

VIEWPOINT

THE BATTALION TEXAS A&M. UNIVERSITY MONDAY FEBRUARY 12, 1979

Washington Window

By WESLEY G. PIPPERT

United Press International
WASHINGTON — Few persons believe that President Carter has become

less devout, but these days the demands of his office probably have led him to be less vocal about his Christian experience. "I wish, in a way, that I were free to do

more," Carter, noting the strictures of the

presidency, once told the Southern Bap-

tist Missionary Service Corps. "After my service in my present office. I intend to do

analyzed by every segment of the popula-tion, both in this coutry and abroad, prob-

ably has caused him to be more reticent. He came to the White House after a

campaign in which he spoke frequently and in detail about his belief in Christ and how it had shaped both his public and pri-

During the 1975-76 campaign, and during the first 18 months of his presidency,

ne taught Sunday School once a month in the Baptist churches in Plains and Wash-

ington. He has taught only twice in the

past six months.

Part of this is the result of his spending nearly every weekend away from Wash-

ington either traveling or at the presiden-

A spokesman for the Couples Class at the First Baptist Church in Washington

has told reporters they may no longer use tape recorders in covering Sunday School lessons. The handful of reporters who cover Carter at church used them for accu-

racy in note-taking.

The change in Carter's open and emphasis from personal to more general con-

cerns - was seen even more clearly in his

remarks to the annual National Prayer

Breakfasts, the event which more than any

tial retreat at Camp David.

The fact that every word he speaks is



Come'n' get it!

Clements chopping at the tax tree

By ANN ARNOLD

UPI Capitol Reporter
AUSTIN — Gov. Bill Clements is considering asking legislators to vote to abolish school taxes on individuals' homes as part of his campaign for a \$1 billion tax relief

program.
"It's one of the things that we're considering," Clements told UPI.

The governor said he will make his recommendations for tax relief when he pres-

ents his budget proposals to the Legisla-ture — perhaps as early as this week. "We're hoping to have it ready the latter part of the week or early the next week," said Tom B. Rhodes, the governor's acting

financial director.

Clements said he is looking at 20 different tax cutting suggestions drawn up by Comptroller Bob Bullock including the proposal to abolish school taxes on resi-

dent homesteads except for levies dedi-cated to repay local debts.

School districts would be reimbursed from state funds for their lost revenues estimated to total \$897.8 million for the next two years.

Bullock estimated such a move would free homeowners from 80 percent of school taxes and relieve them of 40 per-

cent of all property taxes.

On the downside, the comptroller indicated such a move would place almost the entire weight of school taxes on business and might discourage new investment in

Rhodes said the governor's advisers are leaning more toward proposals for providing additional state aid to school districts and requiring local school districts to cut

property taxes across the board.

"Some of the information that we got indicated that in a good number of the smaller districts the \$15,000 homestead exemption (voters authorized for senior citizens last year) practically eliminated all school taxes for older homeowners already," Rhodes said.

The average value of homesteads on tax rolls across the state is only about \$17,000, and with the \$5,000 exemption voters approved for such privately owned residences most homewoners already are receiving a sizeable tax break already, Rhodes said.

Rhodes said for additional tax relief an approach such as the legislation sponsored by Sen. Bill Meiery D-Euless, and Rep.

Bennie Bock, D-New Braunfels, might be more beneficial.

Under the \$987 million Meier-Bock plan one eighth of the state's 4-cent sales tax would be dedicated to a school property tax relief fund.

Clements will want a provision in the measure to make sure school districts flow through the funds to taxpayers through property tax reductions, Rhodes said. The governor has indicated he also fa-

vors abolishing the state's 10-cent property tax — a move estimated to benefit taxpayers at a cost of \$95.8 million in lost revenue to the government.

Other tax relief alternatives on the gov-

ernor's desk include:

—a two year freeze on school taxes with the state providing \$524 million in additional maintenance for public education during the next two years.

a state funded 10 percent reduction in school maintenance taxes to the tune of

\$862 million for two years.

