

SLOUCH By Jim Earle

HAPPY BIRTHDAY SLOUCH



26 YEARS & 3,200 CARTOONS

OPINION

Texas promising

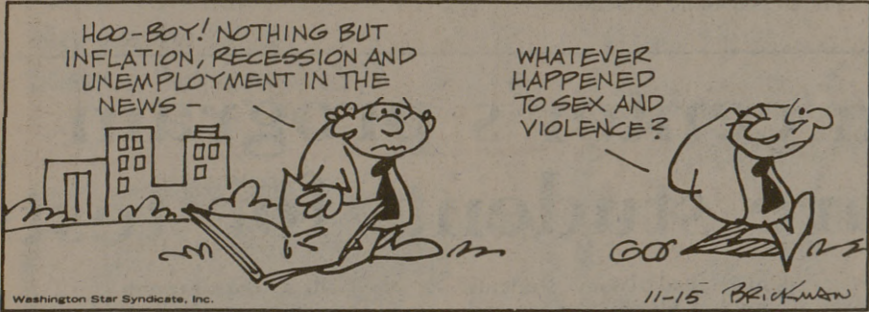
The Lone Star State must still be a promised — or at least promising — land. Thousands of people are migrating here each month. A survey by Belden Associates of Dallas for the Texas Daily Newspaper Association illustrates this phenomenon. The report said between 22,000 and 24,000 people are moving to Texas each month. That's enough people for a good-sized town. The survey, which sampled 1,006 Texans early this year, found population has increased 69 percent since 1950 and now hovers around 13 million. That's the third largest population in the country — and growing.

Honesty doesn't pay

Rep. Leon Panetta (D., Calif.) not only is a man of principle but he is willing to make personal sacrifices in support of his convictions. The congressman opposed the last two pay increases Congress voted itself and although he could use the money, he has been systematically returning to the U.S. Treasury for the past 2½ years the difference between the current pay scale and the salary which prevailed when he was first elected in 1976. Panetta says he does not oppose higher pay for Congress but objects to the devious manner in which it has gone about getting the increases. The congressman sadly admits there are only a few members of the House who feel as strongly as he does. And what a pity that is.

Boston Herald American

the small society by Brickman



THE BATTALION

USPS 045 360

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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.

Mail subscriptions are \$16.75 per semester, \$33.25 per school year, \$33.00 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.

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VIEWPOINT

THE BATTALION
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

THURSDAY
NOVEMBER 15, 1979

BRODER

If Reagan expects to win in 1980, he must meet campaign challenges

By DAVID S. BRODER

WASHINGTON — And now... Ronald Reagan.

The parade of challengers reaches its logical climax this week when the former California governor steps forward to claim his position at the head of the Republican field.

Reagan is the legitimate GOP front-runner, not just because the polls says so, but because a remarkable number of the party's activists and faithful have been working and waiting for a dozen years now to make him their nominee.

No one has a bigger following, or a better organization, among those who are likely to attend Republican caucuses and vote in Republican primaries than he does.

There are three questions that will determine whether Reagan can sustain his current favorite's position and nail down the nomination early, as his reflective young manager, John P. Sears, believes he can. (Sears' faith is attested by his willingness, as long ago as March of 1978, to bet reporters that the name of the 1980 Republican nominee would be known before the Democratic nomination battle was finished.)

The questions are of ascending order of importance. The first is whether Reagan can avoid being tagged as a far-right ex-

trémist. The answer is almost certainly yes. That tactic has been tried against him by every major opponent, Republican and Democratic, since his first race for governor in 1966, and it has not worked. Reagan is a card-carrying conservative, but he has never been a hater or a screamer, and at his age, he is not about to become one.

The second question is his age — 68. He is plainly old to be running for President, but whether he is too old is not a question subject to long debate. The one virtue this crazy system of 35 presidential primaries possesses is that it surely tests a candidate's physical and emotional stamina.

If Reagan is able to campaign effectively, day after day, as he did in 1976, without faltering, no one will be able to make a plausible argument that he is too old to be President. Conversely, if he falters and loses his focus, there will be no disguising it, and his position as front-runner will crumble.

Either way, there will be little room left for argument as the campaign proceeds.

The third question will be the hardest to answer — and the most important: Is Reagan the right man to be President at this time?

John Sears understands the dimensions of this question as well as anyone in Amer-

ica. He said the other day that the polls show Reagan has credibility as a national leader in part because of his success in eight years as governor of California, and, in larger part, because of his effectiveness as a public speaker.

But, Sears said, the repeated failures of national leadership in the past decade have focused the voters' minds on the question of a would-be President's vision of the future, and his capacity to help achieve that goal.

Sears' concept is not at all distant from that described by Sen. Edward M. Kennedy in his announcement speech last week — "a forceful, effective presidency, in the thick of the action, at the center of all the great concerns our people share."

But unlike Kennedy, Sears believes that the Democratic party, historically the activist party, has "run out of hopeful ideas for the future," thus adding to the voters' sense of disquiet and pessimism.

