

"I think I've found my Easter eggs here in bed, and they're raw eggs."

OPINION

Proposed laws limits access

As legislation advances in Congress to bring the Central Intelligence Agency and the Federal Bureau of Investigation under statutory control, it has become evident that various proposals would seriously undermine the Freedom of Information Act.

One bill now under study would let the FBI keep secret its records for 10 years after the end of an investigation or prosecution. Another would permit the FBI to destroy all criminal-investigation records 10 years after the end of an investigation or prosecution. These two bills combined would virtually exempt the FBI from disclosure under the information act.

No one doubts that the two intelligence agencies must have sufficient power to accomplish their assigned functions, and that power must include the authority to maintain essential secrecy. But the CIA and the FBI now have broad exemptions from disclosure. Some modification of present law may be necessary, but there is no evidence to show that these agencies should be given virtual exemption from the Freedom of Information Act.

Congress should proceed cautiously, and not permit the frustrations over the crises in Iran and Afghanistan to outweigh a judicious judgment of current legislation.

Los Angeles Times

the small society

by Brickman



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THE BATTALION

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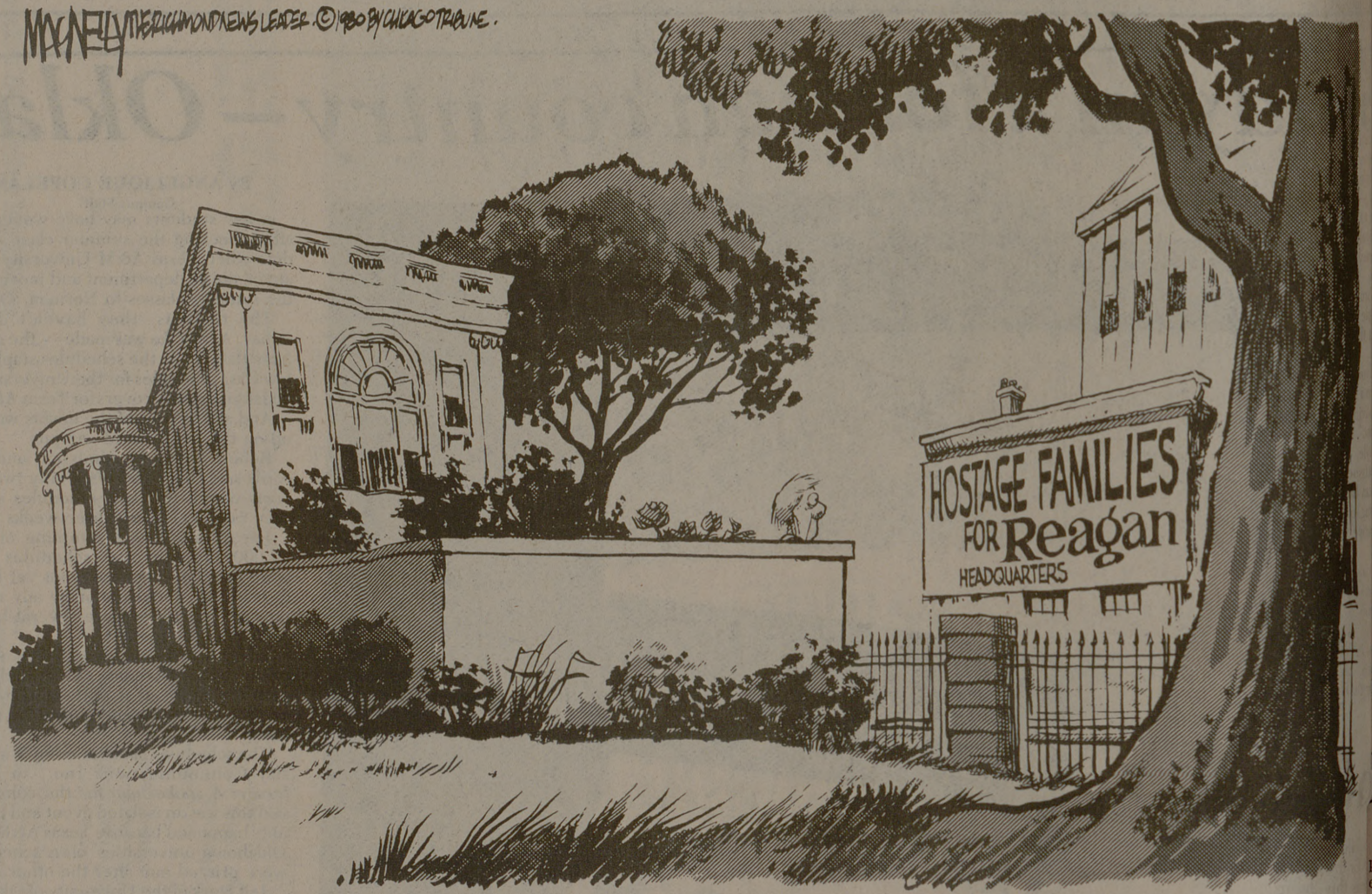
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VIEWPOINT

