

VIEWPOINT

THE BATTALION
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

MONDAY
NOVEMBER 27, 1978

Worldly promises

As all voters know — or at least should know — politicians are the same the world over and their word is definitely not their bond.

Austrian Chancellor Bruno Kreisky provides the classic example by his performance during the recent referendum in his country on whether or not a newly constructed \$530 million nuclear power plant should be put into operation.

Anti-nuclear forces — including Kreisky's son — in Austria mounted an all-out campaign to have the voters scrap the facility and apparently convinced the electorate they were right. A 50.5 percent majority of the voters supported them.

Chancellor Kreisky was in the forefront of those wanting the nuclear plant opened. He even went so far as promising — repeatedly — to resign if the issue failed.

Well, it failed, and in true political fashion Chancellor Kreisky had second thoughts about making good on his pledge to chuck it in. He told reporters that thousands of people had pleaded with him by telephone and mail to stay on the job.

There is a lesson here for everyone in America whose favorite candidate came through with flying colors.

No matter what he told you he would do for you prior to the election don't be too disappointed when he doesn't deliver.

He probably has five or 10 very good explanations — which you will hear before the next election — as to how changing conditions prevented him from keeping his promise.

The Wheeling (W.Va.) Intelligencer

Presidential image still getting face lift

By HELEN THOMAS

UPI White House Reporter
WASHINGTON — "Reports of the president's death are exaggerated. So are reports of his resurrection."

So says presidential assistant Gerald Rafshoon, the Georgia advertising man brought to the White House to repair the president's image when Carter's popularity polls took a nose dive.

"There never was a sense of panic around him that people were going to hell," Rafshoon said in an interview. "He took on so many controversial subjects, so many difficult choices."

"I never believed Jimmy Carter was not competent," he added. "He was never that down."

From Rafshoon's standpoint, that may be true. But other observers wondered, as Carter neared the halfway mark of his term, whether he was up to the job. Nothing was going his way last summer, and

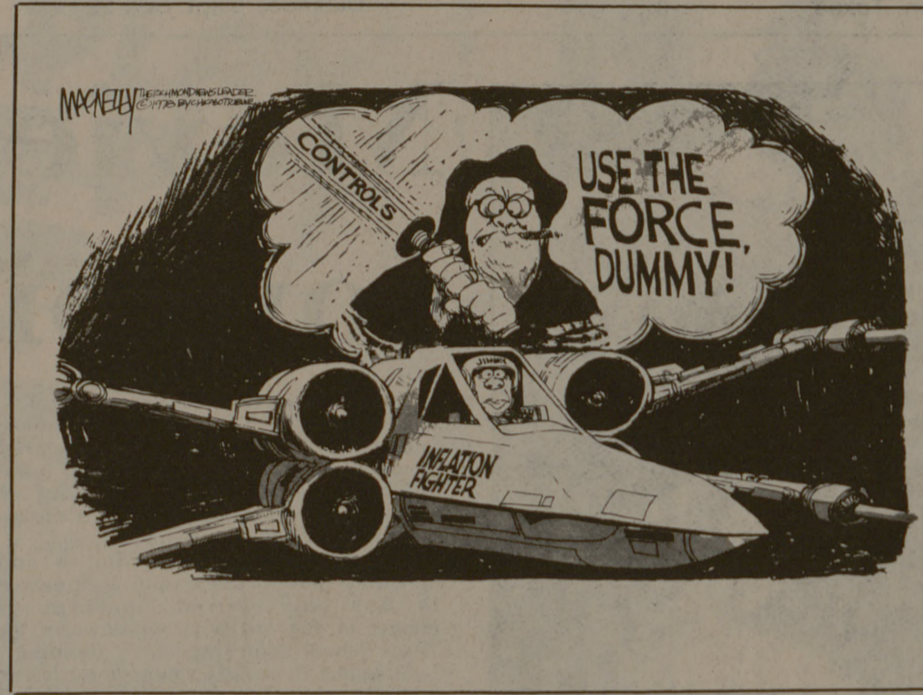
his top aides began to display their frustration.

The president had let Cabinet members do his own thing and to pick their own staffs. Rafshoon found it was necessary to teach them some of the team plays.

Washington Window

There also was a job to be done on Carter himself. He began spending more time on speeches and throwing away the prepared texts. He also began to display more confidence.

"He's more sure of things," Rafshoon said. But he adds, "Any peanut farmer who runs for governor of Georgia, and then says he is going to run for the presi-



dency, does not lack confidence."

On the personal side, Carter is the first to concede he has learned a lot in a job that he enjoys. But he has been astounded at the difficulty of the decision making and the multiple choices he has for some of the toughest problems in the world.

While aides like Rafshoon believe that he has no confidence problem, nevertheless, Carter's constant reiteration of such statements as "I do not intend to lose" and "I intend to win" often evoke an impression that he is trying to convince himself.

