Carter waging 'battle of the bureaucrat'

WASHINGTON — There is no question that federal civil service jobs are eagerly sought, especially in times of economic uncertainty. Government jobs at all levels have always provided respectable work and good fringe benefits. If the work was dull, at least it was hard to get fired. And in recent years salaries have

the best employers around.
With all that going for civil servants, it is little wonder they are sometimes hard to move when it comes to putting into effect

shot up, making the government one of

The Lighter Side

a president's policies and sometimes a lit-tle less energetic than they might be if paid by a profit-hungry boss. So, in what could be the most far-

reaching of his domestic achievements, President Carter has proposed a broad reform of the federal civil service and is on the verge of getting it passed by Congress

largely intact.
Strangley, however, while a balky
House finally got ready last week to pass the measure giving Carter authority he wanted to clear out the deadwood, it also took two actions that would keep fresh talent out of government.

First, it voted against Carter's move to

eliminate the hiring preference given to veterans, which effectively blocks entry and promotions for blacks, women and

Vietnam veterans. Second, it voted overwhelmingly for a ceiling on government employment at its Jan. 1, 1977, level of 2.1 million, meaning about 112,000 current jobs would be lost through both attrition and layoffs. The second vote was politically irresistible. The bill's floor manager, Rep. Morris Udall, D-Ariz., soft-pedaled his opposition and even Rep. Gladys Spellman, D-Md.,

one of the most vigorous defenders of put-upon bureaucrats, voted for it. Rep. Patricia Schroeder, D-Colo., who

favored ending veterans preference and putting a cap on employment, linked the two issues. During debate on an ill-fated amendment to limit the preference only to Vietnam combat veterans, she said allowing the advantage for all vets sets up a pool of 28 million persons competing for about 150,000 new jobs, instead of just the 8 million Vietnam veterans.

"If we could do this vote by secret bal-



about wanting to have the veterans all get a crack at the jobs, but nobody is for increasing the federal service so they will all have that crack.

It is likely, however, that both House actions, taken for purely political reasons, will be reversed sooner or later.

The job ceiling and employment freeze was not in the Senate version of the bill and is subject to further action by the joint conference committee meeting this week to iron out that difference. Since the amendment was defeated during original committee consideration and since Civil Service Commission officials say thousands of workers would have to be fired, the provision is likely to be one of the things ironed out of the final bill.

Retention of veterans preference, al ready agreed to both houses, is in the bill to stay. But a presidential aide, Richard Pettigrew, was optimistic it can be eliminated by separate legislation next year. Although the key vote in favor of keeping it was 222-149, he and some key con-gressmen said the difference was really only about 15 votes, with the extra margin provided by opponents who wanted pre-election credit from veterans groups.

"I think in some fashion it will come up next year," Pettigrew predicted. "It will be do-able because it won't be an election

Space shots aimed in different directions

By AL ROSSITER Jr.

UPI Science Editor
WASHINGTON — The record flight of two cosmonauts aboard Salyut 6 comes at a time when American spacemen have been grounded for three years and won't return to space for at least another year.

Two Soviet cosmonauts, Soyuz 29 cosmonauts Vladimir Kovalenok and Alexander Ivanchenkov, have orbited their way into the record books, breaking the world manned spaceflight endurance record of 96 days, 10 hours - more than a quarter

of a year.

The Soviet manned spaceflight activity and the American hiatus are indications of the different courses in space the super-

powers have taken in the past decade. Following the then-unprecedented long-duration orbital flights of three early 1974, the United States changed gears and opted for "easy access" to orbit. The Soviet Union decided to aim toward

long stays in space.

To do this, the Soviets have been using Soyuz spacecraft based on 1960s technol-

Analysis

ogy as both manned and unmanned ferries to Salyut space stations. Each Soyuz is launched by conventional rockets and both booster and spacecraft are used only once.

For the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, "easy access" means dis-carding the old expendable rocket and spaceship idea and switching to the space serve as an orbital transport shuttling to and from orbit every two or three weeks.

The shuttle's initial flight test into space

nce was set for next March. It has been delayed by engine troubles and NASA sources report that the earliest the shuttle now could fly is next September. The agency has reported recent engine tests have gone well.

The shuttle, able to carry up to seven men and women, is designed to stay up to two weeks in orbit. But once the the shuttle begins operational flights carrying people and machinery to and from orbit, NASA is expected to start thinking seriously about extending its duration in

space.
"What I think will happen to us is that we're going to begin to want to run longer and longer missions," NASA administrator Robert Frosch said. "There will come a point at which it is clearly more convenient to stay there than to go up and down,

instead of commuting.
"The Soviets have decided they want to try for very long stays," Frosch said. "I'm not quite sure why. There are rumors that they're backing it up by working on a shuttle, but I don't have any hard information

Frosch said that with resupply flights from the unmanned Progress spacecraft, Soviet space officials have developed a fairly flexible system to keep men in space for many months.

