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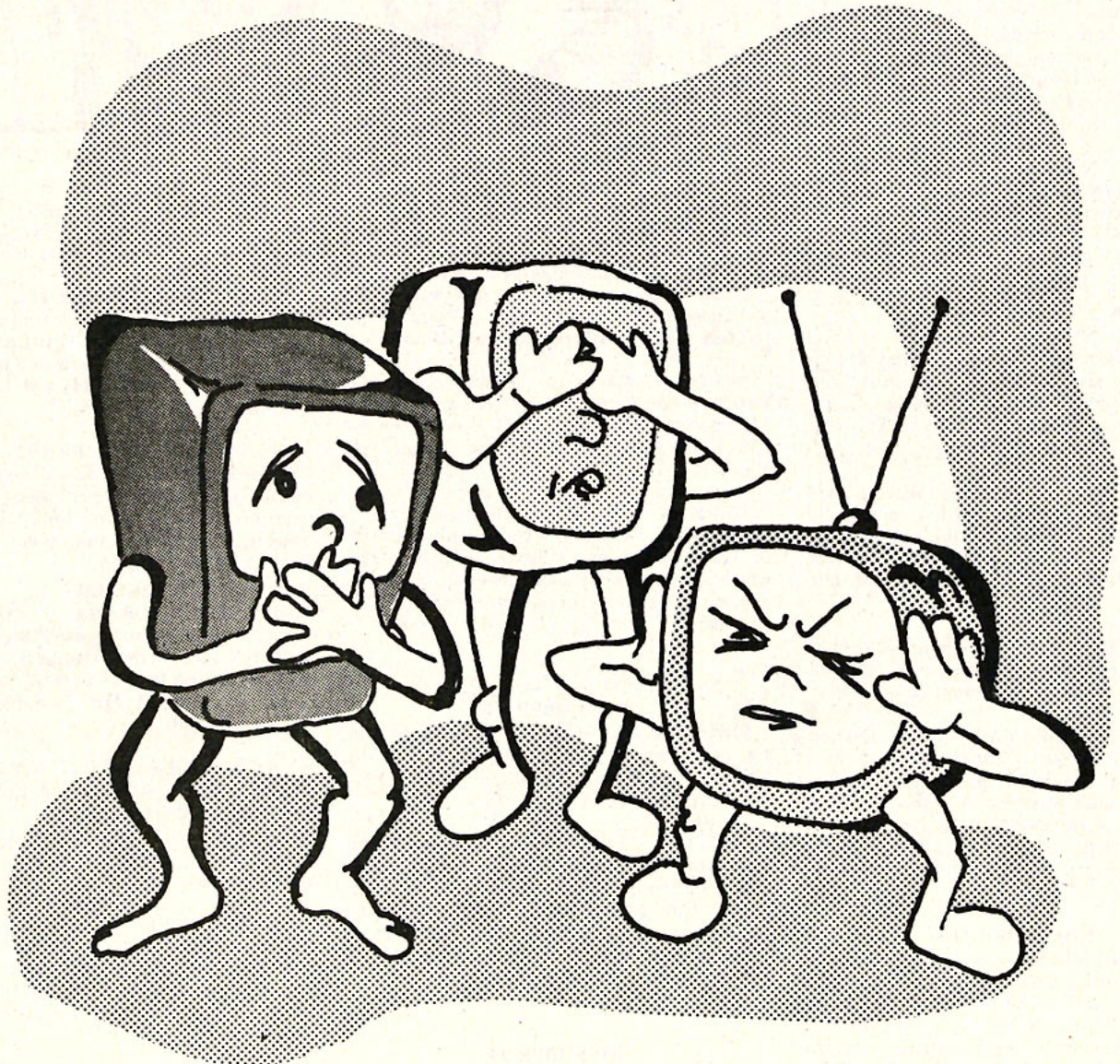
A Journal of Free Voices

A Window to the South

November 27, 1970

25¢

Banks and broadcasting



Drawing by Bill Ames

The coming fortnight . . .

By Suzanne Shelton

NOVEMBER GRAB BAG

SILVERWARE - Exhibit of 19th Century American craftsmanship in silver, including pair of goblets commissioned by French general, the Marquis de Lafayette; through Dec. 14, Witte Confluence Museum, HemisFair Plaza, San Antonio.

TAPESTRIES - Commissioned by Hatfield Galleries of Los Angeles and woven in Aubusson, France, exhibition of 12 contemporary tapestries includes one with design inspired by Texas shore birds, executed by University of Texas at Austin art professor Michael Frary; Shook-Carrington Gallery, 6700 N. New Braunfels, San Antonio.

BEN SHAHN - Tempera, watercolors, lithographs, and serigraphs by renowned contemporary American artist, from collection recently shown in Japan; through Dec. 9, Gallerie Ann, 3220 Louisiana, Houston.

NOVEMBER 19

STRING BAND - The incredible Incredible String Band, backed by Shiva's Head Band, will be at Armadillo World Headquarters in Austin; Nov. 19 and 20, from about 8:30 p.m. 'till 1 a.m.

NOVEMBER 20

FIFTH DIMENSION - Famed quintet, known for recordings such as "Up, Up, and Away" and "Stone Soul Picnic," in concert; 6:30 and 9 p.m., Waco Hall, Baylor University, Waco; also Nov. 22, 9:30 p.m., McFarlin Auditorium, Dallas.

MEASURE FOR MEASURE - Shakespeare's dark comedy of justice, in version updated by Houston Shakespeare Society; through Nov. 22, 8:30 p.m. nightly with 2:30 p.m. Sunday matinee, University of Saint Thomas Jones Hall, Houston.

LAINIE KAZAN - If you ignore her current T.V. commercial, she's quite a singer; through Dec. 9, Venetian Room, Fairmont Hotel, Dallas.

ELIZABETHAN DRAMA - Rare presentation of "The Maid's Tragedy," drama of blood, lust, and horror by Beaumont and Fletcher, writing team that rivalled Shakespeare in his ability to thrill audiences; through Nov. 22, Dec. 3 and 4, 8:15 p.m. with 3 p.m. Sunday matinee, University Theatre, Texas Tech University, Lubbock.

NOVEMBER 21

MARGOT FONTEYN - Foremost ballerina of England's Royal Ballet is guest artist for "Carmina Burana" with Dallas Civic Opera chorus and soloists; also Puccini's "Il Tabarro," one-act melodramatic opera starring Magda Olivero; through Nov. 22, State Fair Music Hall, Dallas.



Armadillo presents the Incredible String Band

NOVEMBER 22

TSU CONCERT - Opening concert for Texas Southern University's new Music Building includes T.S.U. Contemporary Jazz Ensemble in "Ghetto," "Concertino" for five woodwinds, "Thunderbird," a jazz concerto; 3 p.m., Music Building, Texas Southern University, Houston.

BAROQUE MUSIC - Robert Jones, Ray Weaver, Byron Hester, Shirley Trepel, and Fredell Lack perform in "Sundays at 4" concert series; 4 p.m., Jones Lecture Hall, Museum of Fine Arts, Houston.

GERMAN CELLIST - Christian Hocks of Wiedenbruck, Germany, is cellist with University of Texas Symphony Orchestra in soloist series which resulted from student competitive tryouts; 4 p.m., Hogg Auditorium, University of Texas, Austin.

NOVEMBER 23

BURT BACHARACH - America's favorite pop composer, in concert, playing such hits as "Alfie," "Promises, Promises;" 8:30 p.m., Coliseum, Houston.

HOUSTON SYMPHONY - Violinist Viktor Tretyakov performs Tchaikowsky's Violin Concerto, with Georg Semkow conducting, through Nov. 24; Semkow conducts with Austin pianist James Kick as soloist in Chopin's Piano Concerto in E Minor; Nov. 29 and 30, Dec. 1; 8:30 p.m., Jones Hall, Houston.

NOVEMBER 24

LEON BIBB - Folk singer and his musicians present nostalgic songs of past plus selections from modern composers; 8:15 p.m., McFarlin Memorial Auditorium, Southern Methodist University, Dallas.

NOVEMBER 25

FOR ROCK FANS - Three Dog Night in concert; Sam Houston Coliseum, Houston.

NOVEMBER 27

SPY FARCE - Fledgling Southwest Theatre Guild presents "Who Was That Lady I Saw You With?," F.B.I. farce by Norman Krasna; through Nov. 28, Dec. 4 and 5, 11, and 12, 8:30 p.m., 2419 Times Blvd., Houston.

NOVEMBER 30

TEXAS TENOR - William Blankenship, native of Gatesville, currently performing in European opera productions, returns to his alma mater for concert; 8 p.m., Mail Auditorium, North Texas State University, Denton.

DECEMBER 3

DEPRESSION DRAMA - Alley Theatre presents world premiere of "Ring Around the Bathub," Jane Trahey's comedy of a Chicago family's attempts to outwit the American Depression; through Jan. 3, 8:30 p.m., Alley Theatre, Houston.

ONE-ACT MUSICALS - N.T.S.U. Theatre presents "Diary of Adam and Eve," based on Mark Twain short story, plus Jules Feiffer's "Passionella," and "The Lady or the Tiger?"; through Dec. 5, University Theatre, North Texas State University, Denton.

DECEMBER 4

MORE FEIFFER - In case you don't make it to Denton, Jules Feiffer's "Living Cartoons" and "Crawling Arnold" are performed by Bijuberti Players in supper theatre; through Dec. 5, 11, and 12, 8:30 p.m., Theatre Unlimited, 15th and Waller Streets, Austin.

RIGOLETTO - Dallas Civic Opera performs Verdi's classic with Gian Piero Mastromel, Margherita Rinaldi, Ion Buzea, Malagu Zaccaria, Jon Enloe; also Dec. 6, State Fair Music Hall, Dallas.

Banks and broadcasting

Austin

On Mon. Nov. 9, the National Educational Television network aired the fifth program in its Realities series. The program, titled "The Banks and the Poor," appeared on only two of the five N.E.T. outlets in Texas.

Stations KUHT in Houston and KERA in Dallas showed the hour documentary, which runs down the relation between banks and slumlords, between banks and loan sharks and between banks and consumer credit practices that are particularly burdensome to the poor.

The program was not seen on channels KLRN in Austin and San Antonio, KAMU in College Station, nor KTXT in Lubbock. All three stations had aired the previous segments of the Realities series.

About one-week before the program was scheduled to appear, the executive vice-president of the Texas Bankers Association, Sam O. Kimberlin, Jr., sent a letter to all five N.E.T. outlets in the state. The letter stated that the association believed the program to be inaccurate and biased against bankers. The letter did not, however, request that the program not be aired and in fact carefully avoided making any such suggestion. It did however suggest that the boards of the stations be called together to preview the show and decide for themselves whether or not it was fair.

IN DALLAS, station manager Larry Welles said KERA received several calls of inquiry about the show before it appeared from local bankers and one letter from a local bank. He said all the callers and the letter writer believed that the show was biased against bankers. None of them had seen the show. Welles, who works in a town which is widely considered to be an oligarchy run by bankers, said he felt there was no pressure on him not to air the show and that there were no implied threats in the calls he received. He said station personnel previewed the program carefully and stood ready to offer the bankers equal time to present their point of view if they wished it.

One irony in the Dallas situation: the same day that the T.B.A. sent out its letter on "Banks and the Poor," KERA sent a letter out to members of the Dallas banking community asking them to support the station. Welles said he believed the bankers in Dallas had behaved more than fairly about the program.

In Houston, Nat Rogers, an officer of the American Bankers Association and president of First City National Bank of Houston, who appears in the documentary to defend the bankers' role, made what seems to have been the most intelligent response to the program. Rogers and several other Houston bankers did ask

KUHT if they could preview the program, but when they came to the station to do so, they brought several representatives of Houston's poor with them. Staffers from O.E.O. and the Houston Legal Foundation came with the bankers and participated in the discussion after the preview.

Station manager Jim Bowers said there was never the slightest suggestion from the bankers that the program not be aired. The station offered the bankers equal time but they have not yet decided whether they will take it.

Rogers said, "The only real complaint I have is that the program tarred the bankers and the savings and loan people with the same brush. But we're accustomed to oversimplification. When people see the contrasts we have in this country between great wealth and great poverty, they're apt to think that the banks, with their great wealth, could solve the problem. And of course it's just not that simple."

At KTXT in Lubbock, program director John Hanson said the station's decision not to air the show was made even before Kimberlin's letter arrived at the station and was made only by station personnel. According to Hanson, Lubbock bankers did not contact the station about the program but KTXT did ask five local bankers in to preview the program.

"We felt the program was somewhat biased and didn't go into depth on Texas banks. You know that some of the problems treated in the program, such as garnishment of wages and the power to claim and sell a house for a defaulted debt, simply do not apply in this state."

Hanson said the decision not to show the program was made solely by himself and by his boss, D. M. McElroy. McElroy was formerly assistant comptroller (business manager) of Texas Tech.

There was no indication that outside bankers intervened directly at KAMU at College Station. Norman Godwin, program director, said the decision not to air the program was made by with the counsel of the university's administration and specifically with the counsel of Frank Hubert. Hubert is dean of the College of Education at A & M and as such is directly responsible for the educational television station. However, Hubert is also on the board of directors of the Bank of A & M at College Station.

At station KLRN, which serves both Austin and San Antonio, the situation is less clear. The station's general manager and president Robert Schenkkan said that the program has been "temporarily cancelled."

"Pressure is not the question at stake here," he said.

The station has offered the bankers three alternatives: a short time after the

program for response, a 30-minute spot the following week, or an hour spot the following week.

KLRN previewed the program for two T.B.A. officials in Austin and for a group of bankers in San Antonio. According to station sources other than Schenkkan, Schenkkan spent quite a bit of time after the preview convincing the bankers that it would be very bad public relations if they were to insist that the program not be shown at all, that it would, in effect, be an admission of guilt.

THE ORIGINAL plan at KLRN was to have a meeting of the station's board of trustees to decide on whether to air the program. The meeting had not been held as of Monday. Four of the 36 members of the board are officers of banks including Howard Cox, the board vice-chairman, who is also vice-chairman of the board of Capitol National Bank. Several other board members are big businessmen who deal with banks regularly. Nine banking and financial institutions contribute to KLRN, which, like most N.E.T. outlets, is in financial straits.

None of the N.E.T. outlets reported hearing from any of the state's U.S. representatives. Several of them appear on the program.

