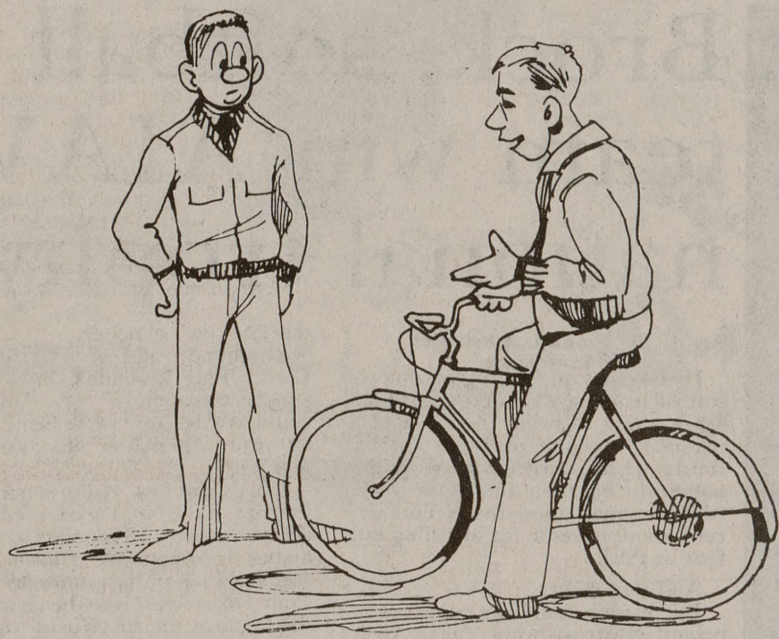


# Slouch By Jim Earle



"The only reason I keep it is for running stop signs."

# A photographer's memories

by Helen Thomas  
United Press International  
WASHINGTON — Andrew J. "Buck" May returned to the White House the other day to photograph his 12th president — Ronald Reagan — and to reminisce a bit about some of Reagan's predecessors.

The 81-year-old former White House photographer brought along a portfolio of mostly black and white photographs that fascinated Reagan, who paused longest to look at the pictures of his favorite president, Calvin Coolidge.

Two of them showed Coolidge starting out for a walk with fans close on his heels, and Coolidge with flyer Charles Lindbergh in the '20s.

The first president May covered was Woodrow Wilson. He recalls that after Wilson's stroke, the rumors were hot and heavy that Wilson was incapable of performing his presidential duties.

One day, presidential aide Joseph P. Tumulty told May he wanted him to photograph Wilson at his desk to prove that Wilson was able to carry on. Using an old Graflex, May took the photograph of Wilson sitting at his desk signing a paper, but Mrs. Wilson was holding down the document. The picture was not released until five or six years later.

He said that for friendliness and

charm, Reagan comes closest to Harry Truman, who was a great friend of news photographers. Truman called them by their first names and sent them a bottle of bourbon when they would have to stand in the rain for hours waiting for him.

In fact, it was Truman who helped the White House photographers organize the "One More Club," referring to their favorite expression: "Just one more, Mr. President."

May realizes the days when presidents bantered along with photographers seem to be gone. There are so many now, and new faces every day, carrying their small cameras into the Oval Office. There is little camaraderie left.

Reagan regaled May with stories of Coolidge and May recalled that Coolidge was a "great prankster," but he was also rigid. When his wife Grace went walking in the woods with a handsome Secret Service agent and showed up 15 minutes late for lunch, Coolidge threw a tirade and had the agent shipped out of Washington.

Another agent suffered the same fate when he went fishing with Coolidge at the president's summer home and it rained. "Do you think the rain will stop," Coolidge asked his guard. "It always does," quipped the agent.

Like most presidents, Coolidge sometimes grew tired of cameramen following

his every step. "Get those rats away from me," May remembered him saying to aides.

May said he scored a beat when he got a shot of President Herbert Hoover in naval uniform saluting the troops seated aboard ship. Hoover had stood the bridge for three hours and was "Young man," he told May, "you shouldn't have done that."

May has in his possession a black and white picture, taken at the time of the dedication of the Lincoln Memorial, showing Warren Harding, Todd Lincoln, former Speaker of the House "Boss" Joe Cannon huddled together.

Also in his album is a photograph of Harding, dressed in his favorite tweed jacket, on his favorite mount in front of the Executive Office Building next door to the White House. Reagan, whose love of riding, has to fly by helicopter into Pennsylvania to find protected riding trails.

As a young photographer, just starting out in his career, May recalls the kindness of Theodore Roosevelt.

"Mr. President, I'd like to make a picture of you," he told Roosevelt.

"All right, son," said Roosevelt, posed for him.

As he was leaving the White House, May said: "I've seen a lot of history. Those were the happiest days of my life."

# Getting what, when and how in politics

by Arnold Sawislak  
United Press International

WASHINGTON — Almost 50 years ago, Harold Lasswell, a professor, defined politics as, "Who gets what, when and how." That definition is instructive in looking at two recent actions by Ronald Reagan, a professional politician.

Early in April, the president wrote a letter to an antiabortion organization official restating his "right to life" position and, in effect, giving his blessing to the group and others seeking legislation to outlaw abortion.

