

Three points on 'New Federalism'

by Arnold Sawislak
United Press International

WASHINGTON — The first thing to be said about President Reagan's "New Federalism" scheme to pass off federal welfare programs to the states is that it isn't going to happen soon.

The second thing about the proposal is that it was a very clever political stroke. And the third thing is that it probably could work only if some very basic changes have taken hold in U.S. political and social life.

The reason the massive turnover of social programs isn't going to be put in place quickly is that it will require intensive political horse-trading between Washington and the state capitals and immense administrative planning.

The Reagan proposal is a domestic version of his "zero option" missile offer to the Soviet Union: if he is realistic, he doesn't expect it to be accepted without dickering and change.

Governors have been talking for some time about "sorting out" responsibility for state and federal functions, but their ideas have tended toward taking over such programs as transportation, crime

control and education and leaving welfare to Washington.

Reagan's proposal to have the states take the costly and controversial basic welfare program, aid to families of dependent children, plus the politically sensitive and expensive food stamp program is not what the governors had in mind. So the President's proposal probably is only the basis for negotiations.

But it was a master stroke of political timing. The governors never put their proposal into a unified form; Reagan beat them to the punch and renewed his credentials for innovation and conservative activism.

In addition, the plan dominated headlines about his State of the Union message — enough so that most commentators didn't make a fuss about his failure to discuss what, if anything, he was going to do about 8.9 percent unemployment and a new upward movement in interest rates.

Finally, there is the possibility that the plan could work, despite warnings from critics that the states and localities can't or won't take care of their poor and disadvantaged citizens. Some see Reagan as

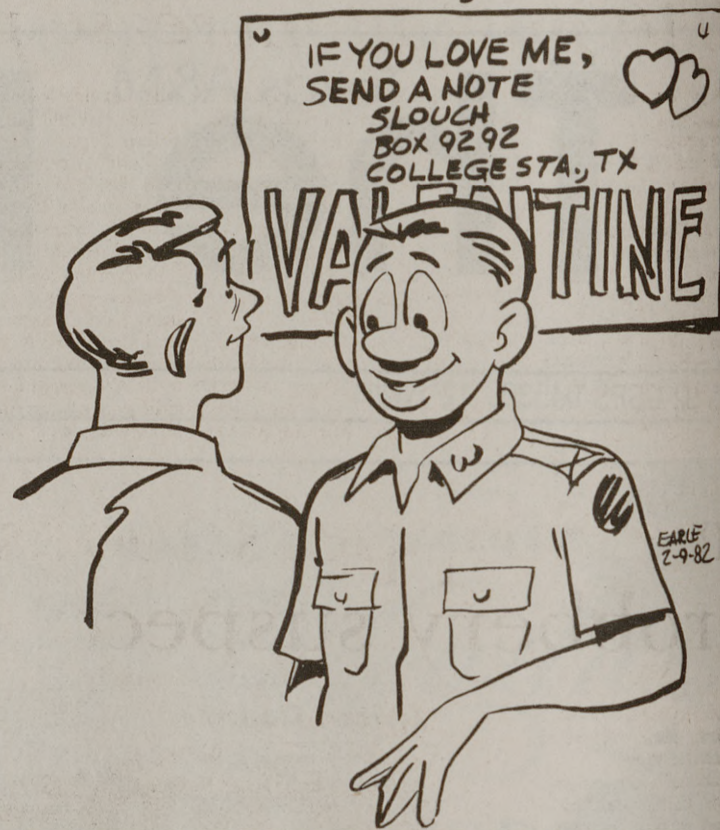
a kind of Pontius Pilate, seeking to wash his hands of responsibility for the poor in society.

There are two big differences in the states now and the states when Washington first got into social programs. The first is the one-man, one-vote rule of law that gives population centers fair representation in state and local legislatures. The second is the voting rights law that gives minorities a chance to vote for or against people who are supposed to be representing them in government.

These two changes in government make it possible for people who need help to use the political system to get it. But they are not a majority and another change may be needed — Americans who can take care of themselves may have to take a different attitude toward those who can't.

It was said several decades ago that poverty and discrimination in the United States was "invisible" because the great middle class in this country simply refused to look at them. If that still is true, nothing will be solved by passing the buck from Washington to the state capitals.

Slouch By Jim Earle



"It's Valentine's Week, so what the heck; it's worth a try!"

New releases delivered by official Trojan horse

by Dick West

United Press International

WASHINGTON — President Reagan, who seems to feel his administration is more porous than most, has just issued new leak-plugging rules for the executive branch.

His counter-measures are less dramatic than the "plumbers" unit Richard Nixon recruited to shut off news leaks in the bureaucracy. Nevertheless, some of Reagan's critics have accused him of embracing the so-called "trickle out" theory of information distribution.

