



VIEWPOINT



THE BATTALION
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

MONDAY
JANUARY 29, 1979

Watergate scars

John Mitchell walked out of a Federal prison in Alabama last weekend, the last of the "Watergate 25" to complete punishment.

The former Attorney General's release is the end of the judicial process that began soon after the burglary of the Democratic National Committee office in 1972.

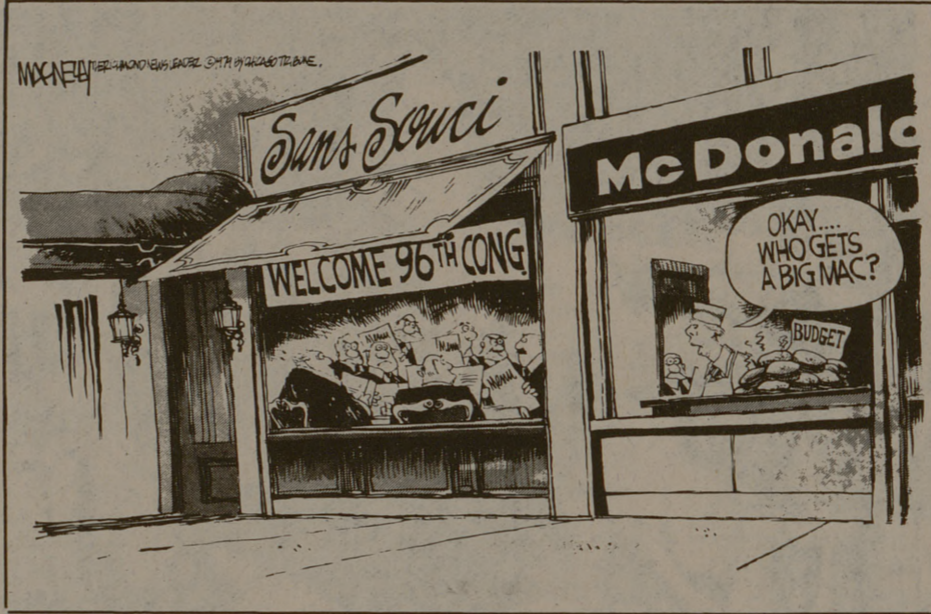
It would be comforting to believe that this marks the end of the Watergate scandal. Unfortunately, it does not. The subtle but poisonous side effects are still everywhere to be seen.

The troublesome heritage includes: a weakened Presidency, a less effective national intelligence system and a Federal law enforcement system crippled by a lack of public confidence and a host of new legal restraints.

Because Richard Nixon and others used "national security" as an excuse for some of the Watergate misdeeds, real national security needs are now looked upon with suspicion. The same can be said of the historic concept of "executive privilege." The whole idea of an independent executive branch has been given a bad name.

The Watergate offenders have completed their punishment. The country is still serving its sentence.

Tulsa World



Connally's record not without liabilities

By CLAY F. RICHARDS
UPI Political Writer

WASHINGTON — Former Texas Gov. John B. Connally has launched a presidential campaign aimed at maximizing his considerable experience in government and minimizing his considerable liabilities.

Connally became the first of the "heavy hitters" to formally enter the battle for the Republican presidential nomination last week, sounding the theme that he is the man most qualified to be the nation's leader.