In his manner of operation as president, he "suffers fools badly," says Rafshoon. But as a boss, he goes out of his way "not to embarrass you."

Nevertheless, staffers are well aware when he is angry. "He fixes those blue eyes on you."

Rafshoon said there never was a time when Carter "was not in command."

But he believes that during those low

points, Carter had a severe communications problem.

"We were not getting our message across," he said. "We needed to have more substance and style. We're doing a better job now as a whole team."

Most observers pinpoint Carter's rise in popularity to the Camp David summit accords, a major foreign policy victory for him, which pulled him out of a long slump.

Carter, at the first lady's urging, began to institute a series of informal dinners with media executives to try to get to know them better, and vice versa.

The most common question about Carter is, "What is he really like?"

According to Rafshoon, he is a "complex man" but people are looking "for too many hidden meanings."

As for re-election plans, Rafshoon said, "I hope he will. He hasn't told me anything."

Letters to the Editor

Bonfire's everyone's duty

Editor: This is to all the bonfire buffs who haven't seen the stacks yet. Yes, Ags, it's bonfire time again and has been for some time.

Did you know it? Have you even been by to look from afar? What you'll see is a skeleton of a stack and a lot of undone work. If you venture a little closer you'll see the living dead who reside there.

There is a comparatively small group of people on this campus who are building a 30,000 people bonfire. They work day and night to show your burning desire to beat t.u. Their academics and personal health thrown out the back door to keep the Aggie tradition of spirit alive and unscathed. I'm speaking of the Corps of Cadets.

It's not fair that they should be expected to give so much to you and me. So I ask: Where are the scoffers of the khaki clad? Where are the "real" representatives of A&M? Where are the "he-men" of Aggie-land who abound in word only? I know there are groups from most dorms who put in time in the cutting area and on the stacks. I'm proud of you. Where are your friends?

Don't get me wrong. I love non-regs because I'm one too, and I don't believe there's a person alive who doesn't value himself. So don't think I'm ridiculing you as a group. I'm ridiculing you as individuals.

If you've got tests or homework, that's fine, stay home. However, when you're through for the day, go work. If you feel redneck and want to stay up all night, go work it off on the stacks. Instead of sleeping until noon put on your boots and pitch in. Then it can truly be your bonfire.

Don't sit there over that cold brew, glowing with Aggie "spirits" and say "Yep, we're going to have a beautiful bonfire this year. They're out there building it now."

You're liable to get the bottom of some worker's foot. Get to work, Ags, or one year soon, the bonfire will be canceled for lack of interest.

Will it be your senior year?
—Jeanne M. Delony, '80

Save Alaska now

Editor: The immense herds of buffalo were devastated and nothing was done to stop it; The passenger pigeon was wiped from the face of the earth and nothing was done to stop it; Whole forests were cut to the last tree and nothing was done to stop it; Now the last great American wilderness is threatened with destruction — but we can do something to stop it!

If the president of the United States does not act by Dec. 18 to provide protection for wilderness Alaska, these lands will be subject to an explosive development which will deprive future generations of Americans of their most beautiful wilderness heritage.

Because time is so short and the need for support is so great, I ask that you inform your readers of the urgent need for letter to President Carter urging that:

All of Alaska's National Interest Lands be given the strongest and most permanent executive protection — as national monuments under the Antiquities Act of 1906 (Grand Canyon, Death Valley and the Grand Tetons National Parks were originally established under this authority). Lands that should be included in this protection should be:

— All Senate Bill S1500 wilderness proposals in southeast Alaska including Misty Fjords and Admiralty Island

— The Alaska Peninsula — an important brown bear habitat

— The Iliamna area — Alaska's outstanding fishery

— Wild and scenic river located outside for parks and refuges

— The proposed additions to the existing Katmai and Glacier Bay Monuments.

I thank you most sincerely for your time and attention.

—Dick Brown
P.O. Box 102
Ysanti, Mich. 48197

No Archie Bunker

Editor: I have just read Ms. Laurei Mitchell's letter in the Batt, accusing me of "Archie Bunker-ism" for my earlier letter concerning homosexuals and "Today's Student." I feel she has read some things into my letter which I did not intentionally write into it.

For instance, I did not mean to equate homosexuals and Iranians in any other capacity than that they are two groups that have their own respective beefs with "Today's Student." (I could have added atheists to the list, come to think of it.)

She also accused me of name-calling, when in fact I did nothing of the sort. The only terms I used to describe any person(s) or groups were "homosexuals," "gay" and "Iranians," the first and last being the proper terms, and "gay" being the term preferred by the homosexuals.

Had I been name-calling, I would have used "queers," "fairies," and "camel-jocks." Quite a difference there.