THE BATTALION
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

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Reader's Forum

Both sides wrong in senate issue

Editor:

Once upon a time and 421 miles west of the Great Blue Watertower, I, too saw the Big Bad Business of Closed Meetings. As president of the Odessa College Student Congress I viewed with naked eye the essence of this furious, malevolent beastie. What I saw might be of interest today.

To the Most Noble Editor, I humbly confess my wrongs: I, too, am an instigator of dread Closed Meetings. Ah yes, you see, the cancer has spread far. But wait! From what quarter does this rottenness truly issue from? Allow me to recount parallel occurrences concerning the Horrendous Evil which has lately been foisted upon the Universe by Kapavik, et. al.

At OC, as at TAMU... 1) those billions who weekly attended our meetings were viciously thrown from the Congressional Chambers... 2) insidious plans were laid with the intent of undermining all human thought, life, liberty and property... and 3) the press was excluded.

And so we come to the heart of the matter. You see, Ags, to exclude the press is to turn on Civil Defense speakers blaring "Unconstitutional! Freedom of the Press denied! Where, oh where, is the Attorney General?" (There is an old adage: "The guilty dog barks first," which, thou not always true...)

Why did the OC press scream so loudly

over our closed meetings? I submit to you that they were motivated by what the Batt has accused the A&M Senate of: deception. (Now that's a pretty heavy word to be thrown around. Rife with implications, "deception" is an excellent red-herring for one's own guilty path.) Witness my evidence: first, prior to the furor, editorial comment and the controversy which yields such were non-existent. (Ask yourself some questions at this point: Could this be a parallel? Would an editor stoop to sensationalism to rejuvenate his dormant column? Does A&M have traditions?) Second, the editor of the OC "Roundup" was looking at the journalism job market. (Do you mean that she tried to make her mark as a

reporter-with-experience by such raking? Again, does A&M have trad-

Finally, it is entirely true that interests of a student body can best be through the closed meeting in some agree that the substance of such a must be publicized (as Kapavik has but not the particulars. Issues arise delicacy demands cloistered con- tion. Misinformed press-coverage participation can easily, easily nullify a decision which would be beneficial to the student population. From comes the rottenness then?

Kim You

Mercenary army is unwanted

Editor:

In his recent State of the Union address, President Carter called for a reinstatement of registration for the draft. Since then, people throughout the nation have been discussing and debating many issues on registration, the draft and foreign policy. I can think of no other school in the nation that is more qualified to participate than Texas A&M University. As a part of the discussion, I would present one point of view.

The heritage of the United States of America is firmly rooted in the concept of individual liberty. The Declaration of Independence and the Bill of Rights were written to define and emphasize the inalienable natural rights by which individuals could be protected from other individuals and, more importantly, from the government itself. The founders of our country thought it morally wrong for the government itself to infringe upon an individual's liberty.

One way to define individual rights is to say that you should be able to do as you please as long as you don't damage another's freedoms. Obviously initiating violence or threatening violence against another is a violation of his or her rights. This viewpoint recognizes that people live in a complex, interdependent society, but maintains that the best way for people to

live is for people not to make others do things with guns.

In my opinion, the draft is diametrically opposed to the concept of individual liberty and the tradition upon which this country was founded. To draft a person means that you threaten to put a person in jail if he or she refuses to do what the government wants. If the person resists when the policemen come to put him or her in jail, the policemen will use whatever violence necessary to detain that person.

Does my opposition to the draft mean that I don't believe in a strong defense or a strong military? I don't think so. To defend the individual liberty of the citizens of this country, we need a strong military. But we need a military that is not created by the violation of the very principle it is supposed to be defending.

Does my opposition to the draft mean that I don't believe in "Serving my country"? In America, "Serving your country" does not mean "serving the state" as it does in communist and fascist regimes. Serving your country means that you are willing to fight for the ideals of freedom. If I do not believe that my government is furthering individual liberty, I am acting in a patriotic way by resisting it. Even if I believe the government's cause is just and I choose the fight for it, I still would fight for the right for

others to freely make their decision to fight or not fight.

