

VIEWPOINT

THE BATTALION
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

THURSDAY
AUGUST 7, 1980

Slouch

by Jim Earle

Liberal American Jews are being embarrassed by Israel

by HOWARD ARENSTEIN

United Press International

JERUSALEM — Recent criticism of Israel by U.S. Jewry has dampened relations between the Israelis and their wealthy American cousins.

The American Jewish community clearly has been embarrassed by the erosion of Israel's underdog image because of its occupation of Arab land. Its leaders have started nudging the government of Prime Minister Menachem Begin to think about the good of the family as a whole.

"There is a worldwide Jewish consensus that supports Israel's holding onto them (Jewish settlements) for security reasons but not for religious reasons," said Theodore Mann, outgoing chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations.

Mann, one of 56 American Jewish leaders who recently signed a statement condemning Israeli "extremists in the public and within the government," spoke out during a recent week-long dialogue in Jerusalem between U.S. Jews and Israelis.

The tone at the opening was tense as the senior cabinet member in Begin's government, Interior Minister Josef Burg, told Mann: "Our enemies are only too happy to exploit publicly expressed Jewish criticism."

Burg, who heads Israel's team at negotiations on Palestinian autonomy, said without elaboration that Egypt is trying to exploit U.S. Jewish dissent to weaken the Israeli position in the dragging talks.

There is worldwide Jewish consensus on such issues as keeping Jerusalem united under Israeli rule and the security of the 32-year-old Jewish state.

But consensus ends with such announcements as the planned move of Begin's office from Jewish West Jerusalem to the city's annexed Arab East sector and government approval to establish religious boarding schools in the heart of Arab Hebron on the occupied West Bank.

American Jews traditionally have been liberal in their political views and, with the surprising rise to power three years ago of the conservative Begin, that liberalism has been extended

to criticism of Israeli policy. Said Mann: "I speak in the name of the Jewish community which believes particularly the function of wise leadership is to open the forces of fanaticism that arise from time in every society."

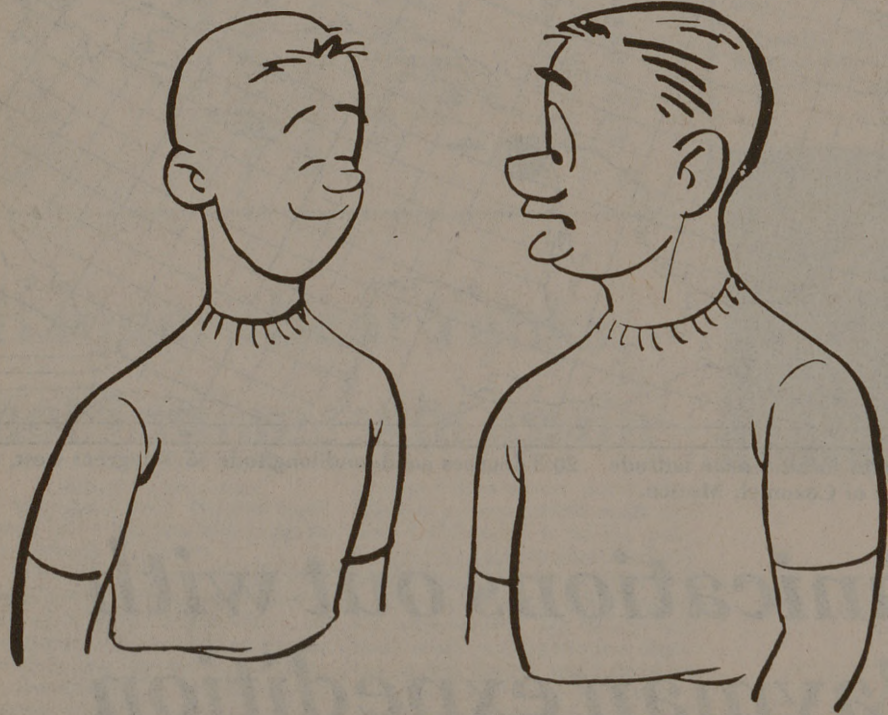
The former president of Brandeis University, Morris B. Abram, said he was not among signers of a statement condemning religious extremism because "it was written in haste and cast in terms of Israeli politics."

