

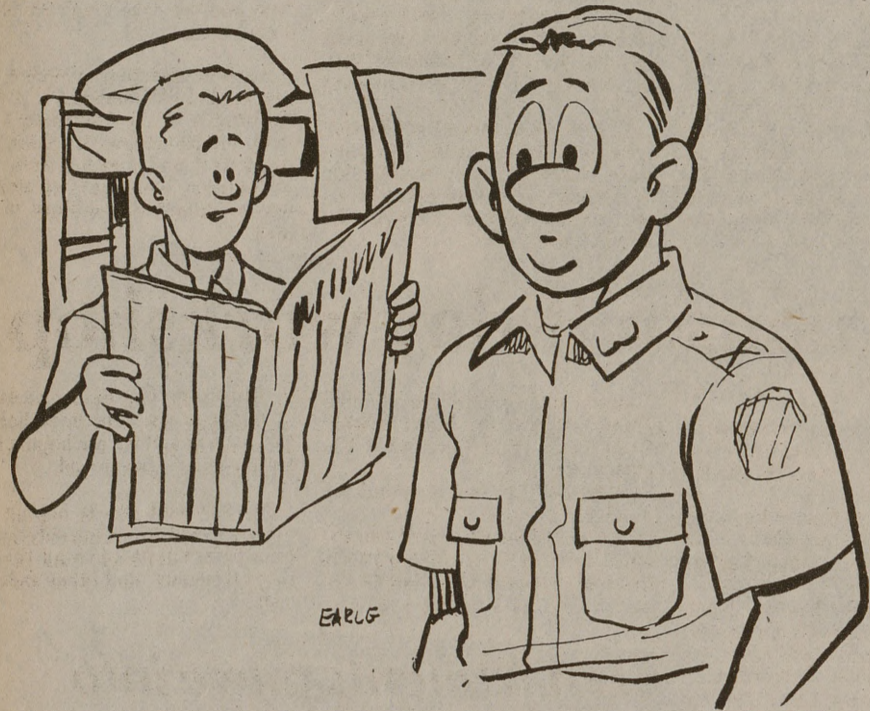
VIEWPOINT

THE BATTALION
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

TUESDAY
JANUARY 27, 1980

Slouch

By Jim Earle



"High interest rates, high inflation rates, high unemployment — I'm beginning to lose my patience with President Reagan."

U.S., Mexico need cooperation on border

By MARIO G. OBLEDO

Recent reports that the first 4 miles of the new, \$2 million fence between the United States and Mexico already resemble a sieve bring us more evidence of this country's proclivity to ignore its own best interests sometimes. Fences to keep out the undocumented worker aren't the answer. U.S.-Mexico well-being would be better served by open, barrier-free border and increased understanding, interaction and cooperation.

Predictably, the immediate reaction to this proposal will be negative. The conventional but mistaken wisdom has been that the undocumented worker takes jobs from U.S. citizens, burdens our welfare system, and creates other social problems.

It is becoming more widely recognized, however, that undocumented workers are not the liability they are thought by many to be. The truth is, they pay hundreds of millions of dollars in federal and state taxes and — for fear of detection, detention and deportation — rarely utilize the services their taxes support. They migrate to this country only in quest of work. Generally, they take only menial, low-paying and low-prestige jobs unwanted by American citizens. They create skilled, high-paying and more desirable jobs for others by purchasing goods and services. The money they send back to their relatives has, in part, enabled Mexico to become the third largest purchaser of U.S. products in the world.

It is not too late for both countries to forge a pact leading to cooperation, mutual respect, and prosperity. But to do so, the United States must abandon its barricade mentality and the paternalism prevalent in its policies toward Mexico.

Mexico, on the other hand, must avoid a perception of the U.S. as the principal cause of all bilateral problems and acknowledge the impact of its own policies on mutual concerns. Each must recognize its interdependence with the other and enter into a bold, different relationship which enhances both countries' economic well-being.

