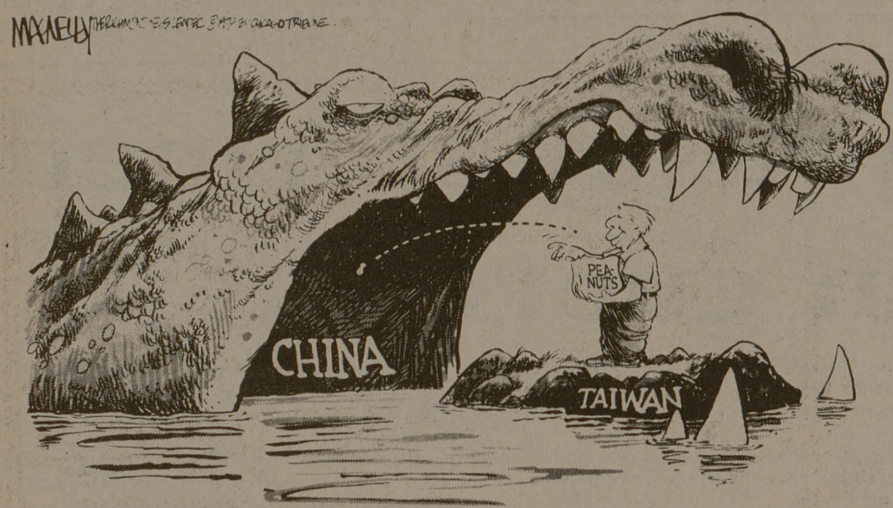




VIEWPOINT

THE BATTALION
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

WEDNESDAY
FEBRUARY 14, 1979



Constitution reformers should heed Hamilton

By DAVID S. BRODER

WASHINGTON — In the space of 24 hours, late last month, two men of judgment and experience in serious statecraft who share a conservative bias on constitutional questions recommended to the consideration of their fellow citizens a constitutional amendment of great consequence.

John B. Connally, the former governor of Texas and recent candidate for the Republican nomination for President, and Griffin Bell, the former federal appeals court judge and current attorney general of the United States, endorsed the proposal for granting future Presidents a single six-year term, with no possibility of reelection.

The idea is not a new one. As Bell noted in his University of Kansas lecture, it was discussed at the constitutional convention, proposed to Congress as an amendment in 1826 and has been reintroduced some 160 times since then.

That history does more than suggest the antiquity of the notion; it also hints at its frailty. One would presume that if this particular change in the Constitution were really needed, it would have been made before now.

But this is a time when many are eager to rewrite the Constitution. Half a dozen proposed amendments are bumping into each other on their way toward the legislatures, and, given the eminence of Connally and Bell, it probably would be a mistake to ignore their notion.

In both cases, the avowed purpose of the proponents is to liberate the President from politics and incline his thoughts toward more elevated matters than reelection. As Bell put it, "The single six-year term would permit the long-term, steady planning and implementation that our government needs, plus saving that fourth year now lost to campaigning."

Or as Connally argued in his own announcement of candidacy, "Nothing ... would be more conducive to the restoration of the confidence of the people in our form of government ... than the knowledge that an American President from the day of the assumption of office has fulfilled his political role and has no future except as the historians view him as a statesman."

The operative assumption in both arguments is that it is politics — specifically the calculation of strategy for reelection — that demeans the presidency and undercuts the leadership potential of the office.

But that argument is buttressed neither by the experience of history nor the test of common sense. If it were true that liberation from concern about reelection were the key to presidential statesmanship, then one would expect to find far greater achievements in the second term of past Presidents than the first.

Is that the case? Eisenhower's first term saw him end the war in Korea, appoint Earl Warren to the Supreme Court and manage the downfall of McCarthyism. His second term brought Little Rock, the Sherman Adams case and the interstate highway system. Franklin Roosevelt's first term created the New Deal; his second term, the court-packing fight and the Neutrality Act.

The Connally-Bell amendment would not strengthen the President's leadership, nor would it increase his accountability for the exercise of his power.

By arbitrarily lopping 24 months off his maximum term of service, it would limit his capacity to move policy in a sustained direction. By taking him off the ballot in all congressional elections held during his tenure in office, it would reduce his influence with the legislative branch and make him even less able to resist the encroachment of Congress on his prerogatives. With a single six-year term for President, the bureaucracy would respond even less to executive direction and become even more dependent on its permanent patrons in Congress.

