

SLOUCH by Jim Earle



"I can't understand it! I've been kicked in th' pants four times by perfect strangers."

OPINION

Moore's absence puzzling

In the last few weeks, The Battalion has spent a good deal of space with stories about state senate candidate Kent Caperton. Little or no mention has been made about his opponent, incumbent Bill Moore.

This apparent bias — the intense coverage of Caperton and the lack of coverage of Moore — is not because of any bias on the part of The Battalion.

Moore campaign officials in his College Station office are reluctant to talk to Battalion reporters about anything. We think that it is important for Moore to have a chance to respond to charges made against him by Caperton.

We have called his office on several occasions to arrange an interview, but have been unable to speak with him.

Moore is unavailable for comment, his office workers say, because he is continually on the move and rarely in one place for long.

Caperton, on the other hand, has talked to dozens of groups and rallies all over the district, but has plenty of time to talk to the media.

When Caperton began the campaign, he knew he had an recognition problem. Moore's name was well known and his wasn't. Caperton's strategy was, obviously, to get his name in the paper and on the air as much as possible. He had to achieve the type of saturation that it had taken Moore decades to reach.

Since he has announced his candidacy, Caperton's name has been on the pages of The Battalion and Eagle nearly every day for the last week. People are beginning to wonder where Bill Moore is and why he has disappeared from public view.

The "invisible man" ploy may have worked for Jimmy Carter, but it won't for Moore.

THE BATTALION

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VIEWPOINT

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TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

TUESDAY
MARCH 25, 1980

Greenies formation into party worrying other German factions

By WOLFGANG WAGNER

HANNOVER, WEST GERMANY — The "Greenies" are not strange creatures from Mars. They are West Germany's environmental activists, and they could make a significant impact on the nationwide elections scheduled to take place here in the fall.

These militants, whose movement is officially called "The Green", have just formed a political party that plans to enter candidates in the elections. And even though their chances of scoring heavily are remote, they could mobilize enough votes to play a pivotal role in the West German legislature.

But a key question is whether the movement, which is composed of disparate factions united only by their determination to defend the environment, can hang together. It would probably collapse, for example, if it were taken over by the Communists, who are trying to control it

for their own purposes.

Should they remain cohesive, however, the "Greenies" could win sufficient seats in the legislature to exert serious pressure on whichever political coalition holds power. Thus they are currently being courted by traditional politicians who only a few years ago were treating them as cranks.

Like similar special interest groups in the United States and elsewhere, the "Greenies" started out by using the courts to campaign against nuclear power projects, the construction of new highways, factories that employ dangerous chemicals and other such threats to the environment.

several county elections, they soared into political prominence for the first time by capturing seats in the Bremen state legislature. That victory prompted them to launch the party that is now campaigning for the federal elections.

Actual membership in the movement is small. But under West Germany's peculiar

campaign financing system, which provides for subsidies to parties that have won a proportion of votes in local contests, the "Greenies" have been able to amass a considerable war chest.

If the "Greenies" worry the regular parties, it is because the political line-up in the national legislature is so fragile that it could be upset by the intrusion of a new movement.

The ruling coalition, headed by Chancellor Helmut Schmidt, is composed by the Social Democrats and their junior partners, the Free Democrats. They are opposed by a coalition comprising the Christian Democrats and their sister party the Christian Socialists.

Under law, a party must win at least 5 percent of the votes cast to be eligible for seats in the federal legislature.