Wright Patman, that crusty old bugbear of the bankers, is naturally featured. Interviews with Patman and David Rockefeller, chairman of the board of Chase Manhattan Bank, are neatly interspersed so that they appear to be rebutting one another.

Five Texan congressmen are featured on an un-honor roll toward the end of the program: a list of congressmen who either have bank holdings or are bank directors and who have violated the House rule by taking part in votes on banking legislation. They are Jack Brooks, Bob Casey, J. J. Pickle, Ray Roberts, and Omar Burleson. Burleson, lucky fellow, got a star after his name on the list because he sits on a committee which is pertinent to banking legislation.

Schenkkan told *The Daily Texan* that he considered the list unfair since it makes no distinction as to whether the men voted for or against banking interests in the roll calls in which they participated. The House rule makes no distinction either.

It is difficult to judge the fairness of the documentary according to the Federal Communication Commission's fairness doctrine, which is death to investigative reporting. Strictly interpreted, the doctrine would require a documentary on air pollution to spend half its time on why air pollution is good for people. "Banks and the Poor" is an investigation into oppressive banking practices. It does not spend half its time dwelling on all the worthy and charitable endeavors of bankers.

Bigotry in Bayou City

Houston's employment picture is "one of the worst, if not the worst," in terms of racial and sexual discrimination, according to a recently-released report of the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission.

The report, *They Have the Power - We Have the People*, concerns three days of hearings held in Houston last June. It reveals that the nation's sixth largest city has made "only minimal improvement in employment practices" since the passage of the 1964 Civil Rights Act. The commission said it "was startled by the gap between promise and performance in Houston."

While congratulating a few large companies for non-discriminatory practices, the commission criticized state and local government, some corporate giants and labor unions for their treatment of blacks, *chicanos*, and women. The report's author, Vernon Briggs, a professor of economics at the University of Texas at Austin, said Houston is dominated by big industry, that it has a weak labor movement and that there is minimal government interference with industry's activities. "As for the business-government climate," Briggs writes, neither the state nor the city has an anti-discrimination law; there is no zoning of land; there is no public utility regulation; the state constitution sets a ceiling on the amount of tax revenues that can be expended for welfare; citywide elections of all municipal officials means that it is a near impossibility to elect a racially

representative city government. Accordingly, if there is to be any significant alteration in the employment status of racial and ethnic groups as well as of women, the initiative can come only from the leaders of the business community."

REPRESENTATIVES OF many Houston companies attributed the scarcity of minority people in white collar jobs to the lack of qualified applicants. John P. Ogden, an official of Cameron Iron Works, stated unequivocally that his firm had already eliminated all vestiges of discrimination according to the requirements of the 1964 Civil Rights Act. His conception of compliance was significantly different, however, from that of the E.E.O.C. A sampling of the exchange:

E.E.O.C. Chairman William H. Brown III: Mr. Ogden, preliminarily, let me suggest to you that if you have any difficulty in pronouncing N-e-g-r-o, it is Negro. Most Negroes I know would prefer being called black because sometimes the pronunciation, as I hear it, infers something else.

(Brown, who is a black, reads part of Cameron Iron's statement explaining that workers have equal opportunities within the company.)

Brown: Let me ask you once again: Do you actually feel this is an honest statement?

Ogden: Yes, I do. I think that's a true statement.

Brown: Let's look at the figures you base this statement on. You have indicated to us, and properly so, that your number of blacks went from 320 in 1966 to 453 in 1970.

Ogden: Yes, sir.

Brown: As I calculate, that's 133 additional blacks being hired during that four year period of time. Your statistics, which you have also supplied to us, indicated that during the same period in 1966 you had 118 laborers who were Negroes and in 1970 you had 202. In 1966 you had 177 operatives who were Negroes and in 1970 you had 199. In 1966 you had 18 craftsmen who were Negroes and in 1970 you had 45. The differences between these three years, and I hope my mathematics are correct, would indicate that you had an increase of 84 laborers during that four-year period of time and if you had 22 operatives increased in terms of your black employment during that period of time and 27 craftsmen who were also black during that period of time and, if I add those up correctly, it amazingly comes to 133 which is exactly the increase you had overall from 1966 to 1970. Now I ask you again: Does this show that your company has truly eliminated discrimination?

Ogden: Yes, sir, I surely think that is true, insofar as their employment opportunity or advancement.

Brown: In other words, you feel that by employing your additional persons, who happen to be black, solely in the blue collar positions you have satisfied the

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A window to the South
A journal of free voices

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We will serve no group or party but will hew hard to the truth as we find it and the right as we see it. We are dedicated to the whole truth, to human values above all interests, to the rights of man as the foundation of democracy; we will take orders from none but our own conscience, and never will we overlook or misrepresent the truth to serve the interests of the powerful or cater to the ignoble in the human spirit.

The editor has exclusive control over the editorial policies and contents of the Observer. None of the other people who are associated with the enterprise shares this responsibility with her. Writers are responsible for their own work, but not for anything they have not themselves written, and in publishing them the editor does not necessarily imply that she agrees with them, because this is a journal of free voices.

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obligations of Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. You say that's precisely what you've done?

Ogden: That is—that is a fact.

Ogden later admitted that Cameron has two segregated clubs.

"The issue raised by Cameron Iron Works ... was a recurrent theme throughout the Houston hearings: Are qualified minority people available or not?" the report said. "The same question is posed in all sections of the nation whenever a company and/or union is asked to defend the make-up of its work force. However, when one finds a wide diversity of recruiting experiences by different companies drawing from the same labor pool in the same community, the claim of lack of qualified minority applicants is not sustained. The Houston experience serves once again to reinforce a basic postulate: Namely, the supply of minority applicants is a direct function of whether the firm's policy is to seek out applicants or whether it relies on the applicants to seek out the firm."

THE E.E.O.C. reported that Brown & Root, the nation's largest construction firm, employs most of its minority members at the traditional "trowel level." A company spokesman defended this as being a position to which members of ethnic groups gravitate and which they prefer. The firm, which is non-union but which bids on many government projects, also lacks any form of seniority. It bases promotions on the recommendations of its superintendents.

Despite its less than perfect record, the E.E.O.C. praised Brown & Root for doing a better job of advancing minority members than have the local trades unions.

I.B.M. was complimented for its recruitment efforts, which include sending integrated recruitment teams to campuses, advertising in national minority media, and minority employee referrals. In Houston, I.B.M. maintains a liaison with L.U.L.A.C., J.O.Y. (Job Opportunities for Youth, a program sponsored by black businessmen), and the Urban League.

Shell Oil, Foley's, and Lockheed Aircraft also were cited as outstanding employers of minority workers.

HOUSTON UNIONS came in for stinging rebuke by the E.E.O.C. "As no local union (nor official of the district A.F.L.-C.I.O.) in Houston agreed to testify in public, the investigation by the commission was limited to the staff reports and the testimony of individual witnesses," the report said. The E.E.O.C. pointed out that the longshoremen's locals in Houston are still segregated and the U.S. Justice Department has filed suit against them. The government is charging that the unions are segregated and that the work is assigned so that Anglos work more and get better pay.

State Rep. Curtis Graves of Houston

12 shows and 25 no-shows

Houston

Thirty-one large Houston employers and six local unions were invited to participate in the Equal Employment Opportunities Commission hearings. None of the unions appeared. Twelve companies sent representatives.

Of the 12 companies which voluntarily agreed to testify in open proceedings, "some had model programs; some mediocre; and some deplorable," according to the E.E.O.C. report. "All of them, however, were under the impression that they were in complete accord with the provisions of Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. The sad note, of course, is that many of these 12 firms are probably in the vanguard in Houston with respect to the sincerity and depth of effort. They are

ACCEPTED

American Oil Co., Inc.
Brown & Root, Inc.
Cameron Iron Works, Inc.
Champion Papers
Foley's of Houston, a
division of Federated Department
Stores, Inc.
Gulf Oil Co.
Humble Oil and Refining Co.
The Houston Post Co.
International Business
Machines Corp.
Lockheed Electronics Co.
Schlumberger Well Services
Shell Oil Co.

The unions which declined to appear were:

Carpenters Local #213
Longshoremen Locals
#872, 1273, and 1581
Painters Local #130
Plumbers Local #211

told the commission: "Of course, you know in Houston, there are certain cargoes that blacks unload and certain cargoes that whites unload and never the twain shall meet. Why this exists and has existed for years, no one seems to know, but if you will notice, if you will take a good look at this — we unload all of the dirty work. We do all the dirty-in-the-hole work. We unload all of the explosives, while whites unload the other things which are not too dangerous."

According to the E.E.O.C., the most pervasive exclusion occurs in construction unions. In 1967, ten building crafts reported they had no black members; four others had only one black.

Graves said the only way to change the discriminatory pattern is to give blacks 25% of the leadership in every segregated

by no means the typical employer. For this reason, it is to be understood that the real picture is no doubt far bleaker than that etched into the transcripts of these hearings."

"By the same token," the report continues, "the refusal of any craft or longshoring union to participate in the public sessions represents a serious void in the effort to paint an accurate portrait of equal employment opportunity in Houston. Based upon data filed with the E.E.O.C., there is no question that these unions have yet to divest themselves of their discriminatory past... they are a blight on the integrity of the American labor movement."

Following is a list of the companies invited to the hearing:

DECLINED

Armco Steel Corp.
Atlantic Richfield Co.
The Dow Chemical Co.
Dresser Industries, Inc.
E.I. DuPont-de Nemours
and Co., Inc.
General Electric Co.
The Houston Chronicle
Houston Lighting and Power Co.
Hughes Tool Co.
Mandrel Industries, Inc.
Monsanto Co.
Phillips Petroleum Co.
Southern Pacific
Transportation Co.
Tenneco Oil Co.
Texaco, Inc.
Texas Instruments, Inc.
Todd Shipyards Corp.
Union Carbide Corp.

union. "That is the only way you can build in protection for black union members," Graves said. "If we are not represented in the policy-making bodies, we will be arbitrarily and systematically excluded just as we have been in the past."

Chicanos fare no better, the E.E.O.C. said. I. Rodriguez, a member of the longshoremen's union, described his experience in the Anglo local:

"I started to work with this Longshoremen Local 1273 in 1947. I work with them for about three years until 1950 and I didn't have no chance to get not even a day's work during the summertime when all them high school kids had their vacation because my name is Spanish, Latin American, or Mexican-American. I didn't

have no chance there. I have to move myself to the I.L.A. local which is all Mexicans. There was no discrimination for me there."

WOMEN HAVE their share of job troubles in Houston, too. "Although there were a number of female witnesses representing community groups and specific women's rights organizations, none of the spokesmen for the 12 large companies were women," the report said. "It was apparent from the views put forth that the topic of the women's place in industry was an issue which had engendered little previous thought."

E.E.O.C. statistics show that, relative to men, the occupational standing of women in the Houston labor market actually declined between 1966 and 1969. Female earning capacity fell from 49% of that of men to 47% over the four-year period. The report says, "The explanation rests largely with the occupational concentration of women. In 1969, women held 40% of all sales jobs and 75% of all office and clerical positions. Usually these jobs are low paying and offer few opportunities for promotion."

Mrs. Barbara Settle, a divorced woman with four years of college (but no degree) described her experience in trying to get a non-clerical position with Humble Oil, the largest petroleum company in Houston:

"Well," she told me, "Mrs. Settle, you

are wasting your time. Humble has only three job classifications for women: secretary, accounting clerk, keypunch operator, and that's all. I couldn't even get you in if I wanted to."

"I said, 'Do you mean to tell me there are no other women in this company?'"

"She said, 'Not in a supervisory capacity, no, not at all.'"

"She said, 'We have one or two female attorneys, but all they do is briefing work and they will never go anyplace else.'"

"That was my experience with Humble Oil."

The E.E.O.C. called the Texas Employment Commission a state agency with a "tainted racist history, its archaic staffing standards and its acknowledged inability to confront discrimination as an issue." The report said that the T.E.C. is often the "last hope" for many citizens who are discriminated against. The Houston office fails to move against discriminatory practices unless a company makes a blatantly racial request, according to the E.E.O.C. Witnesses pointed out that when a job applicant calls on the telephone, he is immediately asked by the T.E.C. whether he is black or white.

Jackson responded saying his agency "is not charged with 'policing' civil rights legislation." He added, however, that the T.E.C. is not assuming a "do nothing" position. In some cases, the commission

suspends services to discriminating firms.

Several witnesses told the commission about problems with the T.E.C. They said the state agency is powerless to do anything about discrimination. "The individual is left to fend for himself," the report said. "The indications are that the local business and labor unions who wish to discriminate can do so with impunity. T.E.C.'s public posture is that of helplessly shrugging its shoulders. It should at least let its job-seekers know that they have rights under federal law and it could see to it that aggrieved individuals file charges with the local office of the E.E.O.C.," the report continues. "For to do nothing is not being neutral; by its silence, T.E.C. is implicitly seen by the victims of discrimination as being an accomplice to fact. There is no reason that T.E.C. and the local E.E.O.C. office could not operate in tandem."

The E.E.O.C. receives and investigates charges of employment discrimination. It seeks to eliminate discrimination through the process of conciliation. In certain cases, it advises the Justice Department and the Attorney General to take action in U.S. District Court.

The Houston report may be purchased for \$.55 from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402. K.N.

E.E.O.C. and the press

Houston

When the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunities Commission met in Houston last summer, the best coverage of the hearing could be found in *The New York Times*. Now, a highly critical report on the Houston job situation has been released and the Houston dailies have covered it with less than reportorial fervor.

The Houston Chronicle printed about a column of type on the E.E.O.C. hearing Nov. 5, the day the report was released. Although a number of prominent Houston firms and labor locals as well as the *Chronicle* and the *Post* were named in the report, the *Chronicle* did not mention concerns by name.

The Houston Post waited until Nov. 7 to publish the story. It also excised mention of specific companies, except for I.B.M., which was complimented by the E.E.O.C. The *Post* chose not to print many of the strongest rebukes made by the commission.

Both Houston dailies were invited to participate in the E.E.O.C. hearing. The

Chronicle declined to send a representative. The *Post* was represented by James E. Crowther, vice president. He was asked by the commission to explain why the Houston newspapers still have sex segregated job listings.

"The newspaper has retained the traditional reference to 'male' or 'female' in its Want Ads section in response to both reader and advertiser preference."

