



EARLE
FEB 13-80

"I think it's stupid for you to order a bottle of invisible paint, but it's double-stupid to blow up a bottle of the stuff!"

OPINION

No service in service stations

It was quite a shock paying \$1.10 a gallon for unleaded gas the other day at the neighborhood service station.

And it was quite sobering to realize the price will probably go up again before the weekend. At least it wouldn't be a surprise.

But complaining about the price does nothing to lower it. The oil companies continue to make huge profits and scream that they really didn't make that much money.

Maybe the price of gas wouldn't be so bothersome if it paid for more than the gas itself.

Not too long ago, 33 cents would buy a gallon of gas and the service station attendant would put the gas in your tank, throw in a free oil check, wash your windshield and wish you a nice day.

Now you get a gallon of gas for \$1.10 and a smirk from the person behind the glass booth.

Of course there are some service stations around that will wash your windshield and check your oil, but you have to pay about a nickel more for the gasoline.

Maybe it wouldn't hurt to pay so much if you got some service at a service station. For free. It might improve the image of the oil companies too.

the small society

by Brickman



THE BATTALION

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VIEWPOINT

THE BATTALION
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

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Washington Window

Campaign answer man knows

By ARNOLD SAWISLAK

United Press International
The Campaign Answer Man dropped by to pick up a clean shirt on his way between Iowa and New England and has consented to give us the benefit of his insights into the 1980 presidential contest to date.

Question: Were you surprised by the outcome of the Iowa caucuses?

Answer Man: Not in the least. Iowans are a canny folk, and the Democrats among them quickly decided any politician claiming to be concerned about the plight of "farm families" and the demise of the Wabash railroad did not have their problems quite straight in his mind.

As for the Republicans, it was strictly a case of taking a Bush in hand and giving everybody else the bird.

Q: Do you believe the age issue hurt Governor Reagan?

AM: Not really. After all, Reagan was able to point out that when Methuselah was his age, he hadn't been elected to anything.

Q: How about the president? Did Iowa change his campaign strategy?

AM: Only slightly. Having defeated Senator Kennedy in Iowa without leaving the White House except to go to the NBC studios for "Meet The Press," he now will campaign in New Hampshire by declining to leave the Oval Office, unless "Face The Nation" has an open date.

His Florida campaign will consist of staying in the family quarters of the White House, with no exceptions except for "Issues And Answers." By next fall, Mr.

Carter will have locked himself in his closet, where he will agree to answer written questions from "Our Sunday Visitor."

Q: No much has been heard of Gov. Connally's campaign. What is his status?

AM: Gov. Connally is raising funds and will not move into the delegate-winning phase of his campaign until he has \$73 million in his war chest. That will be no later than July 14.

Q: We understand he entertained the entire Arkansas Republican leadership with a gala weekend at a posh resort. Was that a successful effort?

AM: The governor got no delegates in Arkansas, but that was blamed on the weak barbecue sauce. The chef has been reassigned to another campaign job and the governor intends to go ahead with his plan

to rent Canada and entertain delegates who are attending the National Convention in Detroit.

Q: Ambassador Bush is the conservative Connecticut senator to Texas. He went into the state there, got elected a couple of times, and then hopped around in a government and political jobs. Is that quite a qualification for a president?

AM: Compared to what? Karafiath said he joined the Navy and then went into the peanut business, elected to the legislature and once for the governorship before on a second try and then announced ready to be leader of the Free



New biography contradicts idea of Mondale as a lazy politician

By DAVID S. BRODER

In his newly published biography of the vice-president, "Mondale: Portrait of an American Politician," author Finlay Lewis definitively buries the widespread notion that Walter F. Mondale is a lazy politician who has been lucky enough to inherit by appointment a series of increasingly important jobs.

Lucky, yes; lazy no, Lewis shoes. It was by dint of hard work for his party and its leaders that Mondale made himself the plausible choice to be named attorney general of Minnesota, senator from that state, and vice-president. Had he not done the scut-work of organizing and campaigning for others, over the years, Mondale might still be practicing law back in Minneapolis.

In this context, what Mondale is doing for Jimmy Carter in the 1980 campaign is part of a pattern — a repeat of the chores he performed earlier for Orville Freeman and Hubert H. Humphrey. While the sequestered President remains on his pedestal, Mondale has been slogging it out on behalf of the ticket in Iowa, Maine and New Hampshire.

For Mondale, the effort is an investment in both the short-term and the long-term future. Six months ago, he talked like a man

who half-expected to be out of office at the end of 1980. "Ted will be tough," he would remark back then, speaking of his friend, Sen. Edward M. Kennedy, who has reacted with increasing irritation to Mondale's campaign jibes.

Mondale now tells questioners that he was sure that Carter would recover in the polls as soon as he was matched "against a man and not a myth." But last fall, a great many Minnesota Democrats received the clear impression that Mondale expected to be coming home after the 1980 election, intent on trying to recapture his old Senate seat — just as Humphrey had done when his four years in the vice-presidency ended in defeat.

But circumstances have changed dramatically since then. While Carter and Mondale are far from cinches to be renominated and reelected, they are even farther from consignment to the political junk-heap. What becomes evident to those covering Mondale is that the vice-president is putting himself in position to be a formidable contender for the presidency in 1984. There is no telling what the opposition might be, but it could well include the 1980 challengers, Kennedy and Gov. Edmund G. (Jerry) Brown Jr., plus any of a dozen

younger Democrats who are poised on the brink of national recognition.

But there is no mystery about the assets Mondale would command if he were running for President as the incumbent vice-president four years from now. The first would be the support of a White House and administration that have clearly learned how to exploit the political power of incumbency. There can be no doubt that Mondale would be Jimmy Carter's candidate to succeed himself in the presidency — with all the benefits and liabilities such support could bring.

But this campaign is making it clear that Mondale has important assets of his own to apply to such an effort. Aside from his personal qualities that have fueled his rise, the Mondale resource most admired by Democratic politicians is a consistently first-rate staff headed by three of the most astute young political operators in the party — Jim Johnson, Dick Moe and Mike Berman. All three are Minnesotans, but they are not parochial. Johnson has made himself an expert on the politics of Iowa and Illinois, and in traveling with Mondale, has built his own close working relations with leading Democrats in such other early delegate-selection states as Maine, New Hampshire

and Wisconsin.

Anyone who looks at the political order from a Mondale perspective is struck by the fact that he has a geographical and political affinity with these states, the states that come to the process and that have disproportionate influence on the outcome.

Is 1984 on Mondale's mind? His campaign speeches are impeccably prepared, a devoted associate's hymn of praise to an incumbent President.

Mondale barely mentions himself until the very end of his stump speech after imploring his audience at large to reaffirm Carter's tenure, he lifts his voice as if signaling a benediction, and you do that, you get something very excited about — you get Walter Mondale!

It is done with a light touch that the listeners to laugh as well as cheer, anyone who thinks it's accidental that Mondale has figured out how to end every speech with its own name — Walter's — echoing in the air, needs Finlay Lewis' book.

This guy is lazy — or crazy — like

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THOTZ

