

VIEWPOINT

THE BATTALION
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

WEDNESDAY
NOVEMBER 8, 1978

Inflation program deserves support

President Jimmy Carter deserves the support and cooperation of his countrymen in his plan to combat inflation on a voluntary basis. His talk was greeted with instant analysis, some of it making the point that it would not work. Politicians, commentators and editorial writers today are talking about the shortcomings of voluntary controls and how they really don't work very well. Some observers are making a case for compulsory controls, which are the only real alternative. The nation's experience with former President Richard Nixon's 1971 wage-price freeze was very unhappy. If Carter can bring down the rate of inflation to 6 to 6.5 percent in the year ahead, it would be 1 and 1.5 to 2 percentage points below the 8 percent increases in consumer prices expected this year. Americans got a glimpse of a changed president — more confident now because of successes in the Camp David talks and in Congress. He was talking like a president should. He's going to use the government to set the example. That is essential. His plan is worth a serious try. It is a very vital first step. We hope his Georgia brand of persuasion works.

Sioux Falls (S.D.) ArgusLeader

Time for the Congressional scorecard

By ROBERT SHEPARD

WASHINGTON — In the view of the nation's civil rights leaders, only 47 of the 535 members of Congress were fully in step with the civil rights groups on key issues that came before the last session of Congress.

And 34 members were so far out of step with the civil rights groups they did not vote correctly on any of the important issues, says the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights.

The end of each congressional session occasions a string of vote analyses from a wide range of special interest groups — environmentalists, labor, conservatives, business, agriculture — each one identifying bills that were of importance to their group and telling whether the individual senators and representatives voted "right" or "wrong" on each issue.

Obviously, not all these groups agree on whether a vote is right or wrong on a given issue.

The latest scorecard deals with a dozen votes in the Senate and a dozen in the House. In some cases they cover the same

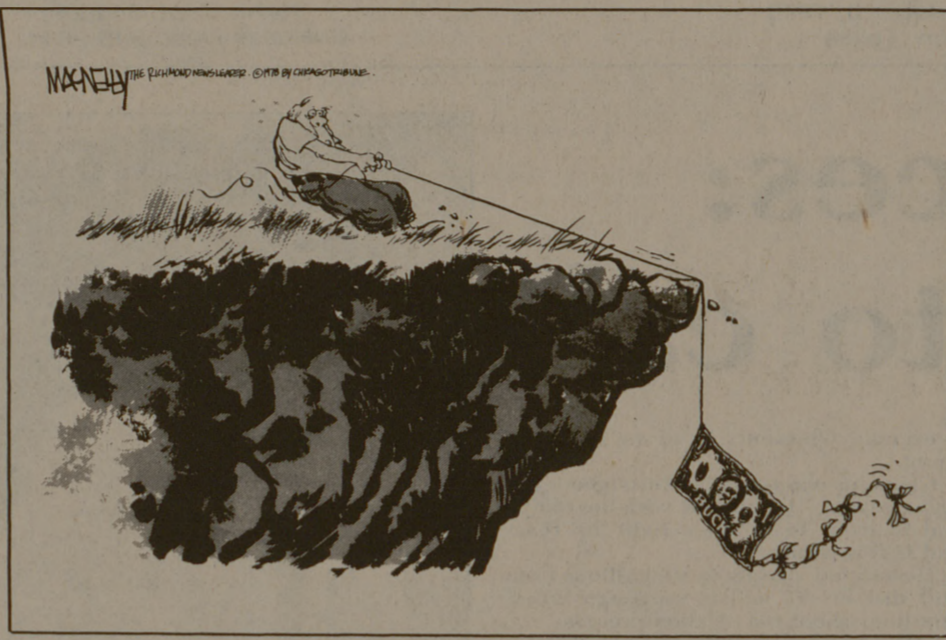
bills, but in others — such as the House rejection of a bill to expand the food stamp program — the issue was fought out in only one chamber.

Issues such as school desegregation and affirmative action are obvious candidates for the civil rights groups' list of key votes, but the list covers an even wider range of issues.

Washington Window

The Leadership Conference on Civil Rights includes several women's rights groups, so the votes on the ERA extension are included in the scorecard. Labor unions are also represented in the conference and so the labor law reform bill, which passed the House but died in the Senate, is another of the key issues.

The leadership conference concludes that only 16 of the 100 senators and 31 of the 435 House members voted right each time and therefore earned scores of 100 percent. Eleven senators and 23 representatives



consistently voted "wrong," ending with zero voting records.

The conference says more than one-fourth of the members of Congress voted 75 percent or better on civil rights and social welfare legislation.

