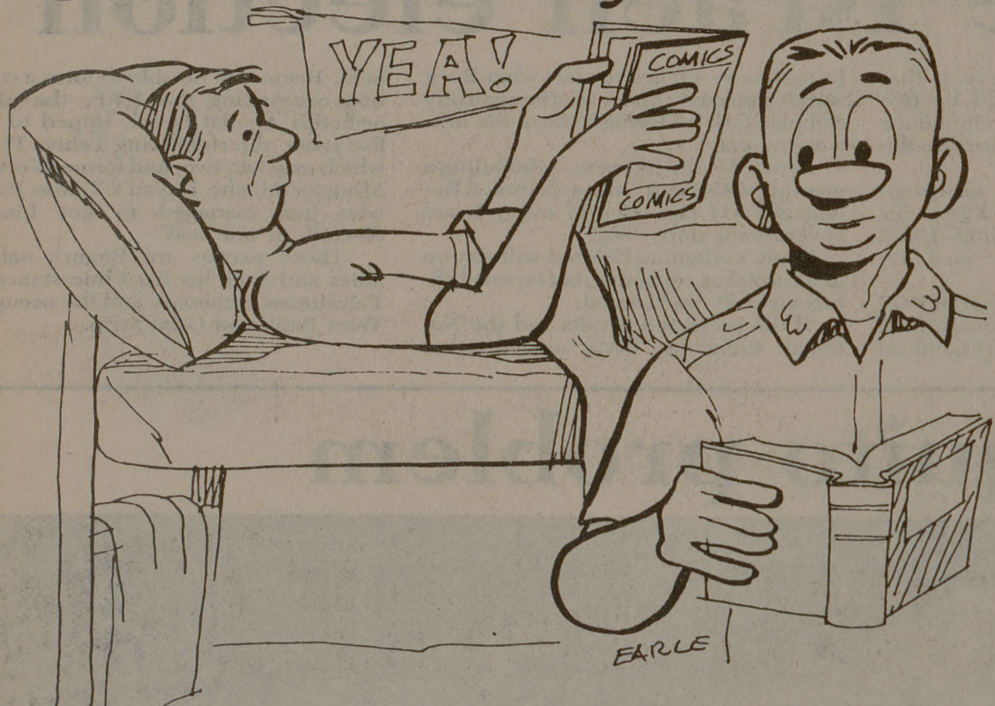


# VIEWPOINT

THE BATTALION  
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

TUESDAY  
JULY 1, 1981

## Slouch By Jim Earle



"Remember your plan for making good grades this session: start out slow, build your momentum and finish strong? It's about time to cut loose with your finish!"

## Reagan's views on lawyers for poor deserve closer look

By DAVID S. BRODER

WASHINGTON — On the same day that Associate Justice Potter Stewart made public his decision to step down from the Supreme Court, the House of Representatives passed a measure extending the life of the Legal Services Corporation which runs the federally financed program providing lawyers for the poor. The vote in the House was 245-137, but that is short of the two-thirds majority that would be needed to override the veto presidential counselor Edwin Meese III has said he would recommend to President Reagan.

The fact that the President who does not see any compelling need for the continuation of the Republican-created program of legal services for the poor is the same President who will soon be filling Potter Stewart's "swing seat" on the Supreme Court is something to give you pause.

Reagan has been hostile to the legal services program since its beginning in the Nixon administration. When legal services lawyers went to court on behalf of impoverished Californians and won judgements that the Reagan administration was illegally denying them their benefits under federal and state programs, the then-governor was furious. A compromise of sorts was negotiated, but it did not dispel Reagan's hostility.

Now, as President, he is proposing that the Legal Services Corporation be abolished and its funds cut off. Instead of the

staffs of specially trained lawyers now available to help poor people with their problems, the administration is saying that their legal needs can be met by the states—using scarce funds from the reduced federal social services block grant—or by private law firms doing charitable work. Meese suggested at the University of Delaware law school that taking care of the poor's legal problems might provide some good practice and relief from the tedium of the classroom for third-year law students.

The best comments on this brand of thinking came, not from the bleeding-heart liberals, but from some of the Republican members of the House who have intimate knowledge of the program.

