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Series: Baker, James A., III, Files
Subseries: Public Correspondence Files

OA/ID Number: 93012
Folder ID Number: 93012-006

Folder Title:
[Public Correspondence, Oct 1992] [16]

Stack:	Row:	Section:	Shelf:	Position:
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NK
FREDERICK K. MCCLAFFERTY
350 WIRE MILL ROAD
STAMFORD, CT 06903

suggestion

10/20/92

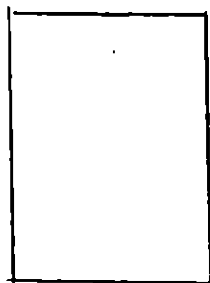
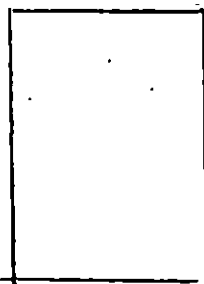
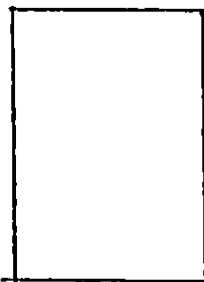
Dear Mr Baker -

Please consider using the
attached message which can
easily be adapted for print,
radio or television. It is
simple. It is powerful. It
is understandable.

It is my own idea and I
offer it as a contribution,
no obligation and no strings
attached.

Very truly yours,
F K Mc Clafferty

WHO WOULD YOU TRUST TO HANDLE YOUR PERSONAL
AFFAIRS IF YOU WERE UNABLE TO DO SO?

An empty square box with a thin black border, intended for a handwritten answer.An empty square box with a thin black border, intended for a handwritten answer.An empty square box with a thin black border, intended for a handwritten answer.

NOW THAT YOU'VE ANSWERED THAT QUESTION, WHY
ON EARTH WOULD YOU TRUST EITHER OF THE
OTHERS TO HANDLE THE AFFAIRS OF THIS
COUNTRY?

Mr. James Baker
c/o The White House
Washington, D.C.20036

mm

speech
suggestion

10/18/92

Robert S Knless

3122 W Monte Vista Rd

Phoenix AZ 85009-2412



Dear Jim

This is the type of speech
Pres Bush should be
giving.

Dear Friends

Four years ago after being
elected Pres after being VP
for 8 yrs I had one big
thing to do. after years after
Reagan & George Shultz fighting
for dis armament of nuclear
weapons we were at the
threshold of reaching our
objective wish we ultimately
did.

Things were still ok but

the economy of the world
yes I said world was
worsening. When was it
getting worse in the U.S.
Overproduction was our
big factor. We turned
out so many cars, TV's
tape recorders etc that
today we are still trying
to get rid of 1990 models
in all categories

I had for the meantime
to contend with Desert Storm
of which 80% of you fully
applauded the results. I
have also had to contend
with nature. We have
had earthquakes, forest fires

and the biggest of all the
tornadoes & of course the
dreadful hurricanes and
the riots in L.A. and
other cities

All this time we were
losing jobs to mostly the
auto industries plus the
government contracts of
which we now had no
use for.

If you will think back
it was the last employed
who went first. Then to
top it all off we had the
bankers & L.A. to contend with
you the people had a
lot to do with all these
failures by being so naive

as to buy thirty stocks, bonds,
and poor land investments.

We are now trying very
hard to get some very
helpful bills passed
but the Democrats have
so loaded them with pork-
barrell ideas I have had
to veto almost all of them
just as Clinton has taken
my ideas & put them in a
different perspective I have
had to be very cautious. If
I say we will invest \$10,000,000
in job training, he raises
the ante to \$30,000,000. These
are things that so many of

5
you are failing to see

There is one thing even
all the money we talk
about cannot do, and that
is create jobs when there
is no market. We must
cut down our imports and
~~and~~ invest in products we
have an interest in only.
We have as good a product
or better for the same price
as any foreign product.

We must all stay together
and not pull apart as we
seem on the verge of doing.
We cannot have another
Carter like session, especially
at this point.

I sincerely hope all of you voters take a good look at things that you will benefit from. No raise of taxes in fact lowering them, leaving 55 alone. This the Democrats can really go to town on getting their hands into.

The economy is slow but we can get our budget down if we are cautious. We cannot spend, spend, spend in our government any more and I promise to put an end to it.

Thank you
and God Bless
This Jim is what people

want to know. Too then
won't really force them
Time is short. Let's get
going. I hope you received
the copy of Spot-light I sent
you a couple of months
back to prove where the
128 tax raises came from.
Regards and best of luck to
all.

Robert A. Kivens

Robert S Kniess

3122 W Monte Vista Rd
Phoenix AZ 85009-2412



Mr James Baker II
c/o White House
Washington D.C.

PERSONAL

Withdrawal/Redaction Sheet

(George Bush Library)

Document No. and Type	Subject/Title of Document	Date	Restriction	Class.
01. Letter	From: Lillian McCullough to James Baker Re: Bush Campaign [Redaction of personal information] (2 pp.)	10/20/92	(b)(6)	

Collection:

Record Group: Bush Presidential Records
Office: Chief of Staff to the President, Office of the
Series: Baker, James A. III
Subseries: Public Correspondence Files
WHORM Cat.:
File Location: [Public Correspondence, Oct 1992] [16]

Date Closed:	9/14/2001	OA/ID Number:	93012-006
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AR Case #:		MR Case #:	
AR Disposition:		MR Disposition:	
AR Disposition Date:		MR Disposition Date:	

RESTRICTION CODES

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

P-1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
P-2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
P-3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA]
P-4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information [(a)(4) of the PRA]
P-5 Release would disclose confidential advice between the President and his advisors, or between such advisors [(a)(5) of the PRA]
P-6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(a)(6) of the PRA]

C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.

PRM. Removed as a personal record misfile.

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

(b)(1) National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]
(b)(2) Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA]
(b)(3) Release would violate a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA]
(b)(4) Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential or financial information [(b)(4) of the FOIA]
(b)(6) Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(b)(6) of the FOIA]
(b)(7) Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA]
(b)(8) Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]
(b)(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information

MPN

Tuesday Oct. 20, 1992

good puppet

Dear Mr. Baker;

I know I should have addressed you more formally, but I am exhausted.

I have spent hours these past few weeks working for President Bush out of my home.

I have sent out well over 100 letters to Editors, with copies made, not only of the "Clippings" I am enclosing in this letter but many others.

Tonight on "Crossfire", Michael Kinsley brought up the subject that Richard Bond, I believe was a lobbyist for the Japanese.

Well, I hate lobbyist, and PACs, but there is, "tit for tat"

So in "The two Bill Clintons", Get Robert Novak, or John Sumner, come back at him.

"Crossfire" has a wide audience.

or how about someone on
Larry King?

Then notice how John R. Starr,
former Editorial Page editor, takes
Michael Ginsley to task. Right
or John could have a field day.

They also might like
Meredith Oakley.

Giving a top rebate to business
is disgraceful.

On doublespeak, Clinton doesn't
doublespeak. He double-thinks.

Double - Think - To accept
as true two inconsistent
versions of factual matter at
the same time, consciously
disciplining the mind to ignore
the conflict between them.

Then take the cartoon of his
"double - think", get him on
TV, when he promised the
people of Arkansas if they
relected him, he would not
run for president.

I wanted first use a
blowup of cartoon, and then
use his speech.

His promise to the people
of Arkansas is on TV, he made
the statement on TV.

Got a copy of Washington Post,
July 15, 1992, just read last
page of article on Clinton. It
states how the DLC got Clinton
to run, and how upset they
were when he promised the
people of Arkansas, if elected,
he would serve out his term.

I lost that page, so I am
quoting as I remember. I believe,
it was a David From, that said,
I don't know Clinton's ideology,
but think it is like DLC,
we've tried to modernize liberalism
in a different way, so it would
sell". *Now about that.' And
in the Washington Post.*

2

I thought I issued Cracks up,
the next evening after the debate
in Richmond.

Channel 5 out of Fort Smith,
Arkansas, took a camera crew,
and reporter to the unemployment
office in Fort Smith, to see
if the people filling out
employment applications, knew
Bill Clinton. It was funny,
the reporter asked one man if he
knew Bill Clinton? And whatever
else it was "Slick Weller" said
in Richmond, about he was
from a small state and knew
everyone, Anyway he didn't, but
said, "I just might vote for him
if he gets me a job."