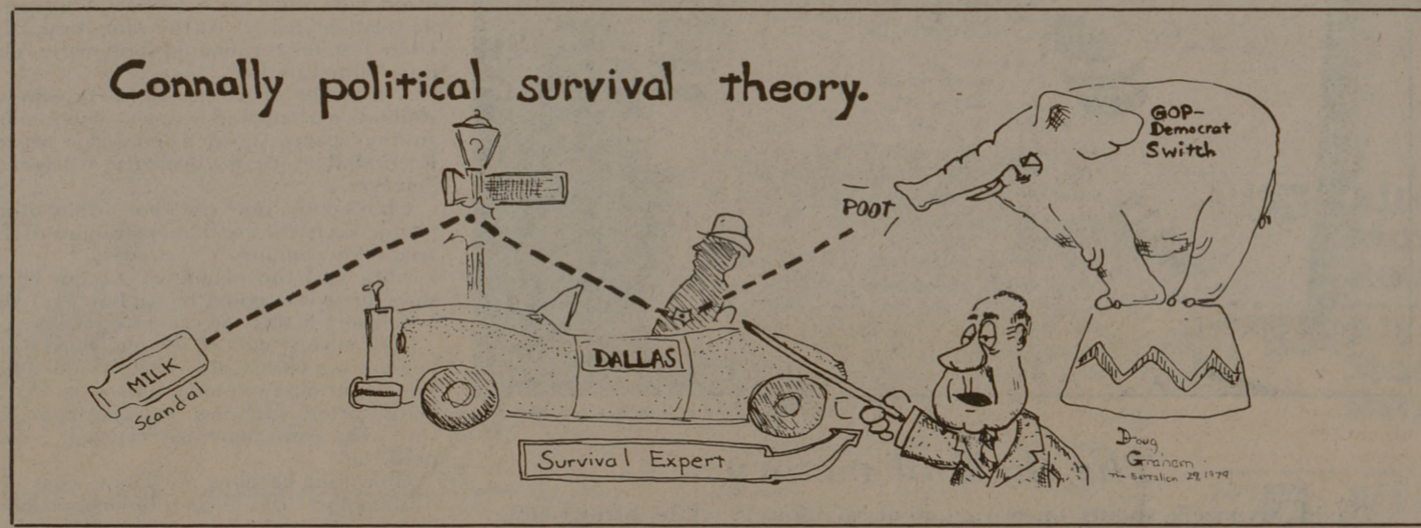
And Connally says that even after two years on the job, Jimmy Carter is a leadership lightweight who has no business being there.

Connally does have impressive credentials — 40 years in public life, starting as an aide to Rep. Lyndon B. Johnson and including three terms as governor, secretary of the Navy, treasury secretary, adviser to three presidents.

But Connally carries a long string of liabilities beyond the problems caused by his indictment and acquittal on charges he took bribes from milk producers during the Watergate era.

For instance:

- He is a Democrat turned Republican, a conversion that, no matter how honest, brings automatic rejection from some voters.
- As a conservative he has to share that



portion of the GOP vote not only with Ronald Reagan but Rep. Phil Crane and several other potential candidates. Reagan already has much of that vote locked up.

—Connally can't be sure of even the Texas delegation. He will have to fight for it with fellow Texan George Bush, the leading moderate in the race so far, as well as with Reagan who overwhelmed Gerald Ford in the state's 1976 primary.

—Even without the milk indictment,

Connally has always had the image of being a fast-talking Texas wheelerdealer. Others with long memories view him as a Vietnam War era politician.

Connally ignored his liabilities and took the offensive in his announcement speech. He went down the laundry list of national problems and challenges and offered strong, conservative solutions and programs.

Inflation is the nation's biggest problem,

he said, and rather than tinkering with the economy, drastic solutions are needed. We ought to cut the federal budget 5 percent across the board — including defense, he said.

He complained that a president spends his first four years trying to win a second term. He called instead for a single six-year term that would let the president get things done without worrying about his political future.

Letters to the Editor

'Obscure' dealings surround resignation

Editor:

This letter is to reflect my concern over the recent resignation of Chancellor Jack K. Williams, fondly remembered by some as "Smiling Jack," and the subsequent effects it will have on this university in the next five to ten years.

How aware is the student populous of the policy changes that this might well signify?

Do they realize to what extent President Miller influences the twin cities as well as Texas A&M? And what do they know of the university's political affiliations? How many recall the censorship Miller placed on the university TV and radio stations? How does one justify the negation of free press and the right, as well as the opportunity to view controversial issues, to think for one's self?

Was there in fact strife between the opinions of Chancellor Williams and President Miller during the confusion of Emory Bellard's resignation, and did anyone investigate these rumors?

Dr. Williams (a historian I've been told) during his service as president gave support to liberal arts as well as to the sciences for he realized the value and necessity of a balanced and well-rounded education.

Will President Miller (with primarily an agricultural background) insure the continued growth of the liberal arts college, or will there be seen a decline in these programs? I am not setting myself up as an authority in university matters, just as a concerned student who has heard and seen many disturbing and obscure dealings.

—Linda D. Albritton, '78

This is not to say that we even come close to repaying all great men and women who served their country. But it does say that \$25,000 is not too much to say thanks to those who can only be with us in spirit.

Personally, I say thank you, Mr. Bogert (Battalion, Jan. 24), for bringing the matter to our attention and I feel sure the next project of the student senate will concern all veterans.

—Johnny Lane, '79
Speaker of YOUR student senate

guarantee a student ticket," upset me because I signed for the pass long before I was able to receive it and read that statement on the back.

I signed up for the pass under the assumption that I was guaranteed a seat. Second, I don't see why people who have paid for a pass must pay an additional \$1 for a ticket beginning 5 p.m. prior to the game.