The proposal would also eliminate the use of the reelection campaign as a source of discipline on the exercise of presidential authority. By immunizing the President from receiving the voters' judgment on his stewardship in office, it would encourage him to ignore public opinion in the daily administration of his post.

It is, in sum, exactly as bad an idea as Alexander Hamilton thought it was when he wrote in *Federalist 72*: "Nothing appears more plausible at first sight, nor more ill-founded upon close inspection than a scheme which ... has had some respectable advocates — I mean that of concluding him from it. ... These effects would be for the most part rather pernicious than salutary."

Admirers of Griffin Bell and John Connally may find it hard to believe they are not the wisest counsel available on a constitutional question. But in this case, believe me, Alexander Hamilton is better.

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Lower the flag on road accidents

By KAY WALLACE

Another Silver Taps.

Within one week, another Silver Taps.

It isn't known whether Pamela Jean Forest attended Silver Taps last Tuesday for the late Richard S. Gaines, but whether she did or not, she certainly never suspected that this week the flag would be lowered for her.

The number one cause of death for college-aged students is accidents. Accidents such as the one Pamela Forest was in Saturday. Senseless, all of them.

If just one person had been driving slower, or more alert, or less careless...if, if, if.

Anyone who stands outside the Academic Building as Taps rings out will get the gut feeling that is inherent in any ceremony for the dead. It's an empty, helpless and scary feeling. The feeling, "It could have been me."

Hopefully, enough people will take time to think about the tragedy of all Silver Taps we have. Slowing down, taking time to think before we possibly endanger ourselves — whether it be in a car or crossing the street — could save us a ceremony that could be for you.

Use your brains — think before you act!

It's a sickening feeling to think we all have worked so hard to get through school, to make something out of life for ourselves, only to lose it before we can really have the chance to enjoy it.

Kay Wallace is a junior journalism major at Texas A&M and a Battalion production assistant.

Key to U.S. inflation stop deficit spending

By TOM GLASS

SCONA's topic this year, "America's Economic Environment" addresses the issues that probably are the most pressing in America today. Basically, the speakers at the conference are discussing the government's effect on the public's pocketbook.

Many effects of government today are painfully obvious regulations. But there is one effect of government that is less obvious and more controversial. That effect is inflation.

Everybody today is aware of inflation. Constantly rising prices affect every person in the society. The words "inflation"

Reader's Forum

and "inflationary" are used in the news and by every politician. But, what is inflation? What is inflationary? And what is the cause of inflation?

Inflation is a long-term rise in most of the prices of goods and services in an economy. When the price of coffee rises because of a freeze in Brazil, that is not inflation or inflationary. This price rise is not long term and all prices do not rise because of this.

Inflation can only be understood when the relationship between money and wealth is comprehended. Wealth is the goods and services that people want. Money is a medium of exchange and value that represents this wealth. Money is used to facilitate exchange of unlike goods in a society.

At any given time there exists a total amount of wealth and a total amount of money. Prices of each individual good and service are determined by the supply and the demand for each in relation to the total supply of money.

If the total money supply were \$100, each item would have a price proportional to another item's price so that all wealth would be represented by \$100. Note that if the supply of goods and services and the supply of money stays constant, one price can only rise if the price of some other commodity drops.

If the total money supply were \$200, and the same wealth existed as before, all

prices would be proportionately twice as much. This example shows that inflation is caused by the relationship between money and wealth. Inflation can only be caused by an increasing difference between the total money supply and the total wealth. This growing difference is caused by a faster growth rate of the money supply than the growth rate of goods and services.

Again, any individual price rise in a constant monetary environment cannot be inflationary because that price rise has to be counterbalanced somewhere else in the economy. Monetary growth faster than the growth of wealth is the essence of inflation.

In America, the body that totally controls monetary growth is the federal government. It is responsible for inflation today because it has constantly created money to finance its budget deficits. The only way to stop inflation is to stop government deficit spending.

Inflation has many undesirable effects. The most obvious is that the poor and those on fixed incomes are robbed of spending power. More subtly, inflation causes people to save and invest less in enterprises that create new wealth and jobs and more in nonproductive assets such as gold, antiques and land.

In our present tax structure, inflation actually causes the total taxes paid by its citizens to increase. As the wage earner's salary rises, he must pay a higher percentage tax, although his earning power has not increased.

