



"Do you hear a TV playing somewhere?"

OPINION

To tell a secret

Members of Congress spent nearly \$4 million in public funds on foreign travel last year. It was a record amount. Most congressional tours are billed as fact-finding missions to enable the lawmakers to pass more intelligent legislation. But as everyone knows, many of these trips are nothing more than tax-paid vacations for congressmen. Even when the congressmen are engaged in serious business overseas, many of them usually manage to live high at the taxpayers' expense.

Members of Congress didn't tell the taxpayers about almost half of it, according to Congressional Quarterly. It said 293 senators and representatives took 505 government-paid trips abroad last year. CQ estimated that more than 40 percent of the cost of those trips went unreported. Most of that was for military jets to fly congressmen overseas.

Federal law requires congressmen to file reports on government-paid foreign trips, disclosing their destinations, amounts spent, names of staff members traveling and, for House members, dates of travel.

It is hard to tell how many members of congress are in violation of this law. There are convenient loopholes. The porous quality of the law comes as no surprise. Congress is not likely to pass any law that actually cuts back on its privileges and pay or which gives the taxpayers a look at how they are being taken in.

Congress has all kinds of ways of increasing the income of members without making it appear the members have their hands in the taxpayers' pockets.

Now it appears that Congress is equally adept at passing a spending law which doesn't require the member to disclose anything they don't want to.

The Nashville Tennessean

the small society by Brickman



THE BATTALION

USPS 045 360

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.

MEMBER
Texas Press Association
Southwest Journalism Congress

Editor Liz Newlin
Managing Editor Andy Williams
Asst. Managing Editor Dillard Stone
News Editors Karen Cornelison and Michelle Burrows
Sports Editor Sean Petty
City Editor Roy Bragg
Campus Editor Keith Taylor
Focus Editors Beth Calhoun and Doug Graham
Staff Writers Meril Edwards, Diane Blake, Louie Arthur, Richard Oliver, Mark Patterson, Carolyn Blosser, Kurt Allen
Photo Editor Lee Roy Leschper Jr.
Photographers Lynn Blanco, Clay Cockrill, Sam Stroder, Ken Herrerra
Cartoonist Doug Graham

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

BRODER Kennedy challenge to presidency would pit North against South in new 'civil war'

By DAVID S. BRODER
United Press International
WASHINGTON — More than a year ago, Patrick Caddell, the President's pollster, began talking about a Carter-Kennedy contest as a "civil war" that could wreak havoc inside the Democratic party.

This week, the same phrase was rattling over the phones as Carter operatives labored to prevent a mass defection by Democratic politicians to Sen. Edward M. Kennedy (D-Mass.) in the wake of his clearly signaled readiness to oppose Jimmy Carter.

What Caddell was telling friends privately in 1978 was that there was no way that Carter and Kennedy, whatever their personal wishes, could limit their campaign to the issues on which they differ or their credentials as national leaders.

"It would inevitably pit the North against the South, the cities against the countryside, the liberals against the conservatives, and the Catholics against the Protestants," Caddell said in characterizing the dreaded combat between two of his personal clients.

Now that his views are being repeated publicly by others in the Carter camp as a reason why good Democrats should shun a Kennedy challenge, the proposition will certainly receive skeptical scrutiny.

In New Hampshire, the site of the first primary, the view of the Kennedy challenge's potential divisiveness seemed to depend, in most instances, on the allegiance of the viewer. Sen. John A. Durkin (D-N.H.), a Kennedy partisan who is unsparingly scornful of the President, told me that whatever wounds might be opened in the February contest "will be healed by St. Patrick's Day."

But State Rep. Chris Spirou (D), the House minority leader, who missed the Carter boat in 1976 and leaped with perhaps premature haste aboard the President's ship this time, countered with the claim that a Kennedy run would be "political cannibalism. . . . It would set us back 25 years in this state."

Gov. Hugh Gallen (D), who is as sane as the other two men are emotional, suggested that the truth might lie somewhere in between. Gallen is the key Carter supporter in New Hampshire, but he is not trying to choke off the draft-Kennedy drive in his state. "We in New Hampshire realize we are a minority party," he told me, "and we need each other. But if we didn't, we would sure have gone after each other before this."

While Gallen's common sense may cool the warring passions within his state, the larger context the Carter-Kennedy struggle could prove Caddell right.

The polls show Kennedy a 2-to-1 favorite over Carter among the nation's Democratic voters. But Tim Kraft, Carter's campaign manager, is not blowing smoke when he says that if there is a contest, it is likely to last all the way to the August convention.

This time, proportional representation will be applied without exception to the delegate-selection contests in all 50 states. That means that even where Carter is beaten by Kennedy, the President will win some delegates.

Moreover, Kraft and his colleagues note, the mix of early contests makes a Kennedy sweep unlikely if not impossible. Among the 17 states now scheduled to begin their

delegate-selection before what looms as a key contest in Illinois on March 18, eight are south of the Mason-Dixon line and one (Minnesota) is the home of Vice President Mondale.

"One-third of the delegates will be picked by that time," Kraft said, "and it will be obvious to everyone that the President has not been knocked out." Even assuming Kennedy victories in Iowa, Massachusetts and New Hampshire (which Kraft does not concede), the President's campaign manager said, "Jimmy Carter will do what he's always done. He's never had an easy race, and he's always stuck in there and ground it out."