I feel as if I had been misled and would probably not have purchased the pass had I known the facts.

—Cindy Strickland, '80

and what we will have to contend with for the up and coming baseball season. They've turned something that could be so simple into another rat race for tickets.

Why can't students pay at the door on a first come first serve basis? Why can't season ticket holders have their passes punched as they go in? If it's a problem of over filling the coliseum, turnstiles could be placed at each entrance allowing only a specific number of patrons to enter at each entrance.

Granted, on the back of the pass it says, "This pass does not guarantee purchaser a student ticket." Well we did not know this piece of choice information until after we had our passes and paid our money — a little late to get a refund once the season has started and we realized it meant another line to stand in.

What is the purpose of buying a season pass if not for convenience and saving a little money? It's no convenience to have to stand two hours in the cold and it's no savings if we can't get in to see the game.

It seems like a reasonable solution to the problem could be found, but some people around here are trying to preserve yet another Aggie tradition — standing in line!

—Toni A. Bork, '80
Stacey Chapman, '80

Pass misleading

Editor:

The article "Ticket system meets mixed reactions" (Battalion, Jan. 24) aroused a reaction of my own. First of all, I was not aware at the time I purchased my pass, that I would have to compete so heavily to get a basketball ticket.

The statement Kevin Patterson made, "The pass itself states that it does not

System 'botched'

Editor:

Well they've done it again — "they" being the big cheese who sit around thinking or trying to think of ways to improve the system but invariably blotching it up.

I am referring to the new system of ticket distribution for basketball games

Still discriminating

Editor:

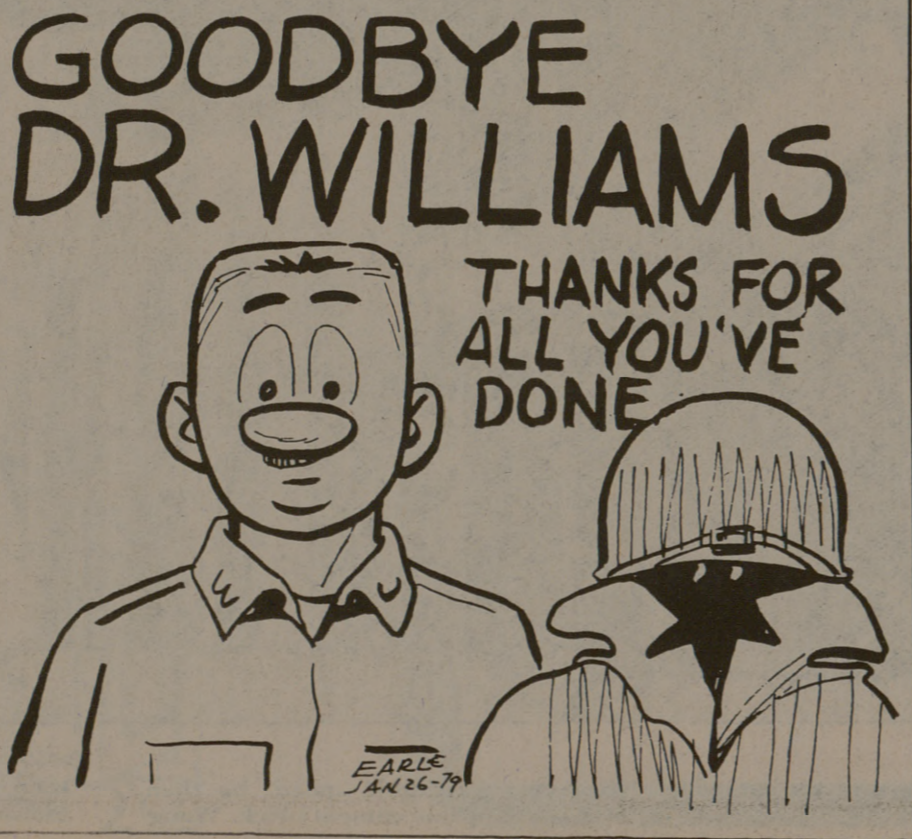
Since the gentleman in Wednesday's (Jan. 24) paper seems to want to put Melanie Zentgraf in the trunk, I can't help but think about the not too distant past when blacks were promptly shown the back of the bus.

This was, and still is, called discrimination.

Through the Civil Rights Acts and other means the discrimination against blacks is fading (hopefully). Maybe some of the hazing the Waggies receive will die off, too. After all, the law holds that discrimination on the basis of sex is illegal, too, not just race.