"Right or wrong, I did not wish, as an American, to be a tail on an Israeli kite."

But Abram did reserve some harsh words for Israel's settlement policy in the West Bank.

"To the extent that this policy is not based on security needs, it furnishes a precedent which is very, very effective... for a fundamental shift in American policy vis-a-vis Israel."

Although Begin brushes aside advice from distant cousins abroad, his advisers are private. Until now, one Begin aide and the advice of the American Jewish community has been expressed behind closed



"This is the first time that I can remember that a hurricane was thought of as an improvement in the weather."

Jumping to conclusions on Billy Carter affair

by DICK WEST

United Press International

WASHINGTON — In lieu of U.S. participation in the summer Olympic games, Americans are taking up other sports, such as jumping to conclusions about Billy Carter.

Although no new records have yet been set, Billy Carter's registration as an agent for Libya has attracted a large field of world class conclusion-jumpers, among them Rep. Dan Quayle, R-Ind.

"It is too much to ask us to believe that the Libyan government paid brother Billy hundreds of thousands of dollars because of his deep understanding of the oil industry gained through his operation of a service station in Plains, Ga.," Quayle said in a press release.

"Obviously, the Libyans paid that money because they thought brother Billy could get some things done through his connections at the White House."

Implicit in that conclusion is the supposition that if Billy Carter didn't have a brother in the White House, Libya would never have loaned him \$220,000. Which may be a leap too far.

Entirely overlooked is the possibility that Billy Carter's kinship with the president was purely coincidental. That is the conclusion I am leaping to.

It may be, as Quayle concluded, that the Libyans weren't necessarily interested in Billy Carter's petroleum expertise. There are, however, other plausible explanations for the loan.

We all know that oil-exporting nations such

as Libya are constantly on the lookout for ways to invest the proceeds from foreign sales. It therefore is logical to conclude that Col. Muammar Khadafy, the Libyan leader, was pressing his financial advisers thusly:

"OK, guys, the money is piling up again. Any ideas?"

"This may be a long shot, chief," one of them replies, "but I hear there is a good investment opportunity in Georgia. I'm told a fellow there is in bad need of a loan. If we play our cards right, we might sign him up for a half-million or so."

"How come he hasn't gotten a loan from Bert Lance?"

"Well, Lance has been pretty much preoccupied with other things lately."

"What is the prospective investment opportunity's name?"

"Billy Carter."