—replacing county property taxes with state sales tax revenues at a cost of \$602

—cutting the state sales tax from 4 to 3 cents and allowing counties to adopt a local sales tax to replace property taxes.
—a \$553 million proposal to limit school maintenance taxes to .5 percent of the true

market value of property. The limit now is 1.5 percent

exempting food sold in restaurants, nonprescription medicine and production machinery from the sales tax at a cost of

\$700 million for the next two years.
—cutting the sales tax from 4 to 3.5 cents at a cost of \$645 million, or to 3 cents at a cost of \$1.3 billion. -repeal utilities tax at a cost of \$192

—change gasoline taxes from 5 cents per gallon to 5 percent of the purchase price, a move that would reduce taxes \$318 million for the next two years but could be ex-

pected to produce additional revenue as fuel prices increase.

—base natural gas taxes on quantity instead of selling price, a move that would increase levies on out-of-state buyers.

-raise oil production taxers from 4.6 percent to 7 percent and cut gasoline taxes at the pump from 5 cents to 2.2 cents a

-repeal sales tax on commercial utilities at a two-year cost of \$183 million.



Letters to the Editor

Aggies don't need any 'hotshots'

Editor:
While reading a leading Houston newspaper, I stumbled across an "exclusive" on the front page of the sports section. The article was concerning Eric Dickerson's verbal commitment to play for Texas A&M. A statement by this supposed hotshot, schoolboy blue-chipper upset me ex-

Dickerson was quoted as saying, "If I don't start, he'll (Wilson) have a hell of a time keeping his job." Ha ha, giggle giggle, tee hee. What a guy.

Well, what have we got to say to that Ags? This is my first year here A&M and I wasn't so sure about Aggieland when I got here, but now that I'm here I'm proud to say that I'd be no other place than here. I feel that anyone who goes to school here should be very proud that they are part of this institution.

Now if this schoolboy (emphasis on BOY) thinks that we are going to be graced by his presence here at Texas A&M, he has got a very rude awakening in store for him. We don't need a big-headed high school kid here, we've already got a hell of a football team.

Hey Eric, the gestalt is now. Either get your head together or keep looking for a place to hang your cleats, bucko.

-Mike Carroll, '82 Editor's note: According to a Houston Post column Sunday by Jack Gallagher, Dickerson's comment about Wilson was

According to Gallagher's column Dickerson was referring to Tom Wilson's comment, "I can't promise you you're going to start. All I'll promise is I'm going to play my 11 best. If I don't do that I'll lose my job."

Just to clarify...

I would like to clear up some misconceptions and misrepresentations concerning my letter which appeared in the Battalbased explanation of origin. It is not a religious doctrine, as some of the people apparently thought. I said that this alternate model of origin

should be taught on a "comparative and non-religious basis." When I used the expression "comparative and non-religious, I expected the reader to understand that 'comparative" referred to a comparison of the various assumptions and interpretations of actual facts which the two theories

At no point did I then, or do I now, advocate the teaching of religion in a publicly supported education program. I did, however, say that the exclusion of the creation theory from the classroom creates an intimidating and discriminatory situation" as well as "a most hypocritical departure from scholastic ethics

I can still be reached at 845-3897 if anyone has a question or would like to discuss my letter or the theories. -Fallon Foster, '80

Beautify MSC area

This is in response to Ray Godsey's letter on the Memorial Student Center grass. I am part of the group that is calling for a student vote on the hedge. I am not a veteran, yet I believe the objective is very commendable. Our group is for the me morialization of the grass, but we feel the hedge is totally unnecessary. This hedge is to be erected to stop a few people from walking on the grass. The first point I would like to make to

Mr. Godsey is that his position on the use of the money sounds like a person in the federal government. If we don't stop excess spending, we're not going to be able to afford to live. The next point I would like to make is the most important point of this

With the hedge you are not upholding tradition, but legislating it, which totally breaks down the idea of a tradition. People who don't walk on the grass do so out of respect, not because they are forced not

Quite a few people that walk on the grass do so because they don't know our tra-ditions. Several signs placed in strategic points on the grass would do much better. In our petition, we are not saying the money is to be used on a veterans' fund, but we feel the money should be used toward a much more advantageous purpose.

