

Slouch By Jim Earle



"Not only has the FDA found that beer may cause cancer, but they have released a report that anything that is fun causes cancer."

Democrats rebuild party ties

by Clay F. Richards
United Press International

WASHINGTON — Having a president in the White House is not necessarily in the best interest of a political party. The Republican Party was pretty nearly sucked dry by the Nixon years and Jimmy Carter did the same thing to the Democrats during his four years in office.

That the two major parties survived is in large part due to the leadership of two national chairmen — Bill Brock, who rebuilt the GOP while Carter was in office, and Charles Manatt, who is doing the same kind of job right now while President Reagan is in office.

While the Reagan administration is somewhat of a drain on the resources of the Republican National Committee right now, he is not hurting the party badly for several reasons.

First among them is that the Republicans are drawing in so much money that there is enough to finance both the White House's political activity, and the party's 1982 election efforts at the same time. Second, Republican Chairman

Richard Richards is a prudent leader devoted to the nuts and bolts activities of building the party at the grass roots level rather than being a grandstanding party leader with the party crumbling beneath him.

The leaner Democrats devoted a considerable portion of their limited finances to supporting the political activities of the Carter administration. And Carter had almost a disdain for the party, refusing to do the kind of fund-raising activity that would have replenished what he was spending.

Even though he is gone, Carter is still burdening the party with some of his leftover campaign debt.

Manatt has moved swiftly and surely to overhaul the party operation.

The bridges to their natural allies in labor, burned by George McGovern in 1972, were quickly rebuilt by adding 20 union leaders to the Democratic National Committee, five of them to the executive committee.

The delegate selection process was overhauled so that more party leaders and fewer party bombthrowers will pick

the 1984 candidate and write the form.

A direct mail operation was set up that in a few years, if properly managed, will make the Democrats capable of competing with the GOP dollar for dollar.

Democratic members of Congress, somehow viewed for years as a part of the Democratic Party, have been openly courted and brought into roles in running the party.

The party finally entered into a special arrangement that wiped out the standing debt it owned on the presidential campaigns of Robert Kennedy and Hubert Humphrey.

Democrats were able to hold a term convention in Philadelphia last month where the enemy was President Reagan, and not fellow Democrats, been the case in the two previous meetings.

Before he is out of office, Manatt vowed to achieve another goal — a building for the party in a building it owns instead of the rented space it now occupies downtown Washington.

In short, nothing builds a party being out of office.

Imported clothes — it's all in the waist

by Art Buchwald

As everyone is aware, many of the clothes that you find in stores are now made in Taiwan, Hong Kong or South Korea. While they are not lacking in quality, there are problems with sizes.

For example, I bought a pair of shorts the other day marked LARGE. When I attempted to put them on, I discovered they did not fit. My first fear was that through bracket creep I had become X-LARGE. But before I panicked, I asked my son, who is a MEDIUM, to try them on. They fitted him perfectly. It was obvious the people in Hong Kong had made a mistake. Fortunately, there was a slip included with the shorts which said, 'ANYTHING WRONG WITH GARMENT PLEASE REFER TO INSPECTOR 7.'

I immediately telephoned information, located the factory in Hong Kong and called. Inspector 7 was not there but I got someone in charge who spoke English. I explained the problem of the sizes.

He said Inspector 7 was a very reliable man and had worked in the factory for 15 years. This was the first time they had had a complaint about him. He even admitted it was the first time they had had a telephone call from the U.S. about any of their inspectors.

I told him I didn't want to make trouble for Inspector 7, but I was just curious about how they inspected their shorts that were exported to the United States. I mentioned that many of my friends were also having difficulty with the sizes of Hong Kong shorts.

"Well, what do you want to know about Inspector 7?" he asked.

"Well, for one thing — how tall is he?" "I believe he is 4 feet 11 inches," the man said.

"And how much does he weigh?" I wanted to know.

"We never weigh our inspectors," the man said. "But I would guess 95 pounds."

"Then that could be your trouble. Are most of your inspectors that height and weight?"

"Yes, but I don't see what this has to do with your shorts."

"It's quite clear. To them a MEDIUM looks like a LARGE size, a LARGE looks like an X-LARGE and EXTRA-LARGE is too much for them. They are thinking in terms of themselves when they're inspecting your shorts. Do they ever try them on?"

"Once in a while."

