



VIEWPOINT

THE BATTALION
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

TUESDAY
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Tax cut ideas thrown back at Clements

By ROLAND LINDSAY
United Press International

AUSTIN — The uneasy truce between Republican Gov. Bill Clements and the heavily Democratic Texas Legislature is showing the first signs of breaking as lawmakers begin their second month of the session.

Clements' insistence on a \$1 billion reduction in taxes and corresponding reductions in state spending are the primary point of contention between the governor and legislators, although there also is a minor but direct confrontation between him and the Senate concerning office space in the Capitol.

Sen. Grant Jones, D-Abilene, called a news conference Friday to insist that Clements quit demanding a \$1 billion reduction in spending and taxes without specifying what state services he is willing to sacrifice.

That same argument has been made by Lt. Gov. Bill Hobby since before Clements took office, and is destined to be one that will continue until the budget issue is resolved late in the session, if it can be resolved at all without sending the Legislature into special sessions during the summer.

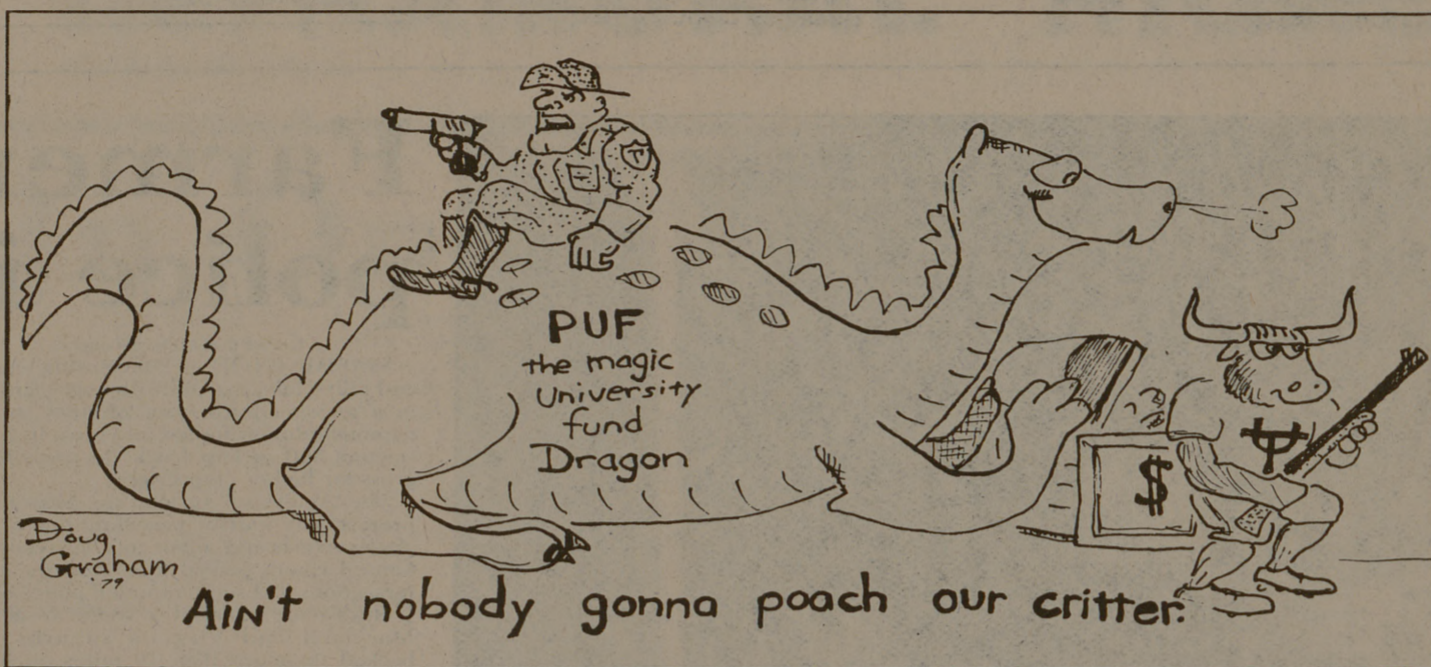
Speaker Bill Clayton is more willing, perhaps even eager, to go along with the additional tax relief programs, and has proposed a 2.5 percent across the board reduction in the \$20.8 billion Legislative Budget Board spending plan and a freeze on the hiring of state employees.

