

Slouch

By Jim Earle



"I think I have the proper balance between problems with no answers and those with several answers. This may be the best test that I've ever made."

## The political fear factor an issue

by Clay F. Richards

WASHINGTON — The Republican Party would like to convince American voters that, as Franklin Roosevelt told them in the nation's last great economic crisis, they have "nothing to fear but fear itself."

The "fear factor" is becoming a major issue in the closing month of the 1982 election campaign.

The phrase, coined by Democrats, describes the "fear" that voters may have of soon being out of a job, or being unable to buy a car or a new house. Democrats believe that while those hard economic realities have hit only a portion of the voters, the fear will spread wider and result in Republican defeats across the nation.

Republicans are banking on the hope that Americans don't think things are that bad — that they are willing to give the Reagan economic program more time to work.

And the GOP is trying to convince voters that Democrats caused economic problems so severe that it is just taking Republicans a little longer than expected to work things out.

"I think the American voters will say it is better to stay with Reagan's economic policies for the next two years than it is to go back to the Democratic policies," said Rep. Guy VanderJagt, R-Mich., the chairman of the House Republican campaign committee.

That optimistic view may get a jolt Oct. 8 when the new unemployment figures come out. Many are predicting that un-

employment will hit a post-Depression high of 10 percent.

"When unemployment goes over 10 percent, people are going to wonder whether or not they're next," said Rep. Tony Coelho, D-Calif., the head of the Democratic House campaign committee.

Republicans and Democrats agree that elements like the "fear factor" make the 1982 elections very hard to call. The so-far silent voters across the nation have not yet made it known whether they feel Reagan has so badly mismanaged the economy that they will vote Republicans out of office.

Many members of Congress — especially from the Northeast — haven't been taking any chances and have been moving away from their image as "Reagan robots."

Even in the South and West, where Reagan's popularity is the strongest, some GOP congressional candidates have asked that he put off making a decision on whether to come into their districts until the new unemployment figures are out.

"Up to now the voters really haven't been that disturbed about the economy," says a leading Republican campaign strategist. "If we had a parliamentary form of government there would be no elections because there would not have been a no confidence vote in the administration."

"Whether we can get through November with that is another matter," she said.

the small society

by Brickman



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6-9 Brickman

## Lunch box — food for thought

by Dick West

WASHINGTON — The Agriculture Department, which is nothing if not timely, has helped get the new school year off to a hygienic start by issuing a set of "safety" rules for packing lunch bags and boxes.

"Just as there are certain rules of conduct in school, there also are basic food safety guidelines for packing school lunches," a department news release points out. "The rule of thumb is: Keep hot foods hot, cold foods cold and all foods clean."

It is good to have philosophical differences such as this brought out into the open.

There is always a small minority of lunch packers who insist on icing down the hot food.

Any students whose parents belong to the latter group and who plan to file grievances now have federal support for their cases.

If I may apply this rule of thumb to other digits, I direct your attention to a recent commuter survey made by a manufacturer of plastic food containers. This poll shows that "brownbagging"

is on the rise among office workers.

What this means is that office workers as well as schoolchildren are in bad need of some "food safety guidelines." But first, a word about definitions.

"Brown-bagging," like the ubiquitous "three-martini lunch," is a generic term. Not all workers who bring their lunch to the office transport the goodies in brown bags any more than all executives who dine out order precisely three cocktails during the noon hour.

In fact, according to the survey, most office workers "prefer to pop their lunch into a briefcase or oversized purse."

In carriers of this sort, it adds, "a leaky container or squashed food oozing from foil or plastic wrap could spell disaster."

Amen to that. Let it also be noted that lunches popped into book satchels are likewise vulnerable. Anyone who has ever carried a lunch to school can tell you it is unsafe to comingle arithmetic homework with peanut butter sandwiches.

Regardless of how it is transported, one thing both schoolchildren and brown-baggers should beware of is the

frozen sandwich.

The good news is that "freezing sandwiches ahead of time will help keep foods cold until lunch."

Now comes the moderator: "Don't overdo the butter or mayonnaise, because the bread may become soggy during thawing."

Yes, and lunch bags themselves also can become soggy, causing the oranges to seep out and roll down the corridor.

The brown-bagging survey recommends packing lunches so that "nothing will spill or drip onto papers, wallet, cosmetics or other important items" (such as arithmetic homework).

To that I also say amen. And in the spirit of reciprocity, here's a school lunch tip from which brown-baggers can profit: "Don't put your lunch in a warm place ... in direct sunlight or on a radiator, for instance."

Additionally, I would advise office workers against leaving their lunch on top of a copying machine. To do so almost certainly means someone will come along and Xerox the oatmeal cookies.



IT'S A VERY STRANGE CASE OF HERPES...

## Letters: Give Sherrill a chance

Editor:

This letter is in response to Mark Matthews letter on Oct. 6. Come on Aggies you haven't even given Coach Sherrill a chance. A man cannot come into a program and say you will win.

He must first associate the players already in the program with his philosophies and game strategies. Second and probably most important, he must recruit people that can play the game he wants. I am not saying that A&M's present players can't, but these people were not recruited by Coach Sherrill to do the job. Third, the players he did recruit this year are only freshmen and therefore lack experience. In time, Coach Sherrill will show A&M what a winning team is. If the Aggies will give him the chance.

A perfect example of a coach needing time to build a team is LSU Charlie McClendon retired after the 1979 season. The year before he retired he recruited players. Then Bo Rein was hired to take his place. He too also recruited players. Unfortunately Coach Rein was killed in a tragic plane crash. That is where Jerry Stovall stepped in.

For the first two years LSU struggled under new Head Coach Jerry Stovall. Now people who he has recruited are sophomores and juniors who are ready to play. They have learned his system right from the start and they are the people he WANTS FOR THE JOB. That's why LSU is 4-0 this season.

If the Aggies will give Jackie Sherrill the same chance, he too will bring his team to the top. Also, he did not just wake up one morning and have the No. 1 team in the nation at Pitt. Coach Sherrill I'm behind you 100 percent.

Randy J. Patrick  
Graduate Student

Thanks for the help

Editor:

I'm writing this letter to thank a great

group of hard workers: the Texas A&M emergency care team, especially those who were on duty Oct. 2 during the Texas Tech football game.

I'm sorry this is delayed, but I've been real busy trying to keep up my strength. I'd like to thank Laura in particular. You did a great job. Thanks. Much success to you in Sociology.

We really don't appreciate these people until we find ourselves on their stretchers; but they're always there whenever the necessary time presents itself.

Emergency care team: Gig 'em and

thank you.

Denise Silver '84

Heroes

Editor:

I would like to say Lawrence Sullivan Ross is still a hero in my eyes.

Ray Clopton '85



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Jim Berry

"...And if all that news isn't depressing enough for you, it says the woolly bear caterpillars indicate we're in for a long, dark winter."