

# VIEWPOINT

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## Time for Jordan to take stock

By DAVID BRODER

WASHINGTON — Hamilton Jordan is not the only relatively untested 34-year-old man to be named to the powerful position of White House chief of staff. His predecessor, Richard B. Cheney, was exactly the same age when he succeeded Donald Rumsfeld in that job under Gerald Ford in November of 1975.

Cheney, like Jordan, was a relative unknown, taking command of the staff of a politically beleaguered President facing a tough election campaign. And, like Jordan, he came to power as part of a major Cabinet upheaval — the one in which Rumsfeld moved to the Pentagon to replace James Schlesinger as Secretary of Defense.

Give the parallels, it is not surprising that, despite their differences of party and political philosophy, Cheney, now a freshman member of the House of Representatives, speaks with a certain sympathy of the task now awaiting Jordan.

Sympathy, and a degree of skepticism, one must add. During the transition period, after Carter's victory over Ford, Cheney says he and Jordan "talked a couple times about the job, because my assumption was that he'd be the closest equivalent to what I was for Ford."

He found the young Carter aide "a good listener," but said his advice went for naught, "because they were hung up on the spokes-of-the-wheel concept." That was the concept voiced by Carter during the 1976 campaign that, rather than having a single powerful chief of staff, he would have seven or eight senior aides, coordinating different areas of policy, each of whom would have direct access to him at the hub of power — "just like spokes of a wheel."

The irony to Cheney was that the identical phrase had been used by his predecessor and mentor, Rumsfeld, during the first weeks of the Ford presidency — and for the same reason.

Both Ford and Carter were anxious to avoid the pattern set in the Nixon White House by H.R. "Bob" Haldeman, chief of staff who was central figure in the Watergate scandal.

In Cheney's view, the fear of repeating that pattern was a mistake — for both Ford and Carter. "Both of them were spooked by the Nixon precedent," he says. "Watergate created the idea that there was some moral value in how you organized the White House. There isn't. Organization is neutral; it's the people in it who set the values."

The practical matter, Cheney says, is that "You can't run a place with 1,500 employees (the Executive Office of the President) and have no one in charge except the President. It won't work, unless he spends all his time on it, and his time is better spent on other things."

By the time Cheney took over from Rumsfeld, Ford had discarded the spokes-of-the-wheel idea. In fact, at a staff party for Cheney after the 1976 election, he was given a plaque on which was mounted a horribly twisted bicycle wheel, with all but a few spokes broken — the last vestige of the old concept.

Cheney, in turn, passed the trophy on to his successor, Jordan, with a note reading: "Dear Ham: Beware the spokes of the wheel. Dick." Today the trophy lies behind a curtain on the floor of Jordan's office.

As Cheney sees it, the job of the chief of staff is to "run a decision-making process that has integrity," by seeing that all relevant views are consulted before the President sets a policy and that all affected people are notified what they are expected to do to carry it out.

Jordan's concept of the job is uncertain and undefined. He has spoken at times of relieving the President of final decision-making on an unspecified range of less-than-vital issues, and, at other times, of coordinating the staff and Cabinet, without imposing himself as a barrier to their access to the Chief Executive.

Many outsiders assume that his real purpose is to see that policy decisions and administration operations help the re-election effort of the man whose past campaigns he has run.

Cheney, who was supervisor of the Ford campaign from his White House post sees nothing wrong if Jordan does the same for his boss, "as long as he doesn't try to be campaign manager. He won't have time for that."

But like many others, he is waiting to see if Jordan's interests extend beyond politics to government itself. In the past — here and in Georgia — Jordan has been abidingly interested in politics, only intermittently in government. Cheney's view, again widely shared, is that "You can't be an effective chief of staff unless you're really intrigued by the way the presidency functions in relation to the rest of government."

His final thought is that it is important not to exaggerate the dimensions or demands of the job. "A lot of it is quite pedestrian and not very creative," he says. "It's the wrong place for an artist who wants to go off by himself and think deep thoughts or write great memo."

Thus, one 34-year-old chief of staff to another.

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## Ready to judge new parliament

By BARRY JAMES

STRASBOURG, France — It is sometimes said that the European Economic Community is a commercial giant and a political pygmy.

The nine-nation Common Market — scheduled to expand to 12 members in the next few years — already is the world's second largest economic force after the United States.

But only last week in Strasbourg was the Community started to acquire a political presence independent of its member governments.

That presence now is provided by the new European Parliament, the first in history to be democratically elected across national frontiers.

Its 410 members, ranging from former prime ministers to bluff Yorkshire coalminers, hardly have had time to adapt to the plush building the French government insists must remain the seat of their assembly.

