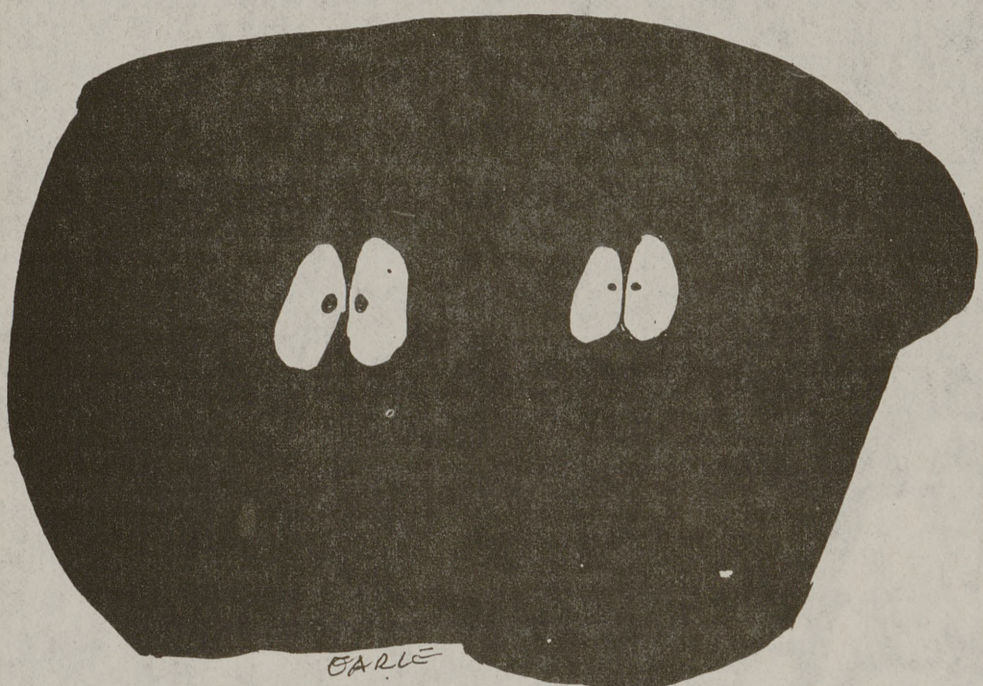


VIEWPOINT

THE BATTALION
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

WEDNESDAY
MAY 27, 1981

Slouch By Jim Earle



"I've heard of flour bombs and soap bombs, but this is my first encounter with a soot bomb."

'Bathroom agitators' are issue

By DICK WEST
United Press International

WASHINGTON — At some point this summer the National Labor Relations Board is expected to hand down yet another far-reaching decision.

This one reaches all the way down the hall to the men's room. The question before the board is:

Does suspicion that workers are holding union meetings in the men's room give supervisors the right to deny them access to the facilities?

The armed services, as is well known, have been dealing for years with certain militant types called "guardhouse lawyers." But NLRB sources tell me they believe this is the first labor-management case to raise the issue of "bathroom agitators."

Anyway, historic or not, an NLRB administrative law judge, Walter Maloney Jr., has ruled in the negative on the question posed above.

After a hearing last March in Brooklyn, Maloney held that "denying employees

bathroom privileges in reprisal for their union activities" amounts to an unfair labor practice.

But A.P.F. Electronics, Inc., the object of the complaint, has taken exception to some aspects of Maloney's findings, of which the water closet confrontations were only a part.

The company has appealed to the full board a Maloney order directing it, among other things, to "cease and desist" requiring union activists to cease and desist using the men's room.

Here is a digest of the hearing record prepared by Maloney:

Prior to negotiations on a new contract with the Textile Workers Union, shop manager Ronald Sartini "had occasion to speak" with two employees, Corso Palenzuela and Jesus Ibarra, "while they were in the men's room."

"He asked these employees if they were holding a union meeting and accused them of being agitators. He also told Ibarra not to use the bathroom or else he would be fired

and would receive an unfavorable reference."

Palenzuela testified that Patrick Gadar, assistant shop manager, "Frequently followed him to the bathroom, accused of holding meetings in the bathroom, threatened to fire him if he continued, so."

