

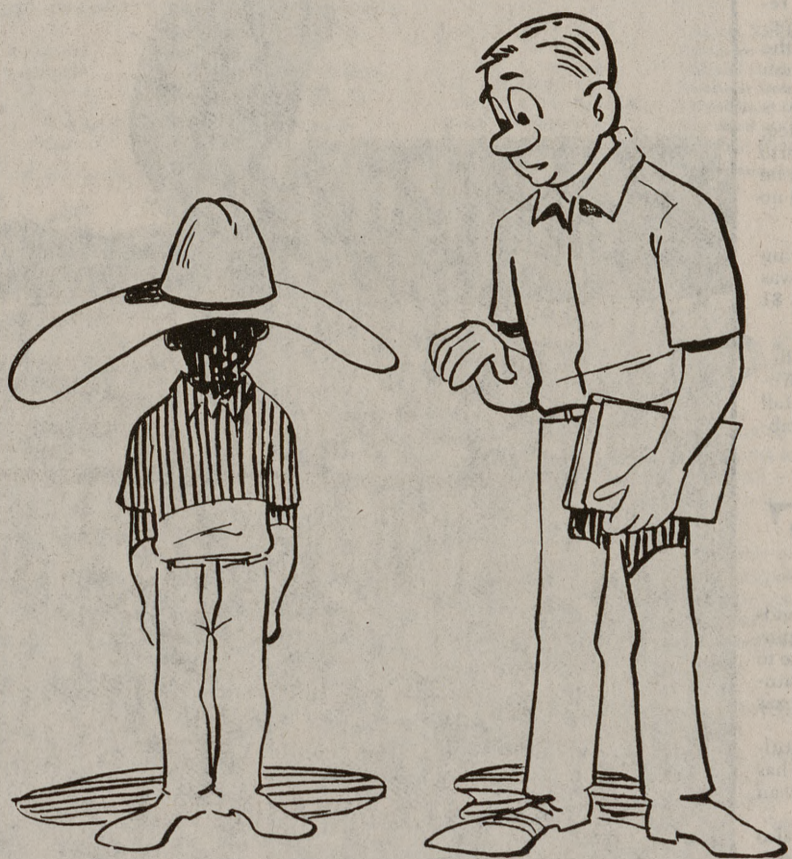
VIEWPOINT

THE BATTALION
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

WEDNESDAY
MAY 20, 1981

Slouch

By Jim Earle



"I believe you've solved the sun problem, Squirt!"

Pentagon lacks imagination

By STEVE GERSTEL
United Press International

WASHINGTON — President Reagan's military budget swept through the Senate unscathed and untouched, leaving the impression that the document was without a flaw.

The vote was 92-1, a margin reserved for times of war (except Vietnam) or the older days when matters of the military underwent only cursory scrutiny in the Senate.

Sen. Mark Hatfield of Oregon, the lone dissenter, issued a statement decrying the cost (136.5 billion) of the bill.

And there was the predictable grumbling about waste, costs and the failure of NATO allies to do their share.

Overall, however, there seemed to be genuine agreement that the Pentagon needs all the hardware the legislation authorized.

And hardware there is: the MX missile system, a new manned bomber, a pair of battleships, a nuclear carrier, cruisers and all sorts of planes and tanks — enough to make any general or admiral happy.

And the debate — what there was of it — centered on these weapons and weapons

systems, as it always does.

So, it was not surprising that a speech by Sen. Gary Hart, D-Colo., made its way into posterity with almost no notice.

For those who still insist on remembering that Hart was campaign manager of George McGovern's ill-fated presidential peace campaign, it is well to note that since coming to the Senate, he has become a voice worth heeding in the arena of military affairs.

In effect, what Hart told the Senate was that the time has arrived when the military debate must shift from the "more-is-better vs. less-is-better" theme to one dealing with "what history suggests is important to winning wars" and the "art of war itself."

Hart found a lack of this reasoning the "great deficiency" in the bill which he nevertheless supported.

He said it provided "more of the same: more of the same general kind of ships, planes and tanks we have been designing and buying for decades."

And Hart said, the bill again equates capability on the battlefield with kill probabilities derived from highly structured tests.

"In contrast," Hart said, "history suggests a few different characteristics might seek in the development of equipment."