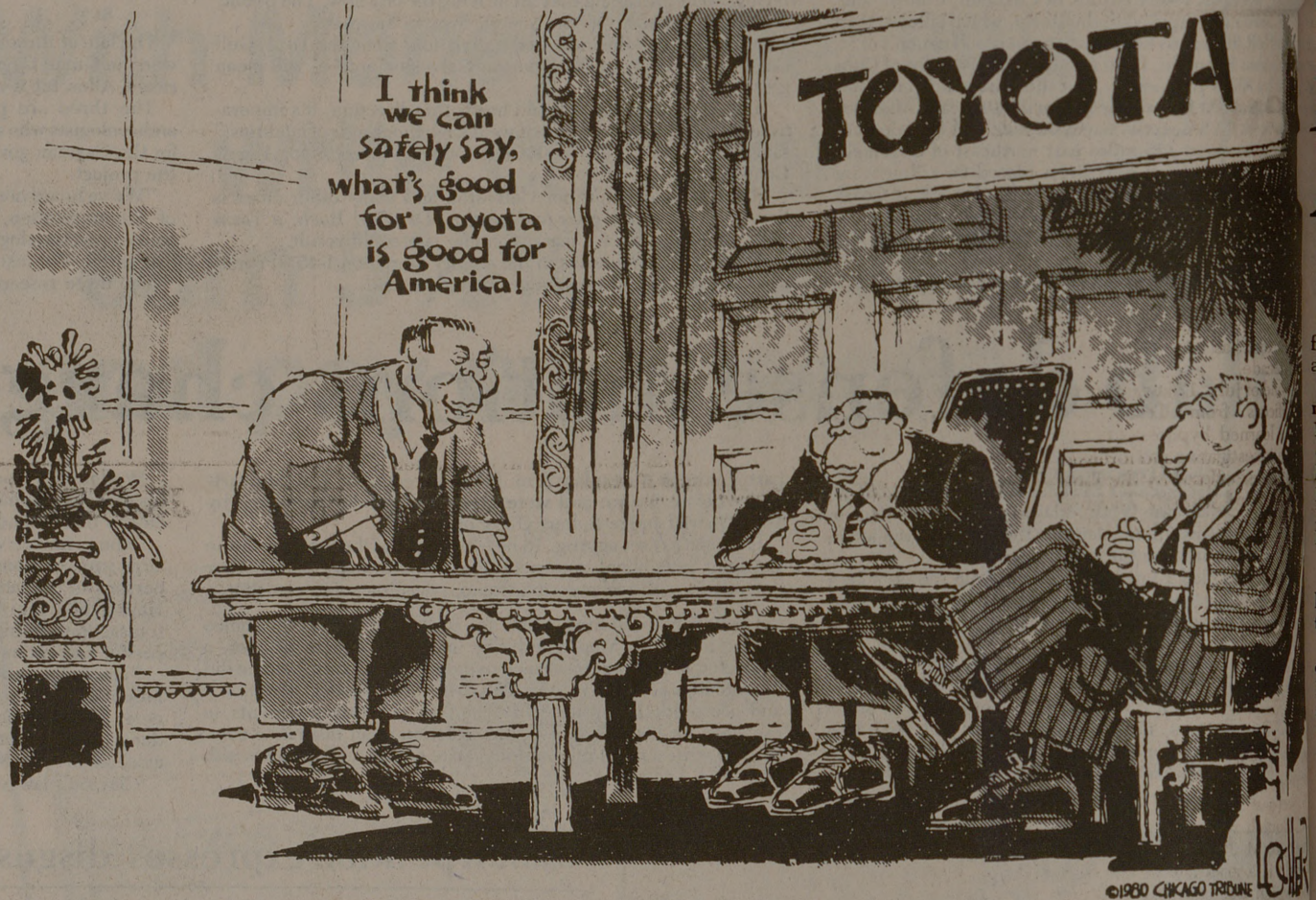
"Hmmm. Any kin to the Carter in the White House?"

"We haven't checked on that. They have the same home town but there are a lot of Carters in that part of Georgia. Related or not, this one seems to be acting strictly on his own."

"That's good. We wouldn't want to be a party to any investment that might make it appear we were trying to buy influence in the United States. Is there any danger that Iraq or Saudi Arabia will try to horn in on the deal?"

"They might. To make sure no other country loans him money, we'll ask him to register as a Libyan agent."

I'd like to see Quayle outjump that.



Supreme Court hears growing number

Religion cases reflect trend

by DAVID E. ANDERSON

United Press International

At least three dozen cases, either directly or indirectly involving religious and church-state questions, went to the Supreme Court during its last term, reflecting what one court observer calls a national trend toward more and more litigation.

Although most of these cases never made it to the oral argument stage, some which did not — controversies involving the Worldwide Church of God and the United Methodist Church — remain important and potentially significant church-state cases almost certain to once again come before the court.

"As was generally the case across the spectrum of the court's caseload," says Stan Hasteley of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, "no clear trend was discernible in the religion cases."

"From the viewpoint of the religious community itself, results received mixed reviews, particularly the decision in the divisive Hyde Amendment abortion funding case," Hasteley said.

Perhaps no other case in recent history has polarized the religious community as has the Hyde Amendment case that dealt with a congressional ban on the use of public funds to pay for abortions, particularly for poor women receiving Medicaid.

The court upheld the ban on a 5-4 vote.

A large number of mainline Protestant churches and Jewish groups, many of them working through the Religious Coalition on Abortion Rights, supported use of public funds to pay for abortions and were sharply critical of the court's decision.

Roman Catholic and evangelical Protestants, on the other hand, welcomed the court decision, indicating that it would aid in a renewed effort to pass a constitutional amendment in the next Congress banning all abortions.

Although the issue of the free exercise and no establishment clause of religion were raised by parties in the case, the Supreme Court refused to consider them in reaching its decision.

"Because of the narrowness of the decision and the bitterness of the four (Supreme Court) dissenters, as well as the polarization within religious circles, controversy over abortion promises to be a fixture on the American political scene for the foreseeable future," Hasteley said.