Subsequently, Callendar told Palenzuela "not to use the bathroom facilities after."

"While management has the union-tioned right to insist that employees working time to work, it cannot restrict certain non-work related activities employees, such as discussing springing work time, and single out other on-the-job conversations for censorship prohibition," Maloney wrote.

He therefore concluded that such tactics as "denying employees bathroom privileges because they have engaged in activities" have "close, intimate, adverse effect on the free flow of merce."

Reagan operating Roosevelt-style

By DAVID S. BRODER

WASHINGTON — One of the earmarks of the flexibility in the American system of government is its ability, at certain times, to deal with public questions in a logical, deliberative fashion and, at other times, to postpone those questions until what appear to be urgently needed actions are taken.

When President Truman proposed the Marshall Plan and the NATO treaty, Congress paused to consider and debate the implications of a permanent American commitment to the military security and economic prosperity of Western Europe. But when Presidents Roosevelt or Johnson were shoving through the measures that came to be called the New Deal or the Great Society, they did not ask Congress or the country to stop and weigh the overall advantages and risks of sharply expanding public-sector expenditures and the scale of government.

Ronald Reagan is operating very much in the Roosevelt-Johnson style. He is pressing for action and postponing debate. No matter that inflation seems to be abating and the economy is rolling along with unexpected vigor; Reagan insists that his budget and tax cuts are needed to deal with "the worst economic crisis" since the Great Depression.

No matter that the Soviet Union is hobbled by shortfalls in its agriculture and industry, is bogged down in Afghanistan bafled by the Solidarity movement in Poland; Reagan asserts that record peacetime increases in defense spending are needed to cope with the Soviet threat.

I do not criticize Reagan for this. What he is doing is what strong and self-confident Presidents before him have done. He is capitalizing on the momentum of his election victory, the disarray of the political opposition and public support for his leadership, in order to push through as much of his program as possible before the inevitable second-thoughts about the wisdom of his policies occur. Like Roosevelt and Johnson before him, he is seizing the moment—knowing that the question is not if, but when, his leadership will be challenged.

The American system permits such efforts to succeed but rarely, and Reagan is wise enough to recognize he has such an opportunity.

But on this long holiday weekend, with things crawling to at least a temporary halt in Washington, it is possible to step back

from the frenetic pace of executive and congressional action of the past four months, and note some of the large, unexamined propositions underlying Reagan's program.

When I say "unexamined," I do not mean that Reagan himself or his aides are unaware of where they are going. Quite the contrary. The blueprint is exceptionally clear to those in control.

But the propositions are unexamined in serious political debate. Jimmy Carter's infirmities impeded such discussion in the course of the fall campaign and no critic has had the platform from which to challenge the Reagan policies since Election Day.

But do not doubt that such a rest is coming. It is guaranteed by the very sweep and boldness of the policies Reagan is rushing through. Consider some of the propositions implicit or explicit in the Reagan program, and ask yourself if any or all of them can long escape serious, skeptical examination. To support the Reagan program, you must believe with him that:

— Almost every disruptive and disturbing development in the world reflects Soviet scheming or power-wielding;

— Federal taxes and regulations are the main barriers to economic growth, and federal spending is the main cause of inflation; A radical reduction of the federal role in the economy is the only way to energize the economy and stabilize its growth.

