

# opinion

## MX issue splitting party, causing revolt

# Frustrated Democrats attack leadership

by Patricia Koza  
United Press International

WASHINGTON — A revolt is brewing among Capitol Hill Democrats over the MX, and the issue may erupt into open rebellion during the next crucial vote on the giant nuclear weapon.

Two recent events indicate the depth of frustration among opponents with the refusal by the party leadership to take a position on the MX. Democrats expressed their concern at a 2½-hour party caucus June 14, called on a petition signed by 112 members and circulated by a freshman from California.

The issue: why the House leadership broke with the majority of Democrats and supported President Reagan in a critical MX vote last month. The second event occurred barely an hour later at an anti-MX rally in the Capitol steps, when both Sens. Edward Kennedy, D-Mass., and Gary Hart, D-Colo., chastised those who endorsed MX.

"Any Democrat who thinks we can purchase peace by voting for MX ought to be ashamed of himself," Kennedy declared.

Democrats, who consider themselves the party of arms control, last month forced Reagan to adopt a more flexible

*"Any Democrat who thinks we can purchase peace by voting for MX ought to be ashamed of himself."*

— Sen. Edward Kennedy

arms control policy as part of the deal for deploying 100 of the 10-warhead weapons in existing Minuteman missile silos.

Les Aspin, D-Wis., Norman Dicks, D-Wash., and Albert Gore Jr., D-Tenn., led a group of moderate Democrats who obtained a written agreement from Reagan to seriously seek arms control.

The president wrote a similar letter to several similarly concerned senators. In return, the House and Senate voted to release \$625 million in engineering and flight-testing funds that had been "fenced" in the 1983 budget.

But now some Democrats are beginning to feel as if they've been flim-flammed — both by the leadership and by the moderates who led the turnaround from December, when both houses had put the skids on MX.

Both Aspin and Dicks have indicated they will reevaluate their positions if Reagan does not moderate his position on arms control beyond the sketchy outlines provided for the new round of Strategic Arms Limitation Talks in Geneva.

It fell to a freshman, Jim Bates of California, to circulate the petition that convened the caucus.

"If we weren't going to take a position on defense as a party, I wanted to know

why," he said.

"As a freshman, I'm not accustomed to questioning the leadership. But in this case, we were frustrated and disappointed, and felt we had to question them. It seemed as though they were out of step with the party on this issue," Bates said.

Several sources said seven or eight Democrats who voted to release MX research funds last month will switch their

*"If we weren't going to take a position on defense as a party, I wanted to know why."* — Sen. Jim Bates

positions on a vote scheduled in mid-July to authorize production funds for 27 missiles.

At least 25 or 30 of the 91 Democrats who joined 148 Republicans in the May

vote would be needed to turn MX down yet again. Aspin, formerly an opponent, warned rejection of the program by Democrats would be a party of an opportunity to use the campaign issue next year.

"If we give him this, then the president to get an arms control agreement and we can hold him accountable," Aspin said.

Among the prominent party members who supported the MX last month, Democratic leader James Wright of Texas, and whip Thomas Foley of Washington, D.C., have been particularly partisan. "I thought it might have been a Democratic leadership had a partisan stance and had been constructing the defense of the MX," Wright said.

But other Democrats are questioning whether the party has not stepped up that spot by failing to take a particularly strong stance against MX, particularly when its leading presidential contenders oppose MX.



## Letters: dual education system an insult to black community

**Editor:**

The State of Texas is being deprived of the services and contributions of black faculty, staff, and students in the Texas A&M University System because of an inadequate, uncoordinated recruitment and retention process.

This process lacks essential safeguards, including involvement of blacks throughout, and outreach into the black community. As a result, qualified respected blacks like the Warners, Perrys, Johnsons, Dunsons, etc., are lost and many others never gained.

It is incredulous that a system of higher education headed by a FLAGSHIP

UNIVERSITY should begin so poorly, and continue to languish in enhancing the black presence in the Texas A&M University System as part of its mission to serve the great state of Texas.

Consider the fact that as of Nov. 30, 1981, blacks represented less than 1.5 percent of all workers in each of the seven EEO-6 job categories except service and maintenance personnel, where they were almost 40 percent of the workforce.

In point of fact, black faculty, administrator and professional non-faculty, and students constituted less than 2 percent of the workforce or student body respectively. Further, black faculty were only 15 of 2,358 faculty members, of whom only

six were tenure track, again of whom four are leaving or have left.