"There you are. Inspector 7 puts on the shorts, and on the basis on his height and weight is down-sizing all your garments. He has probably never seen a truly LARGE or an EXTRA-LARGE waist in his life."

There was a pause on the other end of the line followed by some rapid chatter in Chinese. Finally the man came back on the phone and said, "We will be happy to make a pair of shorts to your size if you will give us your measurements."

"That's very kind of you," I told him. "But I'm calling not only for myself, but for all the large-sized men in America."

"Would you like us to fire Inspector 7?"

"Of course not. Inspector 7 is probably a very fine man. But I don't believe you should permit him to try on shorts for America."

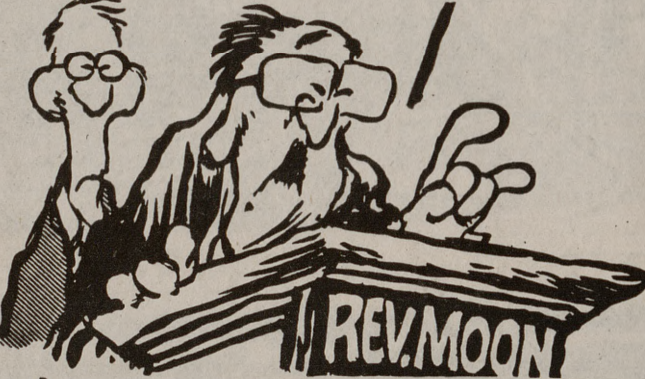
"All of our employees are small," the man said.

"Then in order for you to maintain your credibility in the United States I suggest that you invite some portly American tourists to come into the factory and show your inspectors what is a LARGE size in shorts and what is X-LARGE."

"But if we do that, Inspector 7 will lose face."

"He will either have to lose face or put on weight. If you people in Hong Kong want to flood our stores with clothes, you're going to have to start thinking BIG."

MY CHILDREN.. OUR LEGAL BATTLE IS LOST...



IT'S TIME WE PRAY FOR MERCY AND ASK FOR HIS INTERCESSION...



I AM A VICTIM OF RELIGIOUS PERSECUTION...



WHO, GOD? NO, H+R BLOCK...



Don't fire until you see maps

by Dick West
United Press International

WASHINGTON — When the House began consideration of the \$180.28 billion defense authorization bill last week, more than 35 amendments were stacked up in a holding pattern awaiting possible action.

Two of the proposals impressed me as indicative of both what is right and what is wrong with military thinking in Congress.

The wrong approach could be found in an amendment to deprive servicemen and their dependents of free pet care by military veterinarians.

The Pentagon, as you surely are aware, keeps telling us the armed forces must be prepared to fight on many different fronts. Prudent planning, therefore, should include contingency plans for a massive cavalry charge.

But what good would it do to beef up our mounted troops if we didn't have enough veterinarians to treat cases of distemper and other equine ailments?

Pets owned by members of the armed forces and their dependents provide military vets with sick parakeets, hamsters and other patients on which to sharpen their skills during periods when there isn't much demand for treatment of Army mules, warhorses and other combat creatures.

It would be shortsighted in the extreme to ban this type of practice unless a similar prohibition is imposed by the Soviet army. We certainly don't want a horse doctor gap in our window of vulnerability.

For contrast, consider the amendment to require the Army map service to show Estonia, Lithuania and Latvia and separate nations rather than as part of the Soviet Union.

Here is a strategy I would like to see expanded to other foreign policy aims.

America, for instance, supported Britain over Argentina in the Falklands dispute. We couldn't very well have sent troops down there, but Congress could

have mandated that all Army maps continue to show the Falklands as a British possession, regardless of what side won.

That would have shown the world how we feel about territorial aggressors.

Much the same is true of the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan. We didn't have to boycott the 1980 Olympics to demonstrate our disapproval. We could simply have adopted a policy of having Afghanistan appear on Army maps as an unoccupied country.

Is finding a homeland for displaced

Palestinians about to be made a part of our Middle East policy? Then let us begin by revising maps of that region to include a country named Palestine.

Meanwhile, the maps of Southeast Asia could be redrawn to show Vietnam as we could have liked it to remain. And so on throughout the world.

All of this — vet preparedness and geographical diplomacy — could be budgeted for only a fraction of the total military budget. And when you'll spend \$180.28 billion, every penny counts.

by Jim Berry

Berry's World



"He's been like this ever since he learned that there might be an NFL strike."

The Battalion

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