The available work force in Mexico need not be seen in the U.S. as a problem, but as an opportunity to increase our productivity, strength, and security. Jobs are available in this country which range from aeronautical engineers to the service industries and beyond. We need skilled as well as manual labor.

Mexico has people, oil, gas, and other natural resources, but lacks the capability to explore, develop and market them. Such a situation provides both countries an opportunity to minimize their separate weaknesses, maximize their strengths and enter an era of mutual assistance

which could provide benefits far into the next century for us all.

How can the two countries take advantage of this situation? To begin, the Presidents of the respective countries should meet to articulate an agenda of issues leading to the creation of a common market for textiles, medicinals, foodstuffs, oil, gas, clothing and other products.

In addition, a center of higher learning at a border point should be established to supply expertise to structure the common market.

A treaty should be signed providing for the incarceration of convicted persons in their own country, and both countries, acting jointly, should play a stronger role in strengthening trade and cultural ties within this hemisphere.

Mexico should begin drafting a long-term, reasonable compact with the U.S. for the supply of its energy needs. Investment preference should be given to American corporations. Foreign investment by Mexican citizens should be prohibited. These measures would encourage increased capital for Mexico, thus providing funds for resource development and jobs. Massive training programs should be established relating to employment opportunities in the U.S., and the instruction of English and American history should be required in every school.

The U.S. should give priority attention to Mexico and recognize it as an equal partner in socio-economic affairs. U.S. profits from Mexican investments should be excluded from Federal income taxes, but deductions for any losses should be allowed.

The Immigration and Naturalization Service should be reorganized to exclude its present law enforcement activities. INS offices at border sites should be established to verify that incoming workers are Mexican citizens and to regulate an orderly entry process.

The Border Patrol assigned to the Mexican border should be converted to a resettlement agency, providing information and referral services to Mexican immigrants.

The recommendations set forth here are not inclusive. Other approaches will and should be advanced. To continue the status quo is the most futile of all. No fence, no threats, and no reprisals will stop the flow of economic refugees.

The situation can only worsen if we fail to recognize and make accommodations to what is evident.

(Mario G. Obledo is the founder of the National Coalition of Hispanic Organizations. He presently serves as Secretary of the State of California's Health & Welfare Agency. His views do not necessarily represent those of the State of California or of the administration of Governor Edmund G. Brown, Jr.)

The hostages:

Not meddling in Iranian politics might have prevented embassy takeover

By JON DAVIS

It is quite possible that the Iranians in all their vociferous outbursts and embassy takeovers may really have something worthwhile to say to the American people. It is a shame that no one wants to listen. Perhaps had we two years ago paid attention to them we could have averted this latest crisis in American foreign policy.

The same people who inherit Jefferson's works are called "Demonic Imperialists" because we may have helped deny a people these rights which "we hold to be self evident" and dear. If we have marred our image as a freedom-loving people who support the growth of democratic institutions, we should ask ourselves how and why. What made us trade these principles? Was it the dollar, a gallon of gas, or an Iran free of Soviet domination? Are we not seeing each one of these goals/profits

Reader's

forum

disappear over the Zagros mountains due to perhaps the mishandling of the situation starting back in the early 1950s?