He said the Soviets have said that permanent occupation of space is inevitable "and they seem to be following that

Letters to the editor

Seniority parking privilege thing of the past

Editor:

Traditionally, as one reaches the junior and senior years in college, the privileges increase. However, one particular privilege has been reduced: namely, park-ing for the North Area Dorm male upperclassmen.

Somehow, sophomores have now been goven the right to park in areas which previously had been reserved for juniors and seniors. Although parking in these areas in the past was tight, an even greater shortage of parking spaces in now evident. After searching for, and finally securing a legal parking space, a celebration is indeed

In addition to allowing sophomores to park in these areas, some parking spaces were also given to the female dorm students. This of course further decreased the spaces available to the male dorm students. However, this is not the main part of our complaint because we realize this was done for their safety. This fact just illustrates the increased shortage incurred on the male parking availability.

Maybe the "management" felt this

would influence the male juniors and seniors to consider moving off-campus. It has been argued that "after the transition to college life has been make dorm living should be discarded and off campus living should be considered."

we feel that we made this transition long ago, but prefer the conveniences of dorm living. We have served our time parking across the tracks and enjoyed the privilege of parking around the dorms until it became the hassle it is now.

We have talked to sophomores that park in these areas and they agree that the parking situation is now unbearable. They also realize, as we do, that the problem will not get any better unless the "management" reconsiders what has been done.

Many full-year parking permits have al-

ready been issued, so we will have to live with the problem until May. Hopefully, those in charge will strongly consider this problem and revert the situation back to the way it was before; at least it was tolerable.

Todd Culbertson, '79 Mike Sweeney, '79 Willy Grimley, '80 Tom Weirich, '81

Dorm democracy

We are writing to complain about the communist infringement on the rights of residents of Schuhmacher and Walton Halls. As of this semester, the Fascist Staff of the aforementioned halls decided (most undemocratically) that water fights and quads after hours and yell fights at any time should be outlawed.

We of Schuhmacher believe this to be unAmerican—much akin to the Democratic party. The R.A.'s seem to fell that holding the totalitarian j-board review over our heads is acceptable treatment; to us, however, it is the modern day equivalent of gestapo lightning tactics. We the residents of Schuhmacher Hall, have taken just about enough of the subversive efforts of our resident staff to incorporate marshall law in the live of fun-loving republican good American Aggies. This is as much of a threat to society as gay rights.

- David Nissman, '81 Ray Smith, '81 Rick McIver, '81 Harry Sparwasser, '81 Drew Montz, '82

Diplomacy fails

THE CARTER TEAM....

No wonder the American foreign dip-lomacy fails almost everywhere. In the last decade, the U.S. Foreign Diplomacy

faced defeats on more than one front, and is unfortunate that the U.S. is defeated by free nations who decided to be free from

the imperialist octopus. In almost all countries where an American-supported government is in command, corruption and unrest prevail, and more human rights violations than any other country, and thanks to the intentional bias of the news media, who refuse to upset us by informing us of the real practices of the American Government.

It is unfortunate that the U.S., with all the ideals of the Great American Revolu-

tion, spread suppression and corruption. It is disgraceful that leaders of thikat nation talk of human rights and brag about it and still support the Shah of Iran and Somoza in Nicaragua, who were both guilty of violating human rights and committing mass murder. Lately, Smarty Carter initiated the

Camp David negotiations. Although almost all experts in the Middle East politics predicted failure of the negotiations, based on their past experience, Smarty Carter kept pressing and dreamt to be the knight who will brng peace to the Middle East.

What is more ridiculous, is that Mr. Carter does not want to wake up and confess failure, though he knows it very well, that without a comprehensive settlement based on justice and recognition of dep-rived rights, peace cannot be achieved. He knows it well that neither Sadat nor Begn nor Carter can achieve peace, but the will of the free nations can.

It is true that Sadat and Begin can enforce a settlement, but never achieve peace, because only free nations who believe in right and truth and human values do win at the end, and what Mr. Carter is calling a peace treaty is nothing but allowing a period of rest for another wave of

So wake up, free Americans, it is about time the free World heard the voice of free Americans; it is about time free Americans

-Oussama Qawasmi, '79

'Student' jeers

What has happened to Today's Student? I used to rank right up there with True Confessions and the National Enquirer.

For some unknown reason, the reporters for T.S. abandoned the main attribute of their writing, which was faith and at-tempted to replace it with journalistic technique. This occurred midway through the last school year, when T.S. diversified its reporting into the fields of science and politics. Judging by their first issue this fall, which contained a list of the top 20 college football teams in the nation without listing Texas A&M, it is obvious that their reporters cannot handle secular to-

pics.

Whatever the cause of their troubles,
Today's Student is no longer entertaining

-Raymond J. Grimaila, '81

'Student' cheers

Just a note to let you know how pleased I was to find the weekly publication, Today's Student, on campus. Since I hadn't seen it this semester, I was afraid it might not be coming out this year. I find its fresh approach to various issues very interesting, informative, and often challenging. Although I may not always agree with everything it says, it certainly is thought-

Call us friendly

Editor:
I've been hearing about Texas A&M since I was a child when my father (class of 41) told my older brothers and I many "Old Army" stories of the school. I've been visiting here since 1967 when my brothers started attending A&M, and I started my college education here as a freshman in 1975.