It probably ran four minutes.
I don't know if the owner
of the station would send you
a copy or not, but it would
be wonderful on national T.V.
They would also have on file,
the Clinton, segment when he

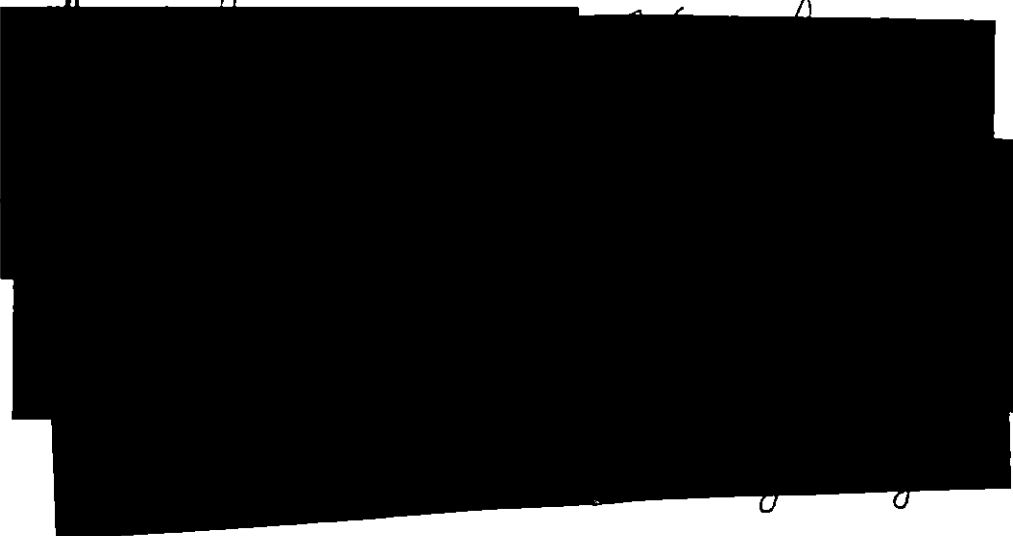
promised to serve.

The western part of Arkansas is conservative, neither Democrat or Republican.

My father was first a Democrat and in 1936 became a Republican. He hated the Socialism of Franklin Roosevelt.

I still hate it. It is in both parties, so I am an independent, and boy well I split my ticket. Republican at the national level, split on state and county ticket.

Just have someone on the "right", make Michael face the truth.





Sincerely

Lillian McCullough

1406 SE-P-St.
Bentonville, AR, 72712
Ph. 501-273-2663.

Arkansas Democrat-Gazette

The two Bill Clintons

Crusader and pol

July 12, 1992
Sometimes the hypocrisy gets a bit thick even for the Clinton campaign. Borrowing a page — or anyway, a paragraph — from Ross Perot's appeal, Bill Clinton did a little lobbyist-bashing in his not-so-grand new economic plan. It was standard stuff: "The government only works for the very wealthy and the special interests." It's all a plot to benefit "high-priced lobbyists and Washington influence peddlers."

The Candidate didn't need to wait for Ross Perot to lead the way; the tone of such rhetoric hasn't changed since William Jennings Bryan was the Democratic standard-bearer almost a hundred years ago. Of course special interests have too much influence on government. Just look at the Clinton administration. For good or ill, or neither, state government often seems but an extension of those interests — certainly where tax breaks, industrial financing, and the environment is concerned.

The contrast between polemics and politics is only par for a sordid course. What distinguishes this courageous attack on lobbyists is that the Clinton campaign itself is awash with them, as *The Wall Street Journal* wasted no time pointing out. Its Jeffrey Birnbaum went down the list, citing chapter and verse and interest:

The Candidate's adviser on American-Israeli relations is David Ifshin, general counsel of the American Israel PAC, and quondam lobbyist for Jamaica and Cyprus. Samuel Berger, another adviser on foreign policy, lobbies for Toyota. Richard Moe, who has been screening vice-presidential timber, has represented the Manville corporation and Occidental Petroleum. Another adviser, Tom Hoog, is vice president of Hill & Knowlton, the PR empire, and once registered as a foreign agent for the People's Republic of China, the greatest misnomer since the Holy Roman Empire.

"About 20 lawyers and lobbyists," the *Journal's* Mr. Birnbaum also reports, "have been meeting regularly for the purpose of

winning endorsements for Mr. Clinton. One of the group's leaders is Scott Pastrick, a lobbyist for Black, Manafort, Stone & Kelly, which long has lobbied for U.S. corporate clients such as the Tobacco Institute, for foreign governments such as Kenya . . ." and so revealingly on.

Are the American people supposed to believe that a presidential candidate who hasn't purged his own campaign of lobbyists is going to lead an all-out crusade against them in government? Well, why not? We've all probably believed a lot more incredible things every day before breakfast. Politicians know that. More unsettling, *they* may believe what they're saying.

The whole anti-lobbyist posture of The Candidate is of a piece with his pretending to be an outsider in this campaign, a barefoot boy from Oxford. Come now. Bill Clinton's own extensive network of friends and alliances comprises almost a shadow government — an elite opposition from academia, government, think tanks, and the Democratic apparatus. Including lobbies.

Such connections may be unavoidable for a successful operation. Ross Perot, Mr. Outsider, has just hired Ed Rollins and Ham Jordan to run his campaign. Can you think of any two politicians more associated with power and the grab for it? No, what reeks is not the usual presence of lobbyists and other hangers-on but the pretense that The Candidate is going to sweep Washington clean of them once he becomes President Clinton.

Certainly as Governor Clinton, our Native Son crafted an alliance so close with the state's special interests that you could call it a merger. To this day it's not clear whether he co-opted them or they co-opted him. Doubtless a lot of both. The result: Business has been politicized and politics has been mercantiled to such an extent it's not easy to tell them apart.

Even when the Arkansas Development Finance Authority is asked only to approve a loan rather than make it — like the one that was proposed to finance the purchase of 32 nursing homes from Beverly Enterprises — members of the Authority with ties to the financial interests involved are sucked into the murky swirl of politics. Which master are they supposed to be serving — their private interests or the public interest?

Yet this is The Candidate who is going to throw the special in-

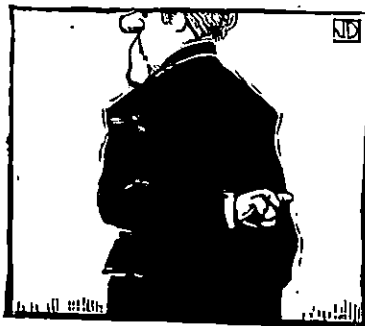


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Yet this is The Candidate who is going to throw the special interests out of government once he gets to Washington. Better he should start with Little Rock.

EDITORIALS

September 27, 1992

Adrift in America

Where the future won't wait

Why does George Bush's campaign continue to founder — and flounder? Because this is a country of the future, not the past, and Republican rhetoric seems fixated on what has gone before, whether a victorious war or a campaign promise back in '88 that George Bush promises not to break again. Where is the future in all this?

Contrary to popular convention, the American voter is not wholly consumed by the question, "What have you done for me lately?" It might be more accurate to say the voter wants to know what a politician is going to do for him soon.

The high point of the Republicans' national convention last month came on the first night, and then proceeded generally downhill. It was on the first night that Ronald Reagan addressed and revived his flagging party. If he was not the oldest speaker on the program at 81, surely he was one of the oldest. Yet he cast scarcely a look back, and again and again turned to the future:

"... tonight is not a time to look backward. For while I take inspiration from the past, like most Americans, I live for the future. So this evening for just a few minutes, I hope you will let me talk about a country that is forever young."

"Who among us would trade America's future for that of any other country in the world?"

"America's best days are yet to come. Our proudest moments are yet to be. Our most glorious achievements are just ahead. America remains what Emerson called her 150 years ago, 'the country of tomorrow.'"

"In America, our origins matter less than our destinations ..."

"A decade after we summoned America to a new beginning, we are beginning still. ..."

"Let us apply our ingenuity and remarkable spirit to revolutionize education in America so that everyone among us will have the mental tools to build a better life. And while we do, let's remember that the most profound education begins in the home."

"And let us harness the competitive energy that built America into rebuilding our inner cities so that real jobs can be created for those who live there, and hope can rise out of despair."

forward when Americans begin to lose faith in freedom, in individual enterprise, in the ability of Americans to shape their own lives, in tomorrow.

Not just the Bush campaign but American conservatism seems bogged down in a sullen miasma, rudderless and leaderless. The crew complains about the captain, but seems unable to muster the energy even to mutiny. There seem few signs of the Reaganesque outpouring of ideas, visions, and yes, rhetoric that galvanized the country in the 1980s — a decade now painted as some terrible slough of despond by those who sense the country's unease and are only too willing to exploit it.

Long before the Reagan (counter) Revolution revived the dynamic of American conservatism, a far-seeing critic of American society — Frank S. Meyer — saw it coming like a sunrise. In 1964, the year Barry Goldwater was buried under Lyndon Johnson's landslide, and the pundits wondered if there was a future for the Republican Party, Frank Meyer foresaw the decline of "the collectivist Liberalism which has dominated American thought ... The imagination, the verve, the spiritual passion that once characterized it in its days of movement towards power have long since been replaced by a tired repetition of slogans empty of content and sustained only by the weight and inertia of bureaucratic power."

Now the same criticism could be made of collectivist Conservatism, which seems less a revolution than an establishment out of ideas, an administration out of fuel, a bureaucracy out of imagination, and a campaign fast running out of confidence.

In a country like America, in a land of tomorrow, even conservatism must be dynamic. It won't do to look to the past, recite stories from the glory days, and expect Americans to be interested. We are a Westering people and have other things to do, other places besides the past to go. We have an economy to revitalize, a world to stabilize, a vision to seek. If George Bush and Dan Quayle cannot provide such a vision, then we will look elsewhere for it. We will even buy a smooth, second-rate version of the American Dream rather than do without the dream at all.

