

NATION

OSHA to investigate arena collapse

Investigators say it is too early to tell if vibrations from a jet landing at nearby O'Hare International Airport caused the collapse of the new \$8.5 million Horizon indoor stadium in this tiny Chicago suburb. The wooden-beam roof of the stadium collapsed, killing five construction workers and injuring 15 others. Damage to the 20,000-seat stadium was estimated in excess of \$3 million. A spokesman from the Occupational Safety and Health Administration said it would launch a "catastrophe investigation" into the collapse. Rosemont officials immediately hired a consulting firm to investigate the disaster. One police spokesman said a jet landing at O'Hare made an "extremely low" pass just before the collapse at 8:30 a.m. CDT. A 100-foot clearance beneath the wheels of landing craft had been established for the stadium, which is located on the perimeter of O'Hare in its glidepath.

Escaped con caught, hostages OK

Escaped convict Richard Gantz, armed with two knives, was captured in Gardiner, N.Y., without a struggle Tuesday, less than two hours after he fled into the woods around the farm house where he had taken six people hostage Sunday. State police at Kingston said Lester Cossano Sr., Gantz' last hostage, was not harmed. Five other hostages were released Sunday night and Monday morning. State police said Gantz, armed with two knives, was captured about 7:15 a.m. EDT in a wooded area less than a mile northwest of the Cossano house. Gantz surrendered without resistance near Dusenberre Road and some railroad tracks, troopers said. He was taken to the state police barracks in Highland.

Rockwell Society files lawsuit

The Rockwell Society of America has filed a \$2 million lawsuit to stop the Rockwell Museum from selling and advertising four figurines. It was the second suit in a week filed against the museum in suburban Lincolnwood. The society — a nonprofit service organization seeking to educate collectors about the value and origin of the late Norman Rockwell's works — charged Monday the figurines were pirated from illustrations by Rockwell appearing on society-sponsored collector's plates. The suit, filed in Cook County Circuit Court in Chicago, charged the museum's activities were "calculated to deceive and confuse the public" into believing the figurines were endorsed by the Stony Brook, N.Y.-based society.

LA man 'rattled' by 'snake' attack

Michael Thompson was robbed at snakepoint. Thompson, 25, of Los Angeles, told police a man knocked on his door Monday, saying he had a package for him. When Thompson opened the door, the robber whipped out a knife and opened the package to display a snake. He threatened to loose the snake on Thompson unless Thompson handed over his valuables. Thief and snake escaped with \$400 in cash and jewelry — in Thompson's car.

Rain aids firefighters in Idaho

Firefighters are taking advantage of an inch of welcome rain in their battle against two big blazes in Idaho's scenic Primitive Area. One fire was reported to be temporarily contained Monday, while the other had stopped spreading. The rain and cooler temperatures halted the spread of the 65,000-acre Mortar Creek fire and the lesser 10,000-acre Ship Island blaze, both burning along the Middle Fork of the Salmon River 60 miles apart. Some 150,000 acres of Idaho timber and rangelands have burned this summer and the cost of fighting is expected to be several million dollars. The figure does not include the cost of the lost timber and grazing land.

EPA to fund studies of acid rain

The Environmental Protection Agency will spend \$900,000 on research projects to study acid rain — rainfall polluted by power plants, smelters and automobiles. The phenomenon, which affects most of the nation east of the Mississippi, could be worsened with the future increase in the use of coal instead of oil in power plants unless research uncovers answers to prevent it, EPA said. The agency said \$500,000 will go to North Carolina State University for a study of lakes which have already been damaged by such rain, and of lumber and food crops which are most vulnerable. An additional \$400,000 will go to the EPA laboratory in Duluth, Minn., to study the threat to more than 1,000 lakes in the Boundary Water Canoe Area where increased levels of mercury in trout, walleye pike and northern pike may be related to acid rain.

Shah, Somoza need jobs

By ROY BRAGG

I've never been one to get choked up over the problems of a stranger, especially if the guy is in trouble because of his own mistakes.

This goes double for politicians. I think Nixon and Agnew got what they deserved. So did Willy Brandt and a host of other leaders who have been forced into an early retirement.

Being coerced, embarrassed, or voted out of office is the second worst thing that can happen to a politician (I am, of course, ignoring assassination). It's like those dreams where you wake up in the middle of a crowded bus station and you're completely naked. Not even Fred MacMurray will loan you his coat.

To a politician, being naked in a bus station is nothing. The worst thing that can happen to a politician is to be forcibly thrown out of office. This is as humbling as being asked by your grandmother to trade in your last name.