E.E.O.C. Chairman Brown was none too happy with Crowther's answer. Brown said, "It would appear to me — and I am sure you are aware that the commissioners have to take a position in response to this — if, as you say toward the end of your speech, you not only want to obey the law of the land but [also want to 'discharge the *Post's* moral obligation in the area of equal employment opportunity'], you would take immediate steps to comply with the law as it has been interpreted by this commission."

Crowther went on to say "there are practical reasons for the male-female classifications. It is my understanding

that, in some towns, the combined male-female category is successful. In our experience . . . we find that, one the advertisers prefer it. I don't have any study and haven't heard any study here today about whether women do prefer to share it or not; but we find that the advertisers prefer to try to reach the people they are interested in, who they think will be primarily interested in the job they have to offer; secondly, we find — again we don't have any formal study, but in the course of getting out in the community, we find that job-seekers tend not to want to look through a raft of jobs. They want to home in on the one they are looking for."

"Well," Brown said, "I accept it as a violation of the law as we interpret it. There is a small newspaper in New York called the *New York Times* which has seen fit to eliminate the differences in columns and their experience has shown that they have not suffered by it and that their advertisers have not raised any substantial objection to that. Now what is the difference here in Houston from New York?"

"Well," Crowther said, "most of the advertising in Houston is placed by individual companies; most in New York is placed by employment agencies, and employment agencies do not run a male and female, by and large."

It's still a Democratic state

Political intelligence

• Approximately 300,000 more voters than the political savants had predicted went to the polls Nov. 3. The surprisingly large turnout apparently was encouraged by the appearances of President Nixon and Vice-President Agnew, the presence on the ballot of the liquor-by-the-drink amendment and Amendment Three, as well as the balmy election-day weather.

• The possibility that Nixon turned out the vote — for the Democrats — was one of the ironies of the Senate race. Senator-elect Lloyd Bentsen, Jr., cashed in on the feelings of many Texans that the national Republican hierarchy was butting into a local fight for nefariously partisan reasons. The heavily-attended Republican rallies reminded the state's voters that it was an election year. Only when the voters went to the polls, they voted the way they always have — Democratic.

Liberals repelled

• Apparently, many liberals who considered voting Republican were turned off by Nixon's and Agnew's appearances, especially Nixon's comments against bussing in Longview, two days after two men had been found guilty of bombing the entire Longview fleet of school busses.

• A majority of Texas editors polled shortly before the election predicted that Bentsen would win. During the last week of the campaign, however, many state capitol reporters were saying and many syndicated columnists were writing that Republican George Bush would take the race.

• Bush seemed to be a favorite of the national press. David Broder, the highly respected *Washington Post* political writer, went so far as to predict that if Bush were elected, the president would dump Agnew and make Bush his running mate in 1972.

• Broder attributed the story to "men intimately involved in White House political operations." The story sounded like something dreamed up by Bush's campaign staff, but the *New Republic's* John Osborne reported (Nov. 14) that *Newsweek* and T.R.B., N.R.'s front-line columnist, also found the story credible. At any rate, the rumor did not seem to help Bush much. Some writers speculated that the possibility of Bush's replacing Agnew might have lost Bush votes in West and deep East Texas.

• Fred Bonavita, a *Houston Post* Washington reporter, writes that Nixon is thinking of Bush as a possible successor to Treasury Secretary David Kennedy.

• Richard Morehead of the *Dallas Morning News* says that "unless George Bush runs for governor in 1972, Texas Republicans have a rather bleak outlook." Bush, however, has never shown any interest in the governorship. Some persons have commented that Bush should run as a reform mayor for Houston next fall, in order to keep himself in the news and to stay in the running for vice-president in '72.

• Bentsen led in 227 of the state's 254 counties. Bush took Dallas County by approximately 25,000 votes and Harris County by 70,000. Dallas and Harris counties could not make up the losses Bush took in rural areas and small towns, but the two major population centers did manage to pass the liquor-by-the-drink amendment.

• Republican State Chairman William Steger attributed Bush's loss partially to the high turnout in rural areas. "More than 200 counties voted against the liquor proposal," he said.

• Despite warnings by *La Raza Unida* that Mexican-Americans can no longer be considered Democrats, Bentsen won the heavily *latino* sections of the state. San Antonio gave him a healthy majority. He took his native South Texas as well, although Bush ran stronger there than any Republican ever has, except John Tower in 1966. Bush got 49.4% in 53 South Texas counties. Tower won by 55.3% over Waggoner Carr in '66.

Bentsen wants unity

• Bentsen says he has been and will be a unifying force in the Democratic Party. He says he could not have been elected without support from people who voted for Yarborough in the Democratic primary.

• The Senator-elect said he will align himself with the moderate wing of the national party.

• Despite the tremendous efforts the White House put into the Bush campaign, the Republicans, Agnew in particular, claimed Bentsen's election as a definite plus for their side in getting a "working majority" in the Senate. Democrat Committee Chairman Lawrence O'Brien answered that Agnew's comment was part of the "strangest hodge-podge of post-election analysis" he had ever heard.

• Bentsen, who declined to make public a list of his financial holdings

during the campaign, says he will release such a list in January when he assumes office and not before. His reticence to discuss his fortune was mentioned in an article written for the *San Antonio Express* by Clyde Walter, a former Bentsen aide. Walter points out that Bentsen quietly resigned from the boards of five corporations when he decided to run for office (*Obs.*, April 3). "His newly assembled campaign staff, eager to latch onto newspaper column inches, wanted to make the resignations the subject of a news release," Walter wrote. Bentsen refused, telling his staff instead to have the list ready if any reporters asked for it.

"At first nobody asked, much to the staffer's frustration, and when the request did come it was from a publication unfriendly to the candidate," Walter said. (The request came from the *Observer*.) "Intimates of Bentsen-the-candidate say his refusal to capitalize on the resignations was a part of the makeup of Bentsen-the-man. His private life he believed at the onset of the campaign was his own," Walter concluded.

• The Republicans fared badly on all levels. All incumbent U.S. House members were reelected. Ultra-conservative State Rep. Bill Archer, a Republican, was elected to Bush's congressional seat.

G.O.P. swamped

• Although the state party had predicted up to 32 Republican legislative wins, they took only two additional state House seats to remain outnumbered in the lower house 140 to 10. They made no gains in the Senate, where the Democrat-Republican balance will be 29-2.

• The G.O.P. picked up two House seats in Houston and one in Dallas, but it lost veteran Republican Rep. Malouf Abraham of Canadian, who failed in his bid to take the vacated Senate seat of Grady Hazlewood.

• Fred Agnich beat Democrat Rep. Joe Ratcliff in Dallas by 730 votes. In Houston, liberal Democratic Rep. Russell Cummings was beaten by Republican A. S. Bowers. Rep. Cletus (Cowboy) Davis, a conservative crime-fighter, was bested by Republican W. J. Blythe.

• House Appropriations Committee Chairman Bill Heatly beat Republican challenger Zack Fisher with an impressive 75% of the votes in his West Texas district.

A progressive Senate?

• The Democrats won all five of the contested Senate races, leaving the Senate with a slightly more liberal tinge.

• Liberal Democrat Glenn Kothmann beat James Nowlin, a Democrat turned Republican, in a hotly-contested senate race in San Antonio. Max Sherman of Amarillo, who has been labeled a moderate, bested Malouf Abraham in the Panhandle contest. James Wallace, a labor-endorsed lawyer, beat Abraham Farrior, an electrical equipment company executive, in the race to fill the Houston Senate seat vacated by retiring Sen. Criss Cole. And former Rep. Lindley Beckworth of Longview, a conservative, beat John F. Warren of Tyler.

• Some political reporters are assessing the Senate as being 17-14 liberal-conservative. Texas senators, however, do not lend themselves so easily to liberal and conservative labeling. The Senate will certainly have more "liberal" votes than last time, but that does not necessarily mean that the upper house will be outstandingly progressive. It probably will be up to Lt. Gov. Ben Barnes to set the pace there.

Gigantic tax bill

• The next legislative session will be a difficult one. The Texas Research League estimates that as much as \$600 million in new taxes will be needed. The biggest single item in the projected increase is in welfare spending. The Department of Public Welfare is seeking to almost double its budget for 1972-73, from \$1.1 billion to \$2.1 billion.

The reason for the big budget is that welfare rolls have increased dramatically because of new federal regulations and because of federal court decisions. Barnes is among many state leaders across the nation proposing that the federal government take over all welfare responsibilities.

• The Texas Education Agency is asking for a large fund increase from \$2.8 billion this biennium to \$3.9 billion next.

Whither Barnes?

• Political types are spending a great deal of time these days speculating about Barnes' future plans. He easily beat his Republican opponent, Byron Fullerton, to win a second term as lieutenant governor.

• Barnes has promised to reveal his plans soon to run in 1972 for either governor or senator. Either way, he is an

important young face on the political horizon. The day after the election, Barnes had a telephone conversation with Sen. Edmund Muskie of Maine, which columnists Evans and Novak said symbolizes "the sudden transformation of the Southern Democratic wasteland into a potentially fertile source of 1972 votes." The reporters said Barnes and Muskie talked of the need to re-establish the Democratic Party's historical alliance between North and South.

• The *Dallas Times Herald* reported that a few days after the election Barnes initiated a series of statewide strategy sessions designed to provide him with a strong base of support for either senator or governor.

• Uvalde rancher-millionaire Dolph Briscoe, who ran unsuccessfully against Preston Smith in 1968, already has announced his intention to run again for governor in 1972, no matter who else is in the race. Smith has said recently that he will and that he will not run for a third term.

• The Monday morning quarterbacks of state politics, laying their fingers aside their noses, have been saying that *La Raza Unida* suffered a stupendous defeat at the polls. Only one of the 16 *Raza Unida* candidates running in four south Texas counties was victorious. The commentators have blithely ignored that fact that only one *Raza Unida* candidate was on a ballot. (The one on the ballot lost.) The party tried almost every conceivable means to get on the ballot but was turned down by the courts on technicalities.

Raza Unida candidates ran in Zavala, Dimmit, Hidalgo, and La Salle counties. Aside from the party's one victor, they came close in at least one other race --- in Crystal City for county commissioner. The party also complained of voting irregularities in Zavala County, where they were not permitted to have party poll watchers in all precincts. Jose Angel Gutierrez, a leader of the party, alleged further irregularities in absentee voting and hassling of voters by election judges.

The Party's winner is Roel Rodriguez, who was elected La Salle County Commissioner by 134 votes to 90.

Sansinesta again

• A Florida congressman, Dante Fascell, is preparing to ask the House Governmental Operations subcommittee to look into the special treatment given Union Oil during Paul Egger's term as general counsel of the U. S. Treasury Department (*Obs.*, April 3). "This makes vicuna coats look like child's play," a Fascell aide told *The Houston Post*.

Although the Treasury Department has a long-standing rule that foreign-flag ships cannot carry cargoes from one American port to another, Union Oil asked for and got permission for the Liberian tanker

Sansinesta to ply domestic waters. Eggers, the defeated Republican candidate for governor, signed the waiver for Union Oil.

T.S.U. 5 free

• Three years after the disturbance at Texas Southern University, Houston Dist. Atty. finally has dropped charges against all the T.S.U. five, the former T.S.U. students charged with murder and assault to murder (*Obs.*, June 9, 1967, Nov. 15, 1968). The five were indicted after a Houston policeman was killed and two other officers wounded during the May, 1967, incident that some call a student riot and others call a police riot.

D. A. Vance told reporters he waited so long to dismiss charges because "we wanted to be sure this was our only alternative." A Victoria jury two years ago failed to reach a verdict in a trial of one of the students. The district attorney had argued that the student was guilty of assault because he engaged in a riot.

• The Texas Court of Criminal Appeals has upheld a 40-year sentence of Joe Mattel, convicted of marijuana possession.

• Ernie McMillan, a field secretary for the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee, has now been on the F.B.I.'s fugitive list for more than a year. McMillan disappeared after he was given a 10-year prison sentence for destruction of property during a demonstration at a Dallas supermarket in 1968 (*Obs.*, Aug. 9, 1968).

• Four important Texas cases are before the U.S. Supreme Court this term. All four cases stem from three-judge federal court actions on obscenity, vagrancy, sodomy, and abortion.

• The Texas Supreme Court has declined to make a ruling on the constitutionality of the 1969 Texas Obscenity Law because the issue was not raised through correct legal procedures.

• The state's abortion law was declared unconstitutional last June. Law enforcement officials are postponing abortion prosecution in both Dallas and Houston until the high court makes a decision. The law struck down allows abortions only to save the life of the mother. Doctors and hospitals also are holding back on abortions until the Supreme Court hears the case.

• Another county, La Salle, has asked Gov. Preston Smith to remove its Vistas. The La Salle County commissioners object to the fact that the Vista supervisor, Alfredo Zamora, Jr., ran under the *Raza Unida* banner last spring and was elected the first *chicano* mayor of Cotulla.

The commissioners say that Zamora, who was county chairman of *La Raza Unida*, was in "a strongly politically tainted position for anyone who is in charge of Vista workers."

Poage to hold pesticide hearings

Washington

If there ever was a doubt in the public's mind as to where the chairman of the House Agriculture Committee stands on the question of continued use of insecticides and pesticides on agricultural production, it has but to look no further than the announcement of hearings on that question by the committee.

Rep. W. R. Poage, D-Texas, said his committee will hold a series of public hearings "on the environmental effects of using pesticides and insecticides in agricultural production and the effects that would follow sharp restrictions or absolute ban on their use." Although he set no date, except to say it will be just after the start of the 92nd Congress early next year, Congressman Poage is ready to launch into his probe, giving all appearances of not having budged from his protectionist stand for the pesticide-insecticide industry.

He expressed concern that "emotions rather than sound judgments reached after deliberate study of facts might determine the kind of regulations imposed on uses of chemicals which have contributed so much toward increased farm output in recent years." He offered no comment on the mounting evidence that as the use of chemicals have increased, so have the deterioration of the environment and the detrimental effects on ecology, especially on delicate marine life.

"There is justifiable public concern about the effects of using chemicals in the eradication of insects and pests in connection with crop production," admits the chairman. "If, indeed, there is a health hazard involved in the use of a certain pesticide or insecticide or rodenticide, we must learn what it is and what we can do about it.