That kind of protracted, trench warfare, pitting the power of an incumbent President against the formidable talents of the party's best campaigner is exactly what the

Republicans endured in 1976. But for the reasons Caddell cited, the rivalry between Kennedy and Carter could well be far deeper emotions than were present in the 1976 Ford-Reagan contest.

Having propelled himself into the White House contest by the force of his own ambition four years ago, Jimmy Carter is hardly in a position to deny Ted Kennedy's right to run for the presidency in 1980 or any other year. There was not far as I can recall, a big draft-Carter movement outside Plains in 1975.

But if Kennedy has a perfect right to enter the contest in whatever terms he chooses. That they are calling it a "civil war" almost guarantees it will be one.

(c) 1979, The Washington Post Company



LETTERS Perturbed at reading about gay clergy, student quotes Bible to emphasize point

Editor:
I am very perturbed by all the articles in the paper about homosexuals in the churches. I know God is appalled and would not give His Spirit to a practicing homosexual.

"Or do you not know that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived; neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor homosexuals . . . (1 Corinthians 6:9)."

If they would give their whole heart to Jesus Christ, God could heal them. I guess what really bothers me about all this is the so-called "Christians" who take it upon themselves to play with God's Word to accommodate unrighteousness and miss what God has said in the Bible.

I didn't write the Bible nor did any man. And when Jesus Christ walked on the earth He had quite a few confrontations with Pharisees and the like that twisted scripture to fit their own whims. I feel sorrier for some of these Christian leaders than homosexuals on Judgement Day.

—Lenwood S. Adams, '80

concerned, one could hardly criticize another with a clear conscience in an age where Attica, MyLai and Soweto can easily be forgotten.

The point is, rather, an appeal to the critical sensibility of the spectator to evaluate — without being abused by the agitation that literally reaps the cheap sentiments in a typically Hollywood fashion — the rationale of the ones involved in making this film; a logic, by which, starting out with a single experience, an entire society is condemned as a whole, and in fact being cursed upon in an unimaginably vulgar language.

For us, it is not worthwhile to pay any attention to the details of the Midnight Express whose jail and terror scenes are filmed in the medieval castles of Malta (island in the Mediterranean) with almost everything initiated in a hateful and angry fashion, nothing traditionally and authentically Turkish in it, including the pseudo-Turkish, hatred ridden cast collected from the members of constantly land demanding-ambassador assassinating minority groups with their incomprehensible Turkish.

However, we believe that the film has the potential to serve as a test through which the spectator can judge for himself in an age of growing antiracist consciousness, whether the hidden seeds of racism, and indeed cannibalism, can still interfere with sensible reasoning.

Remember the world's fastest sprinter Bob Hayes on cocaine charges while you feel pity for the hero Billy Hayes; no "Express" for the famous athlete by the true story (\$) conscious, original score filmmakers?

It is not only a movie; we, too, wish it were.
— Mehmet Sahinoglu, graduate student

ice is on campus, why should I fork out precious dollars to buy a membership elsewhere?
— Jim Bartling

Movie inaccurate

Editor:
There seems to be a "Midnight Express craze" these days; HBO and now Aggie Cinema is featuring a movie which we suspect will leave a mental stain in your subconscious regarding your knowledge and feelings towards Turks and Turkey!

This is neither an apology nor a declaration praising the super comfort of Turkish prisons but a civilized attempt to express our viewpoint on the meaning of a nation's sovereignty that could not grant special treatment to a first-time hashish smuggler no matter how elite his roots are. For we believe that as far as the concept of justice is

Steal a universal?

Editor:
Upon returning to campus this fall I was shocked to discover that the DeWare weight room would indefinitely be barred from my use. I thought that this was absurd, and after hearing numerous rumors about the topic I made an appointment to see the athletic director, Marvin Tate.

I was told by Mr. Tate that the athletic department paid thousands of dollars for the equipment, and had only given the students the privilege of using it. However, the "privilege" has been taken away because of misuse and wear.

Sure, everything wears with use, but who in the hell is going to be able to steal a set of weights or a universal gym, for that matter, with a monitor checking I.D.s at the door? I was also told that this "privilege" has been eliminated because this year an extended weight program, which places an emphasis on strength is being administered by coach Wilson. So far I have seen no results!

I am not one of A&M's godly athletes, but I am active in a few intramural programs. I am very dissatisfied to think that I would like to work out, the coliseum.

The student is being taken. With the outrageous fees I am paying, I didn't see why the DeWare weight room should not be included in the services. When the serv-

Don't bite the hand

Editor:
I went into a local sporting goods store last Monday to return a pair of canvas gloves which I had bought three weeks earlier and had decided not to use. When I bought them I was told that I could return them for a refund if they had not been used and they hadn't.

The woman I was told to see noticed slight discolorations on them which I had also noticed at the time of purchase, but nothing to do with performance. The woman said that she couldn't take them back because they had been used. I told her that they hadn't. She then examined one other pair of grips which were not colored and told me again that mine had been used and that she wasn't going to touch the rest of the grips.

I asked the woman if I could return her when the salesman who waited on me there. She then raised her voice and demanded, "I am the owner and I say I'm taking them back."

Not only was this woman at the store which thrives off of student business, refusing to give me the benefit of the doubt, but she was also calling me a liar. I'm surprised that this woman hasn't yet learned the value of customer service and courtesy to Aggies.

—Mark Hogue, '79

THOTZ

by Doug Graham

