

"I'm glad that the University was not interested in selling the Aggie Band to the lady from Kuwait, but just for my own personal information, I'd like to know what her going price is for a trumpet blower."

OPINION

The coming crunch

A holiday is almost here. That's good news. Only four remain until finals. That's not so good. The end-of-semester crunch is beginning. Research papers and more tests are piling up in an attempt to cover everything in the course the catalog describes. Our only advice is to keep a sense of humor about the whole thing. Don't get crushed.

Clown Kahn should quit

When President Carter fired half his Cabinet and shook up his top staff last summer, he mysteriously let Alfred E. Kahn escape.

Kahn has "chief inflation fighter" as his title, though he's done nothing to show he's entitled to it. Perhaps President Carter keeps him around just for laughs or kicks. Every administration can use a court jester.

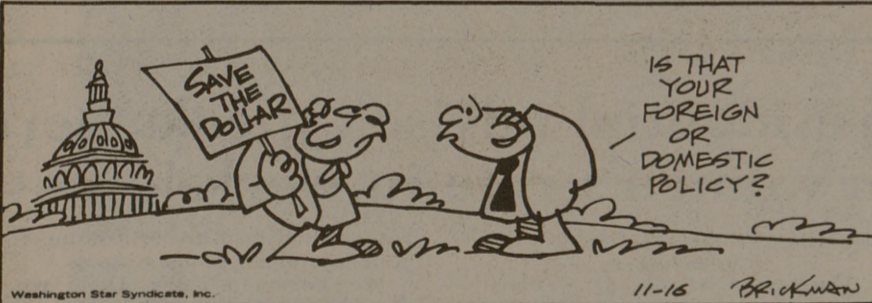
Instead of spouting nonsense, Kahn should throw in the towel and get off the government payroll. Last March Kahn was candid enough to say that if the inflation rate didn't begin to taper by the beginning of the summer, he would consider his program a failure.

Well, inflation hasn't tapered and Kahn HAS failed. In the interest of preserving national sanity, President Carter had better dump Kahn as quickly as one could say Ted Kennedy.

St. Louis Globe-Democrat

the small society

by Brickman



Washington Star Syndicate, Inc. 11-16 Brickman

THE BATTALION

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VIEWPOINT

THE BATTALION
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

FRIDAY
NOVEMBER 16, 1979

ANALYSIS

Khomeini, once exiled by shah, leads Iran as half-king, half-pope

By JIM ANDERSON

United Press International

WASHINGTON — By Islamic tradition and Iranian law, the Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini is half-pope, half-king, with a combination of absolute moral and legal authority that has not existed in the modern world since Mao Tse-tung died.

The Shi'a sect probably has about 87 million adherents around the world. Khomeini's sect, called the Ithna Asharis (literally, The Twelve-ers) has prevailed in Iran since 1502, and claims as followers about half the population of Iraq, as well as substantial minorities in the Persian Gulf States and Lebanon.

The Shiites believe a council of 12 imams

represents the direct descendants of Mohammed's son-in-law Ali, who died in a dispute with Sunni Muslims in 661 A.D.

The 12 imams, of whom Khomeini is dominant, have approximately the same spiritual authority that the pope has with Roman Catholics.

From that spiritual authority, the 12 imams also derive a mystic, regal power: as one of the holy books puts it, "The Imam's light abiding in the faithful's heart is more resplendent than a sun spreading daylight, because the Imam is always within the hearts of all his loyal people."

The group which took over the U.S. Embassy in Tehran goes by the name of "The Loyal Followers of the Imam."

For the past 1,000 years, the Shiites in Persia existed in an uneasy relationship with a succession of weak or brutal rulers.