That concept, I should explain for those who came in late, is based on the premise that the people's right to know can best be protected by only releasing information through official channels.

White House sources insist the high leakage rate is not the fault of Reagan's policies. They say the information network he inherited from previous presidents was full of holes.

"We can't plug all the leaks overnight," one aide said. "After all, Reagan's anti-leak program has only been in place since the first of the month."

"By late spring, or midsummer at the latest, we are confident there will be a substantial reduction in the number of leaks, making it possible to keep closed-door discussions from becoming public."

That outlook has been challenged by information specialists on Capitol Hill, who are calling for cutbacks in lie detector tests at the Pentagon.

What we have a work here are two the small society

basically conflicting philosophies of dissemination.

In recent years, Congress has followed a policy of trying to solve problems by throwing information at them. This has led to charges of fraud and waste.

I wouldn't go so far as to suggest Congress spreads fraudulent information. There is no doubt, however, some programs are extremely wasteful.

The amount of information in committee reports, news releases, Congressional Record, for example, is nearly scandalous.

Thus far, attempts to bring about a lavish output of information on Capitol Hill have been about as successful as presidential efforts to curtail leaks.

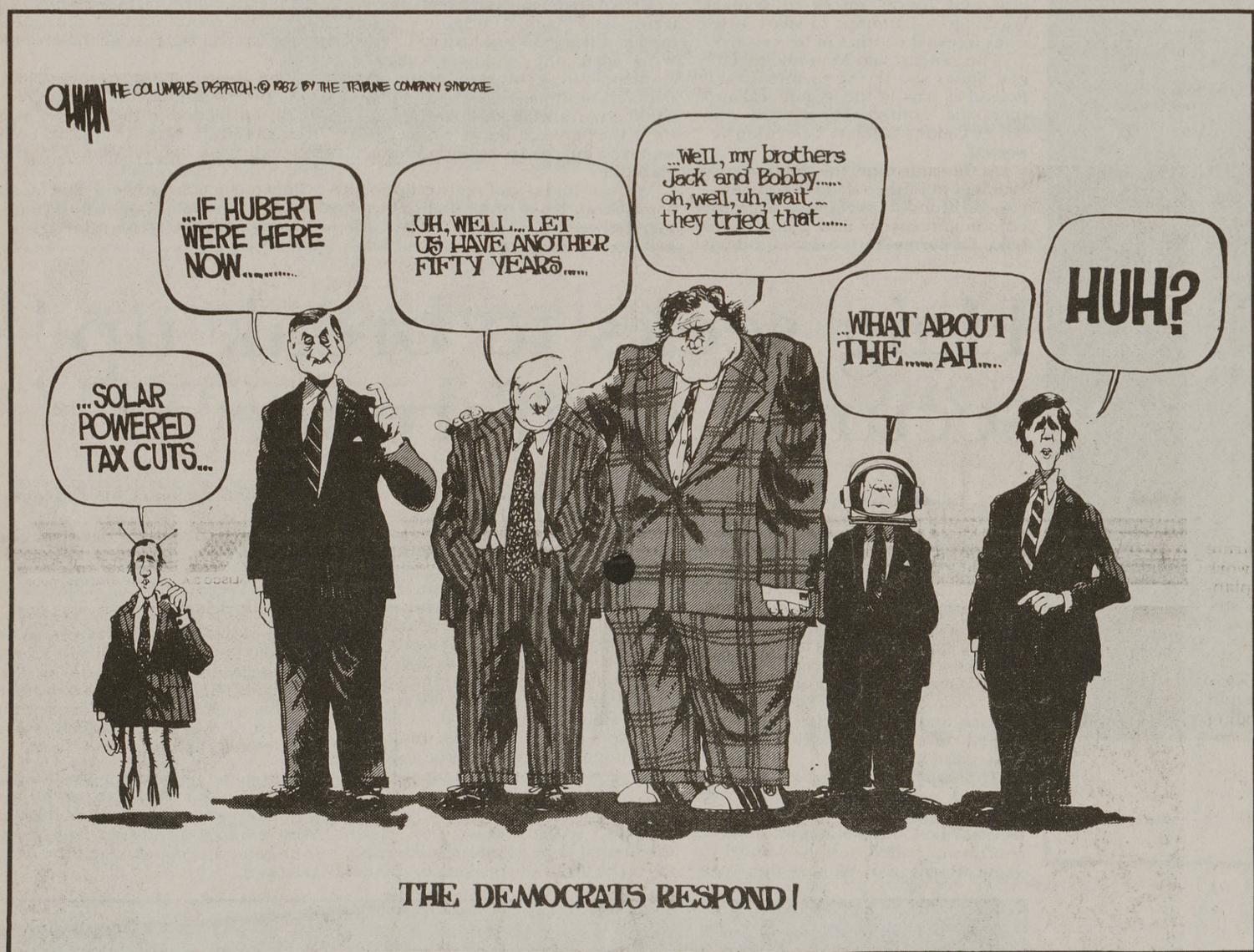
At the moment, a Senate committee is considering a plan to stanch the flow of senatorial newsletters, which are mailed out in gay profusion under congressional franking privilege.

