

Slouch

By Jim Earle



Lugar vs. Packwood for GOP Senate post

by Steve Gerstel

WASHINGTON — Politicians, always seeking to climb another rung on the power ladder, are constantly on the lookout for the next opportunity. So it was not surprising Sen. Richard Lugar of Indiana, though he faces something of a battle for re-election, is making political plans past the Nov. 2 elections. Lugar has let his Republican colleagues in the Senate know he wants to be considered for the chairmanship of the GOP senatorial campaign committee — one of the party's leadership posts. The erudite former Rhodes scholar told colleagues he wants to make his case — should he win re-election — and asked them not to get locked in on any other candidate. Lugar made a smart move. The incumbent chairman, Robert Packwood of Oregon, wants a third term and already has contacted every GOP senator. The Lugar-Packwood contest, a classic confrontation, pits the party-line conservative from Indiana against the maverick liberal from Oregon in the first of the known races for a congressional leadership post. In the byzantine maze of Capitol Hill politics, getting into the contest early is crucial. Any candidate who waits risks being frozen out as other commitments are made and cannot be broken. That's why Lugar's letter to colleagues, although perhaps premature in the real world, was essential in terms of inhouse politics. A good example of a one who moved fast is Senate Republican leader Howard Baker on election night 1980.

Baker, who had been leader when Republicans were in the minority in the 96th Congress, headed off any threat to his post from the party's conservative wing with one well-placed call. The recipient was Sen. Paul Laxalt of Nevada, president-elect Ronald Reagan's close friend and confidant. Laxalt gave Baker his backing, immediately ending any challenge from the right. Due to personal friendships and the need for party harmony — to say nothing of the risks in a losing effort — attempts to unseat party leaders are rare. One of the best remembered is when then-Rep. Gerald Ford of Michigan ousted Rep. Charles Halleck for the post of Republican leader in a bloody 1965 revolt that was decided by a vote of 73-67. The 98th Congress, which begins in January, is not expected to bring wholesale changes in the congressional leadership — if any. In the House, Speaker Thomas O'Neill and Democratic leader Jim Wright of Texas are secure. So is Republican leader Bob Michel of Illinois, if he is reelected. If not, Rep. Trent Lott of Mississippi will try to move up but is certain to face competition. In the event whip Thomas Foley is defeated, the Democrats would be in for a fierce free-for-all — with Arkansas' Bill Alexander probably a leading candidate. Baker has so impressed the Republicans and the White House as majority leader, that he should feel very comfortable at this point. Sen. John Tower of Texas is a sure thing as chairman of the Republican policy committee.

Environmental battle goes on

by Maxwell Glen and Cody Shearer

The first half of the environmental movement's scrimmage with the Reagan administration has come to a close, and it looks like a draw. Though coach Ron's star player at the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Anne Gorsuch, successfully slashed her agency's budget for the second year running, environmentalists scored more money from Congress for their cherished institution than she'd desired. Before environment fans celebrate prematurely, however, they should know that Gorsuch is on her way to victory: the dismantling, if not destruction, of the EPA. Environmentalists alone may not be sufficient to foil the Reagan-Gorsuch game plan. This week, environmentalists will review highlights from the first half when the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) releases a study, "Hitting Home: The Effects of the Reagan Environmental Policies on Communities Across America." Among the study's more striking examples of the administration's commitment to environmental protection: "The case of the poisoned perch." Great Lakes fish have begun to show concentrations of toxaphene, a carcinogenic pesticide, of up to 10 parts per million — twice the accepted limit set by the Food and Drug Administration for edible fish. "Despite EPA staff recommendations," the NRDC report says, "Reagan-appointed EPA officials have done nothing to ban or strictly control this dan-

gerous pesticide." What's worse, they were reluctant to provide the public with health and safety information on the bug killer; "The case of the North Dartmouth delay." North Dartmouth, Mass., was given top priority by the EPA in October 1981 as the site of one of America's 114 "worst" hazardous-waste dumps; at the time, Massachusetts requested \$2.3 million in federal "Superfund" money to clean up the mess. But preliminary work didn't begin until three weeks ago. In fact, the EPA under Reagan has obligated only one-fifth of the \$1.6 billion Superfund, even though as many as 2,000 waste dumps threaten the health of American communities; "The case of the Brownsville burn." Last month the EPA forbade a company from the continued burning of 3.6 million gallons of cancer-causing polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB's) and other toxic wastes in the Gulf of Mexico about 175 miles east of Brownsville, Texas. But it acted only after burning had begun, and under public protest. To the dismay of environmentalists and coastal residents, the EPA had sanctioned the offshore burns without a preliminary assessment of environmental impact. Despite EPA assurances that the process would eliminate most of the deadly material, it allowed the company to involve a relatively high limit for poisonous residues. These cases, of course, are only one group's illustrations. Similar stories come from citizens such as Jackie Russell, who has been begging EPA to test for groundwater contamination near a recently-