Among the shifts Hart offered for consideration:

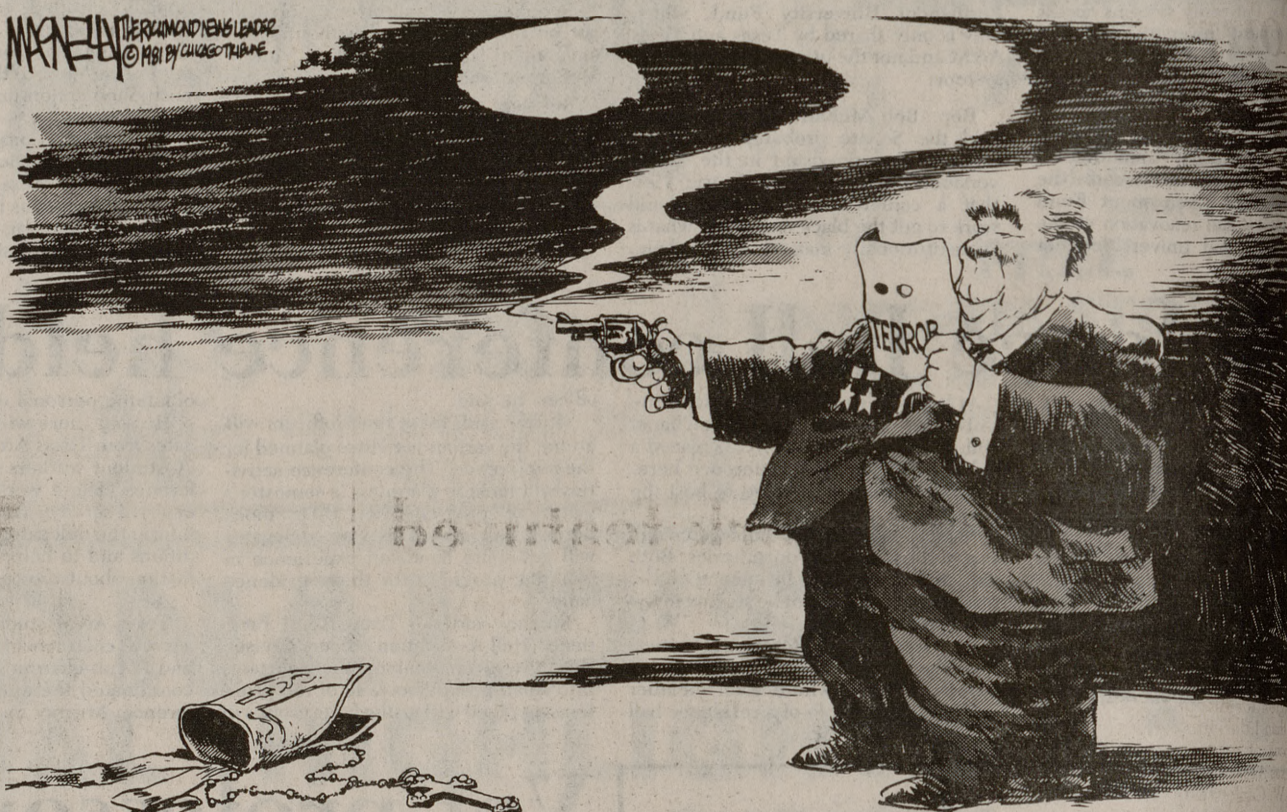
—Emphasis on a change in weapons creates a new situation for the enemy, said making a plane or tank 10 percent better than the previous one does not create great problems for the other side.

—Greater stress on quantity, even at expense of quality. Hart said that the men in World War II had the best planes and tanks but the United States Soviet Union had more.

—Accent on weapons that "win wars" and are not so dependent on maintenance.

Hart said the defense debate in Congress and the Pentagon has "simply failed to win wars."

The Colorado Democrat predicted, however, that the trend will shift in a decade and Congress will "focus on management, funding levels and on what the services want, and more on the war itself."



Reagan buying time on foreign policy

By HELEN THOMAS
United Press International

WASHINGTON — President Reagan managed to keep his domestic program of massive federal spending cuts on center stage, but in the foreign policy field he is still feeling his way.

The policy so far has been marked by ambiguities and contradictions with no apparent overall direction. A hard line vis-a-vis the Soviets appears to be the hallmark, but even that seems vulnerable to other pragmatic requirements.

Reagan's overall goal was to wipe out any perception of U.S. weakness in the world. One of the first moves was to make it clear that human rights is no longer a major consideration in foreign policy as it had been in the Carter administration.