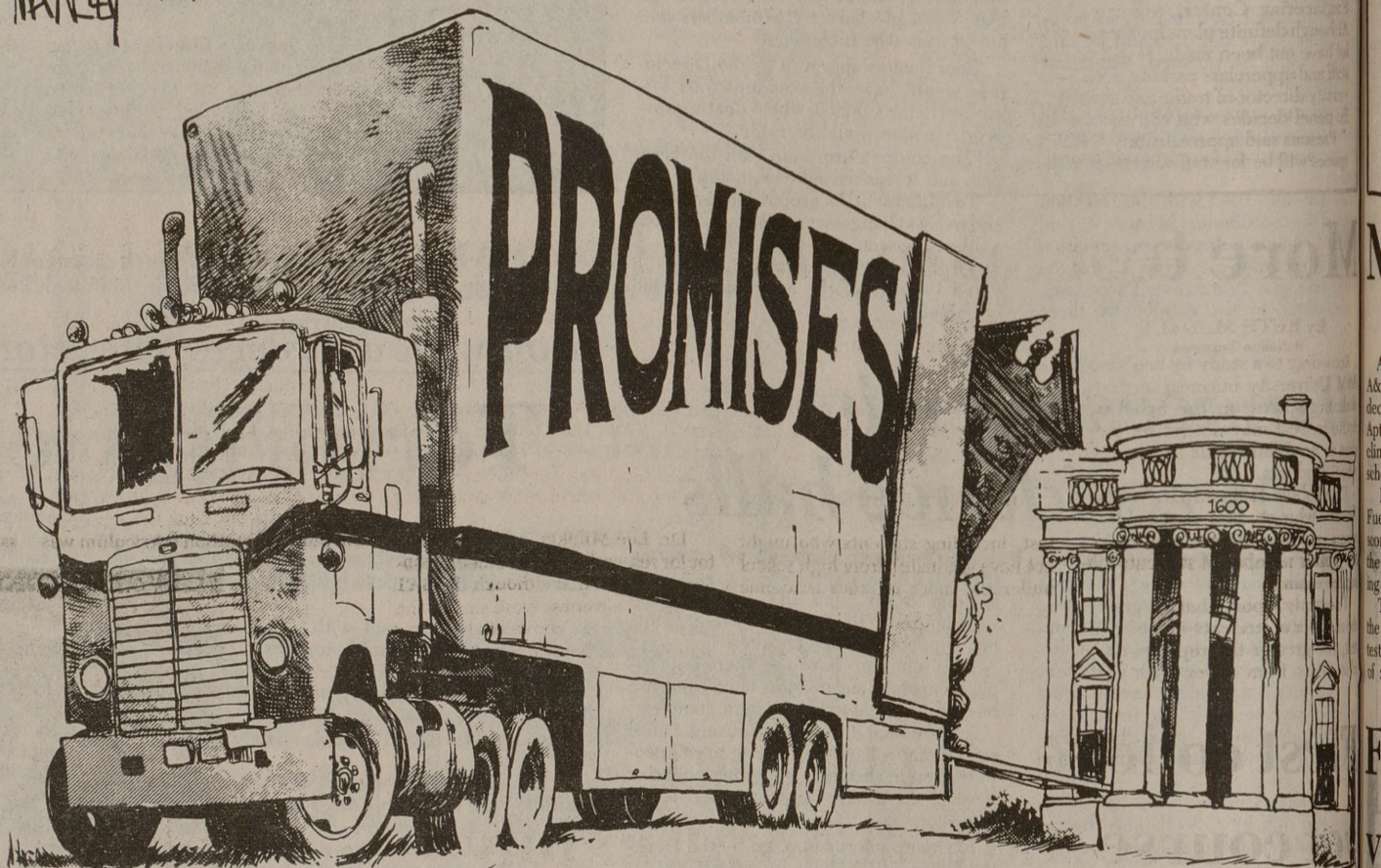
What were our reasons for not supporting Mossadeqh? Why did we support the Shah's coup in 1953? How many people were killed so that the British, French and American oil companies could control the oil fields of Iran? What were the chances of Iran falling into the Soviet camp and are those chances not greater today? If we spurn our own principles of democracy

by aiding in the overthrow of the legal government in a foreign country, how can we expect that country later to respect such principles of diplomatic immunity or embassy sanctity?

If someone knowledgeable on this matter would present a scholarly article to this forum help enlighten those of us who shout, "Nuke 'em till they glow" he or she would be doing a great service. If someone would objectively state facts without the bias and emotionalism characteristic of information provided by the Iranian Student Association and American "know alls" it would benefit every one of us and perhaps save us from making mistakes which might lead us to yet another "hostage crisis" even a war.