The dream being sold by this new Liberalism with a human face may prove only the old

"A decade after we summoned America to a new beginning, we are beginning still. . . ."

"Let us apply our ingenuity and remarkable spirit to revolutionize education in America so that everyone among us will have the mental tools to build a better life. And while we do, let's remember that the most profound education begins in the home."

"And let us harness the competitive energy that built America into rebuilding our inner cities so that real jobs can be created for those who live there, and hope can rise out of despair."

"Let us strengthen our health care system so that Americans of all ages can be secure in their futures without the fear of financial ruin."

"And finally, my fellow Americans, may every dawn be a great new beginning for America . . ."

Where are such words, and such spirit, in the Republican campaign? Swallowed by a defensiveness that has become compulsive and almost comprehensive. Day after day, week after week, the Republicans miss opportunities to make it clear that the 1990s can be new, different, visionary — and not a repeat of the same old statist solutions that are always put



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The dream being sold by this new Liberalism with a human face may prove only the old hunger for office and patronage. People seem to sense that this swirl of modtalk and politically correct cliches may soon dissolve into nothing more than a continuation of the country's self-induced malaise. But politics in this ever-changing country abhors a vacuum, and if voters are not offered hope and vision, they will take the slick and the shoddy.

Learned Hand, as usual, said it best: A great people goes to its leaders as it would to its seers and poets — in quest for something beyond themselves. Yet, although the candidates in this election are full of promises, there is little talk of The Promise of this society. Rich in possibility, for the moment America seems poor in faith, hope and charity.

The future is the test of any presidential campaign, and this one continues to fail that test. The campaign of '92 already begins to wind down and take its place as a mediocre part of the past. The time is short and the future won't wait, not in America.

Arkansas Democrat Established 1871	Arkansas Gazette Established 1819	Paul R. Smith V.P. / General Manager
Arkansas Democrat & Gazette An Independent Daily and Sunday Newspaper		Lynn Hamilton V.P. / Operations
Walter E. Hussman, Jr., Publisher		John Mobbs Advertising Director
Griffin Smith, Jr. Executive Editor	Paul Greenberg Editorial Page Editor	Larry Graham Circulation Director
		Estel Jeffery, Jr. Director of Promotions
4J • SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 1992 • •		

EDITORIALS July 26, 1992

Guide to a comeback

Arkansas Democrat-Gazette
Memo to a president

Mr. President:

The bad news is that you're in political trouble. The good news is that you've finally noticed.

Congratulations and good morning. This political wake-up call has been sounding for a year, but it's not easy to get the attention of the White House. It's almost as insulated as the Congress. You can still pull this one out of the fire being lit by those two faux Kennedys on the road again. Here's how:

— Don't try to live in the past or your campaign will die there. Don't pretend this is 1991 and Desert Storm is still the top news story of the year. In politics, or at least American politics, a year is an eternity. The American voter wants to know what you've done for him or her lately, meaning the last half hour. This country moves on Andy Warhol time. Nothing's older than old news. Forget that stuff about *Carpe diem*. Ignore the day. Seize the hour, the minute, the second. This is teeveeland, where attention spans any longer than a sitcom are rare enough to be displayed in the Smithsonian.

— Take responsibility. The American people anger easily, but they forgive even more readily — when asked. Say some of the things you should have said in your State of the Union last January. "I must accept my share of the responsibility for the national unease in this our summer of discontent. Distracted by events abroad, I did not anticipate the extent of the economic slowdown or its effect on the nation's morale. But I assure you that I will act now to remedy the ills of our economy and, alas, of our spirit. I am today calling on Congress to . . ."

— Take action. Don't just dust off those old proposals that were sent into the great maw that is Congress and have scarcely been seen since. Expand them and keep pushing them — the \$5,000 tax credits for first-time home buyers, the tax cuts on capital gains, the new kinds of Individual Retirement Accounts to stimulate investment, the tax-free enterprise zones in the country's inner cities, the health-insurance plan that gives the individual rather than the government more say about medical care and how to pay for it, a higher tax exemption or even tax credit for families with children . . . and so energetically on. (But do forget the sort of creative accounting you

even its hard-to-swallow parts — the gasoline tax, the slowdown in Social Security benefits, the benefits for the kind of "family farms" that are the size of small states and run by multi-national corporations. Take aim at all the sacred cows. After the cries of outrage have died down, the American people might just be ready to share the sacrifices in order to ease the country's massive burden of debt and get the economy moving again. Idealism might yet prove the most realistic political course.

— Lay into Congress, a popular target. It's not just Democratic presidents like Harry Truman who can come from behind to win re-election by campaigning against a do-nothing Congress.

— Examine Bill Clinton's record in Arkansas — on the economy, on the environment, and as an administrator. Ask if he keeps his promises. See if he has made the state's tax structure any fairer. Point out that you've signed a civil-rights bill; ask if your opponent has. Ask if voters really want the United States governed as well as Arkansas has been during the Clinton Years. Or if they're comfortable envisioning Bill Clinton as commander-in-chief of the armed forces. Compare your record of quiet determination as the crisis mounted in the Persian Gulf with Bill Clinton's articulate waffle. Ask what Bill Clinton stands for. (And do tell us if you find out; we're getting curious.) Emphasize your dedication to peace through strength, and economic growth without a return of the ruinous inflation that marked the last Democratic administration. Make this election meaningful by drawing a clear contrast between your course (you'll have to define it clearly) and your opponent's.

— Cite the economic record of the past decade, the real one and not the Dickensian caricature presented at Madison Square Garden earlier this month. (You would have thought the whole USofA was one big poorhouse, to hear Artful Dodger tell it.)

If you need some facts and figures, just clip out Donald Lambro's column on the editorial page of the *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette* last Tuesday. Or take this tip from Ed Feulner of the Heritage Foundation:

"The Bush administration should not hesitate to look back at the Reagan record if it needs to be reminded of what a successful domestic policy looks like

off those old proposals that were sent into the great maw that is Congress and have scarcely been seen since. Expand them and keep pushing them — the \$5,000 tax credits for first-time home buyers, the tax cuts on capital gains, the new kinds of Individual Retirement Accounts to stimulate investment, the tax-free enterprise zones in the country's inner cities, the health-insurance plan that gives the individual rather than the government more say about medical care and how to pay for it, a higher tax exemption or even tax credit for families with children . . . and so energetically on. (But do forget the sort of creative accounting you once proposed for payroll withholding taxes; it only delayed taxes, not cut them. That election-year maneuver sounded slick enough for your opponent to propose.)

— Listen to Jack Kemp: "We cannot run on 'It's Morning in America.' We've got to lay out a vision of what a Republican president and . . . a Republican Congress could do to attract voters who are caught in the middle, including those caught by Perot's dropping out."

Pick up where Ross Perot suddenly left off. Get serious about paying off the national debt. Speak openly of sacrifice. Take a look at the stillborn Perot Plan.



— One the economic record of the past decade, the real one and not the Dickensian caricature presented at Madison Square Garden earlier this month. (You would have thought the whole USofA was one big poorhouse, to hear Artful Dodger tell it.)

If you need some facts and figures, just clip out Donald Lambro's column on the editorial page of the *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette* last Tuesday. Or take this tip from Ed Feulner of the Heritage Foundation:

"The Bush administration should not hesitate to look back at the Reagan record if it needs to be reminded of what a successful domestic policy looks like. After all, it was Reagan's less kind-and-gentle regime of tax cuts, spending restraint and deregulation which put America back to work, creating 20 million new jobs and stimulating an explosion in new business starts in the longest peacetime expansion in U.S. history."

— Go after the pollsters that report you out of this race. Americans love to disappoint those who dare predict their actions. (A recent poll says so.) Again: your model should be Harry Truman, not Tom Dewey. *great by this*

— Accept Dan Quayle's offer to step aside as a candidate for re-election as vice-president (he may have to be told he's made it) and consider a running mate who inspires trust — like Colin Powell. Or Jack Kemp, who would make a great campaigner.

All of these moves would be dramatic. All would entail risk. But if you believe the polls, Mr. President, what have you got to lose at this point? Now is the time to take risks. Look where caution has got you: 20 to 30 points behind.

Arkansas Democrat
Established 1871

Arkansas Gazette
Established 1819

Arkansas Democrat & Gazette

An Independent Daily and Sunday Newspaper

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National press missing mark concerning Clinton?

A Voices reader (who requests anonymity) writes:

"If the national media is so far off the mark with (Bill) Clinton, how can we know if it is doing any better with any of the other candidates?"

"The Clinton portrayed by the national media is nothing like the one who has allegedly been in charge of our state government all these many years."

"In a nation whose political system depends on an informed electorate, the prospect of the voters making their decisions on whom to vote for based on this kind of misinformation is frightening."

Frightening, yes, but not surprising. After all, Arkansas voters have known for years

POLITICS 1992

Meredith Oakley



what type of chief executive Clinton is, and they keep re-electing him anyway.

As I noted in a 1987 column, if I had a dollar for every time a lobbyist or legislator told me Clinton was a double-talking, double-dealing, backpedaling S.O.B., I could retire to the South of France tomorrow.