"If farm production should be jeopardized by the prohibition of a certain compound, then we should know that and try to find a substitute that will assure a continued supply of wholesome, nutritious food. If substitutes are presently known, we should take action to encourage research to find substitutes. "This is too important a subject to be influenced by sensationalism," declares Congressman Poage.

To see to it that his hearings are not tainted with sensationalism, Poage has invited as witnesses "not only officials of the Agriculture and Interior Departments and the Food and Drug Administration, but also recognized scientists, ecologists, and health authorities from the educational and private sectors of American society." Committee chairmen have full control of

witnesses invited to testify at their hearings and usually are picked to support the views of the chairmen and members.

"Myths and distorted facts characterize much of the information disseminated these days about pesticides, herbicides and insecticides, especially DDT," the chairman continued, "and unless reason and sound judgment dispel the current popular emotional jag on the subject, Americans may be victims rather than beneficiaries of actions prompted by well-meaning, conservation-minded individuals and organizations.

Said the chairman: "Environment and ecology are words that have so captured the public spotlight of late that dire consequences may result from curbing the use of certain pesticides and insecticides."

Continuing his reasoned and sound efforts to dispel the currently popular emotional jag, Poage said that evidence is "mounting that mankind may suffer more from the effects of withholding use of D.D.T. than from environmental pollution caused by it." He cited a report from Agriculture Secretary Clifford Hardin which concludes that "the scientific evidence now available does not establish that the use of D.D.T. constitutes an imminent hazard to human health."

There is no mention by Chairman Poage of what sort of threat to animal health is posed — but then, that is the real question behind the argument over the continued use of D.D.T. and other hardcore pesticides.

November 27, 1970

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THE TRUMPET—Digest of Independent Liberal Thought. 1 year (12 issues) — \$1. POB 232, Goleta, Calif. 93017.

Scholz'

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• Texas Atty. Gen. Crawford Martin, who led the unsuccessful legislative battle to legalize wire taps last session, recently told participants in a workshop on organized crime that wiretaps would be helpful in cracking down on terrorist activities as well as organized crime. "You know you can kill a snake better if you've already got a stick than if you wait until he's right up on you. This bill would give you that stick," Martin said.

• Police detective George Phifer told the workshop group that organized crime has a strong foothold in Austin, especially in the areas of narcotics, burglary, and gambling. A Dallas policeman said that city's biggest organized activity is gambling, with a million dollars in bets taken each week during football season.

• Texas Cong. Bob Price, a Republican from Pampa, says he is preparing a declaration of war against North Vietnam in case the North Vietnamese do not accept President Nixon's latest peace proposals.

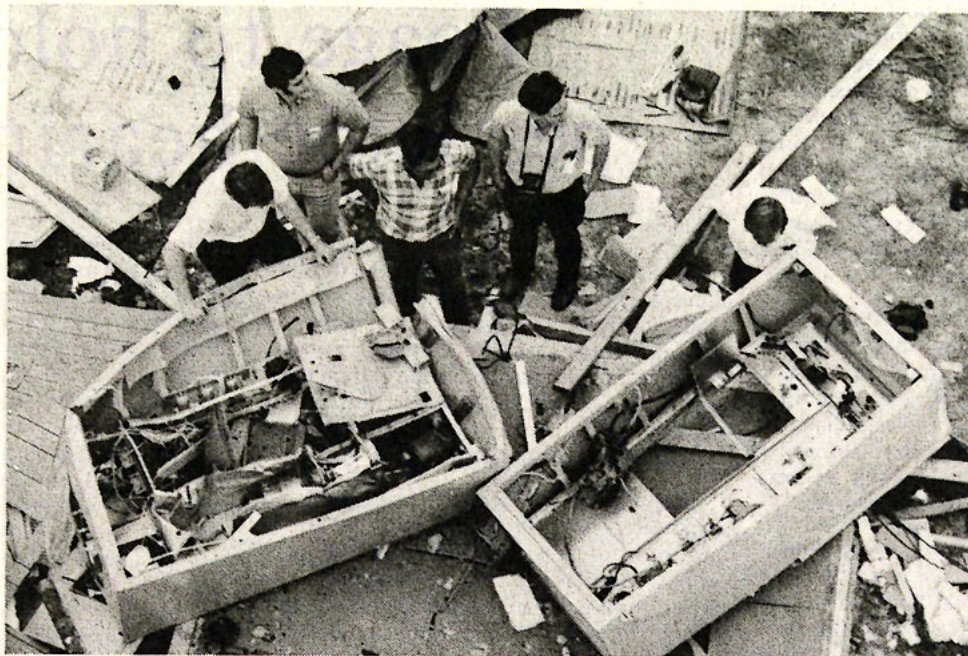
• The U.S. Justice Department has charged Humble Oil & Refining Co. with failure to install safety devices on 33 offshore oil wells in the Gulf of Mexico. Information filed with the U.S. District Court in New Orleans charges Humble with 150 separate offenses, punishable by a maximum fine of \$2,000 each.

The *Houston Post* reported Nov. 15 that one man was killed and thirteen others burned, two critically, as a result of a rupture of a tank containing a hot chemical fluid on an Humble Oil platform in the Gulf. The cause of the rupture is under investigation. An Humble spokesman said there was no pollution as a result of the mishap.

• San Patricio County Deputy Sheriff Erich Bauch, the man who shot to death Dr. Fred E. Logan of Mathis while taking him to jail (*Obs.*, Aug. 7) remains on medical leave of absence from his law enforcement duties. Sheriff Wayne Hitt says Bauch was injured when Logan attempted to escape and that he remains under medical care.

• Also under medical care is East Texas Cong. John Dowdy, who is under federal indictment for bribery and conspiracy. Dowdy's trial in Maryland was postponed indefinitely Oct. 1 when the congressman underwent spinal surgery. Now his doctor says he is suffering from an "influenza-like illness."

• Turning aside cries of "mass medication" from a small band of far right-wingers, the Beaumont City Council has unanimously approved flouridation of the city's surface water supply. It marked a significant breakthrough for pro-flouridation forces since a referendum on flouridation a few years back had been soundly defeated on the same "medication" grounds.



guts (electronic)

May 12, 1970: Criminals dynamite the transmitter of KPFT-FM, the Pacifica listener-sponsored station in Houston. Due to guts, the station is back on the air a month later. The station keeps on broadcasting (with no commercials) the kind of programs that other stations (somehow) find inconvenient. Meanwhile, no dynamiters are arrested. **October 6, 1970:** Criminals again dynamite the transmitter of KPFT-FM, Pacifica listener-sponsored radio in Houston. Due to guts . . .

Dear Pacifica:

I want you back on the air in Houston. Make me a subscriber for a year. My gift is tax-deductible. You won't sell my name to a mailing list. You will send me your program folio. Here's how much I can afford to mean it; enclosed please find:

___ \$60. Now I'm a member of your "800 Club." I get studio passes, too.

___ \$24. You send me your program folio every month.

___ \$12. I'm a student. Or I'm retired. You send me that folio.

Signature _____

Name _____

Street _____ City _____ Zip _____



pacifica
KPFT
fm 90

618 Prairie Street
Houston, Texas 77002

guts (mail order)

Taxes and timber

Dallas

Nine months ago Ralph Nader held a press conference in San Antonio to point out that oil and gas property in the Permian Basin is substantially undervalued for the purpose of taxation (*Obs.*, Feb. 20). Now teams of student investigators working under Nader's supervision have discovered the same sort of undervaluation of timber property East Texas and commercial and industrial property in the Houston area.

At a press conference in Dallas recently, Nader said that although citizens this fall have been subjected to campaign rhetoric concerning the problems of local government, no one has been talking about "the most fundamental of all problems facing local governing bodies — the revenue crisis."

"In nearly every state the property tax provides the overwhelming portion of this revenue for our cities, counties, and school districts," Nader said. "But the serious inequality in valuations and assessments continues to deprive local governments of funds. The State of Texas, which is first among the states in oil and gas reserves, first in cattle, first in cotton, and first in livestock, is rated near the bottom of the list in its attention to the basic social services. This does not need to remain so. Property tax reform can bring millions in lost revenue."

NADER, PERHAPS the nation's most effective consumer advocate, has established a clearing house for information and technical assistance for citizen groups interested in property tax reform. Nader says his primary aim is to reduce the proportion of local property taxes borne by individual home-owners and small-businessmen by making sure that large economic interests pay their fair share.

The East Texas study, conducted by Sharon L. and William L. Feather and Louis J. Sirico, all University of Texas law students, covered six counties and nine school districts. "It reveals an astounding disregard for the 'equal and uniform' valuation required by law," Nader said. The team (which obtained estimates of the fair market value of timber land from state-employed and independent forestry appraisers, a forestry professor from a local university, an East Texas tax assessor, estimates of damage from a recent fire, and estimates made at a Senate hearing on the Big Thicket) discovered an average undervaluation of approximately 52%.

As an example, Nader cited Liberty County where the assessed valuation at full value is \$130 an acre. The tax assessor admits that the current selling price in the

area ranges from \$250 to \$300 an acre. "In Angelina County," Nader said, "the assessed valuation at full value of \$40 an acre is in direct contradiction to timber experts quoted in the *Lufkin News* (July 9, 1970) of values ranging from \$250 to \$350 an acre. In the last year alone, Angelina County lost between \$140,000 and \$250,000 in revenue because of undervaluation," he said.

East-Tex Southwestern Timber Co., owning property in four counties and two school districts, is being undertaxed by approximately \$158,600, according to the Nader team's calculations. Kirby Lumber Co., with property in five counties and three school districts, is being undertaxed by \$140,000 a year. Temple Industries, which has property in six counties and three school districts, is saving \$89,400 a year through undertaxation.

Nader estimated the annual total revenue loss in the surveyed districts to be nearly \$800,000. "If this pattern holds true for the entire 37-county East Texas area, it means a loss to the counties and school districts of approximately \$38.4 million a year," Nader concluded.

IN HOUSTON AND Harris County, University of Houston law student Kim Quaille Hill found commercial and industrial property to be undervalued for the county by nearly 70% and for the city at approximately 60%. Hill compared the assessed valuation at full value on city and county records to reports in the *Houston Post* real estate section of important sales.

The Valley Forge Apartment complex at 6225 Hilcroft, for example, was purchased for \$4 million last year and it is carried on the city tax rolls at its equivalent full value for only \$1,029,050. The Friendswood Development Co. bought \$7 million in land and pays taxes to the city on an equivalent full value of only \$3,218,450.

A report in the Houston Chamber of Commerce magazine cites both minimum and maximum values for 16 industrial parks. Nader said the article revealed an undervaluation of approximately 50% in the county and 65% in the city. "Houston public officials who have been hotly criticized by the state Water Quality Board chairman for failure to deal with the city's water pollution crisis claim that the tax dollars to finance the badly needed cleanup are simply not available," Nader pointed out. "Consequently, Houston has never initiated even a rudimentary water pollution inspection-enforcement program."

Nader held his press conference two days before the general election, and his comments no doubt helped to defeat Amendment 3, which he said would

authorize a "further special break for the timber industry." The amendment "would allow the timber industry to pay a tax based not on the value of the property, but . . . a tax in effect based on the increase in value of the timber in a single year," Nader said. "This would be in sharp contrast to the tax on the homeowner, who pays his tax on the value of his home, not on its annual increase in value."

Nader was highly critical of Texas officials who ignored or dismissed his property tax recommendations nine months ago. This time he recommended:

(1) "That Chairman Ben Atwell of the State Commission on State and Local Tax Policy discharge the legal responsibilities of his office and order an immediate investigation into the shocking illegalities disclosed in this report.

(2) "That a state board be established to hear taxpayer grievances, to recommend relief in the form of tax refunds when necessary, and to provide public lawyers to assist the complaining taxpayer.

(3) "That the practice of delegating the appraisal function to private firms be eliminated and that the state provide the appraisal service to local taxing districts when requested.

(4) "That full disclosure of the precise formula used in property evaluations be made by all individuals and organizations performing the appraisal function.

(5) "That a state board be created to pass upon the qualifications of the local tax assessors and be given the power to remove such assessors for cause."

The property tax study was directed by Richard Mithoff, Jr., a U.T. law student.

Nader's clearinghouse on property tax information is being run by Sam Simon, a lawyer on the staff of the Public Interest Research Group, 1025 15th St., N.W., Suite 601, Washington, D.C. 20005.

K.N.

November 27, 1970

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MARTIN ELFANT,

Sun Life of Canada

1001 Century Building

Houston, Texas

CA 4-0686

Two tales

Fort Worth

Item in the Ft. Worth Star-Telegram, Sunday, Nov. 1.

Police Saturday night entered the headquarters of the White Panther Party here arresting 13 people and seizing a small amount of what was believed to be marijuana. All of the people arrested — eight men and five women — earlier had participated in a downtown anti-war parade and Burnett Park rally.

The police account of the incident differed from that told by White Panther members and youths who said they were witnesses to the "bust."

Eight plain clothes policemen entered the headquarters and residence at 1129 Hurley about 8:50 p.m. and found three persons (two men and one girl) in the building, said police Capt. H. L. Hogue. They identified themselves as policemen and showed the three a search warrant. After police had entered the building two or four (people) came to the door and knocked on it.

One of the officers said, "We identified ourselves as police officers and told them they were under arrest and they broke and ran."

We chased after them and a short scuffle took place on the porch," he continued.

There was a shot. Police said they chased the man who allegedly did the shooting across the street behind a parked car and "that's where we caught him."

Members of the party told the *Star-Telegram* that police, all of whom had been identified earlier at the rally, did not identify themselves as policemen.

The Rev. Gerard Hartzell said most of the persons arrested had been attending a meeting three doors down from the White Panther headquarters.

"When we left the meeting some of the group went up to the house (Panther headquarters) and the cops came out and started beating up on them. They kicked them and everything," Hartzell said.

He said people were ordered to lie on the floor while police searched the house. There were two persons who lived in an old bus outside the house who also were arrested, Hartzell said. Police confirmed the arrests.

Members of Hartzell's group said the meeting they had conducted earlier was on "How to Protect Ourselves" (from police.)

Gary Barber, who attended Hartzell's group's meeting but was not arrested said when the group stepped on the porch several policemen who had on White Panther buttons said, "Come on in." Police denied wearing Panther buttons. Barber said the remainder of the group was told that if they did not want to be arrested they had better leave the premises.