If the "Greenies" crack that threshold, it would probably be at the expense of Schmidt's coalition. In that would have to

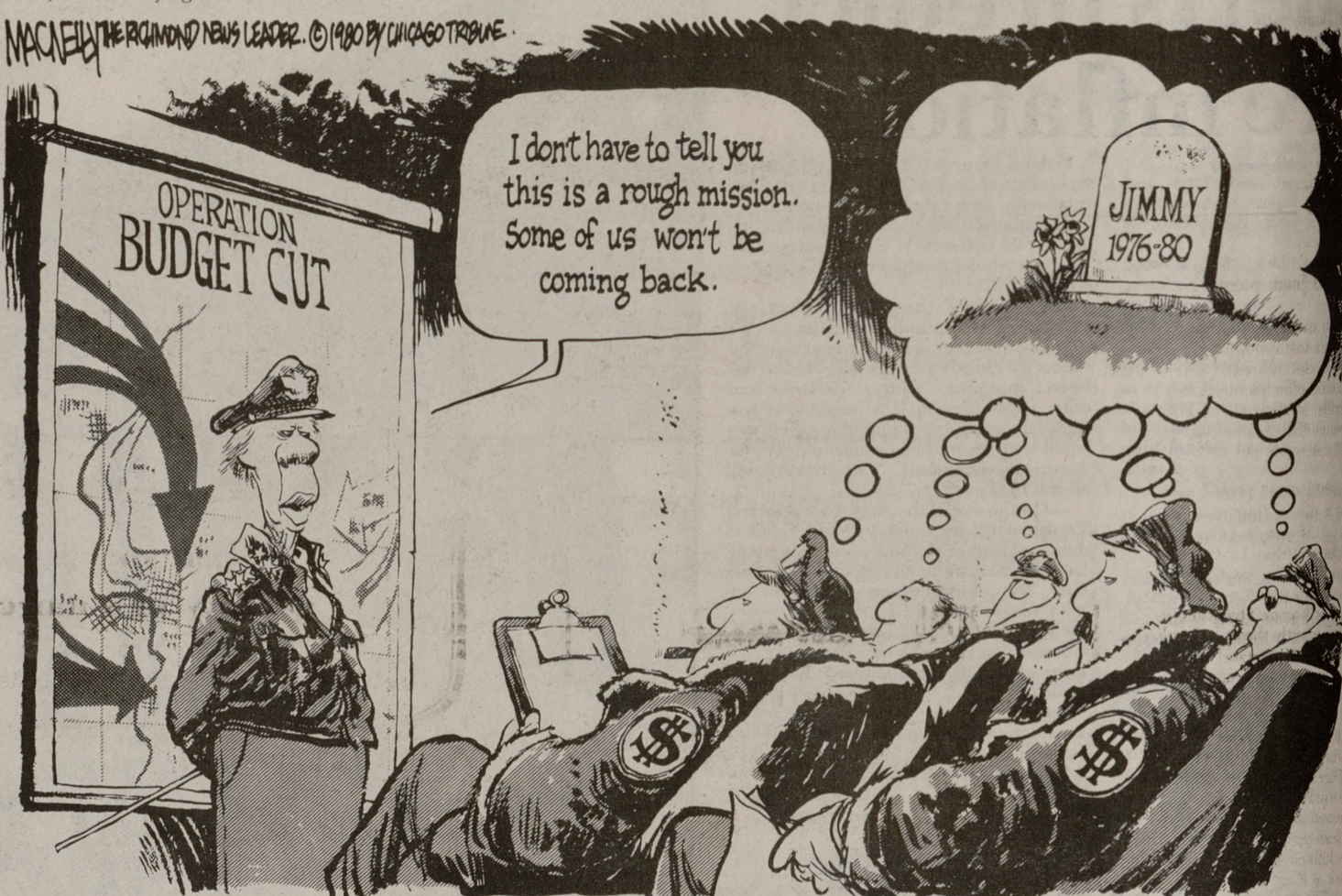
count on the "Greenies" for supporting their unusual influence.

Sensitive to these possibilities, the environment as the "Greenies" are trying to do.

Clearly responding to "Greenies" pressure, they recently scrapped a plan to build some 5000 miles of high-speed freeway within no more than 100 miles access to every town and West Germany.

Whatever their leanings, the West German parties really hope "Greenies" would evaporate as they have emerged. Whether it happens, however, depends primarily on environmental movement itself.