—H.C. (Hank) Hering, Jr., '80

Hedge unnecessary

I would like to discuss one of the very controversial issues on campus — the Memorial Student Center grass. Many different solutions have been offered, and I would like to offer mine.

First of all, does anyone really believe

Tell the Battalion just 'What's Up'

want to inform readers.

Information should be submitted on a form available in The Battalion, Room 216, Reed McDonald Build-

ing.
Information should include the prior before the event.

The What's Up column is for or- name of the organization, time and ganizations, clubs and societies that place of the meeting, and any im-want to inform readers. place of the meeting, and any im-portant details, like the subject of the meeting.

Forms are next to the black box in the Battalion office. Information should be submitted three days

At the first breakfast, a few days after his

other allows a president to speak out about

The devout President

inauguration, he spoke about the biblical notion of servanthood and Jesus' admonition that even leaders must be servants

At the 1978 breakfast, he spoke again of being "born again" and his commitment to Christ. But the Mideast now was weighing on Carter's mind and he spoke of the bond

Commentary

he shares with Egyptian President Anwar Sadat and Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin - all three worship

A few weeks ago, after two years in office, Carter said little directly about his personal trust in Christ. Speaking in general terms, he called again for prayer about the Mideast and he talked about the timidity of churches in dealing with con-

Carter spent several hours on a recent Sunday with a group of evangelical Chris-tians at the home of former Sen. Harold Hughes, D-Iowa. It apparently was one of only a few times, as far as reporters know, that Carter has met for Christian fellowship other than at a worship service. Persons who were present said the occasion

was deeply moving.
Chaplain Cecil Reed, who ministers to
Carter at Camp David, spoke recently of the problem that a president faces.
"There's a loneliness at the top," Reed

"I've seen it over the years, even with generals. People just won't let you let your hair down.

that putting up shrubs will keep all the people off the grass? There are people who are totally against the idea of not being able to walk and sit on the grass. The bolder ones would do as they pleased no matter what was done to try to stop them. Therefore, the idea of shrubbery would not accomplish its task.

Personally, I believe the grass should be memorialized. However, my idea of a memorial is different from many. I do not see the harm of a few people walking on the grass. There is only a very small minority of people who would consider walking on the MSC grass. This means that I like the idea of calling the MSC grass a "memorial," yet if people really want to walk across it, they should have the right to do as they please

The solution I have to offer is more simple than shrubs, and it would accomplish the same task much cheaper. The effort should be made towards making the grounds look so beautiful that no one would want to walk across the grass. The grass should be fertilized and watered in order for it to stay green. Even flowers could be planted to add beauty to the area. Signs could be put up saying the grass was a memorial and asking for everyone's cooperation in order to keep it looking like a memorial. This is the simplest solution.

and I feel it should be considered.

The idea of memorializing the MSC grass is a good idea. However, some people will never agree to that side of the issue no matter what is done to convince them. So shrubs, which would be expensive, would not eliminate the problem. Improving the grounds would not be nearly as expensive and would probably accomplish as much as the shrubs. Therefore, this is my solution to the problem of memorializing the grass. I believe people on both sides of the issue should be able to relate to my suggestion and that is the reason it should be considered and as a solution to the problem of the MSC grass. -Michelle Tannert, '82

Top of the News **CAMPUS**

Disco contest will be Friday

Sign-up continues today for a disco dance contest sponsored by Aggie Cinema. The contest will be Friday in conjunction with the group's showing of "Saturday Night Fever." Semi-finals will be in the Memorial Student Center Lounge from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Finals will precede the 8 p.m. showing of the movie. There is no entry fee in the contest, which is open to faculty, students and staff of Texas A&M University, and prizes will be awarded. Sign-up will be in room 216 of the MSC until 5 p.m. Thursday.

Alumnus to discuss energy policy

Robert Herring, a Distinguished Alumnus and chairman of the board of the Houston Natural Gas Corp., will be featured on the University's Visiting Executive Speaker series today. He will discus "The Domestic and International Impact of the National Energy Policy Act" today at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. in room 201 of the Memorial Student Center.

