

opinion

Senate not envied by House members

by Steve Gerstel
United Press International

WASHINGTON — The assumption has always been that an ambitious younger member of the House of Representatives, given even half a chance, will gamble and shoot for the U.S. Senate.

Members of the Senate come from all walks, in and out of politics, and the House has always been considered a fertile breeding ground.

But now comes a study by the American Enterprise Institute, edited by John F. Bibby, that dispels the notion that House members are panting to get to the Senate.

The study, titled "Congress off the Record: the Candid Analysis of Seven Members," found only one who expressed any interest in running for the Senate and the rest had some harsh words for what they call the "other body" or worse.

The members, who were not identified to secure the "most free-wheeling and candid discussions possible," were four Republicans and three Democrats, all elected in 1978. All were re-elected in 1980 but two were defeated in 1982.

One of the more interesting parts of the study showed the low regard that House members — or at least these seven — showed for the Senate and its members.

"The Senate is a zoo," one said. "I have no interest in the Senate. The Senate is all personality dependent."

"It's people who shave the face of the next president every morning," the congressman said. "That is just ridiculous. I have no interest in being in the Senate."

This member of Congress conceded senators only two advantages — getting calls returned by White House chief of staff Jim Baker and getting on network television.

"That's the maximum a senator can do that I can't do," this one said.

Another flatly stated, "I've never liked senators. Those folks don't know much and they're not very competent."

A third complained, "They are spread so thin that they can't hold a candle to House members in terms of substance."

"Their egos are very big. I think there is a certain pomposity there, pomposity, that I find very difficult to accept."

Some of these complaints are legitimate. There certainly are pompous, big-ego and incompetent senators. The same goes for the House.

And it's true that senators are spread thin and they are probably not versed as well on some issues.

Yet, there is a suspicion that this group of congressmen, or those who teed off on the Senate, may not reflect the general feeling.

Although it is more than 15 months before the next elections, five members of the House have already opted to risk their seats and run for the Senate.

They include Reps. Tom Corcoran, R-Ill., Tom Harkin, D-Iowa, Albert Gore, D-Tenn., Paul Simon, D-Ill., and Norm D'Amour, D-N.H. There may be more.

In addition, governors, seeking another step on the political ladder, do not run for the House. They run for the Senate.

And senators, never, never give up their coveted seats to run for the House. They retire, run for president, accept vice presidential nominations or die.

The only truly serious presidential candidate to run for the presidency from the House in many years was Rep. Morris Udall of Arizona who gave Jimmy Carter a decent race in 1976.

Others have mounted nuisance campaigns and former Rep. John Anderson of Illinois led a third party effort in 1980 and will do so again in 1984.

But as usual, the presidential candidates are in the Senate — Mondale, Glenn, Cranston, Hart and Hollings. The exception is Reubin Askew, a former Florida governor.

All in all, there must be something about the Senate that has escaped those who participated in the AEI study.



Political dilemma develops

Will Spain stay in NATO?

by Barry James
United Press International

MADRID, Spain — The Socialist government of Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez is faced with an embarrassing political dilemma over Spain's membership in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

The United States and other allies want Gonzalez to make Spain an effective member of the 16-nation alliance.

But grassroots opinion at home favors withdrawal from NATO, which Spain joined in May 1982 under its previous center-coalition government.

The Socialists halted plans for military integration after winning office in October.

"If a vote were taken today on whether to stay in or come out, there's little doubt most people would opt to come out," Socialist Party spokesman Pedro Bofill said in an interview.

Gonzalez announced while in Washington in June that he will fulfill a Socialist Party campaign promise to hold a referendum on the issue, and a date will be set in the first half of 1985.

The pragmatic prime minister is not opposed personally to NATO membership. In West Germany in May, he expressed understanding for NATO's decision to begin deployment of 572 new nuclear missiles at the end of this year.

He said recently he hoped "the Spanish people will come to see the advantages of belonging to NATO. If that is the case it would be welcome."

Yet he has also said the government

will remain neutral in the referendum campaign, while the Socialist Party likely will be banging the drum for withdrawal.

"It seems as though the executive power is sinking into a sea of contradictions," the newspaper El Pais said.

Emotionally, there's a tendency here to link the NATO issue with Spain's long-delayed application to join the European Common Market, and the question of the sovereignty of Gibraltar, the British colony on Spain's southern coast.

"How can we sell the idea of belonging

bership of the alliance conferring benefits.

For example, while northern European countries have based their almost entirely around the attack by the Soviet Union, equally concerned about the conflict with its southern neighbor Morocco, against which the would be no help.

The Moroccans claim the North African enclaves of Ceuta and Melilla.

Membership in NATO also an alliance with Britain, which acceptable so long as the Gibraltar festers.

"If a vote were taken today on whether to stay in or come out, there's little doubt most people would opt to come out." — Socialist Party spokesman Pedro Bofill.

to NATO, if we have no understanding from our allies," Bofill said. "They want us in NATO but not in the Common Market. They expect us to stay cooking in the kitchen, and they deny us a place at the banquet table."

There is no indication, however, the Common Market question will be resolved in time to influence the referendum. And following its Falklands victory last year, Britain seems in no mood to compromise on Gibraltar.