In the long run, inflation threatens to destroy our civilization by destroying the incentives to produce wealth. It also increases governmental control over the society, thereby decreasing individual freedom.

Government causes inflation by its deficit spending. We must balance the federal budget and halt inflation before it is too late. For though we may try to have more than we may produce in the short term, sooner or later we must eventually pay the price.

Tom Glass is a senior chemical engineering major at Texas A&M and a delegate to the Student Conference on National Affairs (SCONA).

TOP OF THE NEWS CAMPUS

Contest to be held to name group

A contest to name a new Texas A&M University women's choral group is under way. Organized this year, the 37-member group performs classical and popular music. Entries in the campus-wide contest will be accepted through Friday at the vocal music office in the Memorial Student Center. Each entry should include the person's name, address, and phone number. The winner will receive \$10.

Jobs for grad students available

The Graduate Student Council has positions open for graduate students in the colleges of engineering, liberal arts, and geosciences. Duties for the positions are "mainly information dissemination." Candidates must be bona fide graduate students in the colleges needing positions and must be degree candidates taking at least eight hours of course work. Interested persons should contact Bobby Parker at 845-2620 or John Kennedy at 846-8766.

STATE

Urban managers grant available

The Texas City Management Association is sponsoring the Clarence E. Ridley Scholarship for graduate study in public administration affairs with particular attention to students contemplating careers in urban management. Persons interested in the \$4,000 grant should contact the Texas City Management Association (1020 Southwest Tower, Austin, 78701) for additional information and application forms.

Mexican-American named judge

President Carter Tuesday nominated two men — one of them Hispanic — to be U.S. district judges in Texas. Carter nominated James DeAnda, 53, of McAllen, Texas and George Gire, 56, of Houston to fill new judgeships created by the last Congress. If confirmed by Congress, both would sit in the southern district of Texas. DeAnda, an attorney, has been in private practice since 1951 in Houston, Corpus Christi and McAllen. He would become the second Mexican-American to serve as a federal judge in Texas, joining Judge Reynaldo Garza of Brownsville.

Chavez to make Texas union play

Cesar Chavez, who has concentrated most of his organizing of farmworkers in California the past decade, will make another push to unionize Texas farmworkers beginning with a convocation Feb. 23 in the Lower Rio Grande Valley, it was announced Tuesday. Rebecca Flores Harrington, director of the United Farm Workers Union in Texas, said Chavez called the convocation "to formally recognize the union's organizing committees that have been established in Texas and to set legislative priorities for 1979."

Witnesses scared of cycle gang

A U.S. attorney reports witnesses in a massive criminal investigation of a motorcycle gang fear their lives will be threatened if they testify before an El Paso grand jury. "A number of witnesses have already expressed fear for their personal safety," said U.S. Attorney Jamie Boyd. But he warned federal officials would not tolerate threats against witnesses in the investigation of interstate racketeering, gambling, prostitution and narcotics trafficking allegedly involving the Bandidos motorcycle gang.

NATION

Indictments sought in jail death

The chairman of the Mexican-American legislative caucus says he has asked President Carter to request that the Justice Department seek indictments in the death of Ortega Lozano, an Odessa jail inmate Mexican-American leaders claim was beaten to death. Rep. Paul Moreno, D-El Paso, Monday said he planned to deliver to Carter a letter from the caucus complaining an assistant U.S. Attorney general had been holding evidence in the case for more than three months. Lozano died in the Odessa jail Jan. 23, 1978. Odessa officials contend Lozano inflicted his own injuries by beating his head against his cell, but Mexican-American leaders and others argue he was beaten to death.

WORLD

Ambassador to Afghanistan killed

U.S. Ambassador to Afghanistan Adolph Dubs was kidnapped by terrorists in the Afghan capital of Kabul today and shot to death, embassy officials in Pakistan and the State Department in Washington reported. Embassy officials said the seizure of Dubs did not involve an assault on the embassy as in neighboring Iran. The State Department said Dubs, 58, a native of Chicago, was seized on his way to work and taken to a hotel in Kabul, where he died of a bullet wound. The police rushed the Hotel Kabul, killing one terrorist, but officials in Washington said it was not known whether Dubs was killed by police bullets or by the terrorists. There was no clear identification of the terrorists, or details on how many took part in the kidnapping.