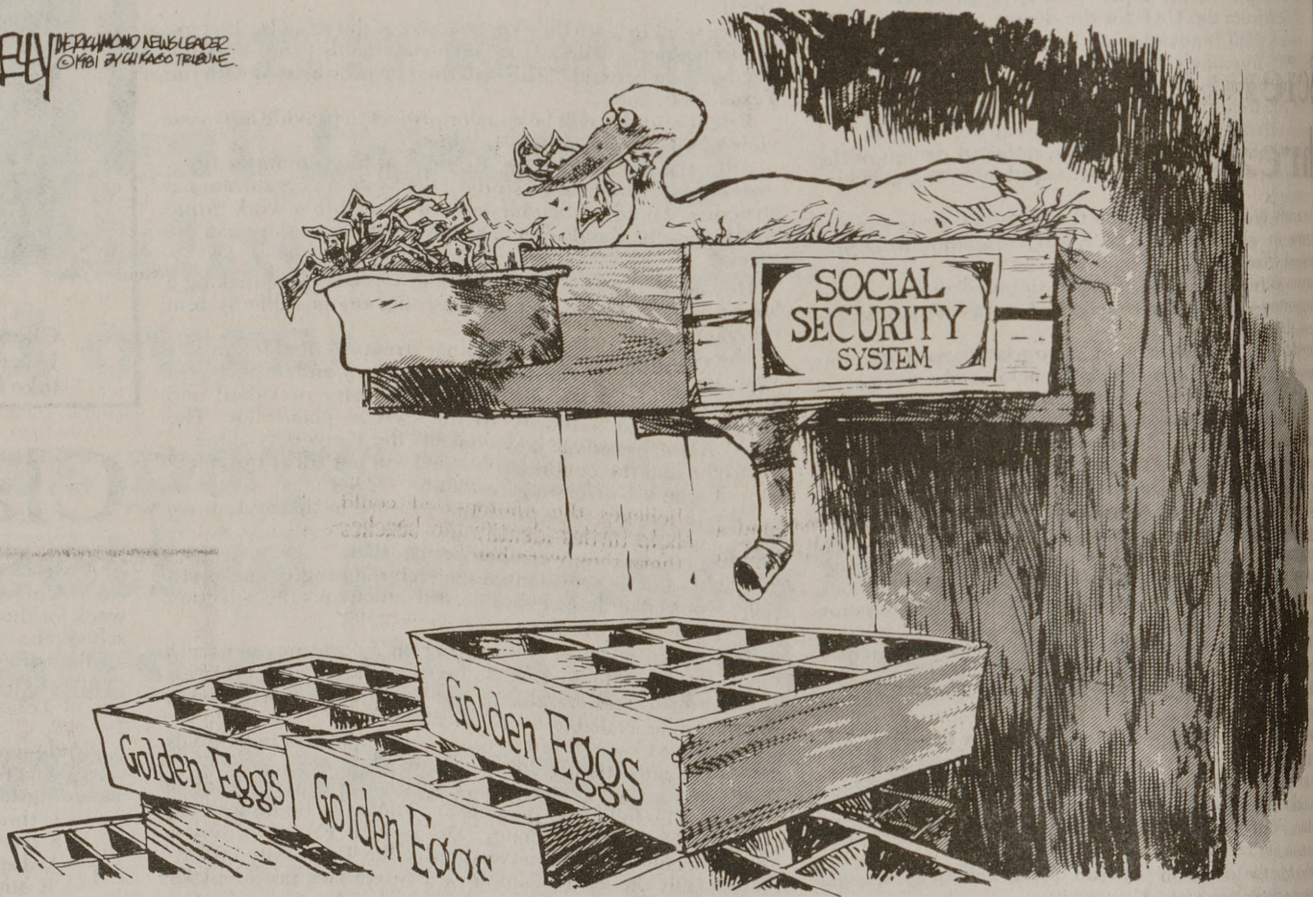
— There is a natural harmony between the interests and inclinations of business managers and their employees, customers and neighbors: Freeing the owners from government restraints will automatically work to the benefit of everyone who deals with them.

— State and local governments are more efficient and equitable in their distribution of public funds and services than the national government: Therefore, turning program responsibility back to them will both save money and increase public satisfaction.

— In this new environment, individuals, families and private organizations can be relied on to replace government in a wide variety of roles, ranging from support of the arts and scholarship to the financing of retirement: Social needs, and not just private consumption desires, will be best satisfied by a major shift of resources to private hands.

These are just a few of Reagan's major propositions. Everything in our history suggests that, sooner or later, they will be tested. Questions like these can be postponed, but they cannot be safely ignored.

MARKERLY
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Dems play ball on social security bill

By JERELYN EDDINGS
United Press International

WASHINGTON — Senate Democrats joyfully took a chapter from last year's tax debate to make the new Republican majority buck President Reagan on Social Security.

They employed the same tactics Republicans used in September to push Democrats — then in the majority — into a premature stand in favor of tax reduction.

It was uncomfortable for Democrats then, since the GOP presidential nominee was the one promoting the popular tax cut idea.