Jones says an across the board budget reduction is impractical — that a 2.5 percent reduction would not seriously affect some programs, but would wreck others.

He says Clements' demand for a \$1 billion tax reduction would require that \$880 million be trimmed from the LBB spending plan.

"There is no simple way to cut \$880 million from the proposed LBB budget," said Jones, who conceded Hobby had looked over his prepared statement before he read it to a news conference.

If Clements is going to attempt to claim the credit for any tax relief, the Senate leadership apparently wants to make sure he also receives the blame for corresponding reductions in state services.



Connally must mend fences

By ARNOLD SAWISLAK
United Press International

WASHINGTON — When Barry Goldwater went to New Hampshire in 1964, his wife accompanied him, wearing a gorgeous and obviously expensive white fur coat against the bitter cold.

According to one account, one of those old Yankee farmers who always seem to be standing next to a reporter took one look at the candidate's wife and pronounced his verdict: "That may be conservative in Arizona, but it ain't here." Henry Cabot Lodge won the New Hampshire primary that year.

The story may be apocryphal, but there also may be a lesson in it for John Connally: New Hampshire isn't Texas. It isn't Washington either. The haughty self-confidence and drive to dominate that overcomes opposition in those places may not "play" in Concord and Keene, not to speak of Des Moines and Ottumwa or Rock Island or Peoria.

Connally has something to prove before he can be considered any kind of contender for the 1980 Republican presidential nomination: that Republican voters in the GOP heartland will follow him.

In this, he is faced with the flip side of

the problem John V. Lindsay never could solve. Lindsay was a Republican congressman and mayor who changed coats in the midst of his political career.

Lindsay seemed to score high on every measurement of political appeal when he set out to win the Democratic presidential nomination in 1972. He did not just fall short, he fell flat. In a field of lifelong Democrats appealing for the support of Democrats, Lindsay had no political IOUs to cash in his new party. He looked like a Johnny Come Lately and was treated as such.

Washington Window

It is true that Ronald Reagan also was once a Democrat. But he never ran for or held public office as a Democrat. Connally was the Democratic governor of Texas and the appointee of a Democratic president as secretary of the Navy. For years, his considerable oratorical and political talent was devoted to electing Democrats and downrating Republicans.

Both Republicans and Democrats will say they are delighted to have converts from the opposition. But they usually want such people as private soldiers, not generals. It is not guessing to say that some lifelong Republicans — members of the GOP National Committee, for example — resent Connally's bid for party leadership.

Richard Nixon, it was reported at the time, wanted Connally as vice president to replace Spiro Agnew.

Melvin Laird, who is a lifelong Republican, was said to have talked Nixon out of his first choice in favor of Gerald Ford. One of the factors was that Ford would get a lot of congressional support from both sides of the aisle while Connally couldn't even count on solid GOP backing.

When Connally announced his candidacy, he was asked about the corruption charges on which he was acquitted and about his association with Nixon. He seemed confident that those would not hurt his candidacy.

But those might not have been the right questions. The right one might have been: "Can you win over the Old Yankee?"

Letters to the Editor

Britton taunts his way into 'Broadway'

Editor:

I had the pleasure of watching the Aggie basketball team masterfully defeat the Houston Cougars. Throughout the game their accurate shooting and intimidating rebounding kept the Cougars outside of striking distance. Yet the key factor amidst this awesome display of firepower was the brilliantly executed Aggie stall, starring David Britton.

Throughout the season he has exhibited a unique characteristic that has added a new dimension to the game of basketball at Texas A&M. When he is not dribbling circles around his defenders or driving towards the basket with his dazzling moves, he spends time taunting the opposing players and opposing crowds.

When I speak of taunting, I do not mean it in a rude way, but in a way that intimidates the opposition while entertaining the home crowd. I think he performed his best "show" last Saturday against Houston and feel that his antics will prove beneficial in the Aggie's later games this season, particularly against t.u.

Due to this interesting facet in Britton's form of playing, I propose that the nickname "Broadway" be attached to this unique Aggie roundballer. I'm sure many Ags hope that the rest of our games feature many "Broadway hits" and beat the hell outta t.u.!

—Dean Xeros, '82

Vets not 'hedged'

Editor:

I am writing in order to inform the students at Texas A&M about another side to the Memorial Student Center grass issue. The current proposal calls for the money for the hedge to come from general University funds. The money will probably come from the general landscaping budget; it will not come from financial aid budgets.