Then they (the police) closed the door, Barber said.

Austin

Nancy Simpson, 21, is an Austin resident, who was arrested Oct. 31 at the White Panther house and later released without being charged. Miss Simpson is a former University of Texas student who is now doing volunteer social work. The following is her account of the "bust:"

Three White Panthers from Ann Arbor, Mich., which is where the White Panther Party was started, came to Austin two weeks ago for the Conference on Political Prisoners. They went on to Ft. Worth after the conference to see the White Panthers there and to participate in the peace march. I went with them mostly because I wanted to hear a rock group that was playing in Ft. Worth that weekend.

We all went on the march and Genie Plamondon, one of the White Panthers from Ann Arbor, spoke at the rally in the park. During her speech she referred to police as "pigs" and then corrected herself, saying, "No, I mean policemen."

As the rally was breaking up some of the kids surrounded three men dressed in plainclothes who were wearing White Panther buttons and identified them as narcs. These three narcs were then surrounded by a bunch of people who were harassing them verbally, jeering at them, and making fun of them. It wasn't ugly, there was no sense of menace about what the kids were saying and the narcs didn't seem uneasy, they just stood there silently, letting the kids get a good look at them.

THAT NIGHT I was at the White Panther house with one other boy: all the others had gone to a meeting up the street. The White Panthers I saw in Ft. Worth were all very young — 18 or 19 — and apparently they just got organized last summer and have spent most of their time since getting each other out of jail. There isn't any radical community in Ft. Worth, just these kids who decided to be White Panthers.

A little after 8:30 p.m. four narcs in plainclothes came bursting through the front door: three of them were the same narcs who had been pointed out at the rally in the park. Four other narcs in plainclothes came bursting through the back door at the same time. It was scary.

I asked to see their search warrant and they showed me a paper, but I was too nervous to read it. They hit the boy I was with in the stomach two or three times and threw him up against a wall. Then they started to trash the place. They ripped up papers and political pamphlets, they went through the whole house and destroyed two typewriters, a tape recorder and some stereo equipment. When I protested they slapped me twice. The boy protested and he was beaten. Then they tied his hands

and made him lie on the floor.

Then the others started coming back in twos and threes. As they came to the door, the narcs invited them in, without identifying themselves as policemen — they were still wearing the White Panther buttons — and then they would tie up the guys and beat them and kick them. All the narcs were wearing boots and they walked on the guys' backs as they lay tied on the floor. They beat up Jimmy Smith terribly.

Genie Plamondon came back with a White Panther who always carries a .45 pistol with him — he told me it was self-protection. And as this guy was coming up the walk with Genie, he saw three narcs beating up Jimmy Smith. But he didn't know they were narcs because they were wearing sports clothes. He thought some rednecks had come to hassle the house so he fired a shot in the air to scare them.

THE POLICE were furious and they took his gun away and they — well, they just beat the shit out of him. And all the time they were screaming things at us like, "You punk hippies, you scream about revolution, but I don't see any of you fighting now."

And they kept saying terrible things to Genie because she had called them "pigs" during her speech. It . . . it was as though she had threatened their whole masculinity or something . . . they were furious with her.

After about 45 minutes, they had 13 people in the house under arrest. Then about 10 uniformed policemen came and the narcs took them on a tour of the house. Then some other men, I believe they were higher-up policemen — they were wearing suits and ties — came and they were taken on a tour of the house.

Before any policemen came this boy and I had been sitting at the dining room table, which the White Panthers use as a desk, and there was political literature on it and a bowl in the middle that had paper clips and pencils and rubber bands in it.

When the higher-up policeman came, one of the narcs walked out of the dining room with that bowl and it has three Baggies of what looked like marijuana in it. He said, "Well, well, look what I found."

They took us all down to the city jail and it took about two hours for them to book us. They wouldn't let any of the guys see a doctor during that time and some of them were very badly beaten. They released five of us without ever having told us why we had been arrested or why we were being held. I got the impression that they just weren't interested in holding us if they didn't know us — I mean, if we weren't from Ft. Worth or hadn't run across them before. A lot of the White Panthers there had been arrested before on minor charges.

I had never been involved with the police before, I've never been arrested before or seen the way they operate. I just didn't know they were so — all powerful.

The Gay Place meets Consciousness III

Austin

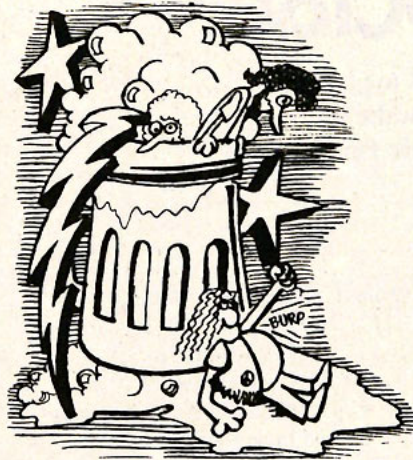
We've been sitting around the *Observer* office trying to decide whether we should have one of our old beer, bull, and ballad parties or whether we should make a push to get us some radical chic.

The editor prefers Armadillo World Headquarters to the Dearly Beloved Beer Garden. The co-editor is big on beer and revolutionary ballads. And the publisher is into Jack Daniels and Beethoven.

What the hell, we decided, why not do it all? So we're having a radiclub happening. Movies and beer and (organic) ice cream and singing and dancing and blacklights and other neatsy keen and/or groovy stuff. Young freaks and scarred survivors of the first McCarthy battle — all welcome. You can wear beads or white sox or even beads and white sox.

The movies, will be as big a mix as the guests. So far we have rounded up Motion Picture Production's "Pandora's Easy-open, Flip-Top Box," an award winning film on urban pillage; Jim

Seymour and Associates' movie on the Big Thicket, "The Vanishing Wilderness"; The Marx Brother's



"Monkey Business"; and there will be others, mostly by local film-makers.

The rules: Saturday, Nov. 21, from 4 p.m. on, at Henry and Mary Holman's,

201 West 33rd, Austin. Admission for present subscribers (same for couples or singles) is one new \$7 subscription for a friend, or pick a name from our list. That is, give a gift sub; renewals don't count. The Holman's live in a pleasant neighborhood to stroll to, but if you need a ride there will be a jitney leaving the *Observer* office, 504 West 24th, every hour from 4 to 10.

We've also scheduled a party for Houston on Dec. 5. It will be at the offices of Pacifica Radio, 618 Prairie, time as yet unspecified.

Houston-area subscribers will be receiving invitations to the Pacifica bash. We don't yet know exactly what the game plan will be. One thing we can guarantee is that guests will be hearing the most expensive record player in the state. Since Pacifica was bombed off the air for the second time, its staff members have been reduced to using the station's \$100,000 worth of equipment as a luxurious inter-office sound system.

New Party write-ins hindered

Houston

The New Party came through the election with 872 votes that they know of, all in Harris County.

They also came through with flying spirits and are now cheerfully engaged in a campaign to get the do-badders who, in an ingenious variety of ways, tried to prevent voters from writing in the name of Ben Russell, the New Party's senate candidate.

Dan Lourie, New Party chairman, said the party now has over 50 documented instances of voting irregularities in Harris County alone. The information has been turned over to George Pain, assistant U.S. Attorney, who has yet to do anything about it. Pain did send F.B.I. agents to investigate some of the incidents on election day. He has since told the New Party that he is interested in following up on them but, he says, such is the nature of bureaucracy that he can do nothing until he gets the complete report from the FBI.

Some of the grosser incidents include: Precinct 242 in Pasadena where Dr. Dawn Sanders and Mrs. Albert Clerc both had trouble trying to vote for the New Party. When election judge Raleigh Sanders was questioned about the incidents later, he said, "This is protesters is all they are, and they don't want to do anything but cause trouble."

Precinct 143 where election judge Larry E. Lindsay told one woman who asked how to write in a vote to go ahead and push the levers for the other races. When she had done so, he told her it was too late to write in.

In other precincts, judges refused to give voters instructions on how to write in or gave incomplete or incorrect instructions. In other cases the metal doors over the write-in space jammed or there was no paper in the space or voters were simply told they could not write in names or that they could only write in in pencil or to write out the name on a separate card which would later be turned in.

In more than a dozen precincts, election judges blatantly tried to dissuade voters from writing in by making remarks such as "The man you're writing in doesn't have a chance" or "You're just wasting your vote" or "Why don't you settle for the lesser of two evils." In Precinct 247 the judge Abbie Evans was so adamant about not allowing write-ins votes that several voters were frightened out of voting at all.

The judge in Precinct 278, however, was foiled by stouthearted Melvin Ingalls. Melvin was told that if he wrote in one vote he had to write them all. So he did.

Lourie said the complaints were coming into New Party headquarters so fast on election day that the staff had time only to get about half of them down.

New Party headquarters in Houston had asked those who voted for Russell to call and tell where they had voted so the staff could keep its own record. The party's records show that 22 precincts in which their people had voted either failed to report New Party votes or reported fewer than were recorded at headquarters.

Meanwhile, the secretary of state's office in Austin recorded no votes for the New Party candidate from Austin, Ft. Worth, Dallas, Waco, Beaumont, or several other cities where at least an embryo New Party exists.

Traditional sloth no doubt accounts for the failure of county clerks to report votes for a minor candidate to the secretary of state's office, but the New Party plans to turn the situation to its own advantage.

Ordinarily there are more votes cast in the senate race than in the governor's race. This year, the situation was reversed, with several thousand more votes recorded in the governor's race. Lourie has announced that he assumes that all those thousands of missing votes in the senate race were

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uncounted write-ins for Ben Russell. Lourie further assumes that all those thousands of missing votes amount to at least two percent of the total votes cast, thus qualifying the New Party for a place on the ballot in the '72 election. A considerable number of people, however, are known to have written in Sen. Ralph Yarborough.

The New Party in Houston is trying to get together a reform coalition to run for city government posts next year. The first meeting of the coalition was scheduled for Nov. 19. Most of the 40 citizens invited, many of them leaders of minority communities in Houston, had responded favorably to the invitation.

New Party strategists feel they'd have no trouble fielding some outstanding candidates for city council, but there is a hangup in the form of State Rep. Curtis Graves. Graves, a black, who ran for mayor last year, apparently wants to try again in '71. The polls in New Party doubt that he can win but are faced with a hairy problem if they don't support him.

War tax resistance forming

Austin

A Texas anti-war, tax-resistance group is organizing around the specific issue of the telephone tax. The 10% federal excise tax attached to telephone and telegraph service in 1966 was identified at the time as a war tax by Rep. Wilbur Mills, who introduced it.

Telephone tax resistance is common on the east and west coast, and, the organizers are careful to point out, seldom results in disconnected service.

The Texas group plans to kick off its campaign with a walk on Saturday, Sept. Dec. 5, at 1 p.m. The walk will begin at the state capitol and proceed past the Southwestern Bell building to the I.R.S. headquarters near Ben White and Interregional, a two-hour hike. Walkers are requested to bring letters stating their intention to refuse the tax until it is repealed or the war has ended. For additional information call 476-0517 or 471-3247.

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The Chemical Feast—II

By Dellar Rushing

Houston

"Consumption is the sole end and purpose of all production; and the interest of the producer ought to be attended to, only so far as it may be necessary for promoting that of the consumer..."
Adam Smith, *The Wealth of Nations*, 1784.

This is the second of two articles on *The Chemical Feast*, Ralph Nader's study group report on the Food and Drug Administration, written by James S. Turner, project director. (Grossman Publishers, 44 W. 56th St., New York, N.Y. 10019, 267 p., cloth \$6.95, paper \$.95.)

"The food industry is the largest retail industry in America. . . Its job is to make money." It is backed by a lobbying power that once caused old Sam Rayburn (D., Tex.) to say he had never before seen anything like it. It floods the food market with a tide of chemicals — even their number and names are bewildering — largely untested or questionably tested. Our agency for the protection of consumers, the Food and Drug Administration, one might suppose, would find a use for about all the money and authority it could get to police such a monster. Not so, says James S. Turner, author of this angry report; in the past ten years the F.D.A. has not in any year used all its appropriation; and as for using all its authority — it largely relies on the food industry to police itself.

The "Creed of the F.D.A.," as stated by Commissioner Paul Dunbar in 1947 and as it stands today is that "...most manufacturers recognize that consumer interest and producer interest are inseparable, and that practices adverse to consumer interest are likewise adverse to the interest of industry; . . . most manufacturers make sincere efforts to meet all legal requirements not only because they are the law of the land, but because it is the right thing to do."

RALPH NADER has developed, with the tools presently in hand, his own method of protest-into-reform with such success that numbers of our brightest and best-trained youth have flocked to aid him. Sixteen of his "raiders" who researched and interviewed the Food and Drug Administration for two summers, have now put more tools — facts — in the hands of readers. As project director, Turner speaks

Dellar Rushing is a free lance writer from Houston who formerly worked on several Texas papers.

A Review

in tones of outrage, but no fault is shown without a reasoned remedy.

The author charges that such food standards as exist are often not realistically enforced. There are many dodges available to industry. One is the distinctive name dodge. Kraft's Miracle Whip, a salad dressing, does not have to meet the standards for salad dressing because it has a distinctive name, Miracle Whip. Theoretically, there will one day be standards for whips, but meanwhile nothing applies. Ovaltine, a chocolate milk drink advertised as a cure-all, in the same way escapes regulations for chocolate milk drinks. "Thirst-quenchers" do not have to comply with juice regulations and Velveta does not have to comply with cheese regulations. All such means of dodging compliance, Turner holds, should be foreclosed.

Problems, such as pest control, are not attacked head-on. Our society (the author is careful to say that it is not only the F.D.A., but other agencies and entities that must be blamed) functions only from the point of view of someone who has something to sell — pesticides. But pest control could be reversed from the use of harmful chemicals to other means. Although only about 20% of pest control is now done by other than harmful chemicals, many such methods have proved their reliability, some as far back as 1890. For example: Texas cotton has been saved from destruction by insects without the use of chemicals through crop rotation, timed planting, and tillage designed to eliminate insect reproduction. The screw worm, which used to kill or maim millions of dollars worth of Florida livestock each year, was eliminated through breeding of sterile strains of the insect that prevented reproduction. The cottony-cushion scale, once the plague of California citrus fruit, "has been brought under control without the use of chemicals. Lures have been effectively used to combat various insects, and a new strain of alfalfa was developed to resist the spotted alfalfa aphid, which at one time nearly destroyed the entire alfalfa industry," according to the report.