The 12 critical votes in the Senate came on three school desegregation amendments (action favored by the civil rights groups on two amendments to the Labor HEW appropriations bill and to kill an amendment to the Elementary and Secondary Education Act); an affirmative action amendment to the Labor-HEW appropriations bill; the proposed constitutional amendment giving the District of Columbia full voting representation in Congress; the minimum wage; funds for low and middle income housing programs; providing disability benefits to pregnant women; creation of a national consumer cooperative bank; allowing legal services attorneys to help in desegregation cases; labor law reform; and a proposal to let states rescind their ratification of the ERA.

The House list also includes votes on the creation of an office of consumer protection; the Humphrey-Hawkins full employment bill; and continuing the Civil

Rights Commission.

Senators with perfect scores were: Democrats Alan Cranston, Calif.; Spark Matsunaga, Hawaii; Birch Bayh, Ind.; Dick Clark, John Culver, Iowa; William Hathaway, Maine; Edward Kennedy, Mass.; Muriel Humphrey, Minn.; John Durkin, N.H.; Harrison Williams, N.J.; Howard Metzenbaum, Ohio; Claiborne Pell, R.I.; and Republicans Clifford Case, N.J.; Jacob Javits, N.Y.; John Heinz, Pa.; Robert Stafford, Vt.

Representatives with perfect scores were: Democrats Ron Dellums, James Corman, Edward Roybal, Don Edwards, Phillip Burton, Calif.; Toby Moffett, Conn.; Dante Fascell, Fla.; Dan Rostenkowski, Sidney Yates, Ill.; Parnell Mitchell, Md.; Robert Drinan, Edward Markey, Gerry Studds, Mass.; Bob Carr, Dale Kildee, William Broadhead, Mich.; James Oberstar, Minn.; Frank Thompson, N.J.; Shirley Chisholm, Elizabeth Holtzman, Charles Rangel, Ned Pattison, N.Y.; James Weaver, Ore.; Robert Edgar, William Moorhead, Penn.; Edward Bear, R.I.; Harold Ford, Tenn.; Herb Harris, Va.; Alvin Baldus, Henry Reuss, Wis.; and Republican Newton Steers, Md.

Letters to the Editor

People crossings

Editor: Pedestrians on this campus seem to have forgotten that cars have rights too. The student who was hit by a car on Wellborn received a ticket for failure to yield right-of-way to a vehicle when a pedestrian bridge was provided.

Sure, cars are supposed to yield right-of-way to pedestrians but pedestrians only have legal right-of-way at crosswalks. Pedestrians are supposed to cross the street at designated places — not randomly whenever they feel like it.

It has gotten so bad that many pedestrians don't even look before they step out into the street. I've seen pedestrians step into the road from between parked cars, without looking and then give the driver of the car who skidded to a stop to avoid an accident a dirty, insulted look. It's amazing that there hasn't been many serious accidents because of this type of carelessness.

If a car is unfortunate enough to be at a shuttle bus stop when a bus is unloading passengers, the driver might as well turn off the car until every person on that bus has crossed the street. The majority of these people do not cross the street quickly or in groups, they just sort of mosey across the street single file.

If the driver is quick enough he can stick the front end of his car into a gap and then if he is not suddenly surrounded by irate pedestrians, dash across the road. This, however, will get him a bunch of dirty looks and possibly obscene gestures.

Bicyclists also need to remember that they have to obey the same laws as cars. This means stopping at stop signs and riding on the correct side of the road. It seems that bicyclists want the best of both worlds — rights of pedestrians but quick transportation. I don't know how many close calls I've seen because a bicycle went zipping through a 4-way stop intersection without stopping or really even looking.

Pedestrians, bicycles, and cars all have certain laws which they must obey. If everyone would be more considerate and tolerant of each other, a lot of ugly incidents could be avoided. After all, will it really matter who got the ticket if you end up in the hospital?

— Becky Schult, '80

We're all Aggies

Editor: I would like to take a moment out from my studies to respond to a letter defending the band, in Letters to the Editor (Battalion, Oct.). To the young ladies who defended the band, don't enter into an incident (protect or defend) an organization unless you are a part of that particular group be it the band or the waggies.

If one reads the letter it clearly shows that an individual band member was only involved, not the group as a whole, yet by the way the editor subheaded the letter

"Band Defended" one might think that the whole group was involved in the incident. In short young ladies, you have no business condemning or condoning the actions of these two fine organizations; their internal, organizational worries are their own.

To the male faction for the Corps of Cadets (band and C.T.s), when I entered this reputable university I thought the greater portion of the Corps' male members were gentlemen. A gentleman by certain standards does not render a lady (waggie or non-reg) to her knees.