The Shah of Iran and ex-President Somoza of Nicaragua are the two most recent examples of this special sort of embarrassment. I wonder how they feel about receiving the "pink slip" in such a blatant manner?

Of course, I don't sympathize with these men at all. I know they had power and wealth while the rest of their respective nations remained poor. I know they appropriated millions of dollars for their own benefit.

I'm not discussing politics or human rights, though. I've heard about these guys ordering the deaths of tens of thousands of people. I just wonder how these two guys handled feeling the ultimate sting of rejection — being

forced from the most important job in the country.

Imagine how strange it is to be canned by the people of a country. One day, you're the Great White/Black/Brown Hope of the Third World; the next, not even Liechtenstein will answer your calls.

It's not like being deported. When someone is deported, they are asked to leave the country by the government. The Shah and Somoza were the government.

Besides, deportation is usually the fate of one man who has been found guilty of a crime. Invariably, the crime is something like keeping "el presidente's" daughter out late on a date, mugging the head of the national police force or relieving oneself on the lawn of the presidential palace.

People who are deported are affectionately referred to as "small potatoes" in terms of global and national significance.

But when a country of ten or so million rises in arms against some guy, the rest of the world tends to notice. It must be a scary feeling. Everyone hates you. Your own people chant slogans calling for your immediate disposal as a leader and a human being.

All of your international allies, who used to offer help when the revolution consisted of three lunatics with an automatic rifle, now cough and talk about the weather whenever you call them for help. They suddenly erect heliports on their embassy roofs and hold press conferences at home asking for your resignation. Thanks a lot, pals.

Where can you go for asylum? Not the United States,

that's for sure. Sure, you can come and visit for a couple of weeks, but stay? Are you kidding? If you're a Libyan, drinking beer with the president's brother while he's making anti-semitic remarks to the press, that's ok; don't come around here if you support the United States, though, okay?

Forgetting the "sour grapes" politics, let's look at the immediate situation:

First, these two guys (Somoza and the Shah) are out of work. Second, the governments of Iran and Nicaragua, although cruel and merciless, were making progress towards modernization under these two leaders. Lastly, in the minds of many people, there are definite problems in the way our federal government is run.

The obvious solution is to hire Somoza and the Shah as presidential advisers or department heads.

By hiring them, we'd be helping them and possibly helping us. Imagine the General Accounting Office being run by the Shah. No, on second thought, that's not a good idea. Come to think of it, I think we can rule out the Secretary of Commerce or Treasury for the Shah. Add the Securities and Exchange Commission to that list, too. Keep the old guy away from the FBI altogether. I'd rather not have him anywhere, as a matter of fact.

While I'm thinking about it, Secretary of Defense is definitely out of bounds for Somoza. So is the National Security Advisor's job.

Let's just keep them around. We might need some new ambassadors in Nicaragua and Iran someday.

Watergate: a new era

Public confidence shattered, political apathy on the rise

Editor's note: This is the last article in a three-part series describing the politics and crises of the 70s.

The spectacle of a government unable to enact a national energy program for nearly two years indicated that competing special interests were near deadlock: able to block action but unable to make anything go.

Political reform also was stuck. After passing the presidential campaign financing law in 1973, Congress balked at applying the idea to itself. Hopes of increasing voting by easing registration fizzled as well.

The Democratic apparatus became the possession of the incumbent president.

Carter got early support from party leaders, but many soon retreated to cover their own turfs and see if the new man could survive.

The Republicans, after Watergate the party of choice for less than one American in five, struggled. For once backing with cash their claims of being an "open door" party, the GOP recruited black candidates and gave them funds as well as promises.

None of them won in 1978 (the GOP's only black in Congress, Sen. Edward Brooke of Massachusetts, lost), but national chairman Bill Brock vowed that the Republicans are in the struggle for minority votes on a long-term basis.

A lot of new politicians surfaced in the

decade after Woodstock, but politics and politicians appeared to be continuing a long decline in public esteem, part of what Carter called the "crisis of confidence" in his own campaign for a personal comeback in the spring of 1979.

The experts competed with theories about the American political malaise and where it was leading. Some predicted the long-predicted arrival of real liberal and conservative parties; others thought new parties would form around issues, some as narrow as abortion, marijuana, school prayer and budget balancing.

But the old parties did not roll over. Congress gave them new legal status and funds in post-Watergate reform laws and they found new techniques: fund raising by direct mail, credit cards and telethons, midterm party conferences and candidate forums.

There was discussion in the 1970s about a public "turn to the right" and the rise of a "Silent Majority." But election results often failed to support its existence. Democrats, not always liberal but usually to the left of their opponents, continued to win most elections.