SOME NUTRITIONISTS say, if you want to improve your diet begin with your bread. In the mid-twenties our bread started down a spongy, white road. White "enriched" flour has a longer shelf life, but

many chemicals have been added to it and it has been stripped of almost all vitamins and minerals. Dr. Jean Mayer, President Nixon's French-born nutrition adviser, remarks that America's soft, bleached dough-product would not even be called bread by Frenchmen. Dr. Saul Rubin of Hoffman-La Roch, calls the enrichment claim a fraud: 22 nutrients are removed and only parts of four are restored.

For those who retain a simple faith in free enterprise, Nader's interpretation of what the economic role of a government agency has been in an industry six times the size of General Motors, may be a surprise. He says: "In allowing the proliferation of these abuses and declining to develop sound, competitively up-lifting food standards, the Food and Drug Administration also did a serious disservice to any scrupulous food processors who might have viewed competition as a drive for quality and nutrition rather than the opposite situation which has prevailed. In sum, the Food and Drug Administration has been an official sponsor of processing and marketing practices that have transformed the defrauding of consumers into a competitive advantage — a kind of reverse competition." Thus, bad food has driven out good.

Since *The Chemical Feast* was printed, the F.D.A. has banned cyclamates. Totally. Readers may be forgiven if they do a double-take and say, how's that again? Information had been available for many months that cyclamates cause bladder cancer in rats (bladder cancer in humans has risen sharply in America in the last decade, just when cyclamates were most widely used). At varying times in recent months the F.D.A. has advised against the unrestricted use of cyclamates, equivocated, banned cyclamates from certain substances without revealing the most dangerous hazard, then backed away from even that, then finally banned cyclamates altogether effective by the end of September of this year (*The New York Times*, Aug. 23, 1970). Why the zigzag? Did more or differing information become available? Apparently not, but what did happen was that Ralph Nader was pushing. It may be that he should be given credit for this improvement in our food.

During the time the F.D.A. had cyclamates on its generally recognized as safe list "nearly 75% of the families in America," Turner estimates, consumed the chemical often without any way of knowing it.

When the final and total ban was issued there was a loss to canners of some \$30 million. One spokesman for growers said: "I don't know where there is a hole big enough to put three million cases of illegal

fruit." Regret for this industry loss may be modified by recalling industry's massive production of cyclamates for weight control, whereas its use for this purpose is of no practical value.

MANY SCIENTISTS are convinced that chemicals producing abnormalities in animals are likely to produce some kind of problem in people, even though they do not know what the problem will be. By 1958 there were 704 chemical additives in our food supply of which only 428 were definitely known to be safe. Thus 726 chemicals had not been proven safe, but were in our food. Nearly two thirds of these do not appear on labels.

"The next 12 months of the F.D.A.'s life," Turner warns, "will perhaps be the most telling in its confused history ... with the battle for a clean environment under way ... the F.D.A. is clearly going to be at the center of major political battles once again..." It should establish as its basic guideline the observation of the Food Safety Panel of the 1969 White House Conference on Food, Nutrition, and Health: "It is essential that the chemical environment be controlled as completely as possible..."

The Nader team says that the credibility of the F.D.A. should be restored and its scientific capability improved. This credibility could be achieved substantially by drawing on scientific personnel from such places as the University of California at Riverside, Cornell University, the University of Florida, the University of Missouri, New York State University at Stonybrook; also the state governments of Wisconsin and California, all of which have personnel trained in pesticide control and in the protection of the environment. Upgrading the scientific fitness of the agency has been recommended for years, since the first Citizens Advisory Committee on the problems of the F.D.A. was called by Oveta Culp Hobby, then (1955) Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare. However, little has been done. "Nearly all research on food additive safety," the report comments, "is conducted by industry, not the F.D.A."

Another report recommendation is the abolition of the generally recognized as safe (G.R.A.S.) list. Supposedly made up on the recommendations of scientists, the original list was put together on the basis of questionable criteria and in many cases over the protests of the very scientists whose opinions had been solicited. (Henry M. Burlage of the University of Texas questioned the safety of ammonium carbonate. The F.D.A. dismissed the question tersely, saying, "Henry M. Burlage is not qualified to discuss the safety of ammonium carbonate." Other scientists questioned substance after substance,

including cyclamates, and had their objections as summarily overridden.)

Perhaps the most pointed recommendation of the book is that consumers should get into the act. One indignant consumer, not necessarily a Ralph Nader, can raise a voice in the supermarket or by mail to the manufacturer. Both market and manufacturer are often more sensitive to consumer criticism than is assumed. Few consumer organizations exist in Texas, but let them put forth their names and addresses in this journal and new members will be ready for them.

To be effective, consumers must be informed. *The Chemical Feast* should be in

Award for R.D.

Our Publisher keeps getting awards. Since he is a modest fellow, the editors learn about these things from press releases. The latest kudo in Ronnie Dugger's collection is from the University of Missouri School of Journalism. Dugger took top prize for excellence in business, economic and financial writing in the category for general circulation magazines. The award was for his article on "Oil and Politics" in *Atlantic* magazine.

The consensus of the judges read: "Skillful research; substantial topic; courageous journalism. The story of politics and oil is absolutely vital for educated people to understand. This type of incisive writing makes a complex subject easily understood — a heroic job of ferreting out detail and aligning it in meaningful fashion against the sounding board of politics."

O irony of ironies. The cash for the award Dugger received was put up by the Independent Natural Gas Association of America. Reprints of "Oil and Politics" are available through the *Observer* office.

every home as well as the authoritative works on nutrition by Adelle Davis.

The White House Conference also called for a food chemical dictionary to be placed in the hands of the public. It would list alphabetically all chemical names that appear on any label and explain their function and any possible danger.

Our new F.D.A. commissioner, Dr. Charles C. Edwards, seems already to be entrapped by industry and by bureaucratic supporters of industry within the agency. Edwards came in, as have others, with high resolve. It is not too late to restore this resolve and to strengthen the hand of the many dedicated and capable persons within the agency who could aid in reform. If he is to redeem our system of food protection he must, of course, have a push from and the support of vocal and informed consumers. □

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The Big Thicket Is Little More Than a Gullible State of Mind

Truth, Sir, is a cow which will yield such people no more milk, and so they are gone to milk the bull.

—Dr. Samuel Johnson.

We will concede freely that there ought to be more public parks in East Texas and that the federal government should establish more recreation centers in the 658,023 acres that it already owns in the form of four National Forests.

But to take still another 100,000 or 200,000 acres and set up a National Park in the so-called Big Thicket would be ridiculous. In most respects, the Big Thicket is nothing but a gullible and romantic state of mind. Except for one man (named McLeod) nobody is sure exactly where it is. It is merely floating around loose somewhere north of Houston and Beaumont, it has no definite or acknowledged boundaries, and it differs chiefly from the rest of East Texas in being a little flatter, a little wetter, and possessed of more abundant crawfish.

Those 658,023 acres available in the form of National Forests are already open to anybody who wants to go there and hunt, fish, camp, swim, watch birds, or gather mushrooms.

But nowadays most people who venture out into the woods want their conveniences with them. They want electric lights, rest rooms, running water, concrete floors for their campsites, and so on. Mighty few will bust right out into the East Texas woods, bed down alone by the embers of a campfire, and listen while the owls hoot.

Accordingly, while there are about two million visitors a year in those National Forests, nearly all of them congregate in the established recreation centers, such as those along the shores of Sam Rayburn Reservoir. The real demand is for recreation centers.

East Texas is a fine place for coon hunting or even for family barbecues. But for a National Park it will hardly do. To the trusting American tourist a National Park means a place where he can gaze on rugged scenery: Old Faithful Geyser, the Yosemite Falls, the Petrified Forest, Crater Lake, or the Grand Canyon. But there is not even a good-sized gulch in Hardin County, whose inhabitants sometimes describe it as the heart of the Big Thicket.

Hardin County has 31,000 inhabitants, the number indicating that it has long since ceased to be a primeval wilderness. It also has numerous rice fields, oil wells, sawmills, dinky little real estate subdivisions, roadside hamburger stands, and one or two million bottles and beer cans, flung out by travelers as they went through, whether or not they were trying to find the Big Thicket.

Nevertheless, the enthusiastic but ill-informed lovers of nature keep on writing stories for the Sunday papers about the Big Thicket. They picture it as a rugged wilderness, largely untouched by the hand of man and containing rare plants found nowhere else on earth. They also picture it as teeming with large, dangerous, but somehow lovable varmints, such as bears, catamounts, and alligators. For nothing gladdens the heart of a tourist like a chance to feed a ham sandwich to a bear. Unfortunately, to carry out this ceremony in Hardin County, the government will have to import the bears as well as the tourists.

Let us offer a calm, factual analysis of the Big Thicket (easily checked in the biological literature)—

1) The Big Thicket contains no trees, bushes, or vines whatever that do not also grow elsewhere in East Texas or even a thousand

or two thousand miles away. Beech trees, for instance, grow in Nova Scotia. Carolina jessamine grows in Guatemala.

There is only one biologist in North America who ever so much as attempted to explain how a man can tell when he is in the Thicket and when he is out of it. (See Claud A. McLeod, *The Big Thicket of East Texas, Its History, Location and Description*, Sam Houston Press, 1967.) His criterion was that thirteen species of hardwood trees, plus the loblolly pine, are slightly more abundant in the Thicket than in the rest of East Texas. But the Thicketeers paid small attention to McLeod. They kept on writing about those rare plants (existent mostly in their imagination).

2) The East Texas pine forest (including the Big Thicket, if anybody besides McLeod can find it) is nothing but the southwestern end of what is sometimes called the Southeastern Evergreen Forest. The other end lies along the Chesapeake Bay coast of Virginia. This forest, now largely cut over, includes parts of nine states. (See, among other authors, Clarence J. Hylander, *Wildlife Communities from the Tundra to the Tropics in North America*, Houghton Mifflin, 1966.)

Of the fifty most characteristic trees of East Texas, all fifty grow in the Carolinas, twenty-eight grow on Long Island, and eleven grow as far north as Canada.

3) East Texas is still heavily wooded. Its 37 counties contain 11.5 million acres of timber. (See Herbert S. Sternitzke, *East Texas Pineywoods*, U. S. Department of Agriculture, 1967.)

But all of this is cut-over timber — anything from second growth to fourth growth. (Not stated by Sternitzke, presumably as being too obvious.)

4) Even so, the forest keeps on growing back. After sixty or seventy years, loblolly pines are about as big as the original timber. (See McLeod, *opus citatum*.)

This, indeed, is the theory on which the more enlightened owners of timberland are now operating. They are not trying to cut the forest down flat; they are trying to keep it growing, so as to stay in business. To a considerable extent, they are succeeding. In terms of cubic feet, standing pine timber increased forty per cent between 1955 and 1965. (See Sternitzke, *opus citatum*.)

What East Texas really needs is more woodland and recreation centers. Anything as pretentious as a National Park would be a fraud on the tourists.

H. Mewhinney, Cleveland
A. D. Folweiler, College Station
E. R. Wagoner, Lufkin
(And so on.)



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Dallas superpatriots are no nuttier than anyone else, it turns out

Dallas radical rightwingers "show only one extreme characteristic besides their politics, namely, living in Dallas," according to a psychologist who studied 21 Dallas super patriots.

We've been hoarding this article originally printed in the February, 1970, Psychology Today in hopes of eventually finding room to reprint some of it. Finally the occasion presents itself.

Alan C. Elms, formerly of Southern Methodist University, writes that liberals' traditional view of radical rightists as "twisted, lunatic, even - like the Blue Meanies - a different species altogether" is a bunch of hooey.

Following are excerpts from the article:

One volunteer in his early 30s, whom we will call Mr. Baldwin, first came to my attention when he was reported to be recruiting members of his Sunday school choir for the Birch Society. He had also been busy writing letters to the newspapers, and turned out to be both a Birch Society chapter leader and a Republican precinct chairman. He said he had become aware of "the danger this country is in at the present time" only during the Goldwater presidential campaign. Election night "really was like a nightmare to me. . . . After that I couldn't sit still and not do anything about it any more." So he sent in a coupon he clipped from a Birch Society advertising supplement in the *Dallas News*. Mr. Baldwin held a college degree, an advanced white-collar position in a national corporation and a responsible lay position in his church. Yet, he said, "I am viewed today, by the opinion molders and attitude makers of society, such as newspapers, TV and radio commentators, important members of Government, as an extremist, right-wing fanatic, hate-monger, war-monger, etc., since I still believe firmly in God and our U.S. Constitution."

Extreme as Mr. Baldwin was politically, he gave little indication of psychological abnormalities. He worried that he was too introverted, but he came across as a big-talking extroverted Texan. If you made clear at the start that you had no plans to join his Birch chapter or his church, he'd probably make a good neighbor.

A SUBSTANTIAL portion of the rightists I studied were Birchers, but not all of them. There was a gentleman I'll call Mr. Field, who felt the J.B.S. couldn't "do anything but help bring greater awareness on the part of the American voter to the true consequences of the actions of many

of the people now in high places of the Government as well as the so-called Communist element," but who added, "The trouble is that these kinds of organizations have a tendency to pull in the lunatic fringe."

He felt as Mr. Baldwin had that the civil-rights movement was run "to a great extent by racial agitators who laid down the plan 30 years ago, 35 years ago" as "part and parcel of the great so-called proletariat revolution." He believed a conspiracy of "people in New York" was responsible for "processing the mentality, the mental attitude of the American people" to accept Castro's takeover of Cuba, the Communist takeover of China, the attempted Communist takeover of the Congo. He had stopped going to church "because unfortunately so much of what I heard being said made me a little upset, so I got mainly into abstaining from churchgoing but still being religious, so to speak." Instead he read *Plain Truth* magazine ("Gosh, it's so right, how could it be wrong?") and listened to radio sermons. Mr. Field was retired from military service and was working in an executive business position. He displayed no noticeable peculiarities other than still being single at the age of 42.