The proposal, in effect, would limit senators to six newsletters a year. Meanwhile, Rep. Wayne Gramley, Calif., has introduced a bill to limit the number of bills a House member can introduce during any one session.

Pointing out that 8,719 bills were introduced last year, with only 99 becoming law, Gramley said no congressman has enough time to inform himself of the contents of such much legislation.

I look for compromise with the House mailing 20 newsletters, House members introducing 93 bills and bureaucrats committing 8,719 leaks each year.

by Brickman



Letter: Israeli Club answers letter

Editor:

Sure enough, the "Secretary of Information" (Organization of Arab Students) is out there again to educate "his fellow Ags" (The Battalion, Feb. 2). Has anything been changed since his last performance (The Battalion, Sept. 30)? Not much, I dare say.

Again, the same well-recited, twisted "history". Again, accusations of "lobbying groups" in Washington, with the familiar smell of antisemitism.

As for lobbying, "Newsweek" (Oct. 5, 1981) reports: "...As the Saudis' chief lobbyist on AWACS, Bandar has dazzled senators with his grace ... He has forged close social ties with administration officials and regularly plays squash with Joint Chief of Staff chairman David C. Jones ... (Bandar) got his initial lobbying experience by helping to engineer the sale of 60 F-15's to the Saudis in 1978."

Hiring some of the best (and expensive!) PR agencies in the states to their service, the Saudis can advocate their "information" very well.

The Israeli-Arab conflict is very complicated, very painful to both sides. Arguing it's origin through The Battalion is not likely to contribute to its solution and those interested in the solution are encouraged to read before they sit down to write. However, Israel's government policy, also shared by all Israeli students and faculty members on this campus, is one: The government will negotiate with any Arab government on all issues. We reach out our hand to all neighbors for peace, and wait.

But if it ever comes to armed conflict, there won't be American boys shedding blood. Israel has never asked for help from American troops and never will.

Michal Granoff
Carole Ancelin
Israeli Club

Coaching from the bleachers

Editor:

First, let me say that I'm usually a quiet person, but due to the recent events that have transpired at A&M, I must voice my disapproval.

Second, it is a well known fact that Coach Wilson was treated unjustly.

Third, Coach Wilson is gone, and Coach Sherrill is here. Let's support him and his program. In reality, it is much like our U.S. government is today. A republican wins the presidency (Reagan) and all the democrats do is criticize his policy because their party is not in office. Remember the saying, "United we stand, divided we fall."

Fourth, let's congratulate the Texas A&M basketball team for a great overtime victory over Texas.

Fifth, I question the coaching of the basketball team. It is the coach who should prepare his team for last second conditions. In regulation time of the Texas game, Reggie made his move to the basket with four seconds left. He then shot the ball with zero seconds remaining. Wouldn't it have been better though if he would have been coached to shoot the ball with three seconds left. If he would have missed, A&M could have rebounded and got another shot, or if he was to miss, UT couldn't go the full court's length in three seconds. Now let me praise Coach Metcalf, because he is a man who learns by his mistakes. With four seconds left in overtime, he had his

players pressure the upcourt progress by UT, forcing them to shoot a low percentage shot since they wasted more time dribbling upcourt. To bad he didn't do this at the Arkansas game when Rudy missed his second free throw.

Mike Stolte,
Elaine Dudich

Smoking, eating don't mix

Editor:

There was some really poor behavior in Sbis Wednesday night. Yes, I refer to the folks that filled the air so thick with cigar smoke that we couldn't see, much less breathe. You know, some of us are allergic to tobacco smoke, and still more simply don't like it, yet we would like to eat too.

Don't tell me about "no smoking" areas. They were not immune from the clouds. Don't tell me about Highway 6. I've been here longer than most of the perpetrators of this crap and I for one intend to stay.

This was bad enough last fall even when it could be connected to Bonfire, however remotely. Last night, however, was inexcusable. Such shallow people who show so little consideration for others don't deserve to be called Ags. I can think of some things to call them, but I doubt that they could get into print.

Steve Stockman '82
Walton



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The Battalion

USPS 045 360

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Texas Press Association
Southwest Journalism Conference

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Columns and guest editors are also welcome and are not subject to the same length constraints as regular letters. Address all inquiries and correspondence to: The Battalion, 216 Reed McDonald, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX 77843, or phone (713) 261-1111.
The Battalion is published daily during Texas fall and spring semesters, except for holiday and vacation periods. Mail subscriptions are \$16.75 per year, \$33.25 per school year and \$35 per full year. Advertising rates furnished on request.
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