

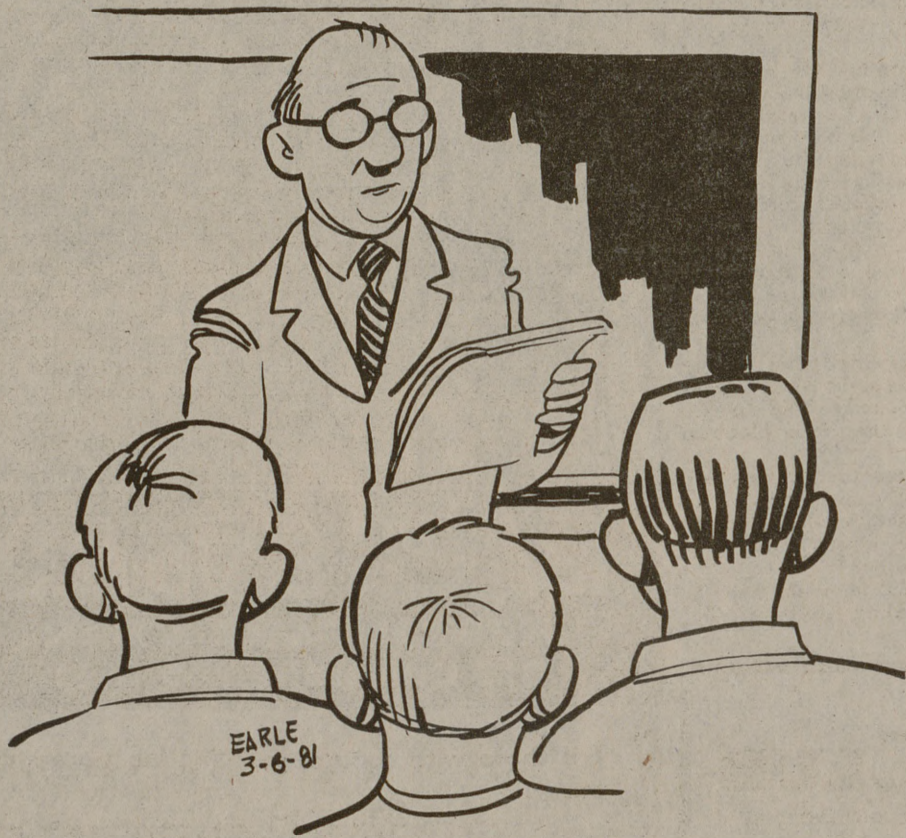
VIEWPOINT

THE BATTALION
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

FRIDAY
MARCH 6, 1981

Slouch

By Jim Earle



"It appears that your midsemester grades will arrive at your parents' about the time you get home for spring break, and I'm sorry."

Dems change name of their last president

By DAVID S. BRODER

WASHINGTON — Some time in the last 30 days, the name of the 39th President of the United States has been changed from Jimmy Carter to Difficult Circumstances.

That fact became apparent when Walter F. Mondale appeared at the reorganization meeting of the Democratic National Committee. He managed, in the course of his remarks, to omit uttering the name of the President for whom he and all his listeners had campaigned, oh so recently.

When it came time for him to praise retiring DNC chairman, John C. White, Mondale said only that his old friend and ally had been chairman under "Difficult Circumstances."

How difficult the circumstances were for the Democratic Party under Carter was starkly displayed in an independent financial audit that pro-Kennedy members of the Party's executive committee insisted on having made after the election.

It showed, among other things, that the Democratic National committee received almost \$1 million less in small direct-mail contributions in 1980 than it had in 1976, when Jerry Ford was in the White House. It showed the party spent about \$800,000 more in 1980 than in 1976 in direct support of the presidential campaign, but only half as much on voter registration. It also showed the Democratic National Committee paid out more money for Patrick Caddell's polls for the presidential campaign than it contributed to all the other Democrats running for office in 1980.

It is that sort of pattern that explains Senate Minority Leader Robert C. Byrd's (D-W.Va.) caustic comment to the DNC meeting that "never again must the DNC become the adjunct of the Committee to Re-elect the President."

The implicit comparison to Richard Nixon's "Creep" did not escape anyone — and that is about as cruel a jibe as any Democrat can take at another.

