

the small society by Brickman



# OPINION

## DOE is causing shortage

Gasoline lines are back — in Florida, Southern California, parts of Alabama, and a few other areas.

But there is no gasoline shortage. In fact, supplies are the largest in two years. And because of high prices and more fuel-efficient cars on the road, demand for gasoline is down.

So why the lines? The answer is our old friend the Department of Energy, which made the 1973-74 shortage worse than it had to be, which helped produce last spring's long lines and which apparently plans to repeat its triumphs.

The department hasn't learned yet how to allocate gasoline effectively. It seems beyond DOE's wit, if that is the right word, to get extra supplies to tourist meccas and places that have had fast population growth, like Florida and Southern California.

Industry sources say, and some candid souls at DOE admit, that the department's cumbersome allocation system prevents ample gasoline supplies from reaching markets that need them.

Not that the Energy Department isn't worried about the problem. Why, it has named a task force to study the system, and, says one member, "We hope to finish by June 1." Lord knows how much of the country will be embroiled in gasoline lines by then.

Scrripps-Howard Newspapers

## Oil profits out of control

A subcommittee of the House, pointing to industry profit margins on diesel and heating oil of 700 percent or so last year, claims heating oil and diesel fuel consumers were charged \$3 billion more than government guidelines allowed in 1979, and that the trend is continuing. This was followed by demands that federal price controls be restored — something that is not likely to happen.

Government attempts to keep oil profits within reason have failed. The Department of Energy recently decided not to pursue home heating oil overcharges of a penny a gallon, which have been going on for more than three years, reasoning that the amount is "insignificant." True, a penny a gallon doesn't sound like much when heating oil on Cape Cod is at \$1 a gallon and climbing, but the total represents something like \$1 billion worth of extra money for the oil companies, a figure that is well beyond the peanuts stage.

While the return to price controls might sound tempting, the resulting stabilization of gasoline prices would very likely encourage an acceleration in use — after the motorist became accustomed to gas at \$1.24 or so a gallon.

But the profit margins enjoyed by the oil producers exceeds the federal anti-inflation limits of 13.8 percent, making inflation-fighting controls seem ludicrous. The petroleum industry claims it's politics, but the fact is that a windfall profits tax has become mandatory.

Cape Cod Times, Hyannis, Mass.

## THE BATTALION

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# VIEWPOINT

THE BATTALION TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

MONDAY MARCH 17, 1980

## Swedish social system is not as perfect as feminists think

By AMI LONNROTH

Feminists abroad often view Sweden as a model society for women. But seen up close, the system here has its flaws, especially as Swedes change their attitudes toward the welfare state.

In theory, every Swedish political party is committed to full equality for women — meaning that they deserve the same rights and responsibilities as men, both as workers and parents. In practice, though, that objective has not been entirely fulfilled.

This is not to say that women have been denied jobs. On the contrary, virtually the total increase of the country's labor force during the last decade has been due to the employment of women.

Swedish women today represent 45 percent of the nation's labor force. In certain sectors, such as child and health care administered under government auspices, they hold more than 90 percent of the jobs.

This would seem, on the surface, to look like a resounding success for the women's movement. But examined more carefully, the apparent achievement must be considered less noteworthy.

For what has been happening is that women have been shifting from their role as housewives and mothers to private or public jobs in which they work under worse conditions than they endured at home. Besides, they are given few possibilities to influence the nature of their employment.

An extreme but significant illustration of this situation can be observed in one of Sweden's most modern hospitals, where the organization of labor has been copied from the Volvo automobile factory.

In one part of the hospital, used beds roll along an assembly line through a steam room in which Turkish immigrant women stand in the heat, disinfecting them.

Therefore, as Swedish sociologist Rita Liljestrom has pointed out, the kinds of jobs that women formerly performed at home are becoming industrialized and thus dehumanized.

TOUCH ME AND YOU GO TO JAIL, YOU TURKEY



It should be emphasized as well that, while more women are now working here than ever before, they generally receive lower wages than men. This is mainly due to the fact that women, having entered the labor market lately, have less skill and experience than their male counterparts.

But in fact, men are reluctant to compromise their careers by staying away from work, and women usually end up with family tasks in addition to their jobs.

A serious shortcoming in all this, it seems to me, is that the effort to industrialize the role of women is weakening the social network that once formed the core of the country's collective culture. In other words, devotion to children and old people is losing its human dimension and instead becoming

## Feds trim costs in strange ways

By DONALD LAMBRO

United Press International  
In the continuing battle of the budget the "Washington Monument Syndrome" is being used persistently, and thus far successfully, to resist any attempts to sharply cut wasteful federal spending.