Rep. Tom Railsback of Illinois, who is about as sentimental as barbed wire, helped manage the bill in the House. "The Americans we are talking about, it is fair to say, are poor," he remarked. "They represent a disproportionate number of American minorities and they represent a disproportionate number of America's elderly citizens... The subcommittee, Republicans and Democrats alike, made this decision that the 29 million poor Americans should be able to sit down and discuss their legal problems with an attorney."

"Every lawyer in this body," the Illinois Republican said, "and in the nation for that matter, is fully aware of the fact that to successfully use our system of justice, you need the assistance of an attorney—and to

deny these people their assistance is very same as denying them access to a system of justice. If we do this, then we believe the consequences may be serious just for the poor, but for our entire system of government."

Rep. M. Caldwell Butler of Virginia, Republican as conservative as his name, said: "I remind my colleagues that the Legal Services Corporation is a Republican initiative, which had its earliest beginnings when Lewis Powell, Jr., was president of the American Bar Association in 1961. Lewis Powell, Jr., is now a justice of the Supreme Court... appointed by a Republican President."

"I share the view Mr. Justice Powell expressed... in August 1976," Butler said and quoted him as follows: "Equal justice under law is not merely a caption on the facade of the Supreme Court building, perhaps the most inspiring ideal of our society. It is one of the ends for which our legal system exists. And central to that end is the precept that justice not be denied because of a person's race, religion or beliefs. Also, it is fundamental that justice should be the same, in substance and availability, without regard to economic status."

Ronald Reagan does not understand the proposition. He almost certainly will use his veto on the legal-services bill. And then he will decide who sits on the Supreme Court with men of the caliber of Justice Powell. It is something to

## Breeder power plants begin to bounce back

By EDWARD ROBY

United Press International

WASHINGTON — The Clinch River Breeder, a nuclear power project that defied President Jimmy Carter's best efforts to kill it, is moving forward again despite a House committee vote to cut off its public financing.

A \$230-million authorization for the breeder reactor was restored to the 1982 budget last Friday by a House vote on an administration-backed budget-paring bill.

In May, a coalition of nuclear opponents and fiscal conservatives on the House Science and Technology Committee had approved a measure terminating the breeder by a razor-close vote. But the Republican-led Senate remained committed to the project, which could cost as much as \$3 billion.

The 753 public, cooperative and private electric utilities systems who have agreed to pay about 8 percent of the commercial demonstration project's cost are the main proponents of Clinch River, which is to be built at Oak Ridge, Tenn.

Carter, fearing that a commercial breeder would lead to commercial nuclear fuel reprocessing and undermine U.S. efforts to discourage the worldwide spread of atomic weapons, sought to withdraw financing on grounds that the Clinch River design was outmoded.

The breeder is a nuclear power plant that creates more fuel than it consumes as it generates electricity. The most logical fuel for the breeder is spent fuel recycled from conventional power reactors, a feature that has prompted some advocates to call the breeder an answer to the nuclear waste issue.

Breeder foes, led by Rep. Claudine Schneider, R-R.I. in the House, also argue that scaled-down estimates of electricity

demand and ample uranium supplies make breeder technology a costly luxury.

"The strategy right now is to fight it in the Appropriations Committee. You can't write a check on an authorization," said Janet Huling, a Schneider aide.

"You do all this stuff, you stop it and you beat it and it keeps coming back," she said. "It's just like a monster."

More than \$1 billion has already been spent on Clinch River, which is supposed to produce 375 megawatts of power for the Tennessee Valley Authority if it is ever finished. The design is about 80 percent complete.

Physicist Hans Bethe and other nuclear scientists told Congress in June that "the United States urgently needs the working experience and trained personnel, which only an ongoing Clinch River Breeder Reactor Project can provide."

Several other nations, most notable France and the Soviet Union, are also experimenting with fast breeder technology.

Wallace Behnke of Chicago's Commonwealth Edison utility, who heads the breeder project, argues that the breeder is needed to augment dwindling uranium fuel supplies for conventional reactors.

"Current estimates show that U.S. reserves of reasonably priced uranium provide little margin for further expansion," he said. "The breeder will use nuclear fuel 30 to 50 times more efficiently than the present generation of commercial nuclear power reactors."

