

VIEWPOINT

THE BATTALION
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

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Slouch

By Jim Earle



"I can't think of a thing to say that wouldn't make you madder than you already are."

Soft speaking ignored in favor of big stick

By HELEN THOMAS
United Press International

WASHINGTON — In slightly more than two weeks in office, President Reagan has firmly established himself as a hardliner in foreign policy.

"You don't futz around with Uncle Sam," Reagan told a group of reporters in laying out his get-tough attitude.

Reagan apparently intends to carry a "big stick," but so far he is not speaking softly in the admonition of Teddy Roosevelt. In some ways, his remarks verge on the bellicose when he discusses the Russians.

Reagan has a view of the Soviets that apparently was not changed during the 1950s, when coexistence between the superpowers was in vogue, or in the 70s, when one of his foreign policy mentors, Richard Nixon, promoted detente.

The president told a news conference the Soviets "lie" and "cheat" in their striving for world domination.

In the recent interview he said, "They don't subscribe to our sense of morality; because they don't believe in any of the things — they don't believe in afterlife; they don't believe in a god or a religion. And the only morality they recognize, therefore, is what will advance the cause of socialism."

Before it is all over, the Russians may long for the days of Jimmy Carter, although they never understood him or his foreign policy, and viewed his human rights campaign as a direct affront. They also challenged him and perhaps shocked him with their invasion of Afghanistan, changing the atmosphere and bringing the drive for ratification of the SALT II to a standstill.

Carter later revealed in an interview that the Russian intervention surprised him, leading to criticism that he was naive about Soviet intentions.

Reagan also made it clear during the visit of

South Korean President Chun Doo Hwan that the United States would no longer be a watchdog when it comes to human rights.

Secretary of State Alexander Haig underscored that when he said that terrorism, not human rights would be the main concern of U.S. diplomacy.

Also in the campaign, Reagan called for scrapping the U.S.-Soviet arms limitation accord. Now he says he is willing to undertake "discussions" to determine whether negotiations on a new pact are possible. But he obviously is in no hurry. The conservative camp wants the Pentagon to begin a big military build-up before talking about future reductions.

Soviet Ambassador Anatoli Dobrynin is learning which way the wind is blowing. Having enjoyed an intimate relationship with former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger and national security affairs adviser Zbigniew Brzezinski, he is now out in the cold. In the good times, Brzezinski had Dobrynin to lunch once a week.

He also has ridden on presidential planes. Now he is no longer able to slip in the underground private entrance of the State Department, and he gets no special treatment in the Reagan White House, although he is the dean of the diplomatic corps.

The Cold War has not yet returned but the words and the new policies are creating an atmosphere that may lead to greater tensions in the future.

The words may also be accompanied by deeds, and it appears that the president would have a hard time lifting the Soviet grain embargo in view of his own tough talk.

In recent days, Reagan has received a strong endorsement for his approach to the Russians from Kissinger, architect of detente.

Kissinger told Reagan that he was putting him "out of the lecture business because I can no longer point with alarm." He said he agreed with Reagan's policies and direction.

The CHALLENGE of Pepsi and Solid Gold Twinkies

I like to think I'm a reasonably intelligent person.

Those of you nodding your heads in agreement have never seen me when I've just gotten a sweepstakes application in the mail.

Admittedly, I act in an embarrassing manner. I can be suckered into anything for a one-in-50 million chance at a letter opener.

Consequently, I have re-subscribed to Reader's Digest so many times that I can quote every quotable found in those pages.

Promise me a car and I jump, skip and hop all the way back from the mailbox. Promise me a vacation home in Bermuda and I'll scream in ecstasy. Promise me \$100 a month for life and I'll grab a calculator. (If I live to be 70 that's 49 years x 12 months = ... sorry, I had a small lapse.) For years I thought I could finance my college education with my mega-earnings from sweepstakes.

Publisher's Clearing House makes me work for my almost-earned money. Not only do I buy

Offhand

By Venita McCellon

far more magazines than I can read, but it's necessary to keep detailed records just in case my number comes up. I have so many sweepstakes stubs in my desk drawer that I'll probably never find the right one should I win.

If I could confine my enthusiasm with sweepstakes to the magazine companies, I would not complain. But, I am obsessed with any and all sweepstakes.

