

VIEWPOINT

THE BATTALION
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

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Slouch By Jim Earle



"With postage rates as high as they are, she must really love me!"

Ted persists after Reagan budget cuts

By DAVID S. BRODER

WASHINGTON — For more than a week, he had been on the Senate floor, working doggedly in what he knew to be a doomed cause — opposing the budget cuts of President Reagan. And now, Sen. Edward M. Kennedy eased his back in an armchair in his Capitol hideaway office and, in a flat, resigned tone, began his litany.

"This is the beginning of a very important process in which these issues of human concern were raised," he said. "These particular amendments have not been successful, but I believe these issues require attention.... And the case that was made in the course of this debate will be made again in the course of this Congress, and, hopefully, when the American people begin to understand the full impact of the direction the administration is moving, they'll begin to listen... to what we've been saying."

For the second straight spring, Ted Kennedy is challenging a president he knows to be invulnerable to his arguments, raising issues that most other Democrats have abandoned as outdated or unwise. In 1980, it was Jimmy Carter who brushed aside Kennedy's opposition; now, with even less strain, it is Ronald Reagan.

Call it stubbornness or courage, hardiness or hard headedness, Kennedy's persistence is remarkable. In the honeymoon period that preceded Reagan's shooting, when most Democrats walked a careful circle around the obviously popular new president, Kennedy — if not picking fights — certainly found frequent reason for head-on challenge.

The budget issues — particularly his favorite health, nutrition, education and energy-assistance programs — provided most of the ammunition. But Kennedy's eyes roamed the horizon, singling out areas of disagreement he could spotlight in the florid prose of his Madison Square Garden speech to the Democratic National Convention.

Although he is not a member of the foreign relations or armed services committees, Kennedy strongly challenged the new administration's decisions to send military aid and advisers to El Salvador, to provide sophisticated arms for Saudi Arabia, to slow down arms-control talks with the Soviet Union and to increase contacts with South Africa.

"I believe," he said last month, "Ronald

Reagan is wrong on El Salvador, wrong on nuclear arms control, wrong on human rights and wrong on arms sales to Saudi Arabia...."

A day earlier, he rejected Reagan's tax-cut proposals and suggested an alternative plan that would direct most savings to low- and middle-income families by raising personal exemptions and standard deductions.

In a March speech to his home-state Democratic dinner, the Massachusetts senator wrapped all this in partisan rhetoric and said that rather than repent their past policies and programs, Democrats should proclaim theirs "a record to be proud of."

He rejected, out of hand, the popular political clichés of the day: "Government spending is not in fact the whole, or even the major, cause of inflation," he said.

Over the years, one has learned that Kennedy off the stump is often less dogmatic and ideological than he sounds on the stump. But not this year. When I asked him in his office if he was really sure — as he said in his speeches — that the Reagan economic program would flop, he said, "I hope for the good of the country it's successful, but I find it very difficult to believe it will be."

And then Kennedy offered a view of the 1980 election which not many people take today — a view which explains why he has told his political and financial backers that he wants to keep his options open on running for president in 1984 because he believes the country may be ready for him and his policies by then.

"I think," he said, "the American people voted on rather pragmatic ground in the last election, when the choice was four more years of the same policies — or change. People wanted a change. But if you draw much more from it than that, you misread the conclusions of the fall."

"I think," Kennedy said, straightening his back, "they're going to find that there are not these simple, easy answers they talked about to these complicated problems, and that is going to become apparent. And I'm going to try in whatever way I can to begin to show the way."

Wherever that way leads, one cannot say that Kennedy is hedging his bets. A year before he runs for re-election, he is about as far out on the anti-Reaganism limb as you can get.

Rolling on at the White House

By HELEN THOMAS
United Press International

WASHINGTON — It is expected to be weeks before President Reagan is back to par and doing a full-time job at the White House.

The attempted assassination of the president has slowed the momentum that he created when he entered office, and it will take some time to start it up again.

After the shooting last week, it seemed that the government was on hold. Federal officials went through the routine paces and carried on. But business as usual was more of a facade.