STATE

Sergeants charge unfair recruiting

Army recruiters have helped Fort Worth enlistees cheat on service qualifying exams and Army officials have covered up the actions, tw recruiters charge. The cheating occurs in an attempt to meet laggin manpower quotas, according to a copyrighted story published Satur day in the Fort Worth Star Telegram. Two recruiting sergeants, whasked they not be identified for fear of Army reprisal, said the Arm had conducted two investigations into recruiting practices in the Fo Worth-Dallas area between July and October 1978. They said a third investigation begun in Dallas in October 1978 still was underway. The sergeants said the Army inquiries were "whitewashes" and "st perficial."

Jury picked in Beaumont trial

The selection of the final juror is expected this week in the Beaumont capital murder trial of Linda May Burnett, accused of aiding in the killings of five members of a Winnie family. District Judge Larry Gist Friday denied a defense request for additional jury strikes, over ruled a defense motion to release Burnett from jail and refused to sequester the jury. The 31-year-old Nederland mother of three was declared competent to stand trial Thursday.

NATION

Pilot safe after jet crash

A Navy Reserve pilot lost power in his single-engine jet over southeast Louisiana swampland Sunday and ditched the craft. He ejected safely. Lt. Cmdr. J.A. Omlid of Houston was on weekend training duty with reserve squadron 204. He was flying a training mission from the Naval Air Station in Plaquemines Parish when the engine in his A7-B jet fighter stalled. Omlid ejected from the plane southeast of Eunice, La., and landed in Adams Bay. A pleasure boat picked him up from the water and a Coast Guard helicopter returned him to the circustrician.

John Wayne leaves hospital

John Wayne went from the hospital Saturday almost a month after cancer surgery and was reported "feeling fine." The 71-year-old actor left UCLA Medical Center at 10:30 a.m. and was driven to his home in Newport Beach on the Southern California coast. No advance m Newport Beach on the Southern California coast. No advance notice of his departure was given, apparently to avoid alerting newmen. Wayne was operated on Jan. 13 for what was supposed to be routine gall bladder surgery but a low grade malignant tumor was discovered in his stomach. His entire stomach was removed and a new stomach fashioned from intestinal tissue. The cancer was found to have spread to lymph glands near the stomach and they were also

UPI reporter dies of wound

United Press International reporter Judy Danielak, who was shot in the head Tuesday while driving home from work, died Friday without regaining consciousness. The 21-year-old University of Arkansas-Little Rock student had worked for UPI since mid-January. covering the Senate in the current session of the Legislature. Police said they were conducting interviews in an effort to establish a motive and find a suspect in the mysterious slaying. Detective Sgt. Walter Miles of the North Little Rock Police Department, which is heading the investigation, theorized Danielak was the victim of an indiscrim-

Susan Ford marries bodyguard

Susan Ford, 21, daughter of former President Gerald Ford, Saturday married Charles Vance, her father's 37-year-old former body guard, before a packed house in Palm Desert, Calif. The guests in cluded singer Frank Sinatra and other celebrities.

WEATHER

Overcast of fog and stratus this morning becoming fair to partly cloudy this afternoon. High today 73 and low tonight

THE BATTALION

Editor

Managing 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.

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.

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.

United Press International is entitled exclusively to the use for reproduction of all news dispatches credited to it. Rights of reproduction of all other matter herein reserved. Second-Class postage paid at College Station, TX 77843.

Assistant Managing Editor .Andy Sports Editor City Editor Campus Editor ...Debbie Par News Editors Beth Calhoun
Staff Writers Karen Roges,
Patterson, Sean Petty,
Blake, Dillard Stone,
Bragg, Lyle Lovett Photo Editor Photographer Focus section editorGary W

MEMBER

Opinions expressed in The Battalion are those of the editor or of the writer of the article and are not necessarily those of the University administration or the Board of

Regents. The Battalion is a non-profit, supporting enterprise operated by stude Editorial policy is determined by the edit