It was equally uncomfortable to Republicans last week. Their own president had recommended the unpopular Social Security plans against which they rebelled.

The Senate delivered a unanimous jolt to Reagan's Social Security proposals by voting against "precipitous and unfair" cuts in early retirement benefits and against reductions that go deeper than required to make the system financially sound.

Republicans obviously preferred not to take the action, but could not avoid it without looking unsympathetic to the nation's old people.

In September, on the day candidate Reagan first endorsed a three-year 30 percent tax cut, Republicans proposed it on the

Senate floor.

Democrats defeated it, using terms like "irresponsible," "slapdash," and "inflationary."

Concerned about looking like they favored high taxes, Democrats met hurriedly and declared they would propose their own "responsible" tax cut.

The action put them on record in favor of some type of tax reduction, and committed them to drafting a plan.

May 20 was payback day.

Mindful of the growing public concern about Reagan's Social Security proposals, Democrats proposed a "sense of the Congress" resolution that would have put the Senate on record against the administration plan to reduce future benefits.

It contained scathing political attacks on the president's plan and charges that the plan was outright unfair.

Republicans, calling it a "two-bit" amendment, accused Democrats of demagoguery and narrowly beat back the measure.

But then, to show they didn't want tired people treated unfairly, the Democrats proposed their own resolution. One did not contain the harsh personal attacks on Reagan, but it also rebuffed his proposal.

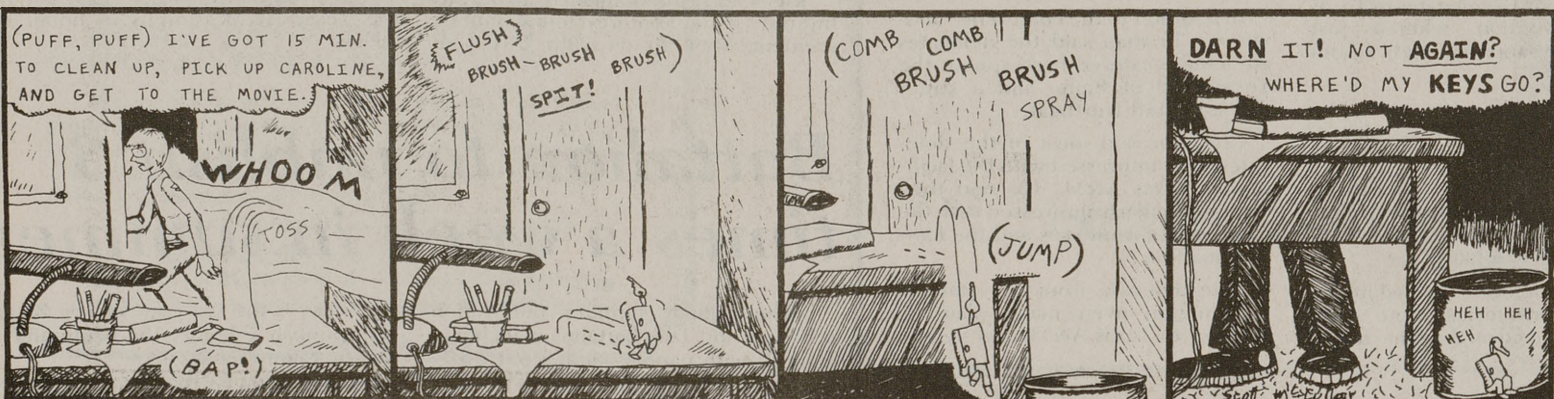
Tongues firmly in cheek, Democrats praised Republicans for seeing the light, recognizing a good idea — in fact, for proposing a measure that lifted some of very own phrases.

"I won't accuse you of plagiarism," Sen. Daniel Moynihan, D-N.Y., said. "I don't accuse me of demagoguery."

Democratic leader Robert Byrd of Virginia also was sarcastically complimentary. He said he certainly would support the GOP resolution "two-bit" — he even vote for it.

It was just like last year, but this time Democrats had fun. They used their majority status effectively, which they had managed before, and they enjoyed the vote to rebuff Reagan was 96-0.

Warped



By Scott McCullar

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