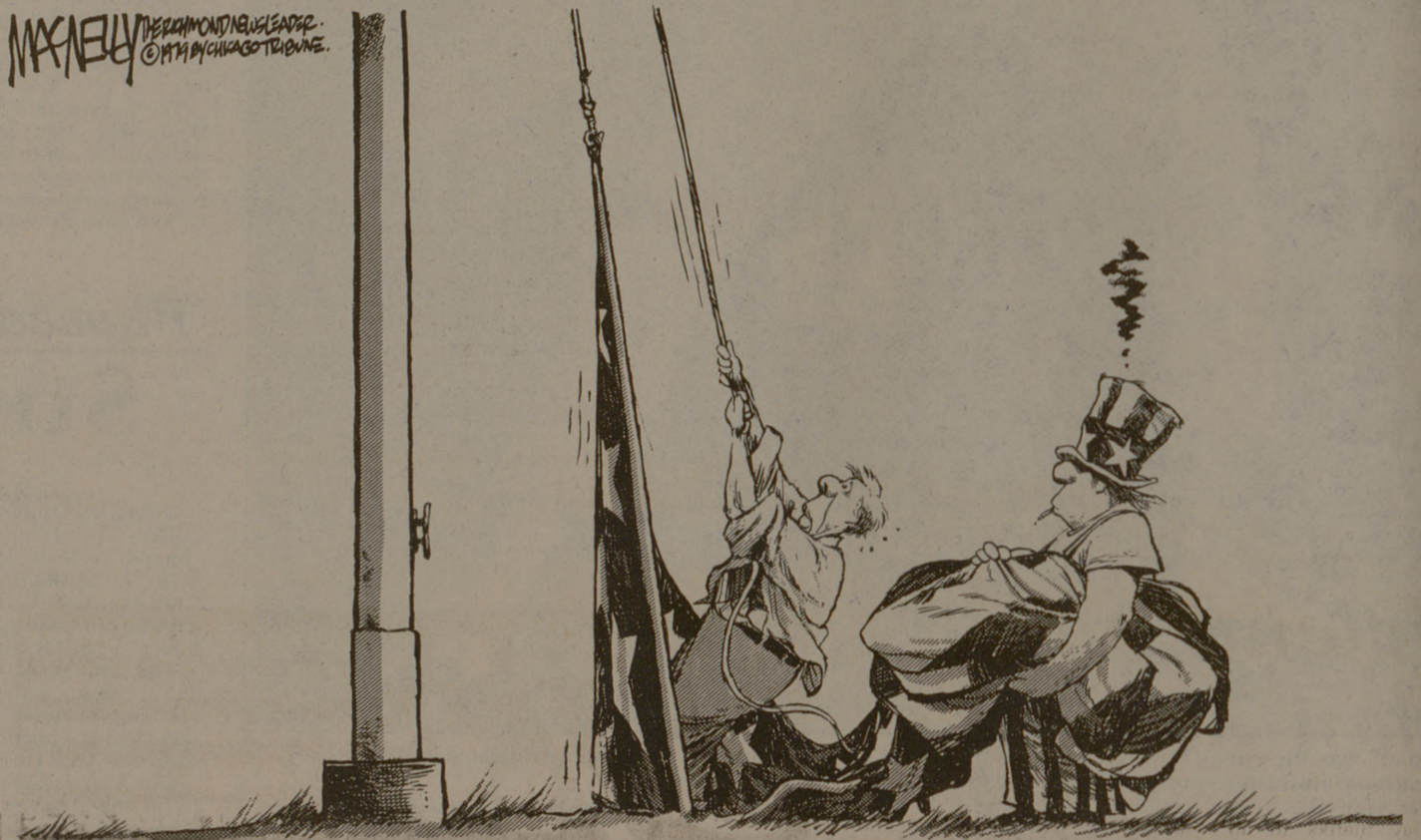
Then the Pahlavi family came to power in 1921 under Reza Khan — a tough Cossack who united the country which had become virtually a joint colony of Russia and Great Britain.

Among Reza Khan's revolutionary ideas was to minimize the power of imams, and there is a story — which may only be a legend — that Reza Khan stormed the mosque in the holy city of Qom, his boots and spurs still on his feet, and threatened the imams for criticizing his wife for going out in public without a veil.

That modernization process was accelerated by Shah Mohammed Reza Pahlavi who further reduced the power of imams by distributing their church property. More disquieting to the imams was Khomeini's decision to import the 20th century technology, by bringing in western machinery and sending tens of thousands of students to the West to be educated.

Any religious or sectarian opposition to the shah and his ideas of reform was quashed, sometimes brutally.

After a series of riots in 1963, Khomeini was exiled to France where he became a spiritual and political alternative to the shah and, finally, his nemesis.



DICK WEST

New book on world's biggest lies overlooks Washington fabrications

By DICK WEST

United Press International

WASHINGTON — A new book called "The Three Biggest Lies" does a pretty fair job of sorting out and ranking universal prevarication.

For example, it identifies the "3 Biggest Parent Lies" as "1) This hurts you more than it hurts you. 2) We're only looking out for your best interest. 3) Someday you'll thank us."

By its rating, the "3 Biggest Lawyer Lies" are "1) I won't charge you for this meeting. 2) Don't worry, I have the judge in my pocket. 3) If we have to go to trial, we'll win hands down in front of a jury."

And so on for more than a hundred other categories.

