

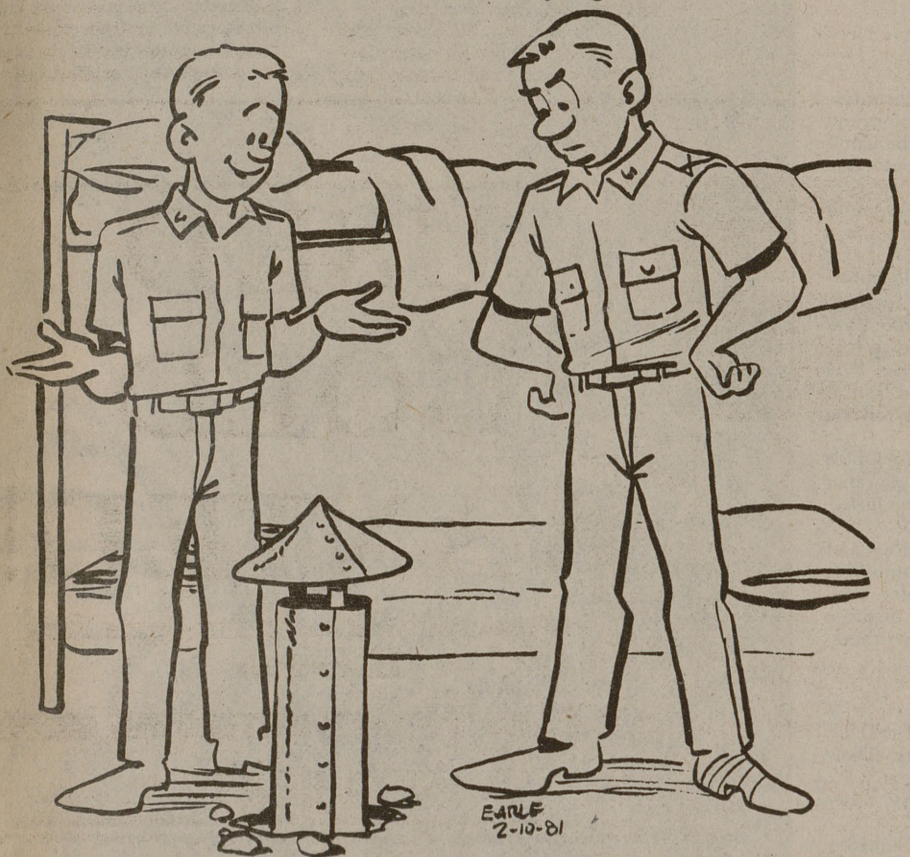
VIEWPOINT

THE BATTALION
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

TUESDAY
FEBRUARY 10, 1981

Slouch

By Jim Earle



"The guys downstairs are putting in a fireplace and I figured you wouldn't mind, so I let them."

Unparalleled growth facing American West

By DAVID S. BRODER

SALT LAKE CITY — Utah Gov. Scott M. Matheson is in an unusual — even unique — position. In 1980, he was the only incumbent Democrat re-elected to a governorship west of the Mississippi. Five others who tried were defeated. In a state which has become a Republican power center, with two major Senate committee chairmanships, a Cabinet seat, and the chairmanship of the Republican National Committee, Matheson is the only Democrat remaining in statewide or federal elective office.

He won a second term in 1980 with 55 percent of the vote, while Ronald Reagan was taking 73 percent in the presidential race. Among the 104 members of the state legislature, only 24 are Democrats.

Matheson, a quiet man of 52 who spent most of his adult life as a corporate lawyer, commands respect in this increasingly Republican state region, not only as a political survivor, but as a leader on regional issues.

He and Nevada Gov. Robert F. List (R) are going to Washington together to try to persuade Reagan's secretaries of energy, interior and defense to create a joint task force with western governors on the challenge now facing the Intermountain West.

That challenge is coping with the dramatic transformation this arid and underpopulated region faces in the next 10 years as it becomes the center of a new defense technology and energy industry.

The region's resources of coal, oil, gas, tar sands, uranium and oil shale are bringing in a tidal wave of investment and development that threatens to engulf an area with only 13 percent of the country's water and 5 percent of its population.