So it is too early to judge whether the parliament will emerge as the voice of the European people and a major political force in its own right, or whether power will continue to reside with the national governments and parliaments.

Still, the potential for a political flowering exists. Visiting Congressman Sam Gibbons, a Florida Democrat, believes the European Parliament is similar in nature to the Continental Congress that pre-

ceded the present U.S. legislature.

The assembly did elect a president, Simone Veil, a 52-year-old French grandmother and survivor of the Nazi's Auschwitz death camp. But it has spent much of its first days bogged down in maddening points of procedure, made worse by an antiquated and time-wasting system of voting.

The ideas have not yet started to flow. Debate has yet to take over from inaugural rhetoric. Many of the parliamentarians believe the assembly will become an effective force, and will manage to escape from the constraints to its power imposed by the national governments.

"You can't mobilize 180 million voters and then have such a parliament do nothing, achieve nothing or prove that nothing as changed," said former Belgian Premier Leo Tindemans.

Mrs. Louise Weiss, the oldest member at 86 and president of honor on the first day, said the parliament as the task of inspiring a new breed of international men and women like those who made Europe great during the Middle Ages, the Renaissance and the Age of Enlightenment.

"Our institutions have succeeded in producing European butter, cheese, wine, calves, even European pigs. What they have not succeeded in doing is making Europeans," Mrs. Weiss said.

To be truthful, the parliament has not been very inspiring so far. To be fair, it is too soon to judge whether it will be.

### Letters to the Editor

## In another man's shoes...

Editor:

Hey Aags! There really are some good people left in this world! As a result of my letter to the Battalion (Battalion, July 11), Mrs. Andrews, who owns Welch's Cleaners, called me. I just have to tell you about her generosity. She told me that she had seen my letter about having my gym clothes and my shoes stolen, and she knew just how I felt. Someone had stolen her socks when she was in school, and although they only cost \$3, at the time that was a lot of money to her. Despite my protests, Mrs. Andrews insisted that I go over to the Athletic Attic and pick out a new pair of shoes at her expense. She

knows the owner and arranged all this ahead of time.

Since I needed the shoes for PE this session and I didn't have the money, I just didn't have a choice. I didn't like taking charity, but sometimes you have to swallow your pride.

Thank you Mrs. Andrews. You've restored my faith in human nature. I hope that whoever stole my things will see this and feel even more guilty. Then maybe they'll think twice before they steal from someone else.

—Cheryl Richardson

### Dog days again

Editor:

You could do the community a favor by reminding old-timers and pointing out to newcomers that dogs are not allowed to run free in College Station but must be physically restrained at all times.

The Dexter Park/Jersey Lane area is notorious. When the Humane Officer appears, the dogs disappear momentarily. After he departs, these dogs with collars — but without owners in sight — again wander about, defecating in anyone's yard but their own.

—R.E. Vrooman

### Writing the editor

The Battalion welcomes letters to the editor on any subject. However, to be acceptable for publication these letters must meet certain criteria. They should:

- ✓ Not exceed 300 words or 1800 characters in length.
- ✓ Be neatly typed whenever possible. Hand-written letters are acceptable.
- ✓ Include the author's name, address and telephone number for verification.

## TOP OF THE NEWS

### STATE

#### Kid floored with husband's sword

A teen-ager charged with the rape of a woman in San Antonio, warned he would return the next night, arrived to find her husband wielding a 3-foot-long samurai sword. The husband then held the sword over the head of the terrified teen-ager until officers arrived early Tuesday, police said. Danny Cortez, 19, was charged with aggravated rape and was jailed in lieu of \$20,000 bond.

#### Stolen liquor found in San Antonio

The FBI said Wednesday it recovered a stolen shipment of Jack Daniels assorted whiskeys and liquors, worth \$70,000, originally bound for California from Kentucky in San Antonio. Michael A. Morrow, special agent in charge, said agents found the truck full of whiskey at a truck stop on IH-35 southwest of San Antonio.

### NATION

#### Illinois sues firm for \$20 million

Illinois Attorney General William J. Scott has filed a \$20 million class action suit accusing a firm owned by the wealthy Hunt family of Texas of conducting a massive and fraud scheme. "Over 3,500 Illinois residents have lost anywhere from \$2,000 to \$20,000 each" in purchasing land from Colorado City Development Co. Inc., Scott said, a news conference after he filed the suit Tuesday in U.S. District Court. The suit accuses the defendants — including the Hunt International Resources Corp. of Dallas — of misleading buyers into purchasing nearly worthless land. The suit asks that each purchaser be allowed to recover his or her total damages and that all payments currently being collected from purchasers be held in escrow until the case is resolved.