But Byrd is not alone in his belief that Carter was largely to blame for last November's Democratic debacle. Many others in the states and in Congress blame Carter, not only for the weakness of his own candidacy but for his pre-emption of party re-

sources for his own doomed cause.

An effort has been made to soften the criticism. Les Francis, an able former National Education Assn. organizer who served in 1980 as executive director of the DNC, put together a lengthy memo to White, attempting to refute the "negative criticisms" of the committee's work.

The memo concedes at the outset that the DNC has been hobbled by the "horrendous debt" still carried over from the 1968 campaign. Actually, that debt was cut by two-thirds to about \$800,000 during the past four years.

It observes that "for a variety of reasons, neither the Democratic administration nor the Democratic Congress paid sufficient attention to the DNC in recent years."

It notes that the prolonged nomination fight between Carter and Ted Kennedy sapped the party's energy and its fund-raising ability. But then, Francis argues, that under the circumstances, the DNC really did quite well.

His evidence is curious. The political targeting program under Chris Brown, he says, "unfortunately performed flawlessly." Carter carried exactly as few states as Brown had predicted he would.

He notes that many basic organizational programs, with long lead-times for effective payoff, were begun only in May or June of last year. He noted that the heads of major committee staff functions found themselves in the closing weeks of the campaign working for Carter in Santa Clara County, Calif., in Rochester, or in South Carolina.

But he does not make a point of the most telling single fact of all about the relationship between the Democratic National Committee and Jimmy Carter.

It is simply that the man who was making this defense of the DNC, Executive Director Francis, was himself pulled out of his party job to fill in at the Carter campaign committee when Field Director Tim Kraft was sidelined by the investigation of his alleged drug use.

The freedom that Carter felt to take whatever or whoever he needed from the Democratic Party — and not put much back in — is why his name in party circles is "Difficult Circumstances."

Crossover primary: Gone at last

By CLAY F. RICHARDS
United Press International

WASHINGTON (UPI) — The Supreme Court has ruled unconstitutional the crossover primary — that political boondoggle that contributed to keeping Edmund Muskie, Morris Udall and Sen. Edward Kennedy out of the White House.

The crossover or "open" primary allowed any registered voter — Republican, Democrat or independent — to vote in any primary he chooses, regardless of party affiliation. It was not widely used, but often wound up playing a significant role in Michigan, Wisconsin and California.

William Safire, in his "Political Dictionary," describes the crossover primary this way:

"The crossover theory holds that the crossover voter is fickle, or mischievous, or only interested in voting in the more hotly contested primary, and intends to come 'home' to the party in which he is registered later in the general election."

Probably the biggest beneficiary of the

crossover primary was George Wallace in 1972. He won the Michigan Democratic primary overwhelmingly, establishing himself as more than a Southern candidate.

Polls later showed thousands of Republicans crossed over to vote for Wallace.

The Wallace victory further weakened the candidacies of Sens. Hubert Humphrey and Edmund Muskie — thus clearing the way for the nomination of Sen. George McGovern, probably the weakest Democrat in the field.

In 1976, President Gerald Ford and Ronald Reagan battled neck and neck for the nomination and California Republicans worked under the unit rule, meaning the entire state delegation would go to the winner.

Initially, it did not seem surprising that Reagan, running in his home state, beat Ford overwhelmingly. But a subsequent New York Times poll showed Reagan and Ford dead even among Republicans who voted and that conservatives — indepen-

dent and Democrat — crossed over to Reagan the victory.