Welcome home, hostages. Perhaps America owes you an apology for suffering for our sins. Jon Davis is a senior modern languages student.

MACKEEL (THE PHOENIX NEWS) COPY BY CHICAGO TRIBUNE



Don't forsake memories of the rescuers

Editor:

Sunday, Jan. 25, 1981 was indeed a red-letter day for all Americans. With joyous songs, yellow ribbons in their hair, and a tremendous tolling of bells, millions of Americans celebrated the homecoming of the 52 former hostages. After 444 days of torture and captivity they finally returned home to their loved ones. Throughout the country, church bells rang sounding the long awaited freedom of our fellow-citizens. The city of Los Angeles celebrated with church bells and flags. In other cities these men and women were honored with 52-gun salutes. The city of Mesquite went so far as to hold a benefit concert to raise money for the marble monument which is to be placed in front of city hall in honor of hometown hero John McKeel. Even the Super Bowl took time out to salute the freed Americans with 80,000 yellow ribbons.

And now, after 14 months of foul conditions, beatings, and the other "acts of savagery" as one government employee put it, the wait is over, all of our people are home and safe with their families — wrong!

In the midst of all of the hoopla and excitement we have seemingly forgotten the grandest heroes of all, the eight men who gave their lives trying to deliver the Americans from captivity. Whether the rescue mission was poorly planned or not is beside the point — we tried, and we failed. During this restive week there are eight American families that we must not forget, for their sons have done a great deed for

their country and fellow man. 52 Americans and their families have literally lost 444 days of their lives, while eight other families don't consider that to be much of a sacrifice. I wish I knew the names of these people, for they are the real heroes, and I would like to thank them and let them know that I haven't forgotten.

Tony Weber '84

Article 'irrelevant'

Editor:

"Whoever said that athletes should be seen and not heard" . . . who cares? It seems at the start of every year there is a flagrant and irrelevant article about athletes written by Battalion sportswriters (namely Ritchie Priddy and sports-writer Mark Patterson) or students worried about maroon and white windbreakers and what should or should not be written on them; remember the "identity crisis"? But then what

can we, as athletes, expect from a certain group of people who are obviously not known for their spirit and support of A&M's athletic teams? The tone and reproach of their articles. Or was sports-writer Priddy's turn to write a column and from lack of imagination he fell into the same yearly trend of criticism of athletes.

We feel that Mr. Priddy needs to spend more time supporting the basketball team instead of watching the athlete section. We were at the A&M-Rice game and the athlete cheered just as much as any other section of the crowd. Rollie White (not just a "few" or "some" according to Priddy).

Why should anyone be so concerned with how "pretty" the athletes look when the purpose of attending a home A&M basketball game is to give spirit and support. Right Ritchie?

John B. Dawson '81

Editor's note: This letter was accompanied by 12 other signatures.

THE BATTALION

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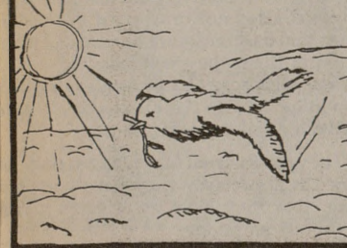
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Warped

Far, we've been traveling far
Without a home, but not without a star
Free, only want to be free
We huddle close & hang on to
That dream



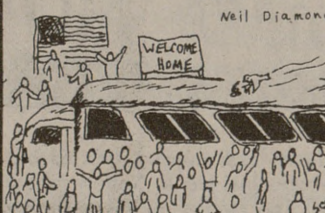
On the boats and on the planes
They're coming to America
Never looking back again
They're coming to America



Home, don't it seem so far away
We're traveling light today
In the eye of the storm
In the eye of the storm . . .



...They're coming to America
They're coming to America
They're coming to America
Today, Today, Today
America
Neil Diamond



By Scott McCullar