In what many church and charitable organization leaders called the court's other most significant decision, the justices ruled 8-1 that loc-

al municipalities may not forbid charitable organizations, including churches, from door-to-door.

The decision struck down an ordinance in Schaumburg, Ill., which required that able groups obtain permits to solicit and to town officials that 75 percent of the raised went to charity and not administrative costs.

Religious leaders said it was a solid victory in their effort to limit government interference in church affairs, a matter of growing concern to church-state observers.

The court has already announced that it will hear cases involving unemployment compensation for individuals who quit for religious reasons and the conditions under which officials may permanently remove children from their parents.

It is also possible that both the Worldwide Church of God and the United Methodist Church involving government's relation to church and to what extent government can define constitutes a church, may come back to court in its next term.

It's Your Turn

Editor:

The article "Which building named for whom?" by Cathy Saathoff in the July 31, 1980, *Battalion* has a gross error. The building, Dorm 10, was not named for G. Rollie White, as Ms. Saathoff said, but for Byrd E. White. Please correct this statement, since that was what the entire article concerned.

Tim R. Turner, '74
Head Resident White Hall 1975

Editor's note: The book from which the information was taken, *Here We'll Build the College* by Ernest Langford, reported that the dorm which is named for Eli Whiteley (Dormitory 9) was named for G. Rollie White. Dorm 10 is named for Byrd E. White; no dorm is named for G. Rollie White.
The *Battalion* regrets the error.

Correction

A chart giving a breakdown of the Texas A&M University System's proposed budget request in Wednesday's *Battalion* contained two errors.

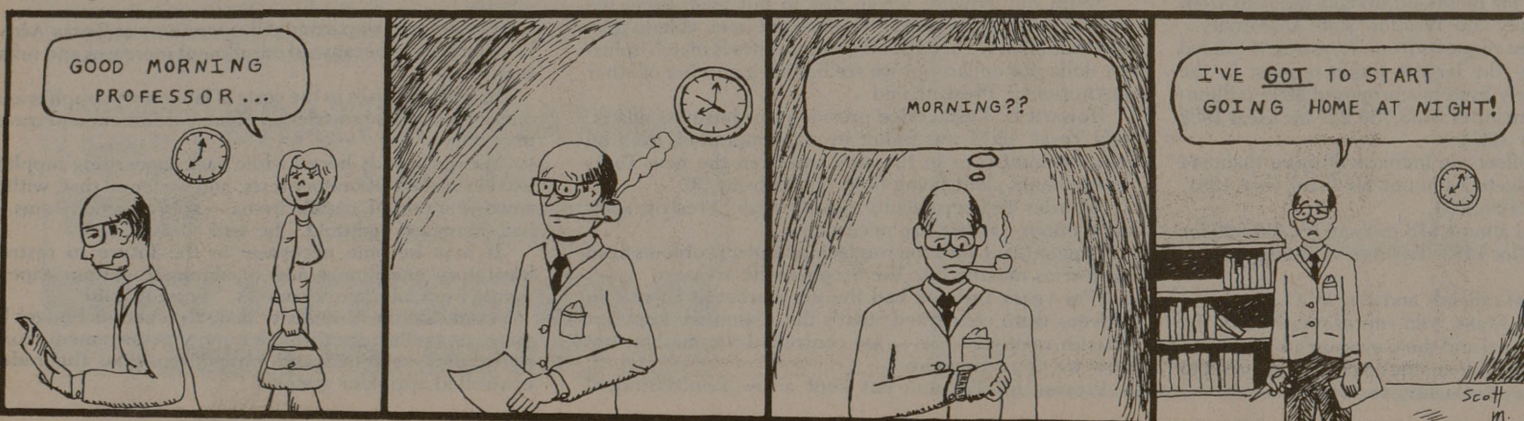
The table did not list the figures for the Texas Agricultural Extension Service, which has a 1981 appropriation of \$20,076,732; a 1982 request of \$29,665,602; and a 1983 request of \$34,159,904.

Also, the correct figure for Texas A&M University's 1981 appropriation is \$89,243,973.

The *Battalion* regrets the errors.

by Scott McCullar

Warped



THE BATTALION

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Columns and guest editorials are also welcome, subject to the same length constraints as letters. Inquiries and correspondence to: Editor, *The Battalion*, Reed McDonald, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX 77843.

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