Another non-Bircher was a lady in her early 30s, Mrs. Stevens, whose favorite extrafamilial activity was the round of speeches she delivered to ladies' clubs and PTAs concerning the imminent loss of our freedom via the graduated income tax and creeping socialism. She had worked with other women handing out leaflets to shoppers, blaming "wasteful Government spending" rather than greedy grocers for high food prices, had testified at state hearings that certain high-school textbooks were socialistic, and was active in local Republican politics. Her spare time was spent with rightist books, Communist books (for kicks), and tapes of rightist speakers. Mrs. Stevens had a college degree, had built "a good life" with her husband, didn't like housework but said she was trying to give her children a good home.

Then there was the oilman, Mr. Downey, who'd had his first big strike when he was 30 and hadn't had one since - just 86 dry holes. He said he knew J.B.S. members - "architects, lawyers, engineers, all of 'em are well-educated people" - but was coy when I asked whether he belonged too. The point was academic. He included Lyndon Johnson in "the extreme left wing," thought "most professors and most preachers have embraced the rather radical left wing." He felt "somebody besides the

Democrats" had sabotaged Goldwater's campaign. He complained that after the 1964 election, "we have what you can call a true democracy, that's true: there's 60 million people, 60 million voters, that are ruling the other 27 million whose ideas are given absolutely no consideration." (Twenty-seven million voted for Goldwater.)

Mr. Downey seemed particularly sensitive to governmental regulation of business, specifically the oil business, but he also traced his political views in part to seeing Russian Army brutality in World War II. He'd had a "very satisfactory married life and I wouldn't change partners if I had it to do over again." He felt his children "think of me as affable, too easygoing, and perhaps not too bright. Believe they are fond of me in spite of not having too much respect for me." Mr. Downey was indeed an affable, voluble man with a rich sense of humor. He had gone through several extreme ups and downs in the oil business, but showed little bitterness or frustration; he was still hard working on the job, relaxed and generous off it. His occasional outbursts of hostility were directed only toward the remote Federal Government and toward people he didn't know, such as college professors and the Reds. . . .

Two out of 21 far rightists, a proportion not much different from the average for the general population, had what appeared to be severe psychological problems; several others (but no more than among the nonextreme liberals in my sample) had minor problems or had had difficulties in the past, now apparently resolved with or without the help of their political opinions. The majority seemed to be psychologically healthy and stable and appeared never to have been otherwise, if I can believe extensive interview material, autobiographies, and projective tests. . . .

Elms cites three major functions of attitudes that might help explain radical conservatism: object appraisal which helps a person "size up" objects in the environment from the point of view of his major interests and material needs; social adjustment which helps one get along with other people; and externalization, using attitudes toward the outside world to help one deal with inter psychological problems. "By feeling hostile toward hippies, we can keep the lid on direct expression and get our kicks indirectly, through our loving condemnation of filth," Elms explains.

Now, how do radical rightists attitudes

serve all these functions? Object appraisal first: Mr. Downey, our oilman, could argue that his attitudes bear directly upon his material interests and that they sprang originally from his observations of the real world. Even when attitudes don't accurately reflect objective reality, they can and obviously do reduce the chaos for rightists. Particularly if one's tolerance for ambiguity is low (as was characteristic, for instance, of the 1950 authoritarians), it should be very helpful to have a Communist bag in which to shove one large chunk of the world's people and politicians, and an all-American bag in which to shove a smaller but higher-grade chunk, without worrying about in-betweeners. And according to a good part of what these rightists read and hear from their limited sources of information, this is the right, true and ultimate way to subdivide the world.

Rightist attitudes serve the social adjustment function better or worse according to the kind of society in which you live. Our Mrs. Stevens, who preached

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THE TEXAS OBSERVER
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to PTAs about creeping Communism, apparently drew an enthusiastic response wherever in Dallas she went and was regarded highly by all her friends for her noble defense of free enterprise. But I'd guess that if she tried the same speech before PTAs in the university town where I now live, she'd not only run into some pretty abrasive situations but would find her friendships limited mainly to lower-status social circles. (Her attitudes could then help remedy her plight, by making her feel decidedly superior to all those nincompoops who couldn't see a Commie if he was tweaking their noses.) Social adjustment is the function the sociologists are usually talking about.

The externalization function is the one I illustrated to my social psychology classes for several years largely with rightist examples, until I found that a substantial number of rightists didn't exemplify it. But it is the most important function for the real rightist kooks, from Lasswell's Secret Service man to my American Nazi, Mr. Whiteside. When rightist attitudes work to relieve neurotic conflict or to keep a psychotic break unbroken, they're fulfilling the externalization function.

None of these functions by itself provides a sufficient basis for the far-right attitudes of most of my Dallas volunteers. But any set of political attitudes will serve all three functions to varying degrees — not only rightist attitudes, but leftist, moderate, apathetic, anything. The puzzle is not what the Dallas rightists' attitudes were doing for them; for most, the attitudes seemed to be serving the common ordinary set of political attitudes. The puzzle is why the attitudes had to be so extreme.

IN A PLACE like Dallas, the answer may simply be, Why not? Radical rightism has long been part of the Dallas social and political structure, and for those just now discovering politics, it's really about as open an option as any other ideological position. The Birch Society is respectable and easily accessible; even the local Republican Party seems to be heavily infiltrated, if not run, by Birchers. So why

not indeed? No neurosis needed, no abnormal status problems — just a reasonable concern about what's going on in the world, a desire to understand it better with the least expense of time and effort, perhaps an interest in doing something useful and stimulating with your leisure time. What'll it be — the Women's Christian Sewing Circle or the Christian Anti-Communism Crusade?

But even in Dallas not everyone has taken the path into the Birch grove, so perhaps a little more is involved. The data I have at hand don't suggest much else specifically, so let me speculate. Most of the Dallas rightists I interviewed had been raised to honor the conservative values — preservation of home, country, God. But they weren't content to do their honoring in peace and quiet. Even those with no loose screws or status hang-ups were disturbed by the social pressures to conform, by the increasing homogenization of society and by their own lack of significance. They had good jobs, substantial incomes, comfortable homes, most of them; but so did everyone else they knew. Each really wanted to make a name for himself, not to become famous but to be known as a distinct individual. This desire as much as economic selfishness seemed to be behind the frequent references to "individualism." Political moderation, even moderate conservatism, would hardly bring forth their faces from those of the crowd.

Their jobs or household roles had not given them the sense of distinct identity that they sought. Hobbies might have helped in the past, but the problems of our civilization are now so grave as to make stamp collecting and most other hobbyist bywaters embarrassing in their triviality. To add to this dilemma, more and more people are now largely free of major *personal* worries about financial and physical security, while at the same time

they have more ready access than ever to televised amusements, pop music and other cheap thrills. An escalation of expectations about entertainment has occurred in America during this decade, not only among the young. Instant kicks have become an important criterion for the continued allotment of time to any nonwork pursuit. If it's not more fun than television, at least, why bother?

For those who have found few thrills in philately, politics may become a new hobby. Of course, genuine expertise — even on an amateur level — comes hard. But the mass media, by publicizing and personalizing politics and by analyzing complex events in five-minute doses, make politics look like a satisfactory substitute for both serious and trivial pastimes. The rightist organizations take things from there.

Radical rightism is a sort of quick-and-easy, mail-order-diploma way to gain political expertise, and its conspiracy

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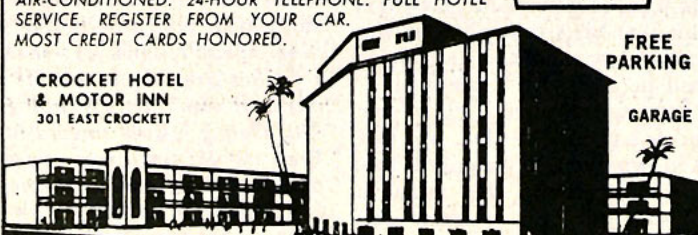
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theories supply the requisite titillations. The J.B.S. and similar sources provide "factual information," "in depth," which for the uninformed reader can have all the excitement of a TV spy drama. Their publications often take the form of a hyper-Time-magazine, or worse, a political pornographic sex manual; they entertain and "educate" simultaneously at the shallowest level. But the reader is not just getting his personal kicks, with a little learning on the side as gravy; he's helping to save the Nation, and after that the World.

So why don't more people embrace radical rightism? Partly because its benefits are still outweighed by major social and personal disadvantages in many parts of the country. What good is an identity that others view with scorn? In such areas probably the only persons who take up the far right are those truly driven, by neurotic problems or otherwise. They may very well fit the extreme patterns that psychologists and sociologists for years have presented as the only patterns. But they are not the only, and perhaps not even the most representative, rightists in the country.

TALK ABOUT multiple causation is by now a cliché in psychology, but a cliché gets that way sometimes because it is the most apt expression of a pervasive truth. If you try to look at radical rightism as a national phenomenon, the data point to multiple causation. My Dallas Birchers cannot be explained as a group, and often not even individually, by reference to a single influence such as the externalization of neurotic conflicts or the displacement of status anxieties. They must be looked at not only in the context of these relatively extreme problems, but also with regard to

Lady solon excluded from club

Austin

Rep. Frances Farenthold of Corpus Christi was invited to Austin Nov. 17 as the honored guest of the University of Texas Law School. She served as one of six panelists for the annual "Law and Society" lecture. A luncheon had been arranged for the lecturer and the panelists at the Citadel Club. Despite all the pressure the Law School could bring to bear on the club, Mrs. Farenthold could not be got in because she has the deplorable lack of taste to be female.

"Apparently they have some rule that if you come after 1:30 p.m. you're a human being instead of a woman," said Mrs. Farenthold. "But the luncheon was scheduled for noon. So now I'm eating cottage cheese at the Downtowner." □

the ordinary, everyday concerns and interests of surely a majority of the population: the need to be someone recognizable, to enjoy life, to get a firmer grasp of a complex world. They must also be considered with regard to the particular social environment they inhabit — in this case the Dallas environment, which is so accepting of rightist politics that Birchism can become a simple hobby to deal with these normal concerns and interests.

Most of these people show only one extreme characteristic besides their politics, namely, living in Dallas — and even that's not necessarily as crazy as it may seem to the non-Dallasite. Nor is Dallas unique. Dozens of other cities exist, large

and small, where the politics of the local communications media are monolithically conservative, and where those same everyday concerns about identity and enjoyment and understanding become daily more and more pertinent to substantial segments of the populace. Leftist radicals, in imitation of Che Guevara's call for "Two, three, many Vietnams," occasionally dream of creating "Two, three, many Berkeleys" in this country. But I see a more likely trend, no less threatening to political stability because its participants are so ordinary, so undistinguished in motivation and in appearance:

Two, three, many Dallases. □

Elroy Bode's notebook

El Paso

AT THE EWELL HOUSE On fall Sundays we turned off the Bandera highway and went down the rocky, winding dirt road that led through the Ewell pastures. When we came to the pens we parked the car in the grassy shade of a big liveoak and walked down the slope of a small bluff to the creek. We crossed it on flat rocks placed there as a bridge and when we got to the other side we were once again beneath the strange canopy of towering pecan trees. Once again we were walking across fallen leaves through a great still space of subdued light.

Mary and Forrest Ewell lived in a small, unpainted house that sat in the perpetual shade of the many pecan trees. It was like a private, bypassed little world down there — a gigantic cave, with cave-horses rubbing against the wire fence of the yard, with Forrest Ewell standing on the front porch, welcoming us with his quiet, cave-dweller's smile.

It was as if the Ewells lived in a mountain cabin of Kentucky or Tennessee: the rooms of the house were small and dark, and a bucket of spring water and a dipper were always on a stool beside the back door. There was a banjo and a guitar and a violin hanging on the bedroom wall and in the late afternoon Mary and the two children would get their instruments down and play hymns and country songs out on the porch. Forrest would spit tobacco juice over the railing into the flower bed and the juice would splatter near his collie dog. The dog would lift an eyelid for a moment and then go on sleeping while the violin scraped and Mary sang "The Old Rugged Cross."

The Ewell children, Billie Jean and Talbert, were my age and we played long hours down at the creek. It was narrow and grassy-banked and curved pleasantly out of one wooded pasture into another while small, light-brown frogs sat beside it on the

sand. A spring came out of the ground beneath a big walnut tree and made a clear pool between its roots. Water cress and mint grew along the side of the pool and the round, clean rocks on the bottom looked as if they were right beneath the surface of the water — as if your nose would touch them when you lay down at the pool's edge to get a drink.

Standing beside the creek, my stomach full of fresh-tasting spring water, I would look up the bluff to where palomino horses were lazily switching their tails in the sun. Up there, at the lots, it was an ordinary fall afternoon; down along the creek, in the deep pecan-tree shadow, it was no definite time or place. It was like looking out from a dream, or a children's storybook — where life never moved or changed but stayed deep inside itself, content to remain within its own pleasing depths.

—I can grasp nothing about life, no matter how hard I try. I am like an idiot staring at a dog and listening to it bark and periodically leaning over to smell it and touch its hair — yet being totally unable to call the dog by its actual name. The dog is there, and I-the-idiot am there — a relationship between the two of us exists — but the relationship has no meaning. There is no common meeting ground.

—We must remember that there was, indeed, a Ninth Century and that it was fully a hundred years long: that people lived, day by day, in 836, in 837, in 838, and looked forward perhaps to 839 in hopes that it might bring a change of fortune. . . . A man in 838 would finish his midday meal, belch, scratch a scab on his arm, and wonder about those things which men wondered about in 838. He was a man like any man anytime: caught up in daily routines, unsure of tomorrow, surrounded by the mysteries of living.

. . . We accept so much intellectually:

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Why, yes, of course, we say, men lived in the Ninth Century — but we fail to be humbled or awed because we do not really feel the words as we say them. We do not react to knowledge imaginatively. And yet it is only through imaginative perception that we ever change mere facts into understandings.

—That lost innocence of a high school symphonic band playing "Festival" and "Carioca" and "Blues in Beguine." The music of 50 instruments moving through intricate patterns like flocks of performing birds, and the steady, subdued, godlike motions of the conductor as he guides the instruments along — now encouraging the French horns, now cautioning the basses, now agreeing with the suddenly passionate saxophones.

That sense of joint purpose as band members sit on stage in their green uniforms and white shoes: that satisfying feeling of Working Together in order to fashion melodic pleasantness for the silent audience out front. . . . Players confident and proud, now, to have been so thoroughly disciplined and well-drilled that they are capable of producing such smooth, rhythmic sounds.