This letter I refer to has one saving grace, "We are all Aggies." May I point out that each little sect of the university claims a different thing.

The C.T.s claim to be the spirit of Aggieland; the B.Q.s claim to be the pulse of Aggieland; waggies and non-regs what tell do ya'll claim?

All Aggies (B.Q.s, C.T.s, waggies, and non-regs), guess what? We are all part of Aggieland. We must all unite and support the claims and convictions of this fine traditional university. Let's stop all of this mudslinging, trite, little squabbles. Like the song says follow Aggies. "We are the Aggies, the Aggies are we."

— Jean M. Sauer, '82

Editor's note: this letter was accompanied by 11 other signatures.

Posted: lonely

Editor: I respectfully request that you will please publish, or print, this letter in your student newspaper, (or post it on your community bulletin board). I do not have the funds to pay for an advertisement.

I am a very lonely male, presently incarcerated in Attica Correctional Facility. I have four months left of my time and I am looking for a liberal-minded, understanding woman who would be willing to write and become friends.

I am 21 years of age, 6 feet tall with black hair, brown eyes and considered to be average looking. My hobbies and special interests are arts and crafts, bicycling, music (generally mellow rock), horticulture, house plants in particular, horseback riding, writing poetry, interesting conversation and meeting people. I am honest, loving, understanding, loyal to honest friends and an affectionate person.

I know there must be some nice young woman out there who has some love in her heart that she is willing to share with me and be my friend. I am a real person and I would like you to be the same way.

If you feel that you are interested in writing my, please write and let's get to know each other. I will answer all sincere correspondence. Thank you.

— Robert Leo Clement 75-B-67
P.O. Box 149
Attica, New York 14011

TOP OF THE NEWS

CAMPUS

United Fund drive continues

Contributions to the College Station United Fund have surpassed the halfway mark toward a goal of \$50,500, publicity chairman Ann Bury reported. A total of \$25,533 has been donated, she said, which is 50.5 percent of this year's goal. The deadline for the drive is Nov. 30.

STATE

Relatives file damage suits

An injured longshoreman and relatives of two persons killed in a Galveston grain elevator explosion last December have filed damage suits against several companies in Houston. Brian W. Lamb seeks \$400,000 damages for the death of Michael Lamb, 26, an employee of Farmer's Export Co. Carol Stokke and son, Eugene, seek unspecified damages in the death of her husband Eugene Stokke. Harvie Collins, the injured dockworker, seeks unspecified damages for his injuries. Defendants named in the state court suits included Cook Terminal Co. Inc., original owner of the elevator; Relco Equipment Inc., a locomotive maker; Homan and Lawrence Engineering Co., elevator designer; and Galveston Wharves.

New flights to Yucatan Peninsula

Texas International Airline in Houston has received permission to fly routes from Texas to the resort cities on the Yucatan Peninsula. The airline indicated it would initiate flights to Cancun, Cozumel and Merida Dec. 14, with one-way fares to Cancun set at \$49. In a separate announcement, the airline disclosed it had asked for permission to provide non-stop service from Louisiana, Missouri and Texas to Toronto and Montreal.

NATION

FBI arrests suspected swindler

A computer expert, who allegedly tricked the nationwide bank transfer system out of more than \$10 million which he converted into 19 pounds of Soviet diamonds in Switzerland, returned to California and was arrested by the FBI. The FBI, calling the case one of the biggest bank swindles in U.S. history, Monday arrested Stanley M. Rifkin, 32, of Los Angeles in a friend's apartment in Carlsbad, Calif., 31 miles north of San Diego. The arresting agents seized a suitcase loaded with \$12,000 in cash and plastic bags stuffed with more than 19 pounds — in excess of 42,000 carats — of high quality diamonds, ranging in size up to 2 1/4-carat stones worth \$30,000 each.

WORLD

Americans detained in Moscow

An American businessman and an Illinois woman are being detained in Moscow, but the U.S. Embassy says it does not believe the Soviet Union is retaliating for the convictions of two Russian spies. Embassy officials said they are treating as consular matters the detention of Leo Sonner, 32, the Moscow manager of Dow Chemical Co., and the unidentified woman who was visiting relatives in Tbilisi, Soviet Georgia. "We are treating both matters as strictly consular matters and we see no reason to link these cases," an embassy official said.

Elton John hospitalized in London

Rock star Elton John was rushed to a private London clinic Monday suffering from what his record company described as a "mystery illness." A spokeswoman for Rocket Records emphatically denied newspaper reports the 31-year-old singer had suffered a heart attack. "That is just not true," she said. "He has a mystery illness and tests are being carried out now. He played football on Sunday and as far as we know he was in good health."