#### Fire water better than Fire Chief

Farmer-engineer Ken Drayton, who used to make his own hootch, says farmers should run their tractors on moonshine. He's even designed his own still. Drayton, 48, who owns a 235-acre farm in Otis Township just north of the Indiana border, said farmers could cut fuel bills by at least a third by using 140-proof ethyl alcohol instead of diesel fuel or gasoline. "It could be the egg-money of the next decade," he said. Drayton ran his first still as an employee of an electronics firm that made seawater for testing sonar equipment. But it was while he worked for Aramco in Saudi Arabia that he had his first experience with moonshine. "Saudi Arabia is a dry country and the Americans there wanted to drink, so the company helped us set up stills," he said. "You'd go around and see who could make the best-tasting hootch. You just had to keep it from getting to the locals."

#### Sirhan's parole moved up to 1984

The state Community Release Board in Soledad, Calif., Tuesday moved up the recommended parole date of Sirhan Sirhan, the assassin of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy, to Nov. 1, 1984, after noting his good behavior, college work and improved mental health. Sirhan, 35, escaped the death penalty when the state Supreme Court ruled capital punishment unconstitutional in 1972. He has been behind bars 11 years. He could be freed as early as July 1983 if he continues to receive the usual four-month sentence reduction routinely awarded inmates who stay out of trouble and who try to improve themselves through courses and job training.

#### Co-ed "sues" home for money

It's Zimmerman vs. Zimmerman in state Supreme Court in Manhattan. Adrienne Zimmerman, 21, of Great Neck, N.Y., is suing her father Theodore, an attorney who reportedly earns more than \$100,000 a year, for failing to keep his promise to pay her college fees. In the suit filed Tuesday, Miss Zimmerman said she was to have entered her senior year at Adelphi University next fall, but was suspended June 12 because her father didn't pay her fees for two years. "I'm doing this because I want to survive," the cold told Justice Thomas Hughes. "I want a career in life. I'm not going to let him stop me."

#### Five kids drown; none could swim

After eating watermelon at a family picnic beside a lake off the Savannah River in Sylvania, Ga., Tuesday, Norman Scurry decided to take his three children and two nieces for a joyride in an 18-foot long aluminum boat. None of them knew how to swim. When the overloaded craft capsized, Scurry was strong enough to make it to shore despite the fact he couldn't swim, but the children — four girls and a boy, ranging in age from 15 to 6 — were helpless and drowned. "It was something terrible seeing all my kids go down like that," Scurry said.

### WORLD

#### Hijackers demand \$1 million

Three hijackers who commandeered a Bangladesh Biman passenger plane in Calcutta, India, Wednesday and threatened to blow it up unless they were paid \$1 million surrendered to police, the All India Radio said. The hijackers had taken over the aircraft with 43 passengers and crew aboard during the 80 mile flight from Jessore to Dacca in Bangladesh and ordered it to land at Calcutta's Dum Dum Airport.

## THE BATTALION

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### 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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### the small society

by Brickman



## Dow Jones should be making skirts

By DICK WEST

WASHINGTON — Hemlines, according to Wall Street folk lore, make fairly reliable economic indicators.

Historically, skirt lengths have gone up and down with the Dow Jones Average, rising in boom times and dropping when the economy was faltering.

These parallel fluctuations may have been entirely coincidental, but assuming there is something to the hemline theory, what does one make of the current slit skirt vogue?

The skirts themselves are long enough to signal a hair-curling recession. Yet enough leg is revealed to presage two chickens in every pot.

I figured this apparent contradiction, duality or ambiguity could best be explained by a professional economist, so I solicited an interpretation from Prof. John Kenneth Turnipblood, author of "The Pants Suit Syndrome" and other textbooks.

"What you are seeing in slit skirts is President Carter's wage-price guidelines," he said.

"The low hemline corresponds to the anti-inflationary aspects of his economy policies. The open space up the side is caused by the consumer price index and recent union contracts."

I said, "That seems a well thought out analogy. What skirt style would be most helpful for the economy at this time?"

"The president's economic advisors would like hemlines no higher than the bottom of the knee and perhaps a bit below. But making that length fashionable is nearly impossible.

"The teamster contract signed in the spring took skirt slits almost to mid-thigh, and the new rubber workers wage scale may provide a glimpse of the area where the thigh bone connect-a-to the hip bone."