But even the author, Howard Smith,

admits the book doesn't begin to touch all the classes of mendacity. Following, although not necessarily in groups of three, are some Washington-type fabrications he overlooked.

Four Biggest Senate Lies: 1) I shall have a few brief remarks. 2) Men of good will can disagree without being disagreeable. 3) I have the highest regard for my distinguished colleague's ability and integrity. 4) Politics aside.

Four Biggest House Lies: 1) My position would be the same even if there were no defense plants in my district. 2) The cost of the program will be more than offset by the additional revenue it generates. 3) Actually, I work harder during a recession than when Congress is in session. 4) The main reason for not seeking reelection is because I want

to spend more time with my wife and family.

Three Biggest Government Switchboard Lies: 1) I'm sorry, he is out of the office at the moment. 2) Would you "hold" for just a second, please? 3) If you leave a number, he will call you right back.

Three Biggest News Conference Lies: 1) Frankly, I don't know the answer off hand but my staff will look it up and give you the information in time to meet your deadline. 3) That's a good question.

Three Biggest State Department Lies: 1) We have had a very informative and useful exchange of views. 2) A crisis of this sort can best be handled through normal diplomatic channels. 3) Campaign contributions had nothing to do with his appointment as ambassador.

Three Biggest Bureaucrat Lies: 1) I count all of the unpaid overtime I put in the long run, having a chauffeur limousine at my disposal saves money.

The increase is necessary to keep from taking higher-paying jobs in business.

Three Biggest Congressional Lies: 1) My wife was able to accompany at no additional expense to the taxpayer. There is no substitute for a first-hand problems overseas. 3) The stopover was arranged without my knowledge.

Single Biggest White House Lie: president's trip is nonpolitical. Single Biggest Journalism Lie: Newspapersmen such interesting people.

LETTERS

A vote of confidence, for a change, in Carter's handling of Iran crisis

Editor:

Although I have yet to be really impressed by anything President Carter has done in his administration, I must say that he is handling the Iranian situation very well. Ordering deportation of illegal Iranian students is a sound move to prevent anti-American demonstrations by Iranians. I commend Carter for this action and also for his continuing to reject use of military force to free the Americans hostages. At this time there is no need for such force. I wish the anti-Iranian protestors would follow his example in keeping cool heads.

It's nice to feel the country uniting in this crisis, but those who keep issuing threats of war are speaking irrationally. I must say it's been scary to read the threatening anti-Iranian signs posted around campus this week. It seems that some Aggies would like to declare war.

If America does declare war, Aggies, we'd be the ones to go — and it wouldn't be a sight-seeing trip to Iran. Think about that the next time you threaten another Iranian.

We need to join together in patriotism, but we also need to remain rational. America can show the rest of the world we've got going for us by acting responsibly — not by issuing threats of war.

— Jane Brust, '83

said that it's better to look at a problem from a distance, and that's where we are. Therefore, we know better than they do. It's obvious that we know what is right, but they just don't want to listen.

I think it's horrible that the Uranium might kill millions of Americans just because we won't give them the Sham of Uran. They say he killed a few Uranium, but they probably deserved it. He's not like the Nastys that we executed after the war — we had a right to.

I've heard that the half life of Uranium is about 2,000 years. That's a lot of Americans they could kill if they lived a full life of 4,000 years. Also, where can we deposit the Uranium's wastes?

Terrorist groups like the Palasternum Liberation Organizational might steal the Uranium's wastes and kill a lot of Juice and

Americans. And the Juice have a right to be there, even if they don't believe that Vitamin C has already been born. They're the chosen people anyway.

Since the Egypsums don't want to share their oil with us, and also hate the Juice, they must be communists too. Anyone who wants communism must not want demo-

cracy, and then their people don't get their want.

Therefore, we should kill all of the niums, Egypsums, and Palasternum Liberation Organizationalists. Then, everyone would be safe and happy.

— Larry Chaffin

Correction

A story in Tuesday's Battalion about the Class of '80 gift to Texas A&M contained several errors.

The Association of Former Students is not paying the Class of '80, nor any other class, \$1,000 per year. It donates \$1,000 to each class at its formation to give it a sound financial foundation.

No concrete plans for displaying the miniature 12th Man statues in the Association of Former Students lounge have been made. E. King Calhoun's niece is Bettie Nicholas, and the total cost of the gift is estimated at \$22,000 while the statue alone costs \$14,000. The Battalion regrets the errors.

THOTZ

By Doug Graham



'Sham of Uran'

Editor:

I've been hearing a lot about those Comys overseas lately, and quite frankly, it's really got me stirred up. My Dad always