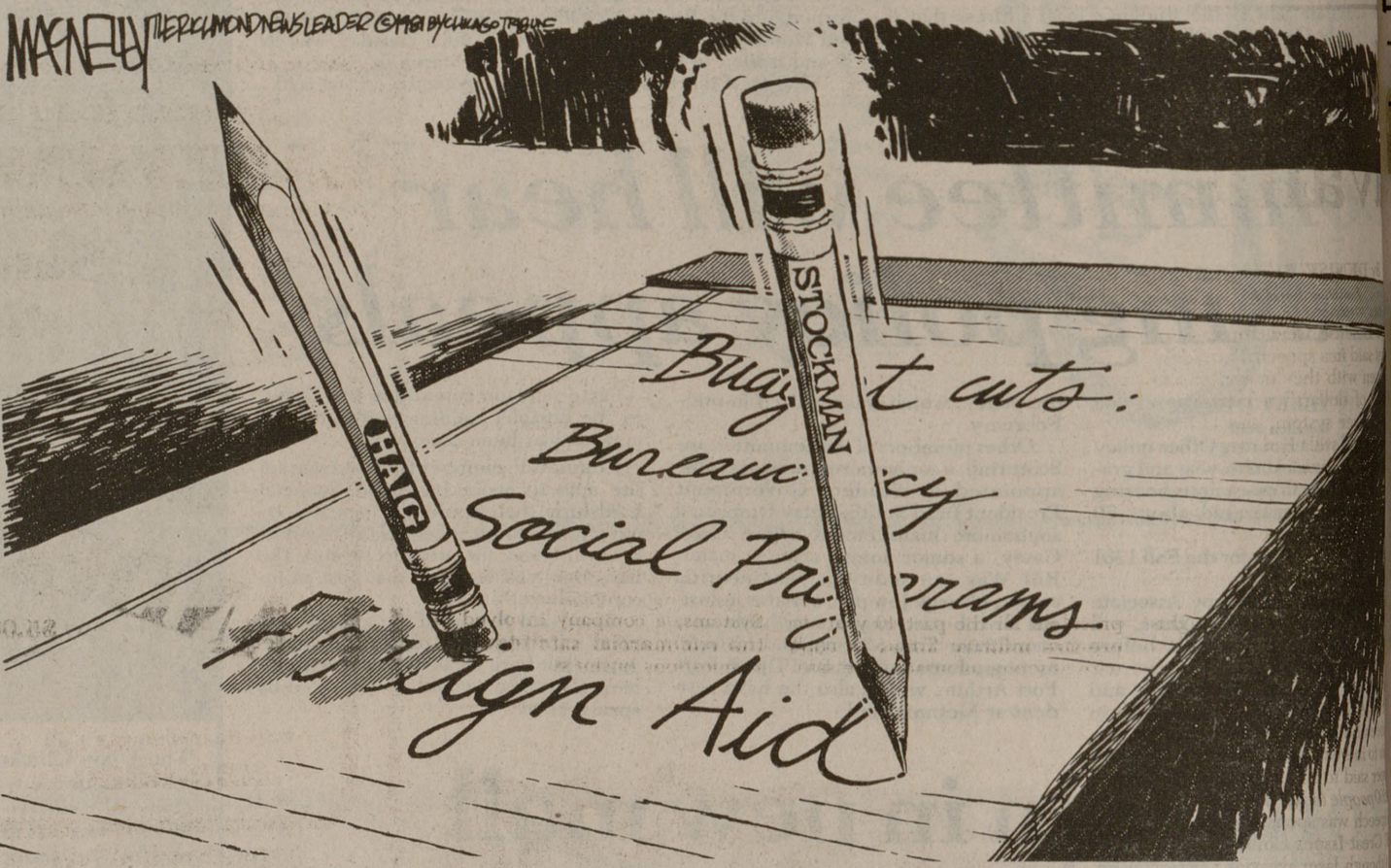
Also in 1976, Rep. Morris Udall lost both the Michigan and Wisconsin primary to Jimmy Carter. The crossover probably worked both ways, but there is indication conservatives voted for Udall.

If Udall had won either primary it would have been the first step toward stopping Carter steamroller in April and early May. As it was, Carter didn't begin to lose marries until late May and that was too late.

In 1980, Wisconsin continued its Democratic Party rules and held the primary that led to the Supreme Court decision.

It turned out to be a wild free-for-all, only because of the Democratic battle between Carter and Kennedy, but because that time John Anderson was still on ballot in the Republican contest.

But the crossover did not work as conservatives and liberals in both parties came home to decide the tight races in their party.



It's your turn

Senate gets laughs for Traditions 101

Editor: Congratulations student senate! Out of all the Aggie jokes I have ever suffered through, the one told at Wednesday night's meeting was tops! ... Traditions 101, ha-ha! This is a joke isn't it? But hey, why stop there? Why not:

Beginning Quading 201
Introductory Yells 103
or Bryan-College Station History 104

Any of these courses, combined with Traditions 101, will surely encourage hordes of National Merit Scholars and maybe a few Rhodes Scholars as well. Congratulations again senate for spending precious time and money on such a noble and nationally crucial issue.