A problem seem to be with the "large" amount of money to be spent on this landscaping, approximately \$20,000. In a University with an overall budget of \$181.4 million, \$20,000 is not that much money to spend — especially to preserve a tradition.

Currently, there is a veterans group that is trying to petition for more financial aid for veterans. I feel that is a good cause. Veterans should get any financial aid to which they are entitled.

What is not understood by this group is that the landscaping money called for by the student government bill cannot be used for financial aid to veterans. Federal and state laws control the types and amounts of financial aid that veterans may

get. Texas A&M and student government DO NOT control this.

I feel the aims of this veterans group are good. To get increased aid, however, they should write to their state and national representatives. The senators and congressmen can change the laws and regulations which control the disbursement of financial aid funds.

Please don't be swayed by emotional speeches. Look at all the facts rationally, then talk to your student senator. Let them know your views.

—Ray Godsey, '79

Street hazardous

Editor:

Something needs to be done about the street in front of the Dixie Chicken. Two nights in a row there have been accidents on University Drive in front of the Chicken.

On Friday night, there was an accident involving a driver who ran a red light on University. On Saturday night, a resident of Aston Hall was gunned down by a hit-and-run driver going more than twice the speed limit down University.

It seems to me that the city of College Station has a small traffic problem on its hands.

Can we slow down the traffic on University?

Can we put in some lights over the streets, maybe?

It seems like we could, College Station, and until then I'll watch my step on University.

—Bruce P. Cummings, '79
President of Aston Hall



A few predictions

Editor:

Those individuals that cannot or rather refuse to see the handwriting on the wall had better face it, females are in the Corps and they are in to stay. With the passing of each year female units are going to grow in numbers and individuals are going to advance further in Corps awards and positions.

Undoubtedly in the future there will be a female Corps commander. Take a look at junior ROTC units, other colleges and universities ROTC programs, and most of all the other service academies and you will see what I'm talking about.

Tradition is fine and good in that it provides a basis for spirit and unity. However, one bad point is that too much concentration on the maintenance of tradition tends to make one's thinking too conservative and narrow-minded.

I believe that within the next two years Waggies will be wearing senior boots like their male peers. If one is not used to seeing females in riding boots and britches, go to some stables specializing in English riding and look at the girls there. Within four years the Aggie Band, Ross Volunteers, and possibly Cavalry will be inter-mixed causing many "Old Army" graduates to gnash their teeth and wish that time would have never changed from when they attended TAMU.

Finally, within 15 years, all male and female units will be dissolved and total integration will occur just as in the other service academies.

I can hear the indignant cries of "communist" right now, but in closing I would like to stress that I feel where a man and woman are competing for the same job or

position then both the male and female should have to meet the same physical as well as mental or academic requirements and that different tests should not be administered. I believe that this difference in requirements is what causes so much controversy to be stirred up.

—Robert T. MacEachern, Jr., '78

Might or fright?

Editor:

It was most refreshing to have your "viewpoint" calling for action now on the matter of equality of opportunity for women in the Corps. Congratulations and my heartfelt appreciation for opening up one "insignificant" link from a seemingly unending chain of distasteful, disgraceful, and shameful acts against "Waggies."

I am the proud father of one of those Waggies who, in the opinion of some who live in the past, do not belong in the Corps. The excuse: "Tradition." Must the dead govern the living? In his Essays on Innovation, Bacon stated, "They that reverence too much old times are but a scorn to the new." More recently, Somerset Maugham reminded us that "Tradition is a guide and not a jailer."

With two Aggies and one Waggie among my children, I would be the last to advocate the elimination of traditional principles and ideals at Texas A&M. But we do live in a wonderful country where both the law of God and the law of man serve as beacons for the majority. Equal rights and equal opportunities are matters of law, as well as the spirit of the Golden Rule.

I may be wrong, but as a Latin American one of the traditional principles inbred in me is "Don't hurt women even with the petal of a rose." It takes a mature, level-headed, and secure individual to accept such an ideal. I do believe the vast majority of the men in the Corps qualify as such; yet, drastic action is needed to get rid of a few crackpots who use tradition as a shield to hide their own insecurities.

As Winston Churchill so well expressed it, "A love for tradition has never weakened a nation, indeed it has strengthened nations in their hour of peril; but the new view must come, the world must roll forward."