The syndrome is a little known device people in the bureaucracy and Congress use to combat efforts to cut deeply into nonessential government programs.

As the story goes, when the Interior Department, under a previous administration, was asked to submit a list of proposed budget cuts, officials came back with proposals that began with cutting the elevator service in the Washington monument.

While the story may be apocryphal, the technique is real — as taxpayers have witnessed in recent weeks.

In the early debate over cutting President Carter's proposed \$616 billion 1981 budget, suggestions for cuts seem to be focusing disproportionately on major social programs.

Indeed, the response seems to be: You

want cuts? Okay, we'll give you cuts. We'll start with Social Security benefits, then veterans, and, let's see, there's welfare and...

Somewhat the idea of cutting overloaded payrolls (which now costs \$80 billion a year) and other areas where fat, waste, fraud, abuse, error, and extravagance exists never seems to occur to anyone.

When James McIntyre Jr., director of the Office of Management and Budget, unveiled Carter's budget in January he told the news media, "I've looked through here again and again to find something we could cut without suffering adverse consequences, and I can't find it."

However, the range of continuing government waste is there for everyone to see, and its elimination would harm no one.

The government still spends about \$500 million a year to make movies on everything from outdoor camping to travelogues.

Despite an estimated \$40 billion deficit this year, \$2.3 billion in revenue sharing is due states which last year had \$4.3 billion in budget surpluses.

Smaller expenditures run the gamut from \$100,000 a year to provide members of Congress with massages in their Capitol gymnasiums to nearly \$1.5 million to provide Cabinet secretaries and top military officials with private chefs.

The government pays people to run automatic elevators. It wastes, according to its own studies, nearly \$500 million annually on unnecessary travel. Needless consultants contracts, which a Senate panel said improved not single program, cost hundreds of millions of dollars a year.

The Pentagon spends over \$700 million a year to subsidize commissaries and exchanges so that officers, retirees in second career jobs, and foreign embassy personnel can get 20 percent to 25 percent off their groceries.

The Census Bureau is spending over \$1 billion this year to conduct the census even though General Accounting Office officials say it could be done for \$400 million less.

Meanwhile, the administration wants over \$68 million for 11 regional commissions even though President Carter last year said in an internal memorandum they

were "a waste of time and money." This year the government spent \$18 million on the U.S. Travel Service. The OMB found was an unnecessary cost that taxpayers "can no longer afford."

The \$1 billion-a-year National Foundation conducts numerous city studies such as an \$18,600 study on U.S. synthetic rubber industry. \$33,000 study on why people don't contribute.

At least \$5 million a year is government chauffeured limousines for military servants, in addition on a Youth Conservation Corps administration says "does not address high priority needs of our youths."

The areas of wasteful, unnecessary priority spending does not stop but the above serves to suggest many not have looked closely at the

marked, "The first thing these about is cutting social programs — a cle of government — when they concentrating on the fat."

## LETTERS McCall's actions within his rights

Editor:

I would like to comment on The Baylor Lariat controversy and, in particular, The Battalion's coverage of it. First off, I find that the vast majority of the quotes and comments used in the Batt's "news" stories are all on one side. This is often referred to as biased reporting, and, I might add, blatantly so. I am a Baptist and concerned about issues dealing with Baptist organizations. Yet I am very much in the dark about what the Baylor administration actually said and did. Try being objective and report both sides fully even if you have a personal opinion.

Now, your editorial, Viewpoint (March 5) I find to be inaccurate in its reporting of opposing views. According to the Baptist Standard (March 5), President McCall is reported to have said that students who pose nude and claim the Baylor name will face disciplinary action. The "and" is important. The "disciplinary action" is very clearly stated. McCall "says" he had not said those posing would be expelled immediately as some media have reported. Baylor is a Baptist university supported by Baptist people — any student who attends should realize that whether or not they are

Baptist themselves. To quote McCall again, "Baylor was founded and is operated by Texas Baptists to conduct a program of Christian higher education, and it has always been the policy of the university that no university publication expose a position contrary to the Christian nature and purposes of the institution." The reasons that Baylor is a private university and not a public one is for the express reason that it may take a religious, moral stance.

I support McCall's action and agree with his stand on publisher's rights. I believe that on any privately owned newspaper the publisher has the right to veto any editorial

he feels is contrary to the standards. As McCall says (Baptist Standard March 5), this is a historical tradition (as Roy Bragg slightly misquoting) publisher to take. McCall very clearly states that he does not object to balanced coverage and never stated that he would review news stories.

I would like to say to you, McCall, wait until you get into the news and try to write an editorial for the publisher and see just how long you

Glenn R. Bailey  
Martha Jean Bailey

## THOTZ



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