While many of the top-level jobs have now been filled, there are big gaps in personnel in some of the key Cabinet departments and agencies. None of them seem to be operating at the optimum with so much personnel still to come on board.

When his aides told Reagan that the government was functioning normally, he quipped to the effect, "What makes you think that would make me happy?"

His aides attempted to portray Reagan as a man who was "up and at 'em" the day after his grueling experience — a gunshot wound in the chest and surgery. Reagan signed a

bill and was given a short briefing on pressing global problems.

The government does in a sense run itself. At the White House, the "Big Three" — counselor Edwin Meese, chief of staff James Baker and deputy chief Michael Deaver — are firmly in command. They have carved out their jurisdictions and authority, and so far are working smoothly together.

Like other palace guards, they are protective of their own turf and any intruders. And while more subtle than in some past administrations, there is still the jockeying for position and power.

From what aides and his visitors say, Reagan is in "good spirits" and good humor. Although he is 70 years old, his physical fitness has stood him in good stead. His doctors say they seriously doubt that he will have a lay down after the reality of the vulnerability of public figures sets in.

As he recuperates, the soul searching begins anew. Can a president be protected in public? What new security measures can be taken to prevent such aberrations in the future? Did everyone do everything right the first time around?

Several studies are under way. The White House is conducting a review of the

events and looking for recommendations enhancing security, and yet at the time keeping Reagan upfront, and yet at the helm.

The Secret Service is making its inquiry, and it will be several weeks before findings are disclosed. The FBI also investigation under way and has questioned Reagan.

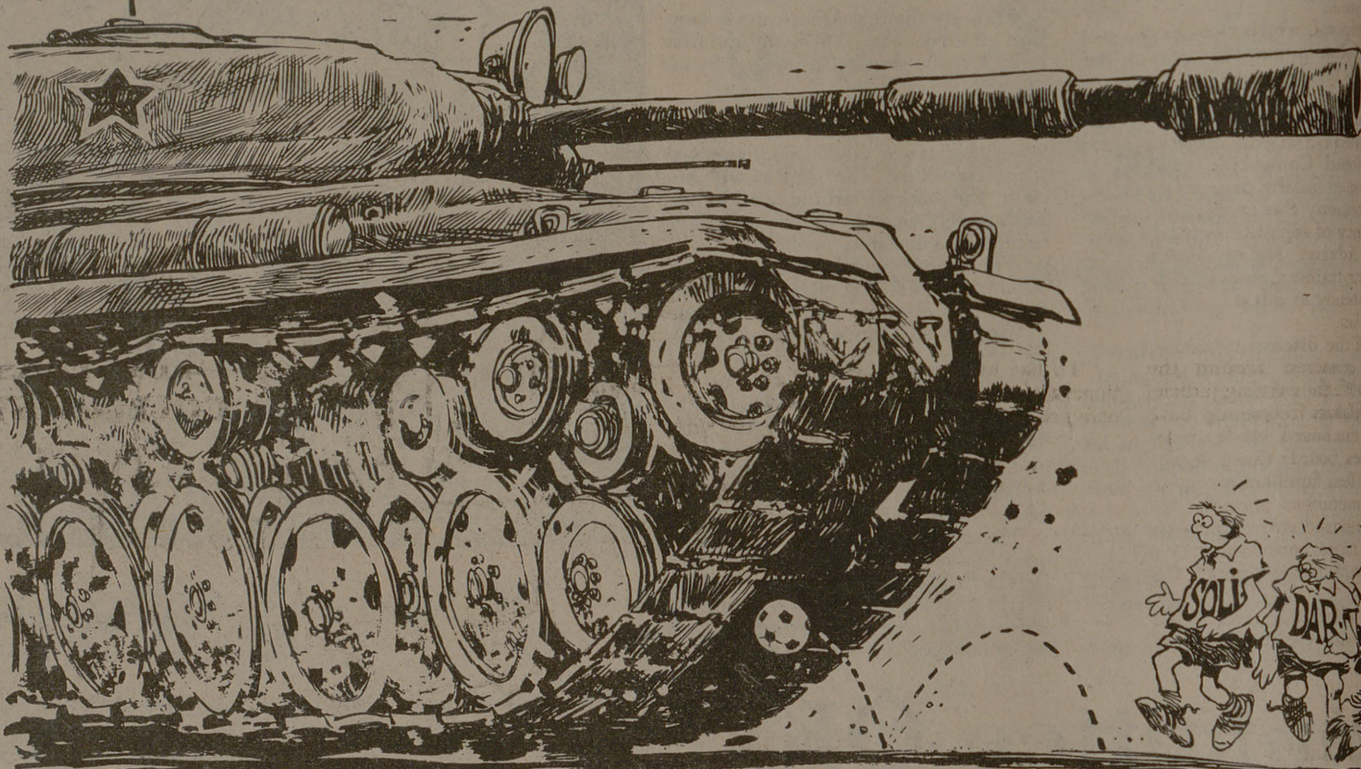
Whether Reagan is willing to change lifestyle from an outgoing person, to joys being in crowds, remains to be seen.