Thanks again for your firm stand on behalf of justice. Fear not the loud cries of "beat the hell out of the Battalion editor" which could be overheard last week coming from Duncan Hall. The dog's bark is not might, but fright.

—Jaime Roman, Sr.
D.E.D. student, URPL Dept.
College of Architecture and Environmental Design

TOP OF THE NEWS CAMPUS

Silver Taps will be held tonight

Silver Taps will be held tonight for Richard S. Gaines, 22, a Texas A&M University engineering major. Gaines, a junior from Midland, was found dead Friday in his College Station apartment by a friend. A final ruling on the death of Gaines has not been made by Justice of the Peace Mike Callihan. However, Callihan said the death appears to be from natural causes. Funeral services and burial were held in Midland Monday afternoon.

Poetry contest open to all students

International Publications is sponsoring a National College Poetry Contest, open to all college and university students who desire to have their poetry anthologized. Cash prizes totaling \$200 will be awarded to the top five poems. All accepted poems will be bound in the American Collegiate Poets Anthology. The anthology is a collection of contemporary poetry written by students all over the nation.

NATION

Florida oil price case opens

Jury selection began Monday in Jacksonville, Fla., in the case of former Florida Power Corp. vice president, Richard Raymond, and four Texas oil executives who are charged with plotting to manipulate fuel oil prices during the 1973-74 Arab oil embargo. The government has charged the defendants with an elaborate oil price fixing scheme that cost thousands of Florida power customers as much as \$1 million in overcharges. Investigators said the indictment followed an eight month probe by the FBI and more than two years of investigation by federal energy officials into white collar crime in the petroleum industry.

Tenneco strike in Louisiana

In the second day of a strike at the Tenneco Oil Co. refinery in Chalmette, La., sheriff's deputies said pickets damaged one of the disrupted truck movements. The plant's 375 Oil Chemical Atomic Workers Union members who went on strike this week are demanding improved safety measures. The union is also seeking better retirement and premium pay benefits.

New trial for Flood considered

Justice Department officials in Washington are seriously considering another prosecution of Rep. Daniel Flood, 75, a Pennsylvania congressman, on bribery charges. U.S. District Judge Oliver U.S. declared a mistrial after he was informed the jury was hopelessly deadlocked following three days of deliberations. However, one juror later disclosed that an elderly member of the panel, William Carter, said he "knew Mr. Flood was guilty," of some charges but "didn't never vote to send him to jail because of his age and frailty. A retrial on a retrial will be made in a week or two by Philip Heyman, assistant attorney general in charge of the criminal division.

Superman imitator in coma

Four-year-old Charles Green, who fell from a seventh-floor window in an attempt to "fly like Superman," lay comatose in a hospital Monday. A hospital spokesman said the child had been in a coma since Friday and was in critical condition in the hospital's intensive care unit. Firefighters who were at the building to extinguish a minor incinerator fire, tried to reach the boy with an aerial lift but failed. Fireman, Jack Fortmeyer said the boy's mother, Doris, told him Charles had been "trying to fly like Superman" ever since his father took him to see the movie about the comic-strip character.

WORLD

6 killed, 4 wounded in Lebanon

In what officials termed the worst round of violence for the keeping force, six members of the United Nations contingent in Lebanon were killed and four others were wounded over the weekend. The fighting began Saturday when Palestinian guerrillas and their Lebanese leftist allies attacked the Fijian outpost of a village of Qana, U.N. officials reported. A spokesman for the U.N. said the attack was in retaliation "for the murder of one of our comrades by the Fijian troops."

Refugee ship captain arrested

The captain of the refugee ship Huey Fong, was denied bail and taken into custody in Hong Kong Monday on charges that his cargo of more than 3,000 Vietnamese refugees violated government shipping laws. The captain, Hsu Wen-hsien, was reported by Australia and Malaysia governments to have been linked to a \$1 million involving payment of huge quantities of gold by those desiring to get out of Vietnam. Hsu was charged with "being master of a vessel having on board passengers in excess of the number allowed" and authorities searched the ship for evidence that refugees paid their way out of Vietnam with gold.

WEATHER

Cloudy skies with continued rain throughout the day. High today in the low 40s and a low of 32. Warming Wednesday to 50°. Winds will be from the north at 10-15 mph. 38 was minimum temperature with .85 inches of rain. Outlook through Saturday is for cloudy skies with rain.

THE BATTALION

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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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