She describes "Today's Student" as being "farical," "opinionated," and "propaganda." I have seen nothing in it that appeared farical. Its facts are very well documented.

Opinionated? Certainly, anyone who holds a firm opinion must be opinionated. Someone who is not opinionated just can't make up his mind. Propaganda? Of course, any expression of one's opinions or beliefs in an attempt to convince others is propaganda.

Any news editorial, any political speech, and any advertisement contain propaganda. A sign that says "Beat t.u." is an excellent example of propaganda.

Using the terms "farical," "opinionated," and "propaganda" in reference to "Today's Student" was Ms. Mitchell's own attempt at name-calling. She showed herself to be very opinionated against that publication. And her letter sure contained a lot of propaganda. Was it farical? You decide.
—Paul A. Hughes, '80

TOP OF THE NEWS CAMPUS

Library materials due Friday

Graduating seniors and other students who plan to graduate this semester are reminded that all library materials which are charged out to them must be returned to the Sterling C. Evans Library on or before Friday. Art prints, charged out at the beginning of the fall semester, are also due at the Evans Library by Friday.

A&M freshman's bond \$1,500

Derek Johnson, a freshman majoring in Environmental Design at Texas A&M University, was still being held Sunday in lieu of \$1,500 bond on two counts of exercising control over stolen property. Johnson was arrested Wednesday morning and charged before Justice of the Peace Mike Calliham. He is accused of having two stolen street signs in his possession. Bond of \$750 was set for each count.

Speech about world bicycle trip

Lloyd Sumner will give a speech today at Texas A&M University on his bicycle trip around the world. The combination lecture-slide show, sponsored by the Outdoor Recreation Committee, the Brazos Valley Sierra Club and the A&M Wheelmen, will be at 7:30 p.m. in the Memorial Student Center Room 206.

LOCAL

Parade applications available

Applications have been received for club participation in the annual Christmas Parade for Bryan-College Station and surrounding areas on Dec. 5. Each participating group may be able to win cash awards. Pick up further information in Room 221, Memorial Student Center, or call 845-1134.

STATE

Conoco officer funeral today

Andrew W. Tarkington, 67, former president and chief executive officer of Continental Oil Co., died Friday night after a lengthy illness. Tarkington, who lived in Lakeway, was born and raised in Taylor and graduated from Southern Methodist University in 1932. Tarkington is survived by his wife, the former Sally McLaughlin of Dallas; four sons, two daughters and a grandson. Funeral services are scheduled at 2 p.m. today at Lakeway Church.

Christian board director dies

Dr. Donald M. Anthony, 48, director of the Texas Baptist Christian Education Coordinating Board, died Friday following a long illness. Anthony directed the coordinating board which administers a \$9 million budget in support of Baptist schools in Texas. He was active for years in religious and civic affairs. Funeral services were scheduled at 10:30 a.m. today at Hillcrest Baptist Church in Dallas. Anthony lived in DeSoto, and is survived by his wife, Bobbie, and two children.

Bird's November death appealed

Supreme Court Justice Lewis Powell has issued a stay of execution for a Texas inmate, preventing state prison officials from executing a deadly substance this month into Alton Von Bird. The stay of execution was issued Friday on behalf of Von Bird, who was scheduled for execution next Thursday at the state prison in Huntsville. Ron Taylor, a spokesman for the Texas Department of Corrections, said Bird would remain on death row until the appeals process was exhausted. The appeals process could take several years.

NATION

Lending rates up a half percent

Citibank, the nation's second largest bank, Friday raised its prime lending rate for business borrowers to 11.5 percent from 11 percent, effective immediately. Citibank said it was adhering strictly to its formula in the unusual 0.5 percentage move, the second jump of that size this month for the trendsetting bank. Citibank's formula calls for a prime rate 1.25 percentage points above the rate for 90-day commercial paper on a three-week moving average. Other major banks were expected to follow suit.

Playboy in trouble again

A Pakistani playboy with a reputation for lavishing fortunes on disco dancers — and then stopping payment on the checks — was free on bond today after running afoul of the law over a \$174 hotel bill. Masoud Khan was charged Friday in Atlanta with theft of services and released on \$500 bond. He was arrested again a few hours later when he returned to the lobby of the Omni hotel and threatened to buy the hotel and burn it down, police said. Khan was freed a second time late Friday night on \$1,100 bond on charges of disorderly conduct and criminal trespass.

Evidence may reopen King case

Former Pentagon strategist Daniel Ellsberg said a chance conversation he had last year with an aide to U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Andrew Young could prompt a new trial in the Dr. Martin Luther King case. Ellsberg, in Colorado to be tried for trespassing at the Rocky Flats nuclear weapons plant, said Brady Tyson told him the House Assassinations Committee chairman said a band of off-duty and retired FBI agents killed King. Tyson has denied making the statements.

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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