Spain's defenses are based on a 1954 bilateral treaty with the United States that continues regardless of the country's status within NATO.

Many Spaniards cannot see that mem-

Reagan's spokesman expecting promotion

by Helen Thomas
United Press International

WASHINGTON — Backstairs at the White House:

Presidential spokesman Larry Speakes is shortly expected to be promoted to rank of assistant to the president, but he will retain the title of principal deputy press secretary.

Speakes has been in charge of the White House press office since press secretary James Brady was wounded in the assassination attempt on President Reagan March 30, 1981.

Brady is making strides in his recovery and shows up in his office on Friday mornings to work on his mail from devoted fans.

As far as the president is concerned, the title remains with Brady as long as he wants it.

Speakes has had to be nimble-footed and tight-lipped in recent days, fielding tough questions on the use of President Carter's filched debate briefing papers by the Reagan camp, on the military buildup in Central America and other touchy

issues that cross his desk each day.

He has managed to man the barricades and be the voice of the White House while passing muster with personnel chief John Herrington, who scrutinized his operation.

White House chief of staff James Baker was able to walk in where others feared to tread. Despite the spotlight of somewhat negative publicity on government officials attending the exclusive all-male Bohemian Grove weekend gathering in California, Baker was one White House official who did show up.

But Baker flew to California on a commercial airliner, paying his own way.

The hullabaloo was over Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger and other Pentagon officials flying to California for the Bohemian Club weekend on a government plane. Weinberger planned to visit a Navy supply depot while in the vicinity, but that did not ease criticism and he canceled the trip.

White House counselor Edwin Meese was already on the West Coast attending to personal affairs and did not join the annual gathering.

Good massages are hard to find

by Art Buchwald

It is regrettable that as the massage parlor industry grows by leaps and bounds there are fewer and fewer places that actually offer you a real massage — one that will alleviate pain and distress when you really need it.

I discovered this last Sunday when I found myself with a pinched nerve and decided that I might get some relief from the strong hands of a tough masseur or masseuse who was willing to throw me across the room, if necessary, to get the crick out of my neck.

There are 10 pages devoted to massage parlors in the Washington Yellow Pages, but very few seem to have too many massage specialists on duty on Sunday afternoon.

The listings include "Aladdin's Chest," "Bunny's Topkopi," "Bobbie Jo's Flaming Den," "Tiffany's Velvet Touch," and "Sheik Abdullah's Harem." I finally called "Lolita's Geisha House" because my fingers got tired of walking across the Yellow Pages. Lolita's ad said they made house calls.

A man answered the phone. "I have this crick in my neck," I said. "And I was wondering if you'd send over an expert masseur."

"Of course. Do you want a blonde or a brunette?"

"I don't care about the color of his hair. I want a guy with strong hands."

"Oh, you're one of them," he said.

"One of what?" I asked.

"Well, we usually send out masseuses for men and masseuses for women."

"Look, I'm not particular as long as the person knows what he or she is doing."

"They know what they're doing, all right," he assured me. "They wouldn't be working for Lolita's Geisha House if they didn't. We can fulfill any fantasy you have in mind."

"Well, I do have this fantasy," I said, "that someone will come over to my house and take his or her strong hands and wring them around my neck and get the crick out of it."

"I see. You're into sadomasochism," he said. "Would you like her to wear an all-leather outfit?"

"I don't care what she wears. As a matter of fact, I don't care if you send over a 300-pound gorilla as long as I can get some relief."

"We've never had anyone ask for a gorilla before. You do have some strange fantasies."

"Look, I really don't want a gorilla. What I had in mind was one of those large, heavily built Swedish or Finnish women, one who is stacked like a brick federal building and has steel arms and hands that can tear a Washington Redskins linebacker in half."

"What kind of a massage parlor do you think we're running? Our girls come from some of the best families in the country. Several are graduates of Vassar and Sweetbriar, and we have one who has a master's degree from the University of Tokyo."

"We have the most beautiful girls in the Washington area, and while we try to make all our clients happy there are limits to the services we will provide. Now if you really want a gorilla, you're going to have to give us a few days to find one and you'll have to pay for his trainer because we can't allow him to make house calls on his own."

"I need someone this afternoon. Don't you have a simple masseur or masseuse who just gets pleasure out of rubbing sore muscles and massaging bad backs and necks?"

"We might have," he said suspiciously.

"But how do we know you're not from the vice squad?"

"I swear to you I'm not. I have an

American Express credit card, a Charge and a Bank Americard, and I'm able to get credit from all three. I'm a member of the vice squad."

"All right," he said. "Well, I'll be over Annie."

"Is she strong?"

"Strong? She'll put three horses on your back with a horsehair on a horse's tail. Forget your neck pain in a flash."

"Thanks, but no thanks. I'll go to the YMCA."

"It's up to you, but I doubt you'll have a gorilla working on Sunday afternoon."

"Berry's World"

All and become

We are jugglers, jesters, brass instruments

For me in the

Be a

a Ch

"My wife is having a soft party at home."

1983 NEA

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: Robert McGlohon, Karen Schrimsher, Angel Stokes, Joe Tindel
Copy editors: Kathleen Hart, Beverly Hamilton
Cartoonist: Scott McCullar
Photographers: Brenda Davidson, Eric Evan Lee, Barry Papke

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.

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.