Danny Evatt '81

Where's 'Howdy'?

Editor: What has happened to "Howdy"? This morning I walked from my home, just a block off campus, to the Rudder building. It was just before 9 a.m.

I met many students, including some in the Corps.

I said "Howdy" to each and every one. Some seemed not to hear. And those that did said "Hi."

It has been six to eight months since I've walked on campus. At that time there were "Howdy" responses.

I sure did miss it — and I sure do hope that this is not to be a trend.

By Scott McCullar

Warped

AN APPEAL: TO THE PEOPLE WHO GREW UP WATCHING WALT DISNEY ON TV. AS PART OF THE COLLEGE TV MARKET YOURS IS AN IMPORTANT VOICE IN KEEPING A QUALITY ENTERTAINMENT PROGRAM ON THE AIR FOR AN IMPORTANT REASON OF THE FUTURE: THE CHILDREN.

HELP MAKE THIS STRIP USEFUL FOR A CHANGE; CUT OUT THE LAST 2 PANELS AND PUT THEM IN AN ENVELOPE. (DO NOT MENTION DISNEY ON THE OUTSIDE. THESE GET TOSSED OR FILED AWAY) AND SEND TO: CBS INC. NETWORK PROGRAMMING DEPT. 52 W. 52 ST. N.Y., N.Y. 10019

TO THE CBS NETWORK PROGRAMMING DIRECTORS: AS A STUDENT AT TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY I SUPPORT YOUR DECISION TO AIR "THE WONDERFUL WORLD OF DISNEY," AND REQUEST IT BE SHOWN ON A WEEKLY BASIS IN A SUITABLE TIME SLOT. I BELIEVE THAT TELEVISION IS CAPABLE OF QUALITY ENTERTAINMENT AT TIMES AND CONSIDER THE WALT DISNEY PROGRAM A FINE EXAMPLE OF ENJOYABLE, EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMING, TO THE BENEFIT OF PRESENT FAMILIES AND FUTURE CHILDREN. THANK YOU, (WHEN YOUR HEART IS IN YOUR DREAMS, NO REQUEST IS TOO EXTREME)

Maybe A&M is getting too big and some students don't know about "Howdy." Please — What can you do about it? "Howdy" is as traditional as the "Twelfth Man."

Betty Dean

Summer jobs

Editor: I would like to correct an error that appeared in Friday's Battalion article about the Student Government "Summer Jobs Program." It was stated that the campus Placement Center is not very active in finding summer work for students. This is not true. An estimated 500 students found summer work through the center last year. During the past semester alone, over 200 companies were interested in interviewing prospective summer employees.

Student Government wishes to complement this Placement Center's service by attracting jobs in companies that normally do not conduct interviews here (i.e. the firms of former students.) Through coopera-

tion between Student Government and Placement Center, we hope to get Aggies with the best possible service.

Students interested in summer work should check these areas:

1. The "Summer Jobs" binder in Placement Center's library.
2. The "Pink Sheets" in the Placement Center (for regular employers who need summer help.)
3. The "Summer Jobs Program" in the Student Government office, beginning April 13.

Roger McConnell

Two Rays

Editor's note: The presence of two people with the same names in the area causes some unintentional and undue harassment for one of those people Thursday.

Kenny Ray, a junior in Company E, is not the same Kenny Ray who submitted a letter criticizing yell leaders in Thursday's Battalion. The Kenny Ray who submitted the letter lives off campus.

THE BATTALION

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The Battalion also serves as a laboratory newspaper for students in reporting, editing and photography classes within the Department of Communications. Questions or comments concerning any editorial matter should be directed to the editor.

LETTERS POLICY

Letters to the Editor should not exceed 350 words in length, and are subject to being cut if they are longer. Editorial staff reserves the right to edit letters for style and length, but will make every effort to maintain the author's intent. Each letter must also be signed, show the address and phone number of the writer.

Columns and guest editorials are also welcome, and not subject to the same length constraints as letters. Address all inquiries and correspondence to: Editor, The Battalion, 216 Reed McDonald, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX 77843.

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