This vestige of a dual education system must be redressed. It is an insult of the first magnitude to us in the black community, the Texas A&M University System, the Bryan/College Station area, and the state at large.

Surely this is a tarnishment in the striving toward excellence or preeminence that is both unacceptable and at the same time removable, especially in view of the abundant resources at hand locally and at state and national levels.

We in the black community stand ready as always to facilitate this effort.

**Erma Faye Jefferson**  
College Station

**The Battalion**

USPS 045 360  
Member of Texas Press Association  
Southwest Journalism Conference

Editor: Hope E. Paasch  
City Editor: Kelley Smith  
Sports Editor: John Wagner  
News Editors: Daran Bishop, Brian Boyer, Beverly Hamilton, Tammy Jones  
Staff Writers: Scott Griffin, Robert McGlohon, Angel Stokes, Joe Tindel  
Copy editors: Kathleen Hart, Tracey Taylor  
Cartoonist: Scott McCullar  
Photographers: Brenda Davidson, Eric Lee, Barry Papke, Peter Rocha

**Editorial Policy**

The Battalion is a non-profit, self-supporting newspaper operated as a community service to Texas A&M University and Bryan-College Station. Opinions expressed in The Battalion are those of the editor or the author, and do not necessarily represent the opinions of Texas A&M University administrators or faculty members, or of the Board of Regents.

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.

**Letters Policy**

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 and show the address and telephone number of the writer.

Columns and guest editorials also are 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 (409) 845-2611.

The Battalion is published Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday during both Texas A&M regular summer sessions, except for holiday and examination periods. Mail subscriptions are \$16.75 per semester, \$33.25 per school year and \$35 per full year. Advertising rates furnished on request.

Our address: The Battalion, 216 Reed McDonald Building, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX 77843.

United Press International is entitled exclusively to the use for reproduction of all news dispatches credited to it. Rights of reproduction of all other matter herein reserved.

Second class postage paid at College Station, TX 77843.

**Berry's World**

"At the office, I'm thought of as a sweet, gentle, sensitive man. At home, I'm considered a cruel, heartless ideologue."

## Pet rocks replaced by 'computerocks'

by Dick West  
United Press International

WASHINGTON — Alas, kind sir, or madam, as the case might be, it is time to put away the "Pet Rock" that some generous and understanding benefactor gave you a few years ago and that has since become almost like one of the family.

Truly "with it" households — those whose members pride themselves on piling up enough faddish sandbags to avoid being inundated by the mainstream — are going to be switching to high technology stones.

According to a recent ad in the Wall Street Journal, it already is possible to "plug into the future" with a "personal Computerock" made by a Philadelphia company.

For as little as \$13.95, plus \$2.50 for shipping and handling, the modern man who has everything can add a solid state pebble to his desk top collection. The beauty of a Computerock, apart from the price, is that it doesn't process words, retrieve data or perform any of those other complicated functions.

"So easy to use, you don't even have to turn it on," promises the manufacturer. Land, what a warranty!

"If your personal Computerock ever works, we'll replace it free of charge."

Moreover, the Computerock is guaranteed "modularly upgradable." This means a proud owner who wishes "to extend its non-functionality" can, for a mere \$6.95, purchase "peripheral pebbles" that hook onto the "mainrock" to form a sort of mineralized daisy chain.

Although I have only a nodding ac-

quaintance, at best, with the computer age, I can foresee a bright tomorrow the breakthrough that has miniaturization "to its logical conclusion." Rock technology, we are told, "millions of transistors shrunk together no longer actually exist."

About time. A word of however.

I can foresee trouble ahead for the corner-cutter who tries to lower investment by wiring up "Pet Rock" double duty.

Insist on the real thing. For the conservation-minded, many new uses that today's engineers are turning up for rocks must be heartening. Like the silicon in video games and other hi-tech toys, rocks are among the most ancient of Earth's natural resources.

Have only to plow up a small garden in your back yard to uncover rocks to last a lifetime.

Despite their availability, pet rocks have never loomed large in daily life patterns. Until some 20 years ago that good pets, very few of us formed emotional attachments to them.

To the contrary, the word appeared in terms of denigration the expression "You must have your head."

Clearly, the advent of Computerocks is a giant step forward. A few more progressive developments of this type and rocks will have equal status with places.

**Slouch**

By Jim Berry

"I think you shouldn't be riding a bicycle with the handlebars set so low."