Arabs protest peace accords

More than 3,000 West Bank Arabs demonstrated Monday against the Camp David accords in one of the largest protests in years in Nablus, Israeli-occupied Jordanian territory. "We must say no to all these things offered by the Americans and Egypt," said Karim Khalaf, mayor of the occupied town of Ramallah. "They gave us nothing as Palestinians." Speaking to a crowd in the courtyard of the Najah Teachers College, Khalaf called on Israel to leave the West Bank and Gaza Strip. He denounced the offer of autonomy for the local population as well as the Israeli plan to strengthen its settlements in the occupied territories.

Former officials arrested in Iran

Military authorities Monday in Tehran, Iran, announced the arrest of 11 high officials of former civilian governments and a businessman in a crackdown and said other suspects would be taken in custody later. The announcement came after troops of Iran's new military government moved in to quell anti-government disturbances by youths today and sporadic shooting broke out in southern parts of the capital. The administration announcement said the officials and the businessman were arrested under martial regulations as suspected opponents of the constitutional government.

WEATHER

Sunny skies and mild temperatures turning warmer Thursday. High today 60, low tonight in the mid 40s with winds light and variable.

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.

Address correspondence to Letters to the Editor, The Battalion, Room 216, Reed McDonald Building, College Station, Texas 77843.

Represented nationally by National Educational Advertising Services, Inc., New York City, Chicago and Los Angeles.

The Battalion is published Monday through Friday from September through May except during exam and holiday periods and the summer, when it is published on Tuesday through Thursday.

Mail subscriptions are \$16.75 per semester; \$33.25 per school year; \$35.00 per full year. Advertising rates furnished on request. Address: The Battalion, Room 216, Reed McDonald Building, College Station, Texas 77843.

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How to survive in a smokeless environment

By DICK WEST

WASHINGTON — Nov. 16 has been designated as "Smokeless Thursday." To participate, all you need do is refrain from lighting up any cigarettes for 24 hours.

I have not yet determined whether the American Cancer Society, which is sponsoring the smokeout, was required to file an environmental impact statement calling attention to any ecological risks involved.

If, as was the case last year, when only 30 percent of the smokers abstained, there probably won't be any noticeable impact.

There is, however, always a chance all 54 million of the nation's cigarette users will abruptly desist. In that event, the impact would be traumatic.

For if the normal environment includes 54 million people puffing away, then 54 million people not smoking surely must produce some change, for good or bad.

Theoretically, the impact could take two forms, although not simultaneously. The possibilities are 1) a sudden acute shortage of fresh air, or 2) an excessive increase in the fresh air supply. Let's examine the former possibility first.

When a person is smoking, probably as much as 75 percent of what he or she inhales comes from the cigarette. In other words, the smoker is creating his or her own breathing material.

And should there be total compliance with Smokeless Thursday, there would be 54 million extra pairs of lungs sucking up the ozone.

That much additional pulmonary activity obviously would impose a severe

strain on available supplies of fresh air, or what passes for fresh air in some cities.

Thus, many of us nonsmokers would be forced to spend Smokeless Thursday curled up in bed with an oxygen bottle.

The other possible environmental impact — an excessive amount of fresh air — stems from the fact that cigarette smoke is one of our most reliable pollutants.

Humor

Withdraw from the atmosphere the smoke from 54 million cigarette smokers and the air can only become correspondingly fresher.

At first gasp, that might seem like a boon, but it wouldn't necessarily work out that way.

According to a recent report in the Journal of the American Medical Association, too much fresh air can produce a variety of unpleasant reactions such as dizziness, numbness, irregular pulse, dry mouth and insomnia.

At present, the problem is pretty much confined to hyperventilators — people who for one reason or another breathe in more air than is required to maintain normal oxygen levels in the blood.

In a smokeless environment would not the rest of us be inclined to take in more than our normal quota of air?

If could be that an environmental impact statement would show that neither of these conditions is likely to occur during the smokeout. If so, many happy returns of the day.

Talk with Dr. Miller

The Battalion is offering a new reader's letter section to give students more access to the newspaper and to the University.

"Talk with Dr. Miller" is a forum for readers to address questions to the administration about University policies and procedures.

Questions should be addressed to The

Battalion, 216 Reed McDonald, and should specify that they are to be used for this column. Names and phone numbers will be required on all questions and Dr. Miller has the option to decline to answer a question or request others on the staff or faculty to answer it.

Questions and answers will be published on the editorial page.