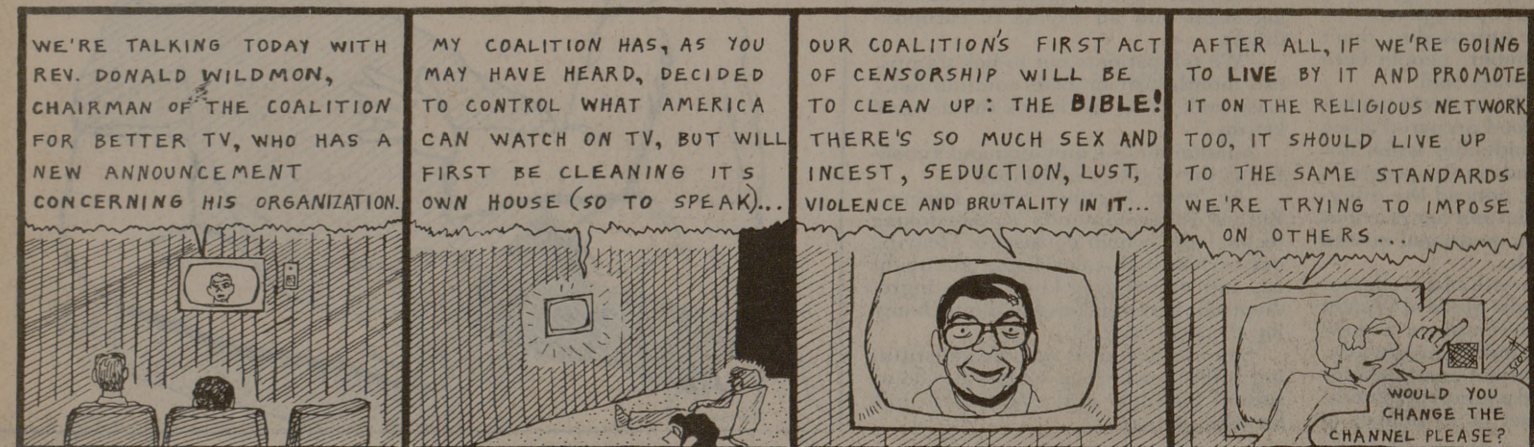
Completion of the project has been recommended by Congress' General Accounting Office and proponents insist that constant design changes, despite Carter's criticism, make Clinch River the most advanced breeder concept in the world today.

### the small society

by Brickman



### Warped



By Scott McCullar

## Inflation or no, RVs are way of life

By JAMES V. HIGGINS

United Press International

DETROIT — The recreation vehicle industry, devastated over the past two years by high interest rates and gasoline prices, is beginning to see solid evidence of a sales recovery.

Firmly believing that the RV lifestyle is alive and well and just gone temporarily into hiding, industry executives have watched anxiously for an upturn for the past two years.

In April — the latest month for which statistics are available — shipments of recreational vehicles from manufacturers to dealers amounted to approximately 25,000 units, a 75 percent improvement over last year and the industry's highest monthly total since May of 1979.

Sales of recreational vehicles — ranging from small towable trailers to large self-contained motor homes — declined more sharply during the past recession than sales

of passenger cars.

By contrast, domestic car sales declined 29 percent in the same period from 9.3 million in 1978 to 6.6 million in 1980.

Now, according to David J. Humphreys, president and general counsel of the association, it appears the rebound will be much stronger than the small gains automakers recently have seen in the passenger car market.