WEATHER

Overcast skies, partly cloudy and warm with a high of 80° and a low of 60°. Winds will be southerly at 15 mph.

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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Regents. The Battalion is a non-profit supporting enterprise operated by students as a university and community newspaper. Editorial policy is determined by the

Letters to the Editor

Merge coupon services

Editor

I'm writing in reference to the article in Monday's Battalion (Feb. 12) on the "People Book" versus Student Purchase Program. It is evident from the data collected from the local merchants that the "People Book" is superior in its function of encouraging contact between students and local businesses.

The issue of whether or not a private firm should be allowed on campus is irrelevant in this case. Both books are attempting to provide the same service — free of charge to the students.

The "People Book" is by far a bigger success. Instead of student government fighting the distribution of the "People Book," why not join forces to provide a better service to students, after all isn't that what student government is about? —Mary Hutchinson, '80

MSC mine field

Editor

After reading the recent controversial articles concerning the MSC grass, my roommate and I have a suggestion to make. We are staunch traditionalists; we firmly believe in the importance of preserving the MSC grass. We agree that planting a hedge on the outer perimeter of the grass is a good idea.

We have a proposal, however, that would insure proper respect for the grass. In addition to the hedges, we propose that several spots of the grass be planted under small spots of the grass. The initial process would entail some defacing of the grass, naturally, but we feel that the efforts would be beneficial to preserving one of the most sacred traditions at A&M. If A&M aren't considerate enough to respect the

that is, that it was dedicated to the A&M that died during the wars — then we feel that they too must die.

If by some unfortunate instance, some inconsiderate Ag does choose to step on the grass, the mine explosion would deface the MSC green somewhat; however, we firmly believe that the mines would produce such a scare within the student body that no Ag would dare try again.

For those A&M who refuse to heed the warning and step on one of our mines, let there be no Silver Taps for the inconsiderate two-percenter! Strategically placed signs could warn visitors of the potential hazard of subverting Aggie traditions — thus they could spare themselves from the mines. These two consequences would not be too severe for someone who refuses to respect the traditions at A&M.

—John Barber, '81
—Chip Landry, '82

Jock identity crisis

Editor

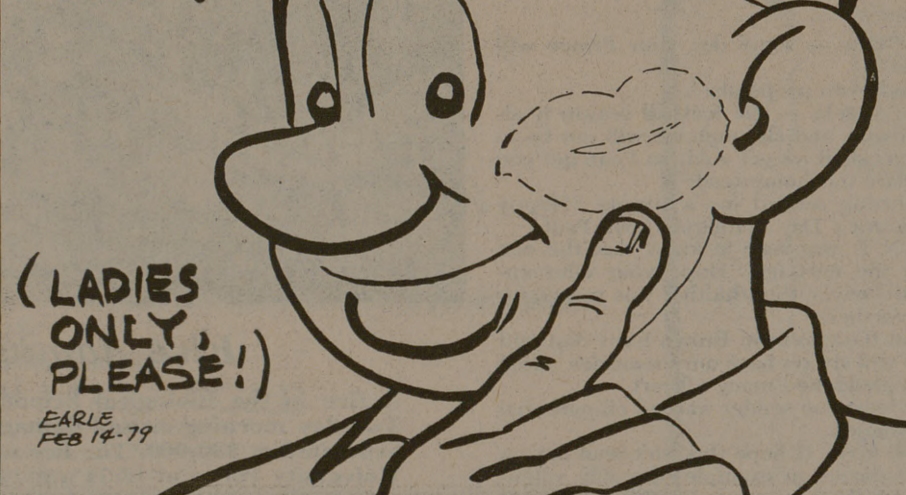
Do the A&M athletes have an identity crisis? They all seem to wear a football jersey, a baseball windbreaker or some other piece of clothing normally reserved for the playing field. Seems to me if someone is any athlete at all, people would recognize them without a program.

When was the last time you saw Earl Campbell wearing his jersey to a banquet? Incidentally, something even more ridiculous to me is the non-athletes (information types, trainers, et al) wearing the windbreakers, etc.

—Les Palmer
Texas A&M staff

Slouch By Jim Earle

SHOW YOUR
VALENTINE
SPIRIT!
SEND
ME A
KISS!



(LADIES ONLY, PLEASE!)

EARLE
FEB 14-79