Is the national press off base about our occasional governor? Let us say that those

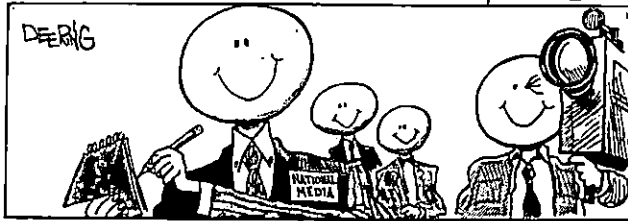
who have not followed his career as closely as we here at home do not know him well enough not to be impressed, even charmed.

Remember, they think Bill Clinton blazed trails in South Arkansas by going to college.

As long as the "foreign" press thinks he is some sort of Renaissance man among Neanderthals and continues to promote him as such, American voters have very little opportunity to know Clinton as we know him.

Of course, he hasn't done much to set the record straight.

A Florida lawyer who supports Clinton's presidential bid contacted me recently, by



fax, to inquire why I had said of Clinton on the day he announced for president: "His word is dirt."

"This is a striking comment to be made by an associate editor of a significant newspaper about a man who has served five terms as governor of a state," the fellow wrote.

Then he asked that I explain to him why I would have made such a comment.

"I assure you that my interest is not to criticize you but to gain insight and information on someone that I believe has the potential for being a good president of the United States," he continued. "On the

other hand, early warning signals are certainly important."

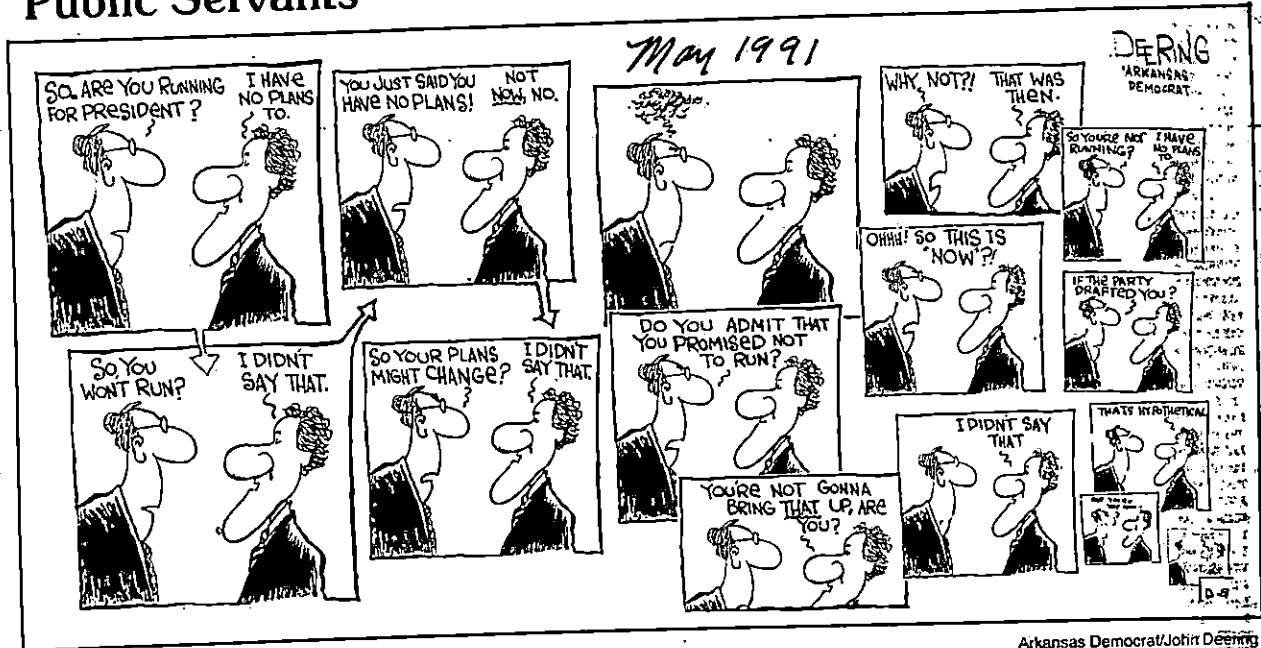
Important, yes, but virtually useless if those who look will not see.

My initial reaction was to write back with as clear an explanation as I could muster, but I've decided not to try to do that. Clinton's political rap sheet is simply too overwhelming. Instead, I'll send him the entire column in which that comment appeared, as well as another in which I predicted he would break his word and announce for president.

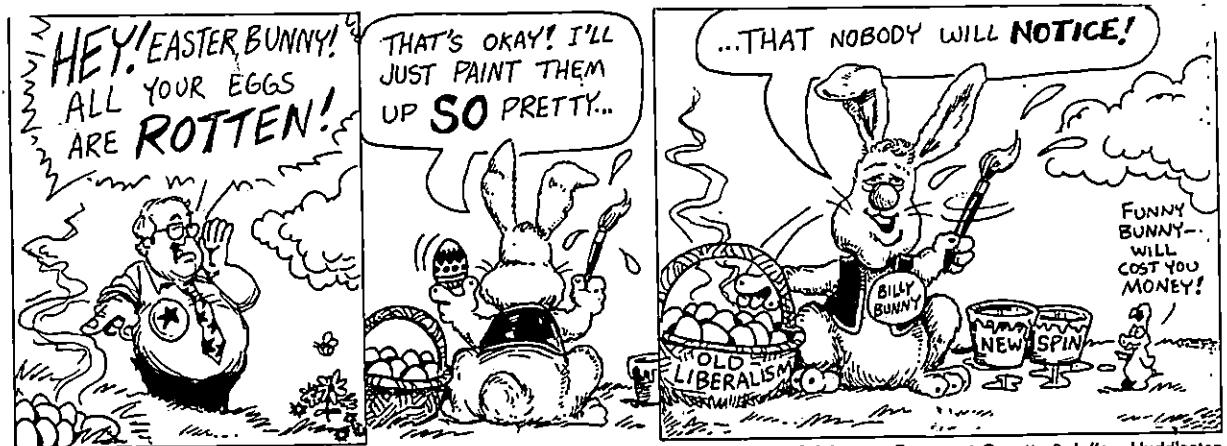
When it comes to promises, Clinton is so predictable.

Associate Editor Meredith Oakley's column appears every Wednesday, Friday and Sunday.

Public Servants



Arkansas Democrat/John Deen



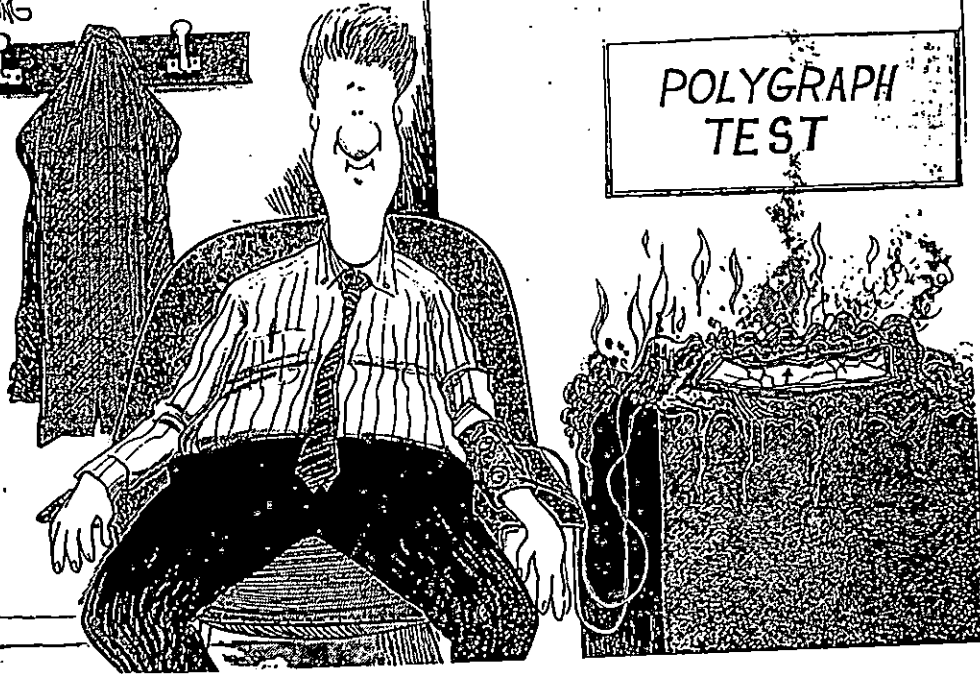
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DERING

ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE

Feb. 23, 1992

POLYGRAPH
TEST



*This is stupid - a toy
rebate, when you give
2% away -*

Tuesday, July 31, 1991

Tuesday, July 23, 1991

Benton County Record

Sales tax rebate pays dividends to Wal-Mart

LITTLE ROCK (AP) — Utilities and retail chains were among the biggest beneficiaries of a state law allowing companies to keep some of the sales tax money they collect if they pay the state quickly.

Companies that pass sales-tax collections on to state coffers by the 20th of each month are allowed to keep 2 percent of what they collect from retail customers.

