

VIEWPOINT

THE BATTALION
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

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Slouch

By Jim Earle



"I'll bet Harry Truman is turning over in his grave."

Congress not impressive

By STEVE GERSTEL
United Press International

WASHINGTON — President Reagan's high-powered recruiting team seems to have been little impressed with the crop of talent in Congress.

No president — in putting together his team — has relied heavily on the men and women who people the Senate and House.

But Reagan seems to have been even less enchanted than most predecessors.

To date, he has chosen only David Stockman, the 34-year-old, two-term House member from Michigan, for a top-level position.

Stockman, a fiscal conservative with a reputed talent for cutting and pruning, was picked to be the budget director — a Cabinet-level post and an influential one in a Reagan administration.

It may well be that Stockman will be the only member of Congress chosen for a position in the executive branch.

All the Cabinet and Cabinet-level slots have now been filled and members of Congress have never opted for anything less.

A sub-Cabinet post would be a step down in their careers and they have never evidenced any interest in long-term ap-

pointments to any of the commissions.

Although the Reagan selection process has been very much closed-door, it appears that the recruiting team did consider some others on Capitol Hill.

Sen. John Tower of Texas was under serious consideration as secretary of defense — the sort of position any former Navy enlisted man would cherish.

Tower reportedly was dropped after Reagan was reminded that the Republican margin in the Senate is relatively small and the GOP could conceivably have lost the Texas seat to the Democrats in a special election.

And Sen. Henry Jackson of Washington, a Democrat, who seemingly is considered by every incoming president, was mentioned for defense or state. That, however, fizzled early in the selection process.

If there were others — and there certainly must have been — the speculation was kept secret.

That way, a member of Congress is denied the glory of being considered in public, but also saved from the embarrassment of being turned down.

Former President Jimmy Carter, more of a Washington outsider than Reagan, did

better by Congress.

For his original Cabinet, he picked the members of the House — Robert Bergland for agriculture, Brock Adams for transportation and Andrew Young for the United Nations.

Reagan has done somewhat better by former members of Congress.

Sen. Richard Schweiker of Pennsylvania who decided not to seek re-election, was rescued from certain obscurity when Reagan named him secretary of health, education and human services.

And two senators who were defeated — Jacob Javits of New York and Richard Stone of Florida — are reported in line for appointment.

Javits, once considered a possibility for U.N. ambassador, may wind up with an ambassadorship — possibly to Israel, perhaps a Western European capital.

Stone, a Democrat, could wind up in the State Department, perhaps as an assistant secretary for Latin American affairs.

Carter's most popular appointment to Capitol Hill in 1977 was the naming of retired Senate Democratic leader Mike Mansfield as ambassador to Japan.

Not to be outdone, Reagan has asked Mansfield to stay on the job in Tokyo.

Military chaplaincies undergoing changes

By DAVID E. ANDERSON
United Press International

The military chaplaincy has changed radically since World War II and the Korean War, according to a Jewish official who oversees that faith's chaplains.

"The old concept of 'hatch, match and dispatch' — bris, marriage and leviva or what Christians call baptism, marriage and funeral — is all over," according to Rabbi Joseph B. Messing.

Messing, the first U.S. Army Jewish chaplain to remain on active duty for 30 years, currently serves in dual roles as director of the Jewish Welfare Board's Armed Forces and Veterans Services and as director of the JWB's Commission on Jewish Chaplaincy.

"The old concept of the chaplain, one that prevailed through the Korean War, was life cycle responsibilities — taking care of the liturgical requirements," Messing said.

"Since that time the chaplaincy has assumed a new maturity and has become more than just a liturgically oriented organization," he said.

"To begin with," he said, "we began giving chaplains training on the various branches of the armed forces they were working for. This prevented their working in a vacuum. Chaplains must understand the workings of the military branch they serve to be an integrated part of it," he said.

As one example of the training, Messing said he was sent to the University of Washington to study political science, specializing in Soviet-American relations in order to teach the subject within the military setting.

In the 1960s, he said, the broadening of the chaplain's duties matured even further. "He was still a deliverer of a liturgical system," Messing said, "but also of a counseling system and of an education system.

He began having an impact on the total ethical climate of the service."

In many respects, the changing role of the chaplain reflects both changes in society at large as well as changes in the nature of the armed forces.

Messing cited the establishment of the Family Life Center at Fort Bliss as an example.

"This center took into account all of the aspects of family crisis, including marital difficulties, sibling-parent rivalries, sibling-sibling rivalries, drugs and alcohol and other maladjustments," he said.

"This was not only a crisis center for personnel but an education and preventive center as well," he said. "We used trained chaplains in the field of political and pastoral education, drug and alcohol abuse, marital problems. It was a total service system designed not only to meet emergencies but to educate the service family."

The change from the draft to the volunteer Army has also had an impact on the chaplain's role, Messing said.

"We find today that we have a large number of married personnel," he said. "And not only that, but we also have larger numbers of single parent families, both male and female."

In addition, he said, the armed forces are increasingly operating on the basis of a 40-hour work week at some bases, raising the question of what happens to the end of the week chapel program.

"If the soldier has any means at all, he's gone for the weekend," Messing said.

"Therefore, if you want to reach the single man or woman, mid-week programming is a very important item."

"To a large extent," Messing said, "the responsibilities of the chaplain are becoming more and more the same as those of any other clergy in a church or synagogue."

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Unconventional crooks on the loose

Guilty: Carrying a concealed face

By DICK WEST
United Press International

WASHINGTON — Not only is the crime rate rising again at an alarming rate, this time the upswing is accompanied by an ominous trend in modus operandi.

Many felons apparently no longer operate in the conventional manner. At least three times in this area recently, holdup men have slipped onto the tops of elevators, stopped the cars between floors, opened emergency hatches and robbed the passengers.

Coincident with this innovation has been a rash of dental office holdups — gunmen invading the premises and robbing patients, receptionists, dentists, hygienists and all.

If I may point out the obvious, a visit to the dentist is a bleak enough experience without having one's purse or wallet lifted by intruders who don't even have appointments.

I say any lawbreakers convicted of such an offense should be sentenced to weekly root canals until convinced that crime doesn't pay.

Perhaps the most disturbing new twist took place in a suburban bank which was

robbed by two armed men wearing gorilla masks.

Here we have a sinister break with the orthodox technique of wearing ski masks while knocking over banks.

The modern era of bank robbery may be said to have begun when chemistry gave the world the nylon stocking.

I don't mean that brigands started robbing banks in drag or anything like that. Transvestitism is still only a minor part of the bank robbery picture. What happened was that robbers discovered they could distort their facial features by pulling nylon stockings over their heads.

The first appearance of nylons worn on the head rather than the leg started a crime style that is still in vogue in some circles.

Nevertheless, some robbers had trouble adjusting psychologically to this disguise.

Even though nylons over their faces prevented them from being recognized, they still felt conspicuous. For them, the ski mask proved a more satisfactory disguise.

Skiing had become a very "in" sport. Wearing ski masks gave hold-up men, many of whom were social outcasts, a sense of being "with it" even though otherwise alienated from the mainstream.

It must be said, however, that this stagem was beginning to wear thin.

Some robbers took to wearing ski masks during the summer. Which was a bit odd as well as a tipoff that they were up to something fishy.

Nowadays, as a result of such gauche behavior entering a bank in a ski mask automatically starts fingers reaching for the alarm button.

Warped



By Scott McCullar

THE BATTALION

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