No one sees any way to halt the oncoming assault, and the promise of jobs and profits and growth is tantalizing to many. An insurance agent in Grand Junction, Colo., the center of the oil-shale development, says, "I don't sell policies anymore; I just write up the business that comes in."

But local governments do not have it so easy. Mayor Jane Quimby of Grand Junction, which has just passed a \$23 million bond issue for its expanding school needs, says the front-end capital costs for the four-county oil-shale development area far exceed the resources available to its governments. A survey of those needs totaled \$350 million, the mayor says, seven times the amount available in the oil-shale trust fund the state has set up for the four counties. Demands on the separate severance

tax fund run 10 times the \$20 million annual yield.

Democrats like Matheson and Quimby are not critical of the corporations moving into their region. Matheson says he has had "good cooperation" from "20 or 30 really big, well-capitalized companies that are licking their chops over us and will probably turn dirt on their Utah projects in the next two years."

But the impact of that development on the air and water, the land, the people and the communities of the West is more than the states can cope with by themselves. "Two-thirds of Utah's land is owned by the federal government," Matheson says. "We can't get enough from our tax base to provide the infrastructure that we need." So the states are looking to the federal government for help.

Matheson expects the legislature to scuttle his modest growth-management program. The legislature is bent on continuing a property-tax rebate program and instituting local tax caps in a time of burgeoning school population and severe restraints on school funding.

Its attitude toward Washington was evidenced by a vote in the state senate a few days ago denying Salt Lake County the authority to institute an auto-emission inspection program demanded by the Environmental Protection Agency as a condition for continuing \$152 million in federal aid for air-pollution abatement. Despite the fact that the valley has suffered under a pollution-breeding inversion this winter, the legislature balked at what one member called the "blackmail" attempt by EPA.

This kind of parochialism is not uncommon here. Salt Lake City is the headquarters of a new political-action group called LASER (League For the Advancement of States Equal Rights). It is headed by John L. Harmer, who was, for a time, Reagan's lieutenant governor in California. The group is promoting the "Sagebrush Rebellion," the call for a state takeover of the vast federal public lands. Reagan sent LASER's post-election convention a telegram saying, "Count me in as a rebel."

Secretary of Interior James G. Watt has asserted that "good neighbor" cooperation can eliminate the radical reaction represented by LASER and the Sagebrush Rebellion. Matheson, who testified as a Democrat in support of Watt's controversial nomination, agrees. But Ronald Reagan's administration faces a major test in devising policies that assure development without ruin for the region that so strongly supported his election.

The business of education

Sidebars

By Dillard Stone

tion company executive, a successful lawyer and an oil operator.

There's nothing wrong with success; quite the contrary. In fact, success and managerial ability are often so related as to be indistinguishable.

The reasoning goes something like this: He's interested in his school, and he's successful in running his business, so he'd probably do a good job in running the school.

It's simple, and it makes sense. But it's not necessarily true.

Any business, including an educational institution, requires that its managers be versed in a confusing maze of rules, regulations and specialized knowledge. Knowing the territory is essential, and until new appointees grasp the complexities of the job, their actions, however benevolently intended, could do more harm than good.

All of which brings us to the question: about placing an educator on the Board of Regents?

University and System executive officers well in advising the regents, but they're perched in two respects: 1) they are still advising the regents as though they were reporting to a boss and 2) there's always that neat little phrase, "I serve at the pleasure of the Board of Regents."

In other words, that gap still exists between the highest levels in the System bureaucracy and the regents.

Information from professional education should be delivered on an equal-to-equal basis, not from subordinate to superior.

Chancellor Frank W.R. Hubert's recent Conference on Quality in Teaching, assessed, among other things, what the System could do to improve teaching. The regents should consider what he could do to improve the representativeness on those boards that run universities.

Governing boards invariably administer education like a business; wouldn't it make sense to appoint someone to the board whose business was education?

MARNEY THE KILMORND NEWS LEADER. © BY CHICAGO TRIBUNE.



Wide open spaces in the Bronx?

Bury me not on the Eastern seaboard

By DICK WEST
United Press International

WASHINGTON — Walk out in the streets of nearly any Eastern city these days and you will see natives dressed in high-heeled boots, ranch-style hats and other lone prairie garments.

