott was the last of 16 runners jogging single file on a north Austin street. Assistant coach James Blackwood said doctors expect Scott to remain hospitalized for several days.

Dengue fever may hit Houston

Harris County may be vulnerable to an outbreak of Dengue fever, a University of Texas health official said. In a memorandum to Harris County Health officials, John Scanlon of the University of Texas School of Public Health warned that the carriers of the non-fatal Dengue fever are present in Harris County. Harris County officials said the temperature will be too cold in a few weeks for the fever to be transmitted, "but it is something to keep an eye on." Dengue fever is now plaguing Latin American countries.

Tropical storm heads west

The dying tropical depression in the Gulf of Mexico is now moving toward the Louisiana border, trailing heavy thunderstorms and strong winds. Some areas on the Gulf Coast between Corpus Christi and Houston received up to six inches of rain in the last 24 hours. Flash flood warnings were issued in those areas, and the National Weather Service said they would probably be extended northward as the storm moved into southeast Texas.

NATION

Automakers file suit against FTC

Attorneys for three of the nation's "Big Four" automakers have charged the Federal Trade Commission with using illegal tactics in a two-year antitrust investigation of the auto industry. In a suit filed in Detroit Monday seeking to halt the investigation, automakers charged that the Fourth Amendment right securing against unreasonable search and seizure is being isolated. Automakers said disclosure of some records would cause them "competitive damage."

New Orleans teachers end strike

New Orleans teachers ended their 13-day strike Monday when school administrators came up with over \$1.9 million to fund a 7 percent salary increase. The school board voted to close four schools and cut budgets for maintenance, transportation, and special educational services. Teachers were expected to return to their classrooms Tuesday.

LA busing off to a quiet start

Los Angeles' school integration busing program, one of the largest ever attempted, began Tuesday without any signs of violence or disturbance. Mayor Tom Bradley called it "an excellent opening day." However, opponents of the busing plan claimed they were 80 to 90 percent effective in sending empty buses to the inner city. One of the leaders of the boycott, Link Wyler, said the total number of students joining the boycott may approach 10,000.

Kansas City not ready for flood

A year after a Kansas City, Mo., flood claimed 25 lives, city officials warn that little has been done to prevent another flood. Kansas City voters last week failed to approve a \$38.5 million flood control bond proposal aimed at preventing a recurrence. "It's a very dangerous situation that the voters turned their backs on," Mayor Charles Wheeler said, adding that the issue will be presented again to the voters.

Six Mexicans to lead U.S. festival

Six Mexican cabinet-level officers will go to U.S. cities to lead the Mexican Independence celebration on Friday night, the Mexican government announced. Officials are traditionally sent to lead the ceremonies in U.S. cities with large Mexican-American communities. Officials will go to Chicago, Houston, Los Angeles, New York, San Antonio and San Francisco. The ceremony is a re-enactment of the 1810 uprising led by Father Miguel Hidalgo.

WEATHER

Mostly cloudy with chances of showers and thunderstorms becoming partly cloudy Thursday. High in the low 90s and low in the mid-70s. Probability of rain 30% for today, 20% for tonight and 30% for tomorrow.

THE BATTALION

LETTERS POLICY
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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