

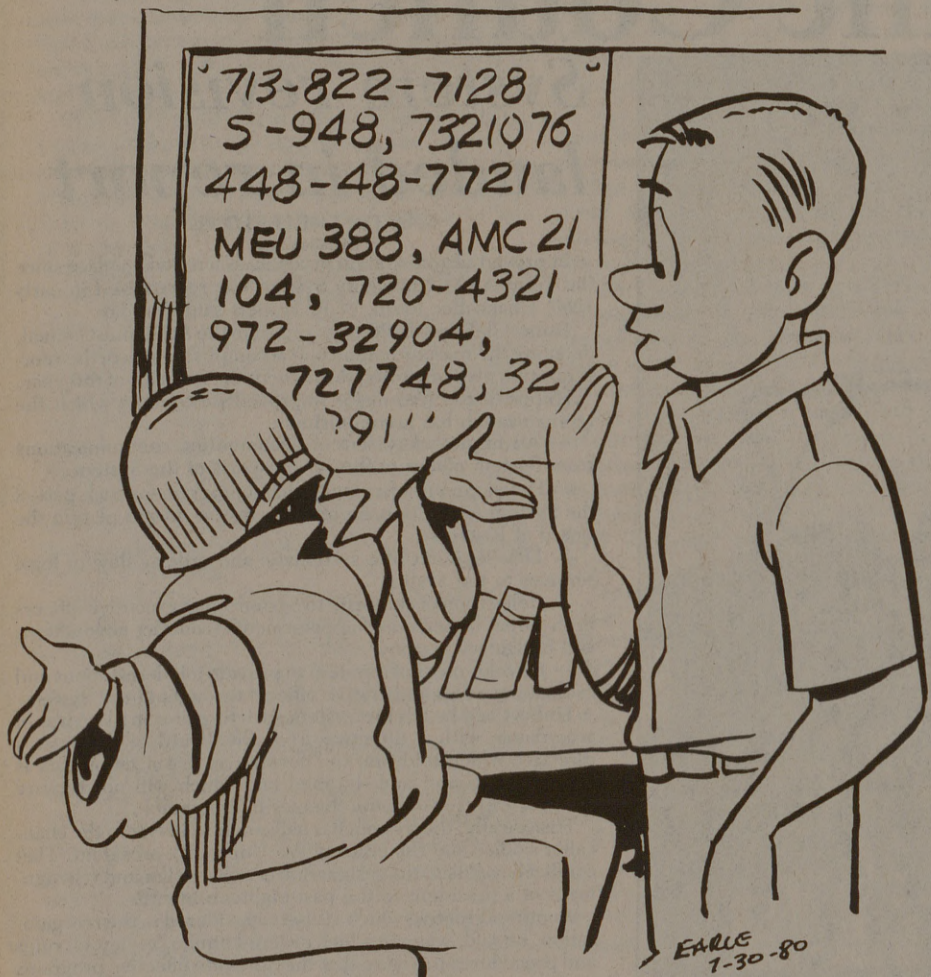
# VIEWPOINT

THE BATTALION  
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

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AUGUST 6, 1980

## Slouch

by Jim Earle



"I've tried to get organized by writing down my phone number, student number, social security number, license number, laundry number, credit card numbers, zip code number, employee number, laboratory number ... I think I'm worse off now than ever!"

## Speculation is mounting over possible Reagan Cabinet choices

STEVE GERSTEL

United Press International

WASHINGTON — With all the polls now showing him a runaway winner, it would be surprising if Ronald Reagan's thoughts do not sometimes drift to the heady days after the election.

It is in the weeks following the election — the so-called transition period — that a winning presidential candidate chooses his official family and forms his cabinet.

Only the choice of a vice presidential candidate and the appointment of a Supreme Court justice generate more speculation in the media and more sweaty palms among contenders than the naming of the members of a new Cabinet.

With some exceptions, Cabinet members come from campuses, law firms, big business, state houses, city hall or Congress.

Should Reagan win the election, he unquestionably would consider some members of Congress for cabinet posts.

Yet Reagan could face a peculiar problem — one to which he alluded in the first news conference after his nomination.

There is a distinct possibility — should Reagan achieve a coat-tail size win — that the Republicans for the first time in a quarter of a century could take control of the Senate and House.

If the GOP achieves this political triumph the chances are the margin would be so narrow that Reagan could not afford to take anyone from Congress lest he endanger the slim majority.

The greater probability however, is that the Republicans will fall just short of taking control, giving Reagan some room to maneuver in the event there are one or more members of Congress he believes would be more valuable in the executive branch.

By far the biggest advantage in recruiting on Capitol Hill is that members of Congress are familiar with Washington and its intricate workings, an experience that Reagan and his inner circle lack.