The polls that tried to plumb the public's mood found it to be conservative in general and liberal in specific — endorsing both balanced budgets and spending for education and most welfare programs.

"Single issue" politics seemed to be making headway. Well-organized groups

supporting and fighting abortion were an example. "Pro Life" groups claimed some congressional scalps and were able to prod several dozen legislatures into demanding constitutional prohibition of abortion.

Budget balancing also had a flurry. When Californians approved drastic property tax cuts in Proposition 13, a number of politicians, including Gov. Edmund G. Brown, Jr., headed for the lifeboats and embraced government thrift. But predictions of a Proposition 13 tidal wave failed to materialize in 1978.

As the 1980 elections approached, two issues dominated public attention and seemed sure to be the stuff of the next decade's political conflict.

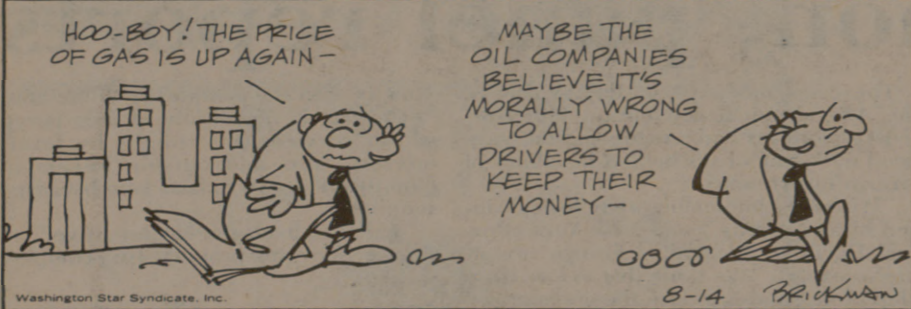
First was inflation, which persisted despite efforts of government and some business and labor leaders to combat it with voluntary restraints and talk.

Second was energy. Its price eruption caused much of the first problem and raised for Americans the prospect of cutting back the relatively lavish lifestyle they had enjoyed in the years after World War II.

The gasoline shortage of 1979 was the most dramatic manifestation of what now was no longer a problem of the future. The fumbling image projected by the government in its efforts to deal with the situation almost guaranteed that this would be the political battleground of tomorrow.

the small society

by Brickman



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'Waving the bloody shirt' popular in D.C.

By ARNOLD SAWISLAK

WASHINGTON — Stuart Eizenstat recommended to President Carter that he blame OPEC for the country's problems. The president apparently decided he would do better by using a proven scapegoat and blaming Washington.

Attacking Washington is akin to the political practice after the Civil War of "waving the bloody shirt" to remind voters

what horrible deeds were committed by the Yankees or Confederates (and to divert attention from the record of the particular candidate or party.)

"Washington," meaning the entire federal establishment from the loftiest perches of power to the bureaucrats in the basement, is and always has been a tempting target.

Americans have always regarded government as a kind of necessary evil. It is

needed to keep order, but people get mad when its activities touch them, as when it sets lower speed limits or higher thermostat settings.

And much of the criticism is entirely justified.

When Congress passes laws that are not needed or ducks problems that cry out for action, when the Supreme Court makes rulings that strain common sense and the plain words of the Constitution or when

government agencies load citizens down with conflicting rules and silly paperwork, people ought to squawk and squawk loudly.

But blaming everything on a kind of all-encompassing "Washington" is a politician's dodge. It takes the place of pinpointing exactly who is responsible for foulups and abuses and making specific proposals to remedy them.

One example: When Congress passes and the president signs legislation granting power to regulate or restrict some private activity, it often provides only the vaguest guidelines for regulations to back up the law. It sometimes makes no provision at all for review of law's operation.

So it is only when things go bad that Congress or the White House get involved. OSHA was one such example.

Congress cannot write detailed regulations to enforce laws it passes. But it can examine them before they take effect and it can require periodic inquiries into operation of the law.