The drummers stand there, poised, waiting their cue; the trombonists rest with their horns erect on their knees; the baritone soars and the clarinets shrill and the trumpets attack their notes cleanly. And everyone knows — is secretly thrilled at knowing — that the music is a thing bigger than they are. Everyone is willing, in this long, rather beautiful, rather unreal moment onstage, to be subdued, selfless workmen in a group, to be concerned only with group efforts and group effects.

—It seems to be a law of life: that a human being is never any match for the world. One by one, in all our various postures, we are brought to the same lone ledges above the same bottomless abyss under the same unknowable pair of invisible eyes.

A SMALL MILD MAN He was sitting in a cafe booth with two brown-suited pals, having coffee. At first I thought all three were from the big Baptist church across the street — I had forgotten about the nearby funeral home.

It was a warm September afternoon, and the men were leaning back a little from the coffee cups, idling through their small talk. The two men in brown suits were discussing their teen-aged children — how much they ate, how fast they were growing. One of them said he had

measured his 16-year-old boy just the other night: had stood him up straight and square-shouldered in the bedroom while making a higher pencil mark on the bedroom door.

The small mild man, who had been mainly listening until now, tapped his cigarette against his coffee saucer and said, rather brightly, "Well, when I measure 'em, they're dead." □

On 'dirty' words

Austin

We have received three letters — an unusual quantity of feedback — concerning dirty words in the *Observer*. The letters all come in reaction to Jack Canson's piece on KERA's Newsroom (*Obs.*, Sept. 18). Canson used words that most — many? — of us use every day. The article in question was written in an easy-going, conversational style that I found quite appealing. But some of our readers took offense.

There is a letter on my desk, awaiting reply, from a man who says he "abhorred the obscene adjectives" in Canson's piece. "I enjoy reading *The Texas Observer* so much, in fact I've given it a thought to subscribe to it. But due to the fact that I have a daughter in college, who comes home on weekends and a daughter in high school, I'm seriously thinking of changing my mind," the man writes. He says he will not subscribe until he gets assurances that we will clean up our language in future issues.

Another reader addresses her remarks specifically to Mr. Canson. "Why do you fellows (& maybe gals too) resort to such inclusions?" she asks. "When this *filthy age* is *past* how very obnoxious these phrases will seem. I jotted them down:

"1. To scare the *hell* out of anyone (and variations on this — *hell* — many times.

"2. There is a 'veritable shitpot full of newsmen' (terrible).

"3. 'And he was full of piss and vinegar.'

"4. Any 'goddamned announcer'."

THE WRITER goes on to say, "I am a retired school teacher who uses *damn* occasionally, when extremely *hurt physically*, or when extremely disgusted — as by Bentsen's campaign on T.V. against Senator Yarborough. I use *hell* occasionally, but in *privacy only* — not a *published thing*. So I am not a *phlegmatic* Sunday School goody-goody. Please desist for everyone's sake."

A third letter, this one unsigned, says in part, "One of the reasons so many whites are unwilling to live near blacks and to associate with them is that they lack a certain basic decency of minor habits and of language that is highly offensive to people accustomed to the refinements associated with good education and solid family background. Mr. Canson's article on

Reflections

KERA's Newsroom was excellent — had he not deliberately or because his thinking runs that way had to drag in *shitpot* and *twice piss*.

"I think it is doubtful," the person writes, "if you, the blacks, and others who are essentially right about social and political problems begin to dream of the hundreds of thousands you alienate by this kind of language. . . . And I'm seeming very much the coward by not signing my name. But I'm never sure people who are clever but allow dirt in their work might not manage to embarrass me because I like to think along the lines of Philippians IV,8 and I'm not used to the gutter. [signed] Your friendly critic."

These honestly are the only letters we have received concerning obscenity since I became editor. They are hard to take seriously, but I sense that many other readers are disturbed because of some of the language used in the *Observer*, but are reluctant to write for fear they would sound prudish. A father called the other day after we printed a poem on the death of Janice Joplin. He said he really likes the *Observer* but he does not want his 11-year-old daughter reading the sort of language used in the poem.

Such comments serve to remind me that I am writing for a varied audience, many of whom are considerably older than I am. Jack Canson's article did not offend me in the least. And I thought that the language used in the Joplin poem was necessary to express what Janice was all about. I am the same age as Janice Joplin. We both came from a generation that simply is not upset by four-letter words. But in deference to those readers who are offended, and I realize some really *are* offended, I promise to edit out gratuitous damn's and shitpots in the future.

THAT IS NOT to say we will censor quotations. We aren't going to pussyfoot around using confusing euphemisms and . . . 's. One reason is because readers often imagine things much worse than the edited phrases.

I can't promise there will be no more "nasties" in this journal. I think we're entering a period of profound cultural change and the term "obscene" is taking

on new meanings. What's obscene to me is not four-letter words but the Vietnam War, the bombings, racism, and planned obsolescence.

I'm certainly not competent to offer any advice on child-rearing to readers who feel they must protect their children from certain words. I will say that I was so sheltered and I don't think it made growing up any easier for me - it made it harder. And besides, we're not writing for children. We're writing for very serious adults. Put the *Observer* in the drawer with your "frank" novels, if you must. Isn't that better than proscribing certain areas of human thought and expression to a journal of free voices?

One last word to the retired school teacher. Shakespeare had some pretty raunchy couplets and Aristophanes was downright anally oriented and I don't think their vulgarisms hurt their reputations a bit. Of course, I am not trying to compare the *Observer* to Shakespeare and Aristophanes, but just to say that I'll continue to give our writers their freedom and take my chances with history.

Help the Thicket

Sen. Ralph Yarborough has only a few more weeks in office. He is hoping that during these last weeks his Big Thicket bill can be blasted out of committee. It would help for *Observer* readers to write to the members of the House and Senate subcommittees in Washington that are considering bills and tell them how much we want that park.

Members of the Subcommittee on Parks and Recreation of the Senate Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs are:

Alan Bible of Nevada, chairman, Frank Church of Idaho, Clinton P. Anderson of New Mexico, Henry M. Jackson of Washington, Paul J. Fannon of Arizona, Clifford T. Hansen of Wyoming, Mark O. Hatfield of Oregon, and Henry Bellmon of Oklahoma.

Members of the Subcommittee on Parks and Recreation of the House Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs are:

Roy Taylor of North Carolina, chairman, Harold T. Johnson of California, Hugh L. Carey of New York, Morris K. Udall of Arizona, Robert W. Kastenmeier of Wisconsin, James G. O'Hara of Michigan, William F. Ryan of New York, and Patsy T. Mink of Hawaii.

Also, Abraham Kazen of Texas, Bill D. Burlinson of Missouri, Joe Skubitz of Kansas, John H. Kyle of Iowa, Howard W. Pollock of Alaska, James A. McClure of Idaho, Don H. Calusen of California, Philip E. Ruppe of Michigan, John Happy Camp of Oklahoma, and Manuel Lujan of New Mexico. K.N.

No Bentsen 'feifdom'

The writer of the article "The Winnahs!" in your Nov. 13 issue fails on both facts and political insight in labeling Hidalgo County "Lloyd Bentsen's family fiefdom."

If M.I., the initialed writer, had checked past election results in Hidalgo County, this catchy tagline might have been avoided in the interests of truth. Hidalgo County gave Sen. Ralph W. Yarborough a good margin in the Democratic primary. Half of that margin over Bentsen came in Edinburg, Weslaco, and Mission, Bentsen's home town and the seat of the family power and fortune.

In all recent elections where a strong state or national liberal candidate has been offered, Hidalgo County, which is predominantly Mexican-American in population, has responded with a majority.

The *Edinburg Daily Review* and its associated weekly newspapers in Hidalgo County endorsed Yarborough. As independent newspapers long oriented to the Democratic Party, the newspapers, along with the majority of the liberal-moderate voters in Hidalgo County, chose to support Bentsen in November because he was (1) a Democrat and (2) a native of the Rio Grande Valley most of us could talk with on Valley problems (including the omnipresent problems of the underprivileged Mexican-Americans) and expect some help.

To label Hidalgo County a "fiefdom" of anyone is an insult to thousands of independent voters who stood up openly in May to be counted with Yarborough. Their decision to vote for Lloyd Bentsen was made, as far as I know, without either economic or political pressure from the candidate or his family.

To sneer as M.I. does at the independent choice of independent voters in Hidalgo County is an exercise in intellectual snobbery from a mental midget.

James V. Mathis, publisher and editor of



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Dialogue

The Hidalgo Newspapers, Box 148, Edinburg, Tex. 78529.

The reference to Hidalgo County and the surrounding area as a Bentsen fiefdom was made on the basis of the Bentsen family holdings in the lower Rio Grande Valley. Bentsen, Jr.,'s holding company, Lincoln Consolidated, owns between 15% and 41% of the First National Bank of Edinburg, the First National Bank of McAllen, the First National Bank of Mission and the Security State Bank of Pharr. Bentsen, Jr., has extensive land holdings in the area and one or more members of the Bentsen family are on the boards of all the banks named above, as well as the First National Bank of Raymondsville. The origin of the Bentsen fortune was in the extensive land holdings of Bentsen, Sr., and his brother Elmer Bentsen, both in real estate and mortgages. Those interests are currently in the Tip

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MEETINGS

THE THURSDAY CLUB of Dallas meets each Thursday noon for lunch (cafeteria style) at the Downtown YMCA, 605 No. Ervay St., Dallas. Good discussion. You're welcome. Informal, no dues.

CENTRAL TEXAS ACLU luncheon meeting. Spanish Village. 2nd Friday every month. From noon. All welcome.

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O'Tex Realty Co., Dixie Mortgage Co., and the Bentsen Development Co. The reference was economic, not spiritual.—Ed.

Bibles and book stores

Last Saturday while browsing in a book store, I overheard the following conversation. A woman, who was obviously the manager, was talking to a young man, who was obviously a clerk. She was telling him:

"Look, we are selling bibles again. There is one thing you must be very careful about. When a customer brings a bible up to the counter to pay for it, always open the box to be sure the bible and the box are marked with the same price. A favorite trick of bible customers is to take a low priced bible out of its box and switch it with a high priced bible. Right now we have two \$3.95 bibles sitting back there in \$9.95 boxes, which means that we've been selling bibles less than a week and we've been had twice already."

Howard Glazbrook III, 2727 Oak Lawn Ave., Dallas, Tex. 75219

Nouveau wobbles

Since it is the voice of these nouveau I.W.W.'s that you seem to be listening to rather than the voice of reason and patience and constructive change, then I must, with regret, inform you that I will not be renewing my subscription. I will, however, in deference to the fine man who

gave me this subscription, allow it to continue until its regular termination.

Kenneth Nowotny, c/o Supply Office, USCG TRACEN, Cape May, N.J. 08204.

For pro college teams

Larry King's essay concerning little league football, while timely and informative is also prescient — at least it should be. If sufficient adult people would make their will known where it counts, then the whole folderol of "amateur" football could be exposed for the betterment of all concerned.

I should think that some of these oil billionaires who are wondering how to enscribe their money for eternity in a manner which would not be banal or camp might investigate purchasing a professional football (also baseball, etc.) team and give it to their favorite univeristy — tax deductible — and with all of the management intact. The latter know how to get every last dime out of the promotion and that means big dividends for the school. . . .

Every college player should be under contract covering his pro career, the same as in the farm system of baseball, thus insuring that his "bonus" comes to the institution that made it possible.

It would be a pleasant experience to watch competent professional athletes perform in the name of their owners, the universities which are training and exposing them preparatory to being advanced to the big leagues, in an honest manner. Oh yes, it might as well be extended back to the high schools and grade schools, too. Larry has exposed that for what it is.

J. D. Crow, P. O. Box 216, Canadian, Tex. 79041.

A pol swap shop?

The myth of a Senate controlled by Democrats is perpetuated by such victoris as that of Tweedle-Bentsen over Tweedle-Bush. What Democrats? Eastland? McClellan? Long? Talmadge? Ellender? Stennis? BENTSEN???

It is significant that Spiro Agnew, in assessing Republican gains, hailed Bentsen's win before speaking of victories by Brock, Beall, and Buckley.

What this country needs is a political swap shop. We could trade our Senate winner for almost any loser in the nation and come out ahead.

Garry Kelly, 2218 24th St., Lubbock, Tex. 79411.

Messed-up politics

Kaye Northcott's Oct. 30th article, "Reflections," brought out many of my own feelings after the recent election, but

assuaged the ambivalent guilt I felt upon voting Republican for the first time.

This was especially difficult, perhaps, because it was an absentee vote and I found myself constantly attempting an explanation to my Boston "fellow-newspaper-staffers" and friends. Even liberal and informed people here cannot begin to understand the messed-up party politics of Texas and I certainly can't blame them.

Anyway, I'm very proud of the *Observer*. It is one of few things which draws me back to Texas.

Francie Barnard, *The Phoenix*, 230 Clarendon St., Boston, Mass. 02116.

Reply to Garwood

That fastidious watchdog of the mostly suitable and echoic *Observer*, the curmudgeonic but courtly W. St. John Garwood, has at last gone too far from sweet reason. It is plainly tacky to attack such an experienced and well-meaning gentleman, particularly after he has given himself away in your Dialogue, but the deal ol' Judge also shows conspicuous signs of obscenity (in the offensive to modesty or decency sense) which are advertising, at least to me, a bad case of deep, underlying, galloping cronyism.

Having worked hard with the problems of getting Texas better judges, he rests his case on the abstract "unquestioned integrity, diligence, and ability" of the Judicial Qualifications Commission, cranks oddly about obscure Magic Marker scrawls on vending machines — equating it with historic terror — and takes it personally, while all around him civil liberties are being extended to preferred types over other preferred types who are getting pushed around in the process.

Dallas, clearly mad for years, I suppose can't be blamed for everything, but damned if it can't share some of the blame, along with its judges, for the climate reported by the *Observer*.

James Stanley Walker, 1000 Shelley, Austin, Tex. 78703.

Doesn't like headline

I would like it recorded that the title "Rechy not fit for Drag?" which appeared over my Nov. 13 review of John Rechy's *This Day's Death* bears no resemblance to the title I wrote for the review nor was the title used ever okayed by me.

Steve Barthelme, Austin, Tex.

Kudos

Found the *Observer* most helpful in making a decision on the Senate race. The *Observer* is the kind of paper that makes a Texas liberal shout for joy.

Keep up the good work.

William Jenkins, 417 Witte Hall, Madison, Wis., 53706.