

SLOUCH

by Jim Earle



JIM EARLE
FEB 12 '80

VIEWPOINT

THE BATTALION
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

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Congressman proposes another commission to study economy

By DON PHILLIPS

United Press International
To a generation of Americans, the name Herbert Hoover evokes memories of tough times.

After all, the former president was leading the nation when it slipped off into the Great Depression. Fair or not, he received much of the blame.

But few remember that in 1947, Hoover headed a bipartisan commission which examined the federal government from stem to stern and brought about new economy and efficiency in the federal government.

Now, an influential congressman thinks it's time for another Hoover Commission.

Normally, official Washington pays about as much attention to a call for a new commission as it pays to the Washington

weather forecast.

But this recommendation came from someone official Washington can't ignore, both because of his position and because of his reputation as a bullheaded reformer: House Rules Committee Chairman Richard Bolling, D-Mo.

Bolling feels — and many agree with him — the time has come for the nation to make some bold strokes toward controlling its destiny.

"It has been more than two decades since our society took a thorough look at the overall state of the union and its relationship to the rest of the world, and subsequently created policies that were accepted by a majority of Americans," he said.

Even before the Hoover Commission, he said, a broad coalition of Democrats, Republicans, businessmen, unions and far-

mers — spurred by war overseas and depression at home — developed broad policies which led to two legislative measures which changed the country's destiny.

Those measures were the Employment Act of 1946 that promoted maximum employment, production and purchasing power, and the Marshall Plan of 1947 that rebuilt a war-torn Europe.

Now, again, has come the time for "bold and basic remedial approach to the mechanics of government," said Bolling.

His proposed commission would study the entire executive branch of government and recommend ways of promoting economy, efficiency and improved service. It might recommend consolidating overlapping agencies or abolishing those which are no longer needed.

The commission would be composed of

18 members, with both Democrats and Republicans, and divided half-and-half between individuals in government and private life.

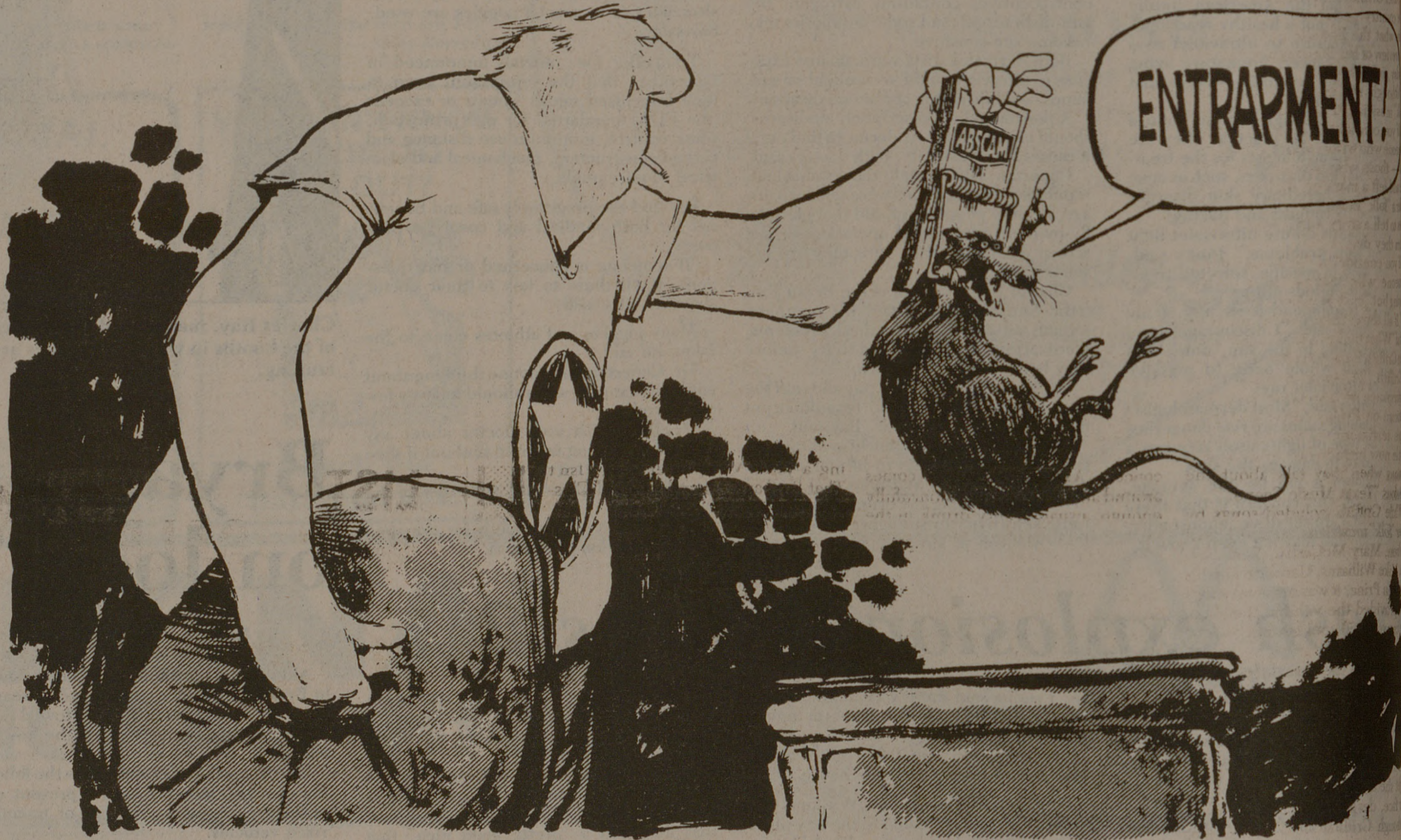
It would report at the beginning of the 98th Congress early in 1983.