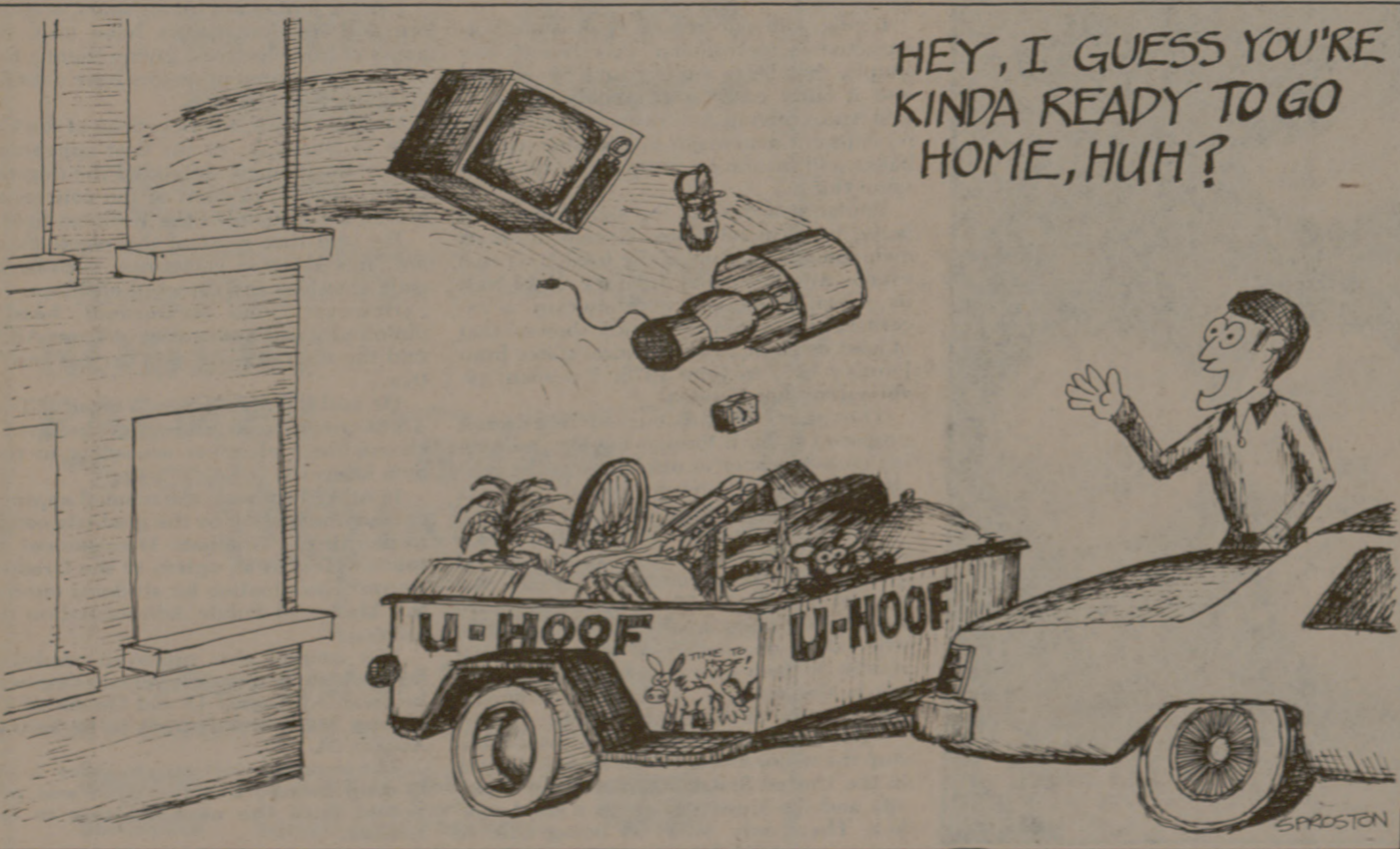
The president can't oversee every bureaucrat's work. But he can keep a watch on new programs. And the president can make departments and agencies do what he wants done or know the reason why not.

These are matters of accountability. Running the government right is the president's responsibility. When something goes wrong, it is at least in part his fault.

Writing legislation that solves problems is Congress' responsibility. When new laws cause more problems than they solve, Congress has to share the blame.

Interpreting the law to serve justice and equity within the framework of the Constitution is the Supreme Court's duty. When its rulings fly in the face of these, it has failed and is culpable.

It is long past time for accountability in government. But it is just another exercise in bloody shirt waving to blame "Washington" for everything that goes wrong.



SPADSTEN

WORLD

Blast injures 100 in South Korea

Tons of chemicals stored in warehouses in the port city of Incheon, South Korea, exploded in huge fireballs just before midnight Monday, injuring more than 100 people and sending thousands more fleeing into the streets, police said. There were no reports of fatalities in the explosions, but police said many of the 100 injured were seriously hurt. About 5,000 panic-stricken people, many of them in sleeping clothes, dashed for the covers within a 3,000-yard radius of the scene were broken, police said. Those injured were either hit by flying glass or battered from debris when the shock wave blew down roofs of houses, police said.

THE BATTALION

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