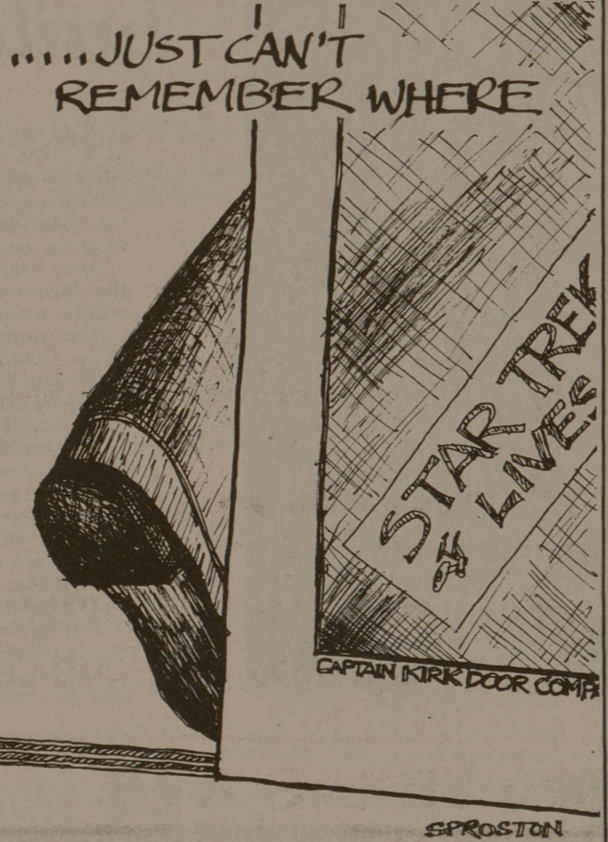
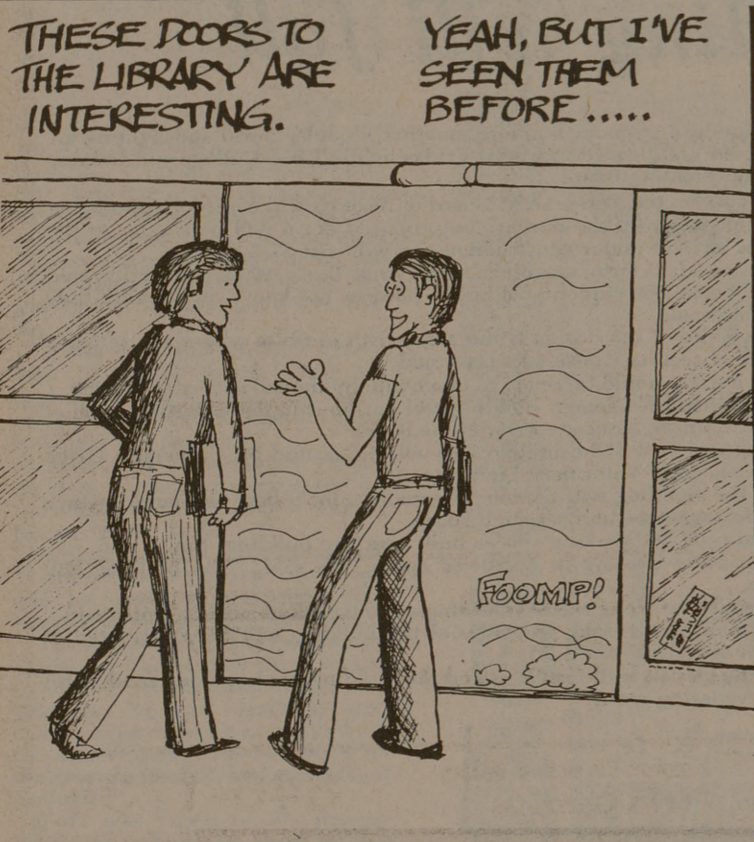
"Hoo boy!" I exclaimed. "Alfred Kahn is going to lose his mind. What do you anticipate will emerge, fashionwise, from the auto industry negotiations coming up later this year?"

Turnipblood bared his teeth in a lustful grin. "It is my best judgment that the price of labor peace in the auto industry will be a skirt that is slit to the waist."

I gave a low whistle. "I never realized economics was such a fascinating subject. No wonder Treasury Secretary Blumenthal always has a gleam in his eye. Drawing on your great storehouse of expertise in this field, could you possibly foretell the impact of the next OPEC meeting?"

"Try to picture in your mind a tight-fitting dress whose hemline falls almost to the floor but which has a slit on one side that runs all the way to the armpit," Turnipblood replied. "That will give you some idea of the upcoming oil price increase.

Although the economic outlook is highly provocative, I'm not overly worried. Any economy that was robust enough to withstand the mini-skirt surely can survive the Suzie Wong syndrome.



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