For the 12-month period from April 1988 to May 1991, Wal-Mart Stores Inc. and Arkansas Power & Light Co. were allowed to keep the largest amount, according to state figures released Monday.

Wal-Mart, based at Bentonville, received \$2.767 million in credits, while AP&L's credits totaled \$2.23 million. Southwestern Bell was third with \$859,223.

The figure for Wal-Mart didn't include credits to Wal-Mart-owned Sam's Wholesale Clubs.

The state Revenue Division made the records available under provisions of Act 400 of 1991. That law opened to the public some tax records that had previously been confidential.

Here are the other 12 companies from the top 15, according to the state figures:

4. Harvest Foods	\$781,778
5. Kroger	\$749,282
6. Arkla Gas Co	\$590,033
7. Sears	\$494,282
8. Food 4 Less	\$475,876
9. J.C. Penney	\$356,482
10. Dillard's	\$353,749
11. Sam's Wholesale	\$343,067
12. Kmart	\$325,735
13. AT&T Communications of the Southwest	\$304,785
14. Harp's Food Stores	\$281,418
15. Southwestern Electric Power Co	\$257,748

*Let's business keep 2% of consumer sales tax!!!
Our legislature gave all the neighboring states do it. Good!*

BENTON COUNTY DAILY RECORD

Yates takes issues to village Republicans

By Linda Hicks
Daily Record Staff

BELLAVISTA—Welfare programs, constitutional amendments set for the November ballot and better roads in northwest Arkansas were the topics mentioned by Sen. Joe E. Yates (R-Bentonville) as he campaigned at the Bella Vista Republican Women's meeting this week.

Some drastic steps must be taken to save money in the state or some current programs such as medical services to the indi-

gent population will have to be cut or discontinued, Yates said.

Providing pre-natal care programs and placing a cap on the number of births of children paid for by the welfare department were discussed as a part of Yates plans for reform.

"Some people are going to be really hurting," Yates told around



Yates

10 residents. If re-elected, he said he plans to be the "bad guy in the state" and push for "reworking" the Department of Human Services (DHS).

"We could save some money through better administration of that (DHS) program," Yates said. "Without taking some pretty hard measures we are going to see some cuts. A \$93 million deficit is not going to be pleasant for the people."

"Today, your tax dollars are paying for 50 percent of the births in the state of Arkansas," Yates

added. "I think the only answer is to put a cap on the number of births we are willing to pay for. People make mistakes but they don't have to make seven or eight of them in a row."

Securing better roads for northwest Arkansas was included in Yates' campaign promises.

"Since I began in the legislature \$176 million has been spent in Benton and Washington County on road construction," Yates said. "We have seen a big portion of the state's available

dollars. But we still have a lot of very big problems. I will just keep working on that."

Yates said his tenure allows him to have more influence in the Senate. He also pointed out that he will take over chairmanship of the legislative council if elected.

"No Republican has ever held that position," Yates said. "That position has not been held by anyone in this part of the state in 31 years. That is very important for this part of the state and we will use it to campaign on."

State government

Sales tax rebate not likely in tight budget year

By Gary Lookadoo
Daily Record Staff

BENTONVILLE — Members of Benton County's state legislative delegation said a proposed tax rebate on groceries probably won't make it through the Legislature next year, since it would cost the state too much revenue.

"If we were in a position in this state to give up that much revenue... then I think sales tax on food is something that we ought to take off," said Sen. Joe E. Yates, R-Bentonville. "The problem with it is that it costs, oh, probably... at least \$18 million, probably a little more than that."

He said the proposal was made during the last legislative session by Sen. John Pagan (D-Little Rock).

Under the proposal that would be presented to the Senate Revenue and Taxation Committee, people would get credit back based on their incomes.

"The idea is good. I'd like to see us just repeal sales tax on food, but when you look at the costs to run the schools, costs to provide medical care to the indigent, and all those things which are kinda locked into the system..." Yates said.

"If you look at the fact that we're running at the rate of about \$90 million a year

September 25, 1992
We are really strapped for funds. ... We need every bit of the money we can get.

— Sen. Jon Fitch

in the hole on Medicaid, and no one has any idea how we're going to solve that one, then I don't believe that the people in the Legislature would feel in a position to give up the tax on food," he added. "...Any of the recipients that are now drawing Medicaid would be the ones that would get the break on rebates for (the) sales tax."

Rep. Railey A. Steele, D-Gentry, made the same point.

Although the rebate proposal is one he'd at least "like to look at," he said, he didn't think the state could afford to lose \$18 million in revenue.

Sen. Jon Fitch (D-Hindsville) said that, depending on how terms and income levels are defined, a proposal for a low-income exemption from the sales tax could cost the state up to \$130 million. He said the state couldn't afford the rebate.

"We are really strapped for funds. ... We need every bit of the money we can get," said Fitch.

This is how John
Sumner can get
Michael Kinsky.

If you get a copy
of the TV tape, of
him promising the
people of Arkansas
that he would not
run for president.

That would probably
be the best ad for who
do you trust.

State government's woes rise as Clinton absence continues

June 24, 1992

POLITICS 1992

Meredith Oakley



How is state government getting along in Bill Clinton's absence?

Despite substantial tax increases in the last year, various state departments, notably Human Services, are faced with serious budget problems.

And folks are still calling the *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette* to complain that they haven't received their state income tax refund checks. Some have been waiting for three months.

In the meantime, the following people in the Clinton administration have tendered resignations this year:

— Terry Yamauchi, director of the Department of Human Services.

— Art Lockhart, director of the Department of Correction.

— Jim Clark, director of the state Crime Laboratory.

— Kenny Whitlock, director of the DHS Economic and Medical Services Division.

The list does not include 21 DHS employees whose positions in the Division of Management Services were eliminated because of projected money shortages.

DHS intends to transfer as many as possible to vacant slots in other divisions.

Whitlock — he of the infamous "Lie about your obstetric patient's due date" memo — is in no hurry to leave. He's waiting for the new DHS director to

come on board July 1 and talk him out of it.

Here's the situation.

Last year, the Legislature imposed a tax on the fees that medical services providers charge for serving Medicaid clients.

The medical community went along with the tax for a quid pro quo — in return for being taxed more, providers were promised higher reimbursement fees from the state.

Whitlock says he promised medical providers at that time that he would resign if the reimbursements were cut.

Now he says he wants to discuss that promise — that "commitment," he called it — with Jack Reynolds, who on July 1 will succeed Yamauchi as DHS director.

What's to discuss? Did he make a commitment to medical providers or not? Is he a man of his word or isn't he?

If he said he would go, he should go. Scat. Skedaddle. Vamoose.

The amount of reimbursement is go-

ing to be cut. State officials have projected a \$60 million shortfall in the Medicaid budget for fiscal 1993, which begins July 1.

Based on the information provided by state officials, one can surmise that if there were no other problems afflicting DHS, the Medicaid situation would still be a crisis, and an incredibly convoluted one at that.

It's going to take more than two part-time governors and a coterie of professional survivors to stabilize the situation, never mind solving it.

I doubt that even a full-time governor and a ruthless hatchet would be enough at this juncture.

But no one wants to talk about tax increases.

Birds of a feather

Weren't you impressed to learn of the "special bond" between Bill Clinton and Boris Yeltsin?

Clinton said they share this bond because they both had difficult childhoods and both have been counted out a couple of times in their political careers.

Boris Yeltsin. Bill Clinton. Two long-suffering world leaders.

Sigh.

Associate Editor Meredith Oakley's column appears every Wednesday, Friday and Sunday.

Victim of reportorial sloth

Arkansas Democrat-Gazette

If... the Bush campaign has reasons to believe that it is true, and there are plenty of reasons to believe it, because I do, then Bush should continue to let Clinton have it.

— John R. Starr column
Sept. 1, 1992.

Never in the history of journalism have so many of the media's mighty been taken for so rocky a ride.

George Bush said Bill Clinton raised taxes and fees 128 times, Clinton pointed to a couple of discrepancies in Bush's list and said, "Nay, nay, not so," and the poobahs of the press immediately and repeatedly branded Bush a liar, unworthy of the presidency.

The pundits were encouraged in what turned out to be (for them, not Bush) an embarrassment of epic proportions by "sources" in the Bush campaign who told the *Boston Globe* and NBC News that Bush aides were aware that the 128 figure was false.

Poutingly, playing the put-upon politician, Clinton said, "They know it's not true, but they do it because they think it works."

It now appears that the "sources" sandbagged the sages of the Fourth Estate with misinformation that encouraged the media to make fools of themselves.

Like Pavlov's dog, editorialists of the anti-Bush media brigades salivated on cue. Righteously they railed about the collapse of morality in politics. They put the president outside the political pale.

In an orgy of indignation, Anthony Lewis of *The New York Times* wrote, Hyperbole is to be expected of politi-

DEAR READER—

Sept. 13, 1992

John R.
Starr



cians. But deliberate lies? I think that kind of politics has brought this country close to disbelief in its own political system."

Michael Kinsley, the radical-liberal, slaveringly pro-Clinton senior editor for *The New Republic*, arrogantly asserted that his research revealed the 128 figure to be "a lie of gemlike purity and distilled cynicism."