It now falls to the GOP, he believes, to nominate a leader who can, first of all, restore the activist reputation that party enjoyed in its first half-century of life — but has lost since 1932 — and, second, can convince the country that a Republican offers a positive vision of the future.

The voters Sears hopes Reagan can project is not a new welfare state, obviously,

but a belief in America's growth as described by Reagan's most recent recruit, Rep. Jack Kemp (R-N.Y.) in a circle of economic and political activists.

That vision was viewed skeptically when Kemp and others were the centerpiece of the 1978 Republican campaign.

There is reason for skepticism because in the past Reagan has been an activist, either in policy or in terms, and people rarely change at 68.

As a governor, Reagan was seen as a delegator of authority rather than a gator of policy. In this campaign more than in 1976, he has demonstrated extraordinary authority to Sears and the other Republican candidates in issues debates.

That may be a sound tactic for a runner, but it is a strange way for a candidate to demonstrate his confidence in his own leadership. The Zeta sorority has the intellectual and moral vigor to lead a revival of his party's leadership.

Leadership means more than the risks, and if Reagan is the leader of the 1980s Sears says he is, he ought to be ready to meet the test of delay in the

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High OPEC prices threaten world economy

Last June when the OPEC oil cartel boosted prices to 60 percent higher than at the start of the year, it made a number of pious pledges to consuming nations. All the promises now have been cynically broken. OPEC said none of its members would sell oil for more than \$23.20 a barrel this year. It would try to work for "stability." And its members would "limit transactions in the spot market," where oil not under

long-term contracts is sold. OPEC has turned market stability into chaos. Six of its 13 members have raised their official prices above the \$23.20 ceiling. And they have forced their contract customers to buy at spot prices of up to \$48 a barrel. About 30 percent of OPEC oil is being sold on the spot market. When the cartel meets Dec. 17, the soaring spot market prices no doubt will be

cited as justification of OPEC's next jump in official oil prices. The price gouging threatens to tip the world economy into recession, fuel more inflation and push developing countries further into poverty. President Carter, who has been conciliatory to the foreign oil monopolists, ought to warn them strongly about the dangers of causing recession in the industrial demo-

cracies and suffering in the third world. Whatever Carter says is likely to be ignored because key OPEC members, Iran, Libya, and Iraq, are anti-Western and secretly want to "imperialists" harmed. The United States had better brace itself for bad news in the month and be ready to conserve to limit the damage.

Scrrips-Howard Newspapers

LETTERS

Aggie says Iran 'protest' on campus was ruined by senseless fanaticism

Editor: As an American first, and an Aggie second, I too am pretty upset about the insults to American integrity and the hostile actions taken against us by the Iranian government, enough to attend the protest Wednesday in the Rudder Tower complex. "What actually occurred at this so-called 'protest' were some activities that made a mere mockery of American values and ignored the Aggie traditions of level-headed and intelligent actions. Sure, one or two people had relatively intelligent arguments, but the majority of people leaned toward the same senseless fanaticism emitted from Iranian protestors. I really don't think that the burning of a Houston Chronicle with a photo of some Iranians was very symbolic but was an example of the sophomoric attitudes prevalent at A&M's first protest.

Something is wrong when a majority of the time was spent insulting President Carter by calling him very vulgar names, and cursing the U.S. government for past activities. It seems that the intention of the protest was to voice our anger at the Iranian government and terrorists, not our own nation nor innocent Iranian students attending A&M. I was disappointed that only a small fraction of Ags attended, but even more so by the many people that made a mockery of an attempt to show the world that A&M isn't a passive and uncaring student body, but one very patriotic and ready for action.

— Jeff Weston, '81

Editor's note: This letter was accompanied by four other signatures.

Energy proverb

Editor: In the growing frenzy over energy sources, we must remember that only through conservation of all our natural resources, energy resources included, will we sustain ourselves on an earth worth inhabiting. An oriental proverb tells of a man whose oven was magnificent, but so large that at mid-winter his wood supply had been exhausted. Forced to burn first his furniture and then his house to keep the oven going in late winter he was left to the wind. Of what value are the "magnificent ovens" of this industrial, urban society,

that we must pay so dear a price as to, rape our lands and poison our air and water to feed them. This house called Earth is not limitless. Let us build smaller ovens.

— Robert Flinn, '81

Ag, ax part company

Editor: Last Sunday, my ax and myself sadly parted. I am sure that it was accidentally picked up by some good Ag on his way home. It was a "plumb" ax (double bit) with a sanded handle (red paint on the end). The last time I saw, it was located in loading

area 2 (TMPA). I would greatly appreciate its return in 428 Moses Hall (Phone 865-4444). Build the HELL outta bonfire.

— David W. Worley

Tails over mid-terms

Editor: Now we know why A&M's GPA is above Cougar High's! Tail-making priority over mid-terms! As for being bit by Reveille, if she bit off Kyle Field, she wouldn't have bit!

— Alicia Melandri
— Alena Slaton

by Doug Graham

THOTZ