closed Kingston, N.H., hazardous waste dump, or from Georgia Haskins of Pasadena, Texas, mother who says the EPA permits new chemical plants where the air is already poisoned by other facilities. Every story serves to highlight a public misfortune: The nation still has work to do in cleaning up the environment, yet lacks the leadership to do it. Worse yet, the U.S. has had a Reagan, Gorsuch and James Watt serve the gains of older environmental battles: Efforts to weaken clean water laws and to parcel undeveloped land to the highest bidder have for now. In time, however, Gorsuch's less-publicized efforts could be the final score. While she shrewdly makes occasional appearances "to fight" for the agency, Gorsuch has continued to draw and uphold a pro-industry bias the EPA was intended to counter. As the NRDC has found, that's less sampling of air and water and looser rules on permits and standards and slashed research programs and changes which will eventually undo the laws themselves. No one needs to warn the environmentalists. "What the public knows the issues, we've won," says Rafe Pomerance of Friends of the Earth. "But on the institutional side it's very tough. They (the administration) get away with almost everything, therein may lie the environmentalists' only hope in the second half. It draws more support when everyone knows it's the underdog."

WHAT IS THE WORST PROBLEM JIMMY CARTER LEFT US WITH?



UNEMPLOYMENT INFLATION

Letters: Parking tickets are a pain

Editor: When I left work on the afternoon of October 13, I found a parking ticket on my windshield. The ticket indicates that I have an orange sticker (which I do because my husband is employed by grounds maintenance) and I was parked in Lot 6. Less than two inches below the orange sticker on my rear windshield (drivers side), is my valid Lot 6 sticker (#08525). (I was just looking at my ticket and realized that it is dated 10/12/82, but it was issued 10/13/82. Maybe the police department should give their officers some eyesight tests.) This is the third ticket I have received in less than a year that I did not deserve. Why me? I pay a total of \$65. per year between the two stickers for two vehicles for the privilege of parking in Lot 6, which is usually so full of unauthorized vehicles that I have to park on the street. It would really be nice if I could park in my authorized lot without the hassle of being ticketed when I am legally parked. I spent quite some time last Friday in your office with a young lady who works for me because her car had been towed. I did not agree with your decision about her car (the towing was totally unearned by her), but of course we cannot buck the

system, can we? The students have no choice, but I think I do. However, if I receive any more tickets while I am legally parked in an area that I pay to park in, you will not only hear from me, but I will discuss with my attorney the possibility of filing a harassment suit. This is absolutely ridiculous. Do you give your officers any kind of an intelligence or eyesight test before they are hired? If not, maybe you should. Your cooperation in this matter (whether I get it or not) is most appreciated.

Linda Tracy Senior Secretary First Year Programs

Prisoner request Editor: I am a prisoner on death row at the Arizona State Prison and I was wondering if you would do me a favor. I have been here for quite a while and I don't have any family or friends on the outside to write to so what I was wondering is if you could put an ad in your campus newspaper for me for correspondence. If not in your paper then maybe you have some kind of bulletin that you could put it in. I know that you are not a pen-pal club or anything like that but I would

really appreciate it if you could help. I will just make a small ad and if you have to change it around or anything go ahead and do what you need to. Death Row prisoner, caucasian, age 36, desires correspondence either male or female college student. Wants to form some kind of friendly relationship and more or less just change past experiences and ideas. answer all letters and exchange pictures. If interested, write to Jim Jeffers, B-38604, Florence, Arizona, 85528.

Jim Jeffers

Corrections In a story on Northgate Tuesday, Battalion incorrectly called Al May College Station city manager. Al May is city planner. North Bardell is city manager. In a story on the National Organization for Women, The Battalion incorrectly quoted Jo Katherine Foy, president of the local NOW chapter, as saying NOW considers lesbian values a priority issue." Foy said the issue is one of their priorities. She said getting women into public office is their priority. The Battalion regrets the errors.

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