So far, the argument has focused only on the morality of the draft. I believe that it is morally wrong to force another person to risk his or her life for something I believe in. But what if all of these neat principles just don't work? What if trying to protect individual liberty at home by not drafting, we lose a war to outside invaders?

First, there is disagreement over the military's staffing needs for a strong defense. Just before President Carter's call for registration, a government report came out saying that we don't need it today. Several Presidential candidates who believe in individual liberty and a strong defense, Ronald Reagan, Phil Crane, and Ed Clark have opposed the draft. Most of the argument has centered around the need for a quick reaction to wartime conditions. If we need to be prepared for quick inductions, why do we need a registration for a draft? Why not a registration of those who would be willing to be inducted in time of war, but not during peacetime?

Others have raised the question of what exactly is "national" defense. About half of the present military forces of the United States are stationed in Europe and Korea. As we watch the growing economic power of these regions, one wonders whether the

American taxpayer isn't being unduly dled with an expense that the local region can now afford. Is the replacement of an American soldier for a German to defend Germany "national" defense?

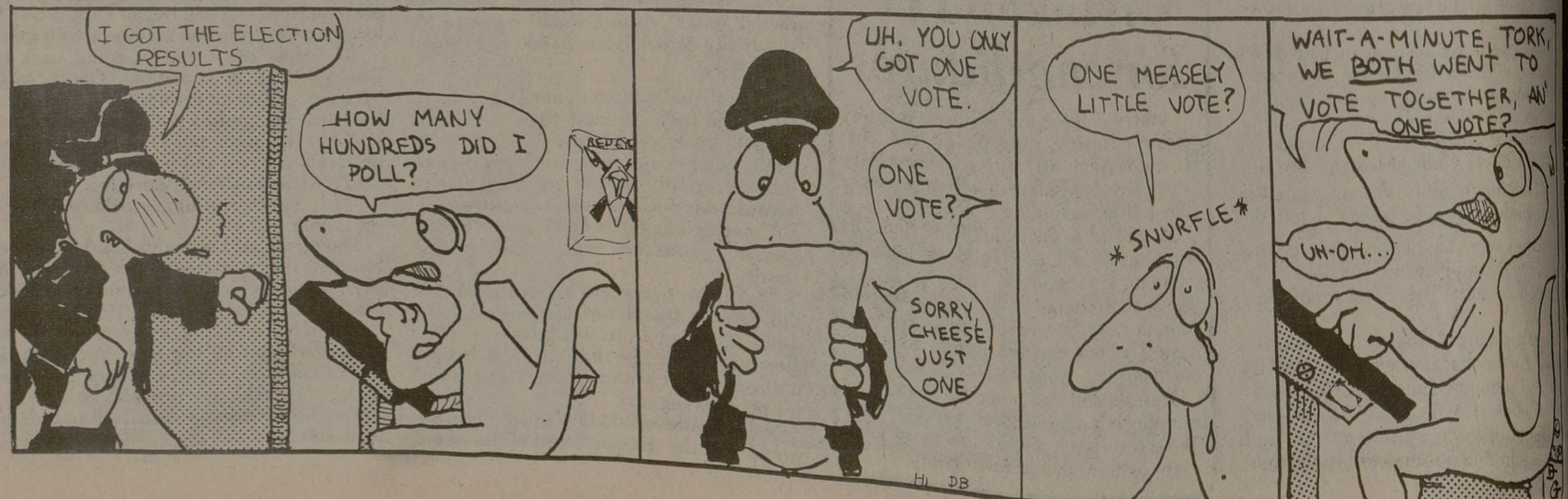
And finally the question of the quality of a volunteer vs. drafted army arises. Military is having trouble getting recruits, the solution consistent with individual liberty is to pay higher wages to military personnel. Military wages not kept up with civilian wages. If pay was comparable or better than civilian pay, quality and quantity of staffing would not be a problem.

But do we want a mercenary army? How do you like mercenary police, firemen, or professors? Those considering ever serving in the services in one should ask army Vietnam veterans what they would rather have a draftee or a volunteer covering them when they go to battle?

But in the end, the question of the boils down to the issue of freedom. Friedman said it all in a recent column with General Westmoreland. Westmoreland exclaimed, "I don't want to command an army of mercenaries!" Friedman replied, "Well, General, would you want an army of slaves?"

Tom Gil

THOTZ



By Doug Graham