Kinsley's article ran in the Sunday *Denver Post* under a headline that said, "George Bush should stop lying."

Before the Kinsley article appeared, the nation knew that Bush had not been lying. There was no longer any debate about the truth. The Clinton campaign had confessed to 127 tax and fee increases.

Bush was off by one. That's a margin of error of eight-tenths of one percent. Science accepts as fact any premise with a margin for error of less than one percent.

The media moguls who declared Bush a liar while largely ignoring Clinton's dishonesty about his draft record were left with enough egg on their faces to feed the starving of Somalia for six months.

The biggest buffoon is Kinsley. The *Denver Rocky Mountain News* added insult to his injury and shamed itself not a trifle by publishing on Wednesday, four days after the truth was known, the

same egregiously incorrect Kinsley article the *Post* had run on Sunday. The *News'* headline read, "President talks of trust while telling a lie."

The media should in the future be more skeptical of "information" they get from the Clinton propaganda machine, especially so of anything that comes from the ultimate spin doctor, George Goebbels Stephanopoulos, a.k.a. Clinton's alter ego.

From Day One, George S. was savagely sanctimonious about Bush's "lies." The 128 figure was "ludicrous," he said, and its use showed that "the Bush-Quayle committee can add about as well as Dan Quayle can spell."

Were Clinton and Stephanopoulos simply ignorant of the truth, or did they cynically throw anti-Bush bait to the gullible, biased media that they knew would gobble it up like a greedy bass grabs a Lucky 13?

Will the media apologize to Bush for the names they called him because they took the word of Stephanopoulos instead of checking the facts for themselves?

Not likely. So far, I've seen no apology, nay, not even recognition of the truth by those who spread the lies.

I suggest to Lewis and others who participated in this exercise in reportorial sloth and half-cocked opinion writing that a few more examples like this one may bring the public to disbelieve in the media as well as in the political system.

John R. Starr's column appears every day

Read across

If there is a Republican conspiracy to undermine Bill Clinton's presidential campaign, the GOP has been hiding its light under the world's largest bushel.

I find it very hard to believe the Republicans are that organized — or, indeed, that creative.

It would take some long-range planning indeed to orchestrate some of the events about which Clinton is grousing today.

With a few new twists, most of the controversial information being presented to the American public by out-of-state media is old news in Arkansas. Heck, even the rumors are old news.

Sweet, Sweet Connie and Gennifer Flowers aside, just because Clinton's past has

POLITICS 1992

Meredith Oakley



been fairly well documented in the Arkansas press does not mean it should not be given a new and much broader audience.

He's running for president of the United States. Forty-nine other states don't know him like Arkansas does. Voters elsewhere deserve to know about the man most likely — at least at this juncture — to become the Democratic nominee.

Like it or not, Arkansasans have elected Clinton five

times. If he is going to be nominated, and possibly elected, the rest of the nation deserves the same look at him as we've had to, these many years, warts and all.

They should know how and why he came to have no military record, just as they should know that he never protested the Vietnam War by burning his draft card or sitting in a tree.

They should know that he balanced 11 annual budgets because state law compelled him to, not because he's some kind of financial whiz kid.

They ought to know that the money he's raised to improve education by and large went into teacher salaries, not textbooks or reference works or audio-visual aids or school supplies.

DERING

COULD WE GO BACK
TO DISCUSSING
RUMOR
AND INNUENDO?



They should know that while he's the least paid governor in the nation, he gets free room and board and transportation, a security staff, a three-year pension credit for every year served and plenty of spending money, compliments of Arkansas taxpayers.

And speaking of taxpayers, they ought to know about those increases in regressive taxes that hit the working stiff hard-

est and the tax credits and exemptions that the Armani suits enjoy.

They ought to know that any "reforms" which may have occurred in the prison system or the mental health system or the child welfare system — and I stress the word "may" — have been spurred by independent litigation, not administrative initiative.

They should learn that he

has not been the best judge of character and ability in choosing his Cabinet and bestowing his patronage, and that he is more likely to make excuses for a bad appointment than take affirmative action to correct the problems.

They need to know about the winners and the losers in the Clinton administration.

Let them hear about Martin Borchert and Tommy Robinson and Fahmy Malak.

Let them hear about Wayne Dumond and Daniel Toric and Laverne "Bernie" Sanderlin.

Yes, what is history to us is news in other quarters, and it is history — not rumor or innuendo or gossip — by which Clinton should be judged.

Associate Editor Meredith Oakley's column appears every Wednesday, Friday and Sunday.

Playing the numbers game

If there were an award for editorial malpractice, surely it would be shared this political season by *The New York Times* and *The Washington Post*. They now have run twin editorials — not quite identical but definitely fraternal — on the great issue of whether the Clinton administration raised taxes and fees in Arkansas 128 times, as the Bush campaign claims. The Clinton campaign now contends that its candidate raised taxes and fees only 127 times.

This is what an American presidential campaign has come to — a largely irrelevant numbers game in which a difference over how to count tax bills is disguised as some kind of moral and philosophical test. Both the *Times* and the *Post* began their elevated discussion of this subject by calling the president a liar in almost the same words:

"The Bush campaign continues to insist that Bill Clinton has raised taxes and fees 128 times in his five terms. The people who are keeping the charge alive insist that it is true, even though they know they are making a fraudulent argument." — *The Washington Post*, September 3, 1992.

"When President Bush keeps insisting that Gov. Bill Clinton of Arkansas has raised taxes and fees 128 times, he knows he is falsifying the record. He seems so eager to smear his opponent as a big taxer that he's willing to trash the truth over trivia." — *The New York Times*, September 4, 1992.

This isn't so much argumentation as mind-reading. Even before citing a single statistic or source, both these distinguished journals inform Trusting Reader that these nasty Republicans are not only repeating falsehoods but know they are.

Nowhere does the *Post* trouble to tell its readers where the Republicans got their tax figures, and the *Times'* editorial writer eludes the question with a vague reference to "Arkansas legislative records," as in:

"Mr. Bush has seized on a gimmick that has a ring of truth to it but is, in fact, a misrepresentation. Exactly 128 tax and fee increases, he says, brandishing an amazingly sloppy list his staff asserts came from official legislative records."

On closer examination, the record the Bush campaign understandably relied on was the *Arkansas Legislative Tax Handbook* as updated through April 15, 1991. It bears the imprint of the Arkansas Bureau of Legislative Re-

search, which has a reputation for furnishing impartial and reliable information to all comers, regardless of party.

The handbook comes with a cover letter from the Arkansas Legislative Council (state Representative John Paul Capps, chairman). Its figures provided the basis for the Republicans' tax count from No. 1 ("Increased the vehicle registration fee by 30 percent") to No. 128 ("Act 1105 established fee of \$1 per head on all sows and boars sold at livestock markets." The list contains some typos and repetitions, and even some omissions, but it is scarcely the tissue-of-lies portrayed in the editorials of the *Times* and *Post*.

Unless, of course, you believe that Representative Capps, Democrat of Searcy, and the Arkansas Legislative Council, which is just about as Democratic, are also part of this far-flung Republican conspiracy.

(The Clinton campaign has been having its problems with arithmetic, too. It originally put the number of tax increases during the Clinton Years at 59. Now, drawing on the expertise of the state's Department of Finance and Administration, it has come up with a list of 127 increases, often different from the Bush campaign's.)

Both the *Post* and the *Times* play some games with numbers. For instance, in almost identical phrases, they follow the lead of the Clinton campaign by comparing state and local taxes in Arkansas to those elsewhere. Neither editorial explains why local taxes should figure in such a comparison. Bill Clinton is governor, not mayor. He has little if anything to do with local tax rates.

One obvious reason for including local taxes in this comparison is to make the governor look better. When one compares only state tax rates, the Census Bureau ranked Arkansas not 49th in combined tax burden but — in terms of state taxes as a percentage of personal income — 25th in the Union back in 1990. After the latest increase in the regressive sales tax, Arkansas placed 20th in another study. That's dis-

turbingly high for a poor state.

Then again, states are so different in their tax structures that comparisons between any specific levels of government — city, county, special tax district, state, etc. — may not make much sense. It's like comparing apples and mangoes.

Of course Arkansas ranks low in the actual number of tax dollars it collects; poor states do. They have little choice. But it ranks high in the relative tax burden each citizen must bear, largely because the Clinton administration has relied on less-than-progressive taxes — like the sales and gasoline taxes.

While the governor has paid lip service to reforming the state's tax structure, he gave up that fight all too soon and began concentrating on squeezing the middle class. The tax structure he shaped had a way of rewarding the most influential sectors of public opinion (like large investors and the teachers' union) while short-changing the least influential, like the poor and sick who depend on the state's Department of Human Services, now facing still another financial crisis. The poor and sick don't have much of a lobby at Little Rock.

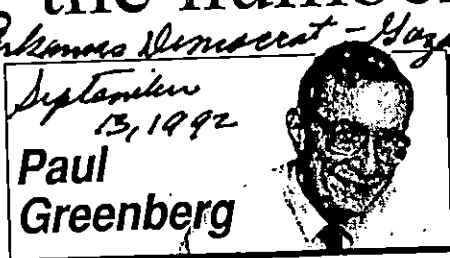
Trusting Reader might never suspect all of this from a couple of the country's leading shapers of fashionable thought. These editorials echo not only each other but an even gaudier misrepresentation of Arkansas' tax structure in a widely distributed column by Michael Kinsley, who can't even get the name of his source in the Clinton camp right.