Early in May, the president invited the Rev. Jerry Falwell and others seeking to restore classroom prayer to the public schools to the White House and specifically endorsed a constitutional amendment legalizing the practice.

In both of these actions, Reagan was redeeming, in his own way, what the groups involved understood to be ironclad promises made during the 1980 campaign. They supported his candidacy; they expected him to make their causes part of his program.

Both groups expressed satisfaction, indeed delight, at the president's action. But in fact, neither group got much more from Reagan than it had before he acted.

To explain that, it is necessary to answer the question: How do presidents get things done?

Is it by giving their public support to a cause or proposal? The answer is a conditional yes. A presidential endorsement is helpful, but its effectiveness depends upon what goes with it, especially if the issue is controversial and Congress is involved.

All the talk about the "moral force" of the presidency notwithstanding, it takes more than a letter of encouragement or a Rose Garden ceremony to get a tough proposition safely through the shoals of

conflict in Washington. It takes political muscle and there are three principal ways presidents attempt to use it.

The first is by reward, the classic quid pro quo. If a key congressional vote is needed, the House can go after it with any number of goodies — appointments, tax breaks, import quotas or deregulation to benefit local industries or labor, public works projects and promises of campaign aid in funds and personal appearances in the next election.

The second is by punishment — the withholding of any of the above, the closing of federal installations, the encouragement of opposition in the next campaign.

A third presidential prerogative, least effective in this age of the independent voter and officeholder, is loyalty to party and president. It has been a long time since party platforms have meant anything in Washington or since presidents have had major personal influence on Congress beyond the first six months or so of their first term "honeymoon."

Of all these, the school prayer and anti-abortion movements got little more than an implied indication that the third (the personal influence of the president) would be used to help their causes.

There was no promise that school prayer or a ban on abortion would get the benefit of the full court press — rewards and threats — Reagan used to pass his economic program or get approval for sale of AWACS planes to Saudi Arabia.

School prayer, which has the advantage of very high poll ratings, and abortion, which is about as controversial as any subject on the public scene, apparently is to get about as much help from Reagan as Equal Rights Amendment advocates got from the presidents who supported their cause. That was mostly moral support and it didn't translate into much in the way of votes for ratification.



# Letters: Nuclear weapons a sin

Editor:

With regard to the increased discussion of late of nuclear war, we would like to make the following remarks.

We believe that nuclear weapons and the threat of nuclear war are the ultimate expression of man's sinful nature. The devastating consequences of a nuclear war would be a terrible sin against creation, against man and especially against God. The issue is particularly important today because the large number of weapons and the spread of weapons technology has made the potential for war very great.

Based upon our convictions about God, man and the world, we believe that the only solution which can provide long-term protection from a general nuclear war is disarmament, either bilateral or unilateral. We recognize, however, that this is an idealistic solution, unlikely of implementation in the near term.

Therefore, as preliminary steps leading to the realization of that goal, and as measures that would reduce the danger of a general war, we urge the following:

1. A freeze on the production of new weapons.
2. A reallocation of funds originally meant for weapons production to the development of defensive technology that could render nuclear weapons obsolete and/or to humanitarian causes.
3. Renewed efforts at achieving significant reductions in nuclear weapons already deployed.

To our readers we say that whether you agree or disagree with our proposals, we urge you to think about this issue. Nuclear war poses the greatest threat to both our civilization and the world that man has ever faced. A general nuclear war would cause more devastation than any famine or epidemic in the history of the world. As the creators of these technological pathogens, the gravest respon-

sibility and challenge facing man today, indeed the gravest he has ever faced, is to ensure that they do not become his destroyers.

Stuart Hobbs  
John R.C. Robinson

## Skydiving thanks

Editor:

The Texas A&M Sport Parachute Club would like to congratulate all those members who have made their first jump with the club.

The positive response and acceptance towards the club since its reactivation this past spring semester has been greatly appreciated, and we hope it will continue in the many years to come. Not only have we helped over 60 Texas A&M students

"get their feet off the ground," we also had members of the staff, Dr. M. J. Jan, finance professor, and Dr. T. Anderson, history professor, make their first jump with us.

A special thanks is extended to the officers of the club; Jan Walker, president; Steve Haskett, vice president; Richard Zadow, vice president at large; Bruce Gootee, secretary-treasurer; Miller, club safety officer; and Harry Licotte, public relations and public officer. Thanks also to Gary Boyd of the Houston Skydiving Center; to C. Thurman of the Austin Parachute Center; and Gary Morgan of the Midland Parachute Center, for their dedication and guidance which truly helped in the rebirth of the Texas A&M Sport Parachute Club a safe and successful organization.

Keep on jumping. Blue skies and safe landings.

Harry Callison

## The Battalion

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

Columns and guest editorials are also welcome, and are not subject to the same length constraints as letters. Address all inquiries and correspondence to: Editor, The Battalion, 216 Reed McDonald, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX 77843, or phone (713) 845-2611.

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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.

## the small society

by Brickman

WITH THE CHILDREN ALL MARRIED AND GONE, YOU'RE ALL I HAVE LEFT NOW, MENSCH —

I'M ALL YOU HAD TO START WITH —