For example, this week I bought a box of Hostess Twinkies. Mind you, Twinkies are not exactly my favorite delicacy, but, I had to see if, possibly, by mistake, my box would contain the

solid gold Twinkie worth \$50,000.

Well, so much for Hostess snacks ...

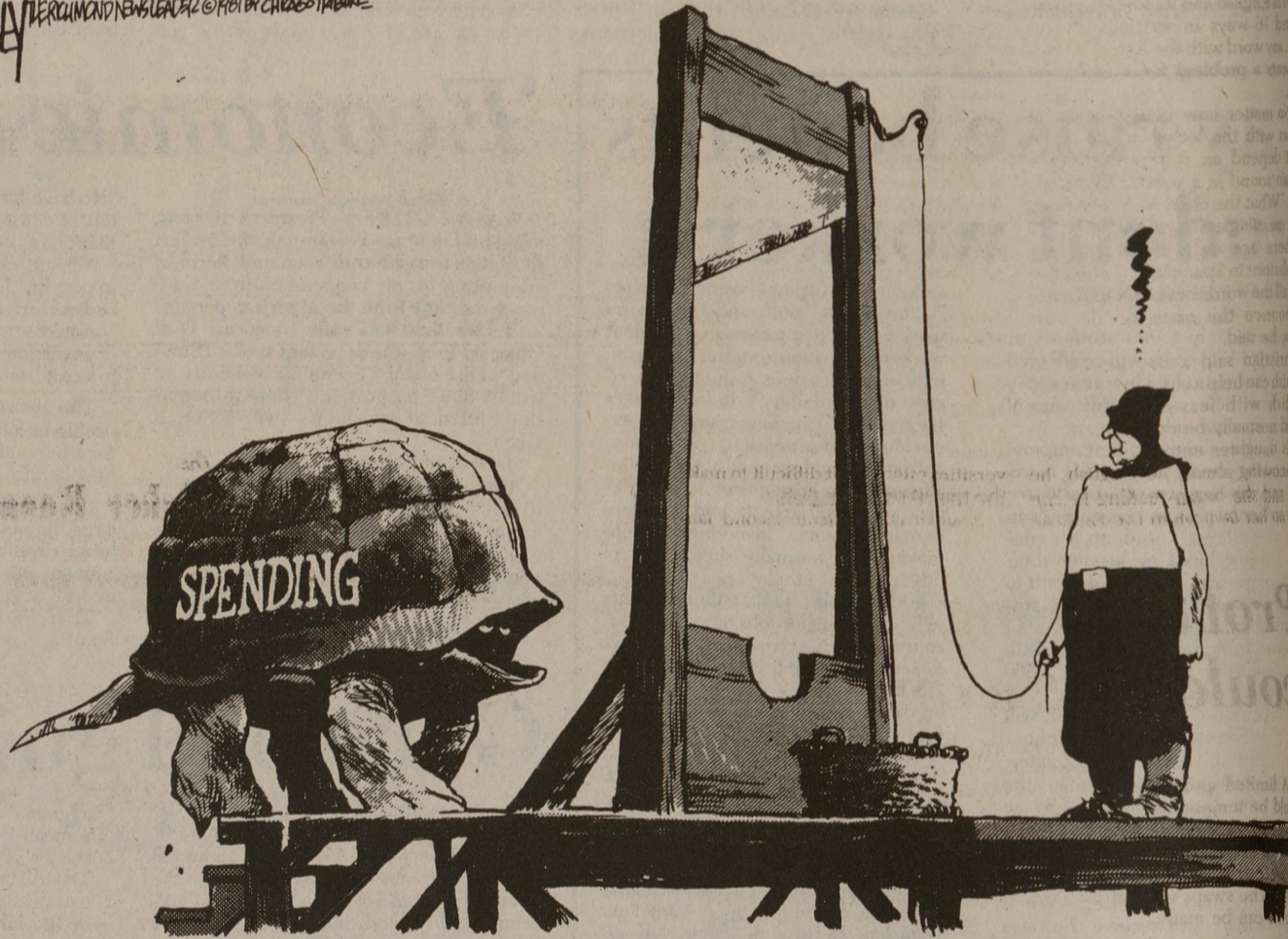
But, the contest that really takes the cake is the new Pepsi Challenge Sweepstakes. All I have to do is find all the letters to the CHALLENGE in the bottle tops and I win \$500.