Just who is misrepresenting the facts here? Not being gifted with the clairvoyance that allows others to peer into the mind and heart of George Bush, I won't say the occupants of those ivory cubicles at the *Times* and *Post* are repeatedly and knowingly lying.

Nor do I think these opinionators conspire on such stories, despite their remarkably uniform prose. They don't have to. They share the same East Coast mindset — and I mean *set*. One can be so eager for a Clinton victory after 12 years of cultural and political exile from power that partisanship almost mindlessly overwhelms judgment — and editorial integrity. This being an election year, there's a lot of that going around.

❖

Paul Greenberg is editorial page editor of the *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette*.



Loopholes protect molesters

Arkansas Democrat-Gazette September 27, 1992

Here we go again.

A couple of weeks ago, a defense attorney asked that molestation charges against his client be dismissed because the client doesn't fit the profile that makes such acts against the law.

The judge complied.

The client, a 48-year-old North Little Rock man, was accused of sexually molesting five male teen-agers under 18. He had a previous record, having done time in another state for sexual abuse.

The Pulaski County deputy prosecutor conceded that the issue in this case was similar to one raised back in April, when a circuit judge ruled that no state law prohibited a teacher from fondling a 16-year-old student's breast unless force was used.

No force was alleged in the latest case either.

Under Arkansas law, unless force is alleged, adults cannot be prosecuted for sexually molesting those 14, 15, 16 or 17 years of age unless the alleged violator is the youth's guardian.

Twice within the past five months, charges of adult molestation of teen-agers have been dismissed because no laws were broken.

The problem in each instance? Two statutes whose authors kept writing after they should have stopped.

POLITICS 1992

Meredith Oakley



Section 5-14-120 (a): "A person commits the offense of violation of a minor in the first degree if he engages in sexual intercourse or deviate sexual activity with another person not his spouse, who is more than 13 years of age and less than 18 years of age, and the actor is the other person's guardian."

Section 5-14-121 (a): "A person commits the offense of violation of a minor in the second degree if he engages in sexual contact with another person not his spouse, who is more than 13 years of age and less than 18 years of age, and the actor is the other person's guardian."

The phrase "and the actor" — meaning the alleged violator — "is the other person's guardian" is the problem.

A person who serves as the young person's guardian (legally defined as "a parent, stepparent, legal guardian, legal custodian, foster parent or anyone who by virtue of a living arrangement is placed in an apparent position

of power or authority over a minor" can be prosecuted for sexual misbehavior, but a friend, a neighbor, a teacher, an acquaintance, even a total stranger cannot.

You'd think with all the laws on the books, there would something to protect 14-, 15-, 16- and 17-year-olds from the sexual misconduct of adults.

There isn't.

Reading the chapter on sexual offenses in the Arkansas Code is enough to turn your stomach. There are enough loopholes there that a pedophile with only one eye and half sense could avoid prosecution.

It's very nice that lawmakers have finally hammered out the details on a proposed "lemon law" that will be introduced in the next legislative session, and the amount of thought being given to resolving the alarming string of crises in the state Human Services Department is most reassuring.

Nonetheless, I hope that someone — Rep. Carolyn Pollan of Fort Smith comes immediately to mind because of her keen interest in juvenile justice reform — will remember the children.

Associate Editor Meredith Oakley's column appears every Wednesday, Friday and Sunday.

Black clouds darken hope for Medicaid

It appears there are more black financial clouds on the horizon for the state Department of Human Services.

DHS Director Jack Reynolds said that department officials are considering more budget cuts...

Kenny Whitlock, who oversees the Medicaid program, said more than \$20 million in Medicaid services might be eliminated.

According to Mr. Whitlock, the state's weekly payments to medical providers who serve Medicaid recipients have averaged \$10 million a week the past eight weeks. Ideally, that total should stay below \$9 million per week.

Medicaid pays for many of the medical needs of nearly 250,000 poor, average, blind and disabled Arkansans.

In June, budget cuts were announced to address an expected \$60 million shortfall in the Medicaid budget for the fiscal year that began July 1. Twenty-five DHS positions were eliminated as a part of the cuts, and the state's Medicaid reimbursement rates were reduced.

The cuts in reimbursement rates were challenged in court by a group of medical-services providers, who got a temporary court order restoring some of the rates that were cut. Hearings are set next week to consider whether the order should be extended to include rates paid to dentists, chiropractors and home health care professionals.

Last month's order restored about \$12 million worth of budget cuts in the pediatric and obstetric areas.

A likely target for new cuts, DHS officials have said, is the medically needy program. It pays the bills for people with catastrophic illnesses who are not poor enough to qualify for Medicaid but have exhausted other financial resources.

Mr. Whitlock said that, of the 10,500 people in the program, up to 40 percent would qualify for Medicaid through other methods if the program is cut.

The DHS budget was trimmed twice last fiscal year.

Resolution in the DHS funding situation is long overdue.

Too many Arkansans are depending on funding through DHS that may or may not be there when the black clouds roll in again.

Log Cabin Democrat, Conway

Moderate label just doesn't fit

...Certainly the Democrats have been at pains to characterize their all-Dixie ticket of Bill Clinton and Al Gore as "moderate." The label shouldn't be accepted at face value, however.

The Arkansan Clinton's political philosophy is not so easy to draw a bead on, in part because governors tend to deal with nuts-and-bolts issues, in part because his typically vague political pronouncements leave him more maneuvering room than Cow Palace.

But Tennessee's Gore is another story. He has a voting record in the U.S. Senate, one that will strike few as moderate.

In fact, among 15 Democratic senators from the old Confederacy, Gore's voting pattern is the most liberal. That, at any rate, is what the ratings of six lobbying groups, reported in the non-partisan Almanac of American Politics 1992, reveal.

Americans for Democratic Action, a multi-issue liberal organization whose presidents have included George McGovern and Rep. Barney Frank, gives Gore its highest rating (78 on a 100 scale) among Southern Democratic senators.

The American Civil Liberties Union, no hothouse of centrist convictions, scores Gore second with a 77 voting rating, behind North Carolina's Terry Sanford. With his 87 from COPE, the political-action arm of the AFL-CIO, Gore is runner-up only to John Breaux of Louisiana.

Conservative groups unsurprisingly rate Gore low among his Southern senatorial brethren. For example, the National Tax Limitation Committee, which holds that citizens have first call on their wages, gives Gore a 14 - ahead only of Tennessee's senior senator, Jim Sasser.

The anti-regulatory Competitive Enterprise Institute ranks Gore dead last (10), largely because Gore has plumed himself onto the litigious, apocalyptic wing of the environmental movement.

National defense gives Gore his sole claim to moderation: He is eight among his 15 peers.

Nor is Gore merely liberal "for a Southerner." Congressional Quarterly reports: "Even his (1990) party-unity score was 93 percent, one of the highest in general among Democrats." The American Conservative Union says only four senators vote more liberally. Their names are Harkin, Cranston, Metzenbaum and Kennedy.

Gore's voting record, reputedly the product of honest reflection, is nothing shameful. The only shame is calling it moderate.

Southwest Times Record, Fort Smith

Generic diplomas ticket to nowhere

Sept. 15, 1992

An end to the generic high school diploma may soon be at hand. And, in the future, high school graduates may have more than a piece of paper to show they attended the required number of days and met the minimum standards for graduation.

The state Department of Education has developed a three-part recommendation to end the general high school studies track. The recommendation, to be presented to the state Board of Education Monday, focuses on replacing general academic courses with "applied academic courses."

"Applied" is the operative description for courses that offer real-life applications for academic concepts. The recommendation was developed to comply with Act 980 of 1991. Legislators and educators pushed for legislation that would require districts to do a better job of preparing their graduates for the job market and college.

Act 980 instructs the education board to study the impact of eliminating the general studies track and requiring students to follow either a college preparatory track or a technical education preparatory track.

The liberal trend in education over the past few decades has been to mainstream all students down a common corridor of general education studies. Meanwhile, the work world — the real world — grew more technologically specific and demanded a higher quality worker with specific job skills.

The U.S. Department of Education recently released its 1992 back-to-school forecast for the nation. According to the report, the department is forecasting another year of record spending and employment in education at all levels.

Education Secretary Lamar Alexander put it best. "We should spend our money on changing our schools: breaking the mold, higher standards, better tests, getting government off the backs of teachers and giving families more choices of all schools."

The America 2000 challenge demands that we change the way we educate our children and it requires the commitment of the community to reinvent the educational system.

Perhaps, in the near future our children will have more than just a generic diploma to show a prospective employer.

Remember to vote yes today for the children in your school district.

Black clouds darken hope for Medicaid

It appears there are more black financial clouds on the horizon for the state Department of Human Services.

DHS Director Jack Reynolds said that department officials are considering more budget cuts...

Kenny Whitlock, who oversees the Medicaid program, said more than \$20 million in Medicaid services might be eliminated.