The biggest disadvantage is that they for the most part lack background in running an enterprise the size of a department usually coming straight to Capitol Hill from private or low-level private life.

The recent past indicates members of Congress are not regarded highly by presidents or presidents-elect for the more important posts.

They seem never to be considered for treasury secretary and only rarely for the posts of secretary of state, secretary of defense or attorney general.

There have been exceptions in the last 20 or so years.

The most recent was the naming by President Carter of Sen. Edmund Muskie of Maine, a 22-year Capitol Hill veteran, as secretary of state.

Although Muskie was a Carter favorite from the beginning, the suspicion is that Carter picked him for the prestige he brought to the job at a delicate moment which followed the resignation of Cyrus Vance.

Other examples would be the selection of Nixon of Rep. Melvin Laird as secretary of state and Sen. William Saxbe as attorney general. Sen. William Fullbright was widely regarded as a possible secretary of state under John Kennedy.

But for the most part presidents-elect have chosen members of Congress — and not many at that — for the lesser Cabinet posts. And in this area they have to compete with the obligatory selection of blacks and women.

Carter, for instance, chose Rep. Brock Adams of Washington for transportation and Rep. Earl Land of Minnesota for the thankless agricultural post. Rep. Andy Young of Georgia got the education post at the United Nations.

Nixon installed Rep. Rogers C. B. Tanenbaum for interior and Kennedy did the same to — Rep. Stewart Udall of Arizona.

Based on recent precedent it would seem Reagan — if elected and not in danger of losing the GOP on Capitol Hill — would probably name one or two members of Congress.

But not the the top jobs.

## Latin conservatives banking on Reagan

by JUAN O. TAMAYO

United Press International

GUATEMALA CITY Guatemala — Rodolfo Herrera is a middle-aged factory owner who plans to buy a bottle of imported scotch on Nov. 4, sit back in front of his television and watch the U.S. presidential elections.

"I am going to get drunk," he says with determination, banging his fist on a restaurant table for effect. "I'll be celebrating if Ronald Reagan wins — and drowning my sorrows if he loses."

Herrera like thousands of political conservatives and rightists in Central America is looking forward to a Reagan victory as the only way to quash a rash of leftist revolutions in El Salvador, Guatemala and Nicaragua.

To them, President Carter is only the inept architect of a human rights policy that alienated rightists — Washington's traditional allies in the region — yet failed to overcome decades of leftist hatred of the United States.

Their hero is Reagan, the man they see as a Cold War Warrior, who they think will erase the Carter policies and support any anti-communist government regardless of its human rights record.

That image was reinforced when Reagan picked former CIA chief George Bush as his running mate and when he was endorsed by Sen. Jesse Helms, R-N.C., a harsh and steadfast critic of Carter policies in Latin America.

Nowhere is the election's outcome viewed as more crucial than in El Salvador, where Carter has singlehandedly kept in power a military-civilian regime despite violent attacks by leftist and rightist extremists that have taken 3,400 lives since Jan. 1.

Rightists have staged several protests in front of the U.S. Embassy and the residence of Ambassador Robert White carrying signs such as "Reagan Si, Carter No." and "Down with Human Rights."

Roberto D'Aubuisson, an army intelligence expert, blocked by Washington in two rightist coup attempts against the junta, recently told UPI he believes "things will change in November because Reagan has a lot of sympathy for us."

"I am personally enthusiastic about an opportunity to reexamine the Carter policies," says Eduardo Palomo, head of the Private Enterprise Association, and a key figure in centrist-conservative politics.

Salvadoran leftists believe that even if Reagan does not change U.S. policies toward El Salvador, his mere election in November could give D'Aubuisson and his followers the boost they need to topple the junta.

The situation is much the same in neighboring Guatemala, where Washington has pressured the military-led government to adopt reforms that would stop a burgeoning war of assassinations between leftist and rightist extremists.

Washington recently announced U.S. Ambassador Frank Ortiz would be pulled out because he was too close to the government, and be replaced by George Landau, the current envoy in Chile and a strong human rights advocate.

"Carter is taking away a friend. Reagan would give us another," said Herrera, whose factory has been bombed three times since January — presumably by leftist employees pressing for higher wages and benefits.

There are two places in Central America however where Reagan is not so well liked.

In Panama he is remembered — and disliked — by almost everyone for his staunch opposition to the Panama Canal treaties that surrendered sole U.S. control of the waterway and the surrounding Canal Zone.

And in Nicaragua Reagan is viewed as a man who could cut off all U.S. financial aid to the leftist Sandinista government recovering from the 18-month war to topple rightist President Anastasio Somoza.

Sandinista Junta member Moises Hassan marking the first anniversary of the leftist guerrillas' victory said Reagan could unleash on the world "a great wave of violence a great wave of bloodshed."