Bolling is no stranger to reform. He headed a congressional commission years ago that recommended sweeping reforms in the House. Most of those reforms never were implemented.

But that was not from lack of trying. In the process Bolling gained more enemies than he gained friends. That is a lesson when dealing with the massive political powers of congressmen.

For that reason alone, Bolling should receive — and probably will receive — more attention than average.

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OPINION

Wrecker law is long overdue

The changes in the wrecker ordinance made by the Bryan city council last night are a welcome step forward in the area of corralling the renegade towing services in the area.

For years the wreckers have preyed on the mistakes and misfortunes of students and local residents.

Some towing companies, it appeared, went out of their way to make things difficult for car owners. After towing a car away, the wrecking companies made themselves virtually invisible; they wouldn't tell anyone where they took the cars, and their phones were rarely in service. The time was ripe for an offensive against the wreckers, and it's good to see the Bryan councilmen doing just that.

The new ordinance requires the wrecker companies to take some responsibility when towing vehicles. Now, the companies have to let someone else — the police — know when they tow a car away. In addition, they won't get rich at the expense of car owner's anymore. The maximum amount that a wrecker can charge, according to the new ordinance, is \$25.

Texas A&M has had a tightly regulated towing system for years. Now with Bryan cracking down on the wreckers, perhaps College Station, the "open frontier" for wreckers, will show the towing companies who runs the city.

the small society

by Brickman



Washington Star Syndicate, Inc.

2-12 Brickman

LETTERS Gallucci's article angers sports fans

Editor:
I usually don't voice my opinion in writing about Batt articles, but "Second Guesses" by Tony Gallucci in the Feb. 7th issue made me change.

I have read so many articles about the unfaithfulness of Aggies, particularly current Texas A&M students, it's disgusting. Since coming to A&M last fall, I am also surprised at the frequency of articles like "Second Guesses." I'm glad Mr. Gallucci believes Texas A&M's basketball teams are "awesome." I agree, in fact they are the best and that goes for the football team, too.

As for the fans, especially the students being "disloyal", I disagree. For one thing, I know of some who waited over an hour to crowd into G. Rollie and stand through the Arkansas game. The SMU game was the first one I missed. Some people simply have to study. If you have ever been at

A&M, you know about time each semester when all the profs give exams, usually around the 4th week. When you have four tests in one week, I don't believe it is correct to say these students are two-percenters, unloyal or "suckers."

I can see writing an article to encourage students to come when attendance has been low, but it makes me so mad to see articles with Gallucci's tone. The teams always have our support no matter what their record may be.

Mark Wood '82
Jay Henry '83
George Sanders '83

U.S. behind Russia

Editor:
There is something more frightening for the United States than Soviet weaponry.

What's worse is the state of our civilian population. For years our civil defense has been guided by a concept known as MAD (Mutual Assured Destruction). The population of the U.S. was to be left totally unprotected, so that the Soviets could assuredly destroy us. The planners hoped that the Soviets would likewise expose their civilians to our destructive capabilities.

Unfortunately for us, the Soviets weren't so stupid. For the past 10 years they have spent \$1 billion annually on civil defense. Their industry is in hardened sites. Their shelters are ready. In the event of nuclear war the Soviet Union would lose no more than 20 million people. The U.S. would lose 150 million.

With our population hostage, our strategic forces inferior, and our conventional arms outnumbered three to one, we are inviting nuclear blackmail in the 1980s.

Also, SALT II should not be ratified without far-reaching amendments. There's definite, glaring strategic imbalance built into it. And, the Soviets have refused linkage between the Salt agreement and their frenzied build-up and use of conventional arms. When Carter attempted Vienna to secure some assurances that the Soviets would cease their worldwide aggression, he met strong silence. Now we know why!

It is my opinion that without any build-up, Russia could paralyze the U.S. and most of the other countries within minutes. I hope the United States is able to meet the Soviet challenge, or else we may find ourselves with a decision more terrible to contemplate than any in the history of our republic.

Ted Trent
David Turner

THE BATTALION

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THOTZ



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