Putting a lady down for choosing a military career also stinks. If she can cut the mustard, let her. In conclusion — remember — Waggies, CTs, BQs, non-regs and frat rats — we're all Aggies.

—David Richard Block, '79



Vote considered

Editor:

This letter is an explanation of my interpretation of the student senate's feelings concerning the Memorial Student Center grass issue.

The idea of a student referendum came up in many different circles. However, the idea was more or less tabled for this reason: the student senate is a representative body who does not vote its own feelings but votes those of its constituency. With all the publicity and special effort the senators felt they could confidently vote the feelings of the students of Texas A&M.

Admittedly, \$25,000 is a large sum of money to spend to insure proper respect of a memorial for those who died for our freedom. "Greater love has no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends." — John 15:13.

TOP OF THE NEWS CAMPUS

Week to recognize bus system

The Texas A&M student services committee has declared a week Internal Shuttle Bus Week. The purpose of the project is to better acquaint students with the University's three intra-campus shuttle bus routes. Plans for the week include placement of canvas signs on the outside of each bus, showing whether it is on a blue, green, or red route. Members of the student senate will map the route at all bus stops, buildings on campus, and on bulletin boards around the Memorial Student Center.

Board changes tenure rules

The Coordinating Board, Texas Colleges and Universities, passed a 12-year-old tenure policy Friday. The new policy, which will be effective at Texas A&M University, allows the firing of tenured professors for unprofessional conduct. It also allows university governing boards to establish additional reasons to fire tenured professors. Professors can also be dismissed now if they become mentally or physically disabled and unable to perform their jobs. The board also created a master's program in public administration at Texas A&M.

STATE

Court asked to suspend judge

The Texas Supreme Court has been asked to suspend District Judge Stanley C. Kirk pending the outcome of removal proceedings against the Wichita Falls judge for allegedly falsifying court records to hide his criticism of a jury. It is the first time the Commission on Judicial Conduct has sought a suspension on a sitting jurist. The Commission has sought a suspension on a sitting jurist in past efforts to remove him from office for misconduct, Maurice S. Phipps, executive director of the commission, confirmed Friday. Authority for the judicial commission to publicly discipline judges was included in a constitutional amendment approved by voters in November 1977.

Feared oil spill is false alarm

Coast Guard personnel and Corpus Christi city workers manning their battle stations to fight a reported oil spill, but it turned out to be only an attack by Mother Nature. Helicopters and ships were on standby alert Friday after a major oil spill was reported to be heading toward Padre Island. But when the substance started to wash up on shore, it was discovered to be only a large patch of algae known as diatom. Diatom is similar to a Red Tide but not as dangerous, according to Dr. Patrick Parker, a University of Texas marine scientist based at Port Aransas. Parker said the onslaught resulted from a natural algae bloom.

Emergency funds mullied

The Texas Legislature, off to a slow start because of a heavy schedule of inaugural activities and ceremonial events, accelerated pace this week, with public hearings scheduled on at least 50 bills. Among the items which may reach a vote in both houses this week are \$2.5 million emergency appropriation for administrative costs of the Texas Deepwater Port Authority. The revenue is needed to keep the agency in operation until next year when it sells its first bond issue toward construction of an offshore terminal in the Gulf of Mexico. Senators already have approved several other emergency appropriations bills totaling almost \$6 million, but the House has yet to hold committee hearings on any legislation.

NATION

Carter selects GSA official

President Carter has chosen organized crime fighter Kurt Mueller to be inspector general at the scandal-ridden General Services Administration, government sources said Saturday. The choice came as senior GSA officials and congressmen criticized Carter for taking too long to pick an inspector general to head the government year-long investigation at the troubled purchasing agency. The sources said the nomination of Mueller, head of the Justice Department's organized crime task force, will be sent to the Senate for confirmation after a White House announcement early next week.

WORLD

Chinese leader comes to U.S.

Teng Hsiao-Ping, 75, the shrewd Chinese vice premier who survived political disgrace during the Cultural Revolution, left Peking Sunday for Washington and an historic East-meets-West voyage. The visit is largely ceremonial and is the first by a high Chinese official to the United States since the Communist armies drove Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek to Taiwan in 1949. The takeoff of Teng's plane scheduled for 8 a.m. (7 p.m. EST Saturday), was reported by the New China News Agency. His Boeing 707, one of 10 the Chinese Communist government bought from the United States some time ago, was scheduled to refuel in Alaska and arrive at Andrews AFB in Washington at 2 p.m. EST Sunday.

THE BATTALION

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