(Wagner is editor of the *Hannoversche Allgemeine Zeitung*, the West German daily.)



Cubs decide to continue losing ways

Sutter trade puzzles Chicago fans

By DAVID S. BRODER

For some of us, the most important news story out of Illinois last week had nothing to do with presidential politics. Sure, it was shocking to see a Kennedy drubbed in Chicago and John Anderson rejected by the Republicans of his native state.

But the real stunner was the rumor that the Cubs were thinking of trading Bruce Sutter to the Cardinals for two guys named Joe.

Sutter is the superb relief pitcher with the mysterious split-finger fastball who, virtually alone and unaided, has kept the Cubs from losing 100 games per season in recent years. Sutter is the best in the majors at his special trade of saving close games in late innings, a fact that was certified when an arbitrator agreed with his contention that he is worth \$700,000 this year, not the fraction of that amount the Cubs were offering him.

The Sutter trade rumor was denied. But in baseball, as in politics, the relationship between denial and consummation is often the same as that between the tick-and-tock of a grandfather clock.

The Cubs are unaccustomed to talent of

Sutter's quality, and they are most unwilling to pay for such a star when he blunders into their realm. In such circumstances, it is Cubs' policy to trade away the star (and his paycheck) for as little as possible in return. The most famous trade in Cub history was the one that sent emerging superstar Lou Brock to the same Cardinals for a pitcher named Ernie Broglio.

So this deal would be in keeping with the tradition of self-humiliation which has made us Cub fans losers for the past 35 seasons.

While we were in Chicago, recording the triumphs of Ronald Reagan and Jimmy Carter, David Israel of the Chicago Tribune was in Mesa, Ariz., giving us visiting Cub fans a report from the training camp.

The Cubs, he said, are already in mid-season form — lethargic, out-of-shape and grumbling. Home-run hitter Dave Kingman is practicing not talking to reporters, which is his specialty. Center-fielder Jerry Martin is inventing new ways of cataloging the inadequacies of the general manager, which is why he is so highly regarded. Other are rehearsing the injuries that will remove them from the lineup just before

crucial double-headers in July and August. And the new manager, Preston Gomez, is practicing patience, which he will need.

All this is grist for the mill for the most important social event on the Washington calendar: the March 31 fifth-anniversary luncheon of the Emil Verban Memorial Society, an exclusive group of exiled Cub fans (Emil Verban, who is retired and in good health, is a symbol to us of all that has made the Cubs the team they are. A journeyman second baseman, he came to Wrigley Field in another of those unfortunate Cardinal trades, a generation ago. He is distinguished by having a lifetime major league total of one home run, not hit while in Cubs' uniform.)

The Emil Verban Memorial Society was founded in the aftermath of Watergate by a reformed journalist turned government relations consultant named Bruce C. Ladd, Jr. Its membership includes one Supreme Court justice, several government officials, and a platoon of lawyers, journalists and other low types. As my colleague and fellow Verbanite, George Will, has explained, the skepticism one acquires in youth from being a Cubs' fan equips one admirably to cover the White House, run political cam-

paigns, argue before the Federal Communications Commission, or even the mark, pronounce on the permissibility of constitutional limits of pornography.

The great charm of the Society — from the newsletters Ladd distributes of Cubs' trivia, riddles and nostalgia — been the fact that it has never met.

Personally, I have pledged never to attend a meeting of the Emil Verban Memorial Society until the Cubs have another pennant.

I will use the excuse of the Washington primary to be out of town when the Society meets. But on behalf of the Society, I offer Cubs general manager Bob Nedy this thought:

If you're going to trade Sutter to the Cardinals, Bob, March 31 would be a good day to do it. Just have someone phone the to the Emil Verban Memorial Society, cheer at the Asian Room of the International Club, about the time the second round cocktails is served. It would cost everyone the old club still cares. It be, as Jimmy Carter likes to say, appropriate gesture.

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THOTZ



By Doug Graham