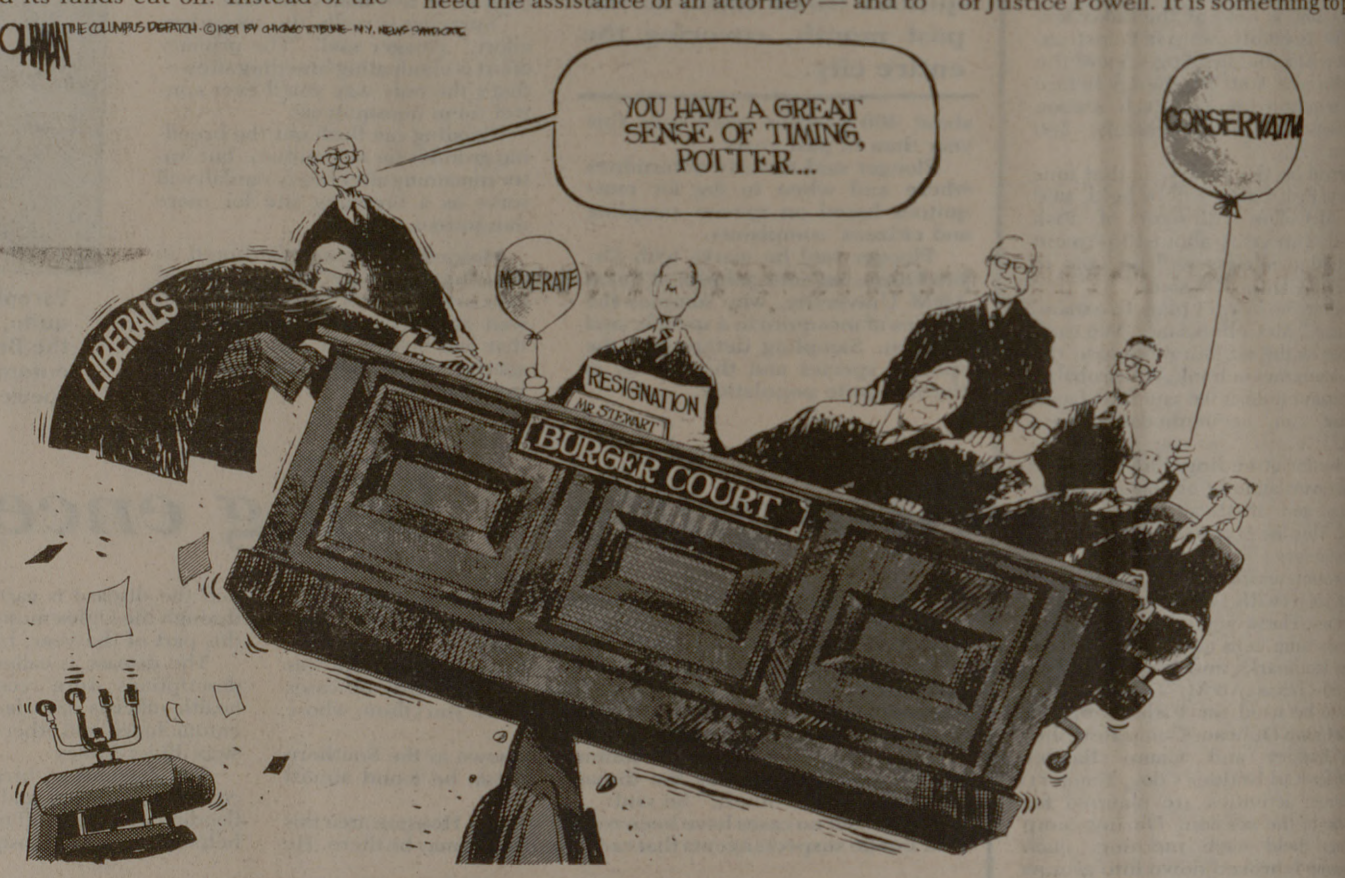
"We had been saying for more than a year that there was great pent up demand for our product and that eventually that demand would translate into sales," he said.

Shipments of RVs in the first four months

of 1981 are about 29 percent higher than last year. There have been predictions that overall 1981 shipments will exceed last year by 30 percent.

"Supplies are good, prices have stabilized and the attitude of our federal government about energy use for recreational purposes has improved dramatically," Humphreys said.

Humphreys said much faith is placed in the Reagan administration's economic policies. Sales of recreational vehicles should improve further if the budget and tax cuts work to reduce inflation and interest rates, he said.



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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 to the Editor should not exceed 300 words in length, and are subject to being cut if they are longer. Editorial staff reserves the right to edit letters for length, but will make every effort to maintain the intent. Each letter must also be signed, show the name and phone number of the writer.

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