I've seen many changes at A&M -- physical changes, research expansion, changes in academic programs, new sports programs, and changes in student attitudes. One thing that shouldn't be changing around here is friendliness.

I hold strong beliefs in many traditions at A&M. . . that's my own prerogative. But to me, trying to instill these traditions in another person, Aggie or not, who is not as tradition oriented as I am, would only be hypercritical of the spirit of Aggie friend-liness. I am proud to be a student at Texas A&M, and I'm equally proud of my fellow Aggies who continue in that same Aggie tradition of truly being friendly.

Sara L. Cooper, '79

Spirit of Legett

Curses on those that would have Legett Hall anything less than a men's dorm. May the Spirit of Legett torment your every waking hour and cause you to foul your shorts whilst thou slumbers.

Ian Bradington, '80

Clarification

In Wednesday's Battalion, an article about an injury to a cadet in Duncan Dining Hall may have given the impression that the emergency team from Beutel Health Center responded to the call in 20 minutes. Log records show the team arrived at Duncan about one minute after receiving the call from University Police.

Wes Pate, the student injured, was listed in good condition early this morning at St. Joseph Hospital

TOP OF THE NEWS A &

CAMPUS

long

Cadets to visit Air Force Base

A group of 60 ROTC cadets, mostly freshmen will get a chance to sample military life this weekend when they visit Elgin Air Force Base near Fort Walton Beach, Fla. Col. Kenneth W. Durham, pr fessor of aerospace studies at Texas A&M University said the tri part of regular orientation activities supported by the U.S. Air Force The cadets will leave today and return Saturday. The tour of the base will include a structural dynamics lab, an armament museum and a closeup look at F-15 and \acute{F} -15 aircraft.

A&M church group names head

H. Dennis Tolley, a statistics teacher at Texas A&M University, has been named bishop of the newly formed Texas A&M University Student Ward of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. The congregation will be made congregation will be made up of college-age singles and married couples without children will meet at the Mormon Chapel on 2500 Barak Lane in Bryan. Sunday schools will begin at 9:30~a.m. and sacrament meetings will be at 3~p.m.

LOCAL

Survey response due Oct. 2

The Bryan-College Station Chamber of Commerce asks clubs and organizations sponsoring events of public interest to respond by Oct. 2 to its recent special events survey. Information in the survey will aid the chamber in planning for tourists and conventions.

STATE

Legionnaire's disease confirmed

State health officials are taking air and water samples from local hotels in Dallas that housed 35,000 conventioneers last month to try to determine the source of an outbreak of Legionnaire's disease. Dallas County Health Director Lowell Berry Wednesday announced health officials had confirmed two non-fatal cases of the bacterial pneumonia among those attending the Veteran of Foreign Wars convention in late August. Berry refused to disclose the names of the two who were confirmed to have had the disease but said both recovered.

Officials investigate fatal accident

Authorities in Houston are investigating an industrial accident ar-lier this week in which a dolly fell from the 11th floor of an unfinished building and fatally injured a construction foreman standing on the ground. Wiley Robinson, 42, was struck on the head and shoulders the plummeting, 100-pound dolly. He was taken by helicopter Hermann Hospital where he died. Robinson was working on the story Two Post Oak Central building being built by the Lott Con struction Co. when the accident happened.

NATION

Police settle strike, receive raise

Progress was recorded Wednesday in strikes by police and fire in Biloxi, Miss. and Wichita, Kan. The strike in Biloxi ended police and firemen unanimously accepted \$100-a-month parcreases. Meanwhile, in Wichita, about half the striking police of met late Wednesday and voted 146-19 in favor of a new agreement. Another meeting would have been held early today, but Wednesday's vote indicated the contract would be approved even if there was a heavy negative vote at the second meeting. Wichita firemen de layed until early today a vote on a contract proposal that makes salz increases above the city's current offer contingent upon passage di half-cent sales tax.

WORLD

Vorster announces resignation

South African Prime Minister John Vorster announced his resignaretiring from public life and would not run for election as South Africa's president, a post left open by the death of the former president Nico Dederichs. He also said the republic would proceed wilderally with elections in South West Africa or Namibia. A new prime minister will be elected in eight days. Presently, there is a four-man race to succeed Vorster.

Cosmonauts break space record Two Soviet Cosmonauts, Vladimir Kovalenok and Alexander Ivan

chenkov, aboard Soyuz 29 orbited their way into the record books Wednesday, breaking the world manned spaceflight endurance record of 96 days, 10 hours. The old record was just short of 14 weeks. In a recent interview, NASA administrator Robert Frosch said, "The Soviets have decided they want to try for very long stays. I'm not sure why. There are rumors that they're backing it up by working on a shuttle, but I don't have any hard information on that."

WEATHER

It will be partly cloudy for today with a 50% chance of rain today, tonight and tomorrow. The high in the 80s and the low in the high 60s. Southeast wind at 10-15 mph.

THE BATTALION

Editor

Managing Editor

Sports Editor

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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