At first, the fashion known as Texas Chic was blamed on the influence of disco culture, Ronald Reagan and the movie "Urban Cowboy." But now there's a suspicion it may be a result of demographics.

Robert Orben, a professional speech-writer, puts it this way:

"According to the latest census, the country's population is shifting to the South and to the West. It's only a question of time before people in Utah are going to be singing songs about the wide, open spaces — The Bronx."

I can see it all now — a saga that one day will be published under the title "The Winning of the East."

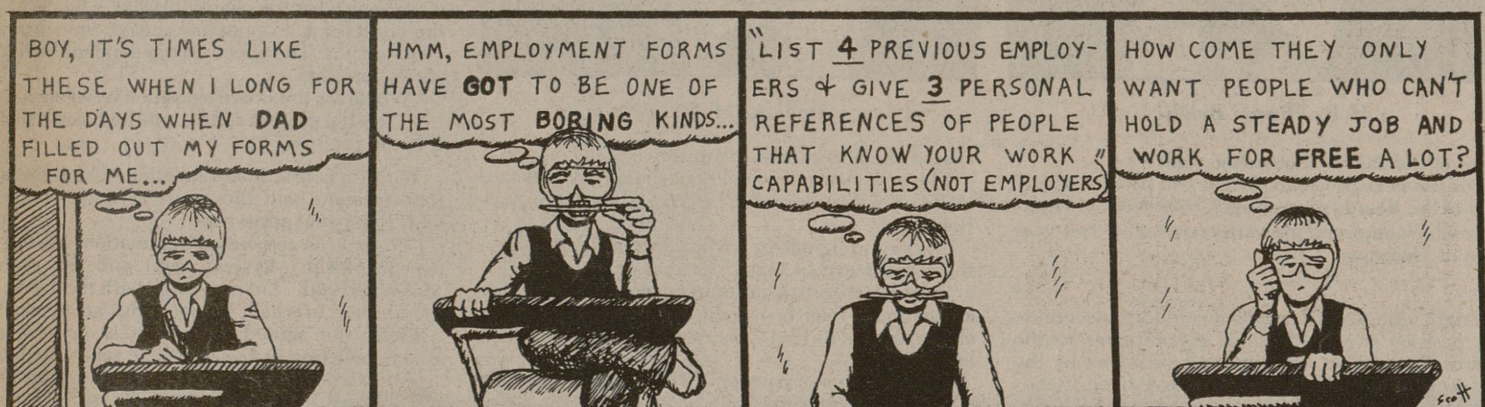
Pittsburgh will again be on the frontier, only this time the hardy pioneers will be headed in the opposite direction.

Eastern-style justice will be dispensed by self-proclaimed judges who set themselves up as "the law East of the Monongahela."

There will be a new style of music called "country-eastern" featuring such ballads as "The Streets of Altoona."

By Scott McCullar

Warped



"As I walked out in the streets of Altoona, As I walked out in Altoona one day, I spied a young cowboy all dressed in designer blue jeans. His ranch had a ski lift and the foreman was gay."

On the site where Hackensack, N.J. now stands, buffalo will roam.

On the site where Buffalo, N.Y., now stands, hackens will sack and antelopes play.

What is now the right-of-way of the Long Island railroad will be a stagecoach route, with approximately the same travel time between stations.

The biggest event in what is left of Baltimore will be the annual round-up. Cattle will be driven to the Wilmington stockyards along the old I-95 trail.

Hollywood will be turning out movies called

"easterns." Each film will have the same plot: a struggle between cowmen and sheep over grazing rights on Three Mile Island.

Crime will be different, too. Where burglars and hold-ups now occur, there will be rustling and hold-ups.

On Saturday nights, highrollers will ride Atlantic City and whoop it up in the gambling halls, even as now. Only this time the die-folks who live there will hire a marshal to keep them quick on the trigger to clean up the town, make it a fit place for the pretty young marm who is arriving on the noon stage at Dodge City.

And some day they'll drive a Golden State near where Montpelier, Vt., now stands, mark completion of a trans-New England road.

Maybe we won't see all of this in our lifetime. Back Bay buckaroos, but as sure as there's Sunbelt, it's coming.

THE BATTALION

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