After talking tough to the Soviets for some three months, Reagan carried out a campaign promise and lifted the embargo on sales of grain to Russia that had been imposed by President Jimmy Carter after the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan.

Reporters pressed White House officials for a reason for the switch: What has changed, they asked, to cause the one pressure point against the Soviets to be eased?

A lessening of an immediate prospect of a Soviet invasion of Poland was cited as one of the reasons. But the most telling motivation was Reagan's campaign pledge to farmers to remove the embargo, and the administration's new farm bill that needed support on Capitol Hill.

Then there is El Salvador. At one point, the administration has focused so much attention of the civil strife in that small Caribbean country that it was being viewed as another potential Vietnam. But it is now on a back burner.

The administration's policy on nuclear arms control remains murky. White House counselor Edwin Meese recently said that

the United States is not bound legally or morally to the SALT I or SALT II pacts with the Soviets. SALT I has expired and SALT II was not ratified, but over the past 10 years the United States has said it would abide by the spirit of accords to limit super-power nuclear arsenals.

While Meese was making his statement, Secretary of State Alexander Haig was announcing in Rome that the United States will have talks with the Soviets later this year on the question of reducing medium range nuclear missiles in Europe — something that Soviet President Leonid Brezhnev ardently seeks.

Rowney was on the SALT II negotiating team under Carter. He denounced the pact, quit the team and lobbied strongly in the conservative camp to line up enough votes in the Senate to defeat it if it ever came to a vote.

During the campaign, Reagan described the nuclear arms accord as "fatally flawed" and claimed it put the United States at a strategic disadvantage.

As for the Middle East, the perennial tinderbox, Reagan is rising to a crisis situation with the old Kissingeresque shuttle diplomacy. He has sent veteran diplomat Philip Habib to Lebanon, Israel and Syria to try to enhance an uneasy truce.

Like all of his recent predecessors, Reagan has found that there are no easy answers to the problems in the Middle East. His decision to sell sophisticated radar planes and equipment to Saudi Arabia caused such an uproar from Israel and members of Congress, he has had to put off until next fall any move to win congressional approval.

The administration these days has a stock answer to most foreign policy problems: "It is under review."

The diplomatic translation means it is buying time and trying to figure out what to do.

Lovers make better joggers

By DICK WEST
United Press International

WASHINGTON — One of the most recent fitness surveys, of which America is blessed with great abundance, purports to show that jogging makes people better lovers.

Studies of this sort sometimes raise questions as well as spread enlightenment. This one started me to wondering whether the reverse also might be true — that is, whether loving makes people better joggers.

I don't have the facilities to do full blown scientific investigations. I did, however, research the question as best I could and my findings indicate there is indeed a correlation between improved jogging ability and an active love life.

Let someone be tempted to bestow a prize on this project, let me make clear at the outset that all of the joggers mentioned in the study are fragments.

If you lumped together parts of the case histories of four joggers to form a single entity, you would have a composite. What I did was take one jogger and split him into four case histories.

Some cases show how stepped-up loving makes better joggers. In others, the vice is versa.

First Case — H.R., 29, swizzle stick inspector. Subject was a lackadaisical jogger. So poor was his form he never once acquired blisters, bunions or strained tendons.

One evening, subject visited neighborhood massage parlor. He was smitten by an attractive female attendant, became a steady customer and eventually began sharing an apartment with her and two other girls.

Subject now has chronically cramped thigh muscles, torn knee cartilages, spavined ankles and collapsed metatarsal arches, and runs in marathons.

Second Case — J.L., 57, consultant. Subject started jogging several nights a week at the YMCA. Two laps were enough to have him panting and wheezing louder than other joggers on the track.

One night, subject's jogging aspirations were heard by Hollywood talent scout. Now subject has new career breathing on

sound tracks for X-rated movies.

Third Case — K.B., 38, punch line actor. Subject's wife left home, claiming that she and husband were athletically incompatible because of his tendency to fault during tennis games.

Subject began jogging in nearby park to kill the lonely hours.

One day, subject happened to jog on tennis court where estranged wife was playing. His sensuous stride filled her with overpowering emotions. Now there is of reconciliation.

Fourth Case — R.P., 23, doorbell man. Subject strongly desired to have a meaningful relationship with older woman considering girls his own age immature rather flighty.

Subject took up jogging and seemed to age overnight. Now has his pick of companions old enough to be his Auntriet.

Warped

By Scott McCullar



THE BATTALION

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