His aides say his convalescence will place at the White House. His physician, Dr. Daniel Ruge, will be constantly on hand as well as the nursing staff.

The aides also are saying that Reagan scrub his trip to California at the end of month when he was to participate in a fundraiser in Los Angeles and to meet with San Diego-Tijuana border.

Undoubtedly he will make greater television to keep in touch with the American people, a communications medium which he excels. His first address later this month to rally supporters to tax cut proposals and his plans for economic recovery.

MURPHY THE BURNING LEADER © 1981 BY CHICAGO TRIBUNE



It's your turn

Leaving dog was an indecent act

Editor:

Yesterday, while stopped at a red light on College Main and College Avenue, I noticed a girl and a buff colored cocker spaniel in the parking lot of Tri-State Sporting Goods. As I watched her try to put the dog out of the Bronco her friend (?) was driving, I sympathized with her for having an ill-behaved dog. My sympathy turned to sheer rage when, after throwing (literally) the dog out the second time, it became apparent that she was abandoning that defenseless young dog at a busy city intersection. If that wasn't enough, she then threw large rocks at the dog to keep it back while she got in the Bronco and slammed the door. The three girls tore out through a red light, with the dog running down the middle of College Avenue yelping and trying to catch up to the owners he obviously loved and depended on. Glancing in my rear view mirror while trying to catch the black/silver Ford Bronco, I noticed that the dog was still running down the street with no regard for the traffic, thinking only about catching his owners.

As far as the people who left the dog, including the driver and other passenger, are concerned, there are no words to de-

scribe how cruel and insensitive you are. If you had any shred of decency, you would have at least tried to find a home for him instead of leaving him in the middle of a busy intersection. I know you go to A&M because I saw the parking sticker on your car, but you are no Aggie. Such insensitivity and heartlessness deserves much harsher punishment than you will receive. I don't expect you to regret what you've done because of this letter — I only want your comrades to know that you, the driver of a black/silver Bronco with the license plate WTB 139 are so shallow a human (and I use the word very loosely) that you could practically kill a dog yourself and drive off laughing about it. Now, many fellow students will recognize your car on the streets, and will know what kind of person you are.

Don't be surprised at the number of sincere go to hell looks you get...

Lisa Ott '81

Quote shocks, disgusts

Editor:

I am shocked and disgusted by the article from a student in an article in your 31 edition. The article concerned the serious reactions to the shooting of the student and his associates. One unidentified student started off talking about the year "course." Then he said that he didn't like Reagan, but didn't like Bush either. He guessed he hoped that Reagan would make it. To you, unidentified student.

I think you must be sick! You guess hope he makes it." How magnanimous you, I hope if you are seriously injured someday, that people pray for you. I need it. I hope you were not serious when you made that comment in the paper. If you were, you've got a lot to learn about being human and humane.

Dick Record
Rees Lawrence
Larry Patman

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