I have worn out a perfectly good pair of nylon tweezers and broken three fingers pulling the rubber linings out of those bottle tops. I have collected the letters C, H, L, A, N, G, E. In fact, I have so many of them I can spell the word three times — if I just had a...

Now let's be realistic. I might as well throw the towel and save my tweezers. Every former idiot in Texas knows that all the letters are in Idaho.

Does that stop me from grabbing every bottle top I see? You should be able to answer that yourself.

MAGNELA PERCHMOND NEWS LEADER © 1981 BY CHRIS TRANE



It's your turn

Author doesn't understand politics

Editor:

We would like to comment on Miss Melissa Wilson's letter that appeared in The Battalion on Wednesday, Feb. 4, 1981. It is obvious that Miss Wilson does not understand world politics when she wrote: "Besides avoiding war, other reasons exist now for the U.S. to stay away from intervening in other countries' internal political struggles." These so-called "internal political struggles" have ceased to be internal in nature. The open intervention and the artificial revolutions and terrorism are used by the Soviets and their satellites all over the world (Afghanistan, Ethiopia, Nicaragua, El Salvador, etc.) to impose a system that destroys "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness." She also claims that "maybe capitalism is the step after communism in a society's evolution" which for us is something new, since we don't recall reading it in any U.S. history text book. Miss Wilson pointed out that "If communism is a step that

many countries need to go through, maybe we should let inflation, welfare, and unemployment grow, and maybe we should let the U.S. turn into socialism and, in a near future, into a provisional communism to complete the cycle and have a more efficient capitalistic system in the long run.

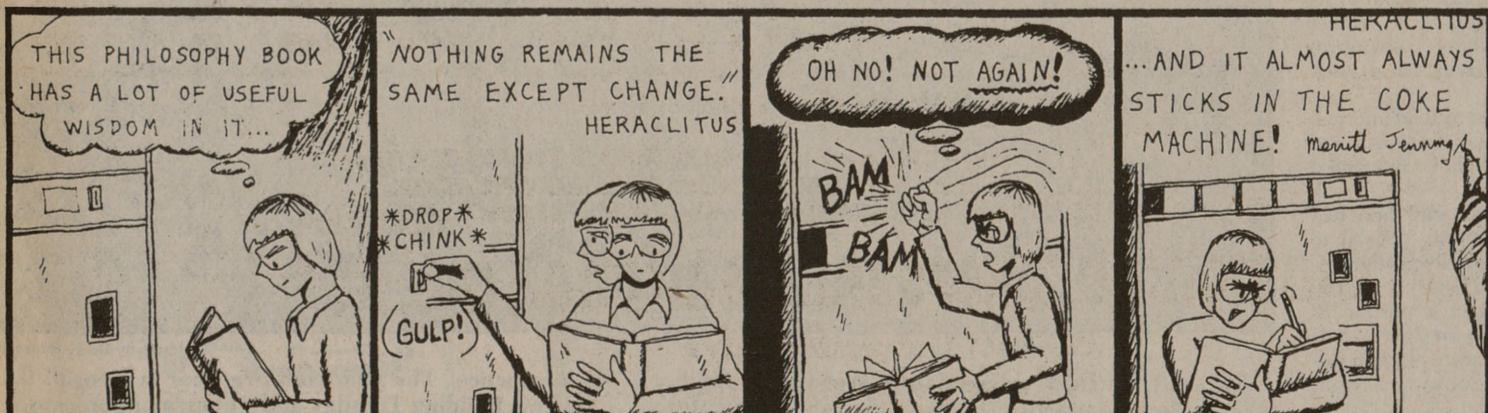
We are definitely with her when she said that "we don't need any more Vietnams, and we certainly don't need another World War." But what we do need is to keep our values which Mr. Jefferson clearly stated in the Declaration of Independence of this great country. She also asked, "what can we do?" Unfortunately this is

not an easy question to answer, but the answer is definitely not letting the World go communist. In the basics of politics there are two ideologies: that of democracy and that of communism, which one would you rather have? Miss Wilson? Which one do you think people in Afghanistan and El Salvador would rather have? We definitely stay with Democracy.

Let's make America great again!

Alvaro Andrade
Carlos E. Zuniga

Warped



By Scott McCullar

THE BATTALION

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Columns and guest editorials are also welcome, and are subject to the same length constraints as letters. Address inquiries and correspondence to: Editor, The Battalion, 216 Reed McDonald, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX 77843.

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