In the same ceremonies, Gabriel Garcia Marquez a leftist-leaning intellectual and author of "One Hundred Years of Solitude" dismissed Reagan as "a mere cowboy."



"Well, here they come... Illegal aliens!"

## Smoke-filled rooms still taboo

# Politics and the air quality index

by DICK WEST

United Press International

WASHINGTON — Let's assume for scenario purposes that Democrats calling for an "open" convention in New York next week prevail. What then?

Some party leaders have expressed concern that releasing delegates from commitments to specific candidates could result in a return to the old-fashioned "brokered" type of convention. I say such fears are groundless.

Too many changes have taken place since the days when party bosses sequestered themselves in smoke-filled rooms to strike deals that produced the presidential nominees.

For one thing hotel rooms are better ventilated now.

It would take a heap o' cigar-puffing to make a hotel suite with a modern air-circulation system smoky enough for political sell-outs and other shabby bargains.

In their efforts to generate a sufficient amount of tobacco effluvia, some of the power brokers probably would over-aspirate themselves. And if they did achieve the proper density, the hotel's smoke detectors would be activated, causing panic

in the corridor and alerting reporters to the whereabouts of the cabal.

Also, bear in mind that smoking habits themselves have changed greatly since the era when convention business was transacted at hazy conclaves.

Statistically, it is almost certain that a sizeable percentage of any given group of power bloc manipulators would be non-smokers, perhaps militantly so.

I suppose it theoretically would be possible for a convention to be brokered in a room where political string-pullers were wearing "Thanks For Not Smoking" buttons. But somehow it wouldn't be the same.

This year's Democrats probably have no ideological differences that couldn't be resolved by some backstage finagling among Carter backers, Kennedy supporters and "alternate candidate" advocates. But when you've got a group divided between smokers and non-smokers, compromise becomes impossible.

Many readers will recall the incident not long ago when an airliner had to make an unscheduled landing because of a ruckus that erupted after smoker lit up in the non-smoking section.

Well, a similar rubarb could arise at a political convention. Only there is no place for a hotel room to land.

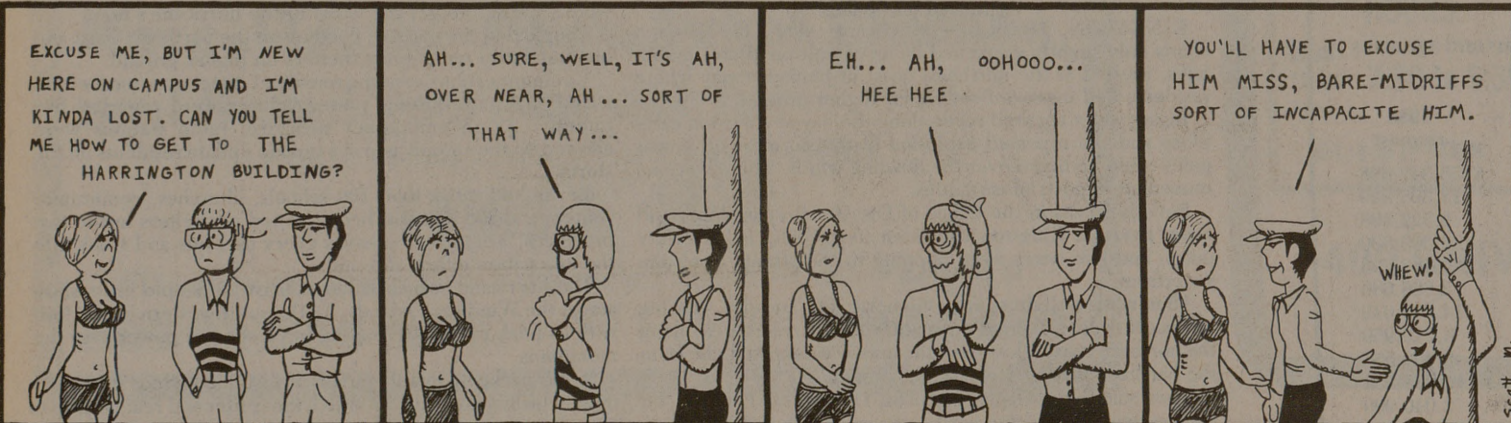
In the circumstances, the only peaceable arrangement would be to put non-smoking power brokers in one suite and power brokers who smoke in another.

Peaceable, but hardly practicable. The "dump Carter" forces who can't do without tobacco might agree on Senator Jackson as a compromise nominee. Meanwhile the "dump Carter" strategists who can't abide tobacco smoke would be settling on Secretary of State Muskie.

There are of course other means by which an "open" convention conceivably could shut out Carter. But the changes of his getting dumped in a smoke-filled room are virtually nil.

## Warped

by Scott McCullar



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