According to Mr. Whitlock, the state's weekly payments to medical providers who serve Medicaid recipients have averaged \$10 million a week the past eight weeks. Ideally, that total should stay below \$9 million per week.

Medicaid pays for many of the medical needs of nearly 250,000 poor, average, blind and disabled Arkansans.

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Log Cabin Democrat, Conway

Benton County Record

Tell us another

Doozies of the day July 6, 1992

Just because somebody's loan may depend on a nod from the governor and his appointees, why would that exert any pressure on the borrower to support Bill Clinton?

An interdependent network of bond dealers and lawyers, investors and bankers, and public officials and political fund-raisers (who are often the same people) has developed around the Arkansas Development Finance Authority and the public money it dispenses. But the governor himself has explained why nobody involved in this web of political and financial connections would ever feel pressured to support him politically:

"To the best of my knowledge, no one has either gotten or lost business because they did or didn't contribute to me. . . . I've gone out of my way never to make anybody feel pressured. . . . I have never had it come back to me, even indirectly, that anyone felt that way. If I had, I'd have given their money back."

Why, sure. Just because a fellow's loan or fee depends on an OK from the governor's supporters, that wouldn't affect his response when one of those same supporters asks him for a campaign contribution, would it? When the governor makes such a case, either he is being remarkably naive (which would be an historic first) or he expects us to be (which would be par for Slick Willie's course).

It's got to be mere coincidence that those who benefited by deals with the state Finance Authority — its business loans have totaled more than \$90 million — pitched in \$2.7 million in gifts and loans to the governor's campaigns for re-



election in 1990 and for president this year. Those who did little or no business with the Authority contributed only \$51,600 to his gubernatorial campaign, compared to \$400,000 from those who dealt with the Finance Authority. (The figures come from the *Los Angeles Times*, which now has confirmed what long has been common knowledge in the state.)

Runner-up honors for the strangest comment on this predictable pattern go to James Stobaugh. He is, in predictable order, (a) a bank president in the Worthen chain, which in turn is connected with the Stephens bond empire, (b) chairman of the Finance Authority, and (c) fundraiser for Bill Clinton. Mr. Stobaugh says he's done nothing inappropriate, as if his combination of interests would never conflict. (It hasn't been too long since Chairman Stobaugh supported an \$81-million loan from the Authority that would have been used to buy a chain of nursing homes connected with the Stephens interests.)

Curt Bradbury, chairman of Worthen bank, was a director of the company that owned the nursing homes. Bless him, Mr. Bradbury is at least candid on the subject: "Have there been abuses? I wouldn't be surprised. Are there potential conflicts involving Stobaugh? Sure. He's a long-time buddy of Clinton's (and) he's working for me."

Third place for dooziest comment on this tangle of interests goes to Merle Peterson, another member of the Finance Authority's board. He, too, has solicited contributions for the Clinton campaign — from folks who depend on his vote if they are to get public financing. His comment: "I don't talk to reporters. I'm a private person." Not when he's a member of a public board, he ain't, and particularly not when he combines that role with Clinton fund-raiser.

Whatever the economic role of the Arkansas Development Finance Authority, and it gets mixed reviews, an observer would have to be blind, deaf, and from another planet to believe its members have nothing to do with politics.

The issue that won't go away

There were too many presidential campaign developments last Wednesday for media coverage to do them justice.

I'm glad I was back in Arkansas on Thursday morning so I got the whole picture of developments on several fronts.

Newspapers I've been reading the last couple of weeks in Oklahoma, New Mexico, Colorado, Utah and Kansas wouldn't have given me more than snapshots, and some of the stories they wouldn't have had at all.

The developments included:

- President George Bush's refusal to agree to terms set by the Commission on Presidential Debates led to cancellation of the first scheduled debate, and Bill Clinton's troops rejoiced, claiming Bush had "cut and run" because he is ill-equipped to discuss economic issues with Clinton.

- Bush vetoed the family leave bill, and Clinton's coterie of spin doctors swiftly asserted that this meant Bush is not serious when he says he is pro-family.

- Retired Col. Eugene J. Holmes, who accepted Clinton into a Reserve Officers Training Corps unit at the University of Arkansas, thereby enabling him to avoid the draft, crawled out of the woodwork to say that he now believes Clinton deceived him and that Clinton promised to join ROTC only so that an induction notice he had already received could be revoked, and Holmes' daughter said the colonel was

DEAR READER

Sept. 20, 1992

John R. Starr



not notified of Clinton's intention to renege on the ROTC agreement until after Clinton had received a high draft lottery number, eliminating any chance that he would be drafted.

- Barbra Streisand ended a six-year retirement to sing "It Has to Be You" to Clinton at a glitzy gathering of Hollywood fat cats that raised \$1 million for the campaign of Linda Bloodworth-Thomason's favorite governor.

Clinton wasn't too busy to comment on the debate cancellation and family leave veto, but he did so hastily and turned away from reporters before they could repeat questions about the draft they have been trying to ask him for a week.

Clinton was securely out of touch at Streisand's party before he could be asked about the new tangles in the web of deceit he has woven around his draft experience.

When he surfaced Thursday, he continued to ignore draft questions, but the questions are getting shriller and you get the feeling that reporters are going to keep on until he discusses this subject with them.

Clinton has been bragging that, like

a good patriot, he finally quit seeking deferments, gave up his ROTC deferment and put himself at risk of being drafted.

Holmes put a cloud on that story in a statement he sent to the *Democrat-Gazette* Wednesday. Holmes' statement did not make clear when Clinton notified him he would not be joining the ROTC, but Holmes' daughter says there was no notification until Dec. 3, two days after he had received a high number in the Dec. 1 draft lottery.

I've been saying that it is not what Clinton did in 1969 that should be an issue in the presidential campaign but the lies he has told about the circumstances of the good fortune that enabled him to avoid service in Vietnam, and I abide by that opinion, even though it is beginning to appear that he told as many lies to get out of the draft as he has told since.

One question that almost always gets obscured in the draft debate is whether Clinton broke the law. Generally writers agree that he did not.

However, if Clinton was admitted to ROTC after he got an induction notice, and the indications are that he was, then the draft law, as I understand it, was broken.

The statute of limitations has run of that offense, not that any prosecutor would try to charge Clinton or anybody if it hadn't.

John R. Starr's column appears every day.

Clinton faces grim inheritance

As Bill Clinton moves within a few weeks of being elected president, it becomes appropriate to consider more than the raging contest or what to wear to his inaugural ball.

I refer to the staggering realities he would face if he holds on and wins, most of which would be complicated by his grand and myriad promises.

Traditional Democratic constituencies, hungry after 12 years in the outhouse, see Clinton as the very thing Paul Tsongas insisted he would and should never be: Santa Claus.

I refer to a few of the staggering realities because space is limited, though realities are not. For one thing, let's follow Clinton's lead and neglect foreign affairs for these purposes.

Clinton would inherit:

- A stagnant economy growing less competitive in the world. He has promised millions of new and better jobs through public works, education and job training. But he also has promised to slash defense jobs and reduce federal government employment by 100,000 positions.

- A near-crisis in health care. He has promised an unclear program to require employers to provide health insurance or pay into a federal program of universal health insurance. But it's uncertain whether struggling small businesses would face a payroll tax.

- The ominous problems of decay and racial tension in the inner cities, to which he's promised an unspecified amount of additional money, more police and greater leadership on racial issues. But he's neglected this festering sore in recent weeks while catering to

COUNTERPOINT

September 20, 1992

John Brummett



suburban white voters, many of whom couldn't care less about inner cities, to try to fashion an electability equation.

- A world-record budget deficit and spiraling federal debt, about which he proposes to do essentially nothing directly.

Let me explain: He wants to raise taxes on people making more than \$200,000 a year and cut defense spending by billions. But he wants to turn around and spend the new revenue and the savings on job training, education, law enforcement and the like.

Although he doesn't talk about it anymore, Clinton still is committed to a middle-class tax cut, a kind of trickle-sideways economy policy that would increase, not lessen, the budget deficit.

He says the deficit would be cut incrementally, but not eliminated, over his four-year term. He says the gradual progress would be accomplished by economic growth stemming from his job creation and by controls on health care costs, which drain the treasury through entitlement programs.

He proposes to reduce those health care costs by getting insurers and health care providers to sit down and work things out, cutting paperwork, eliminating unnecessary procedures, things like that.

Speaking of entitlements, Clinton also would inherit his own promise to "end welfare as we know it." He has committed to forcing welfare recipients to enter job training and take jobs. But this massive promise is based on a small pilot project in Arkansas that has had mixed results.

Meanwhile, Clinton has won the endorsements of organized labor, which expects a ban on striker replacement workers, and the Sierra Club, which wants to make up for having endured the likes of Republican interior secretaries such as James Watt with a genuine tree-hugger in the White House.

Assuming the Sierra Club is right and Clinton has become a born-again environmentalist, and assuming Clinton is a worthy friend of the United Auto Workers, he must balance all of that with such problems as the declining American automobile industry and whether, in the face of that, we should require balking carmakers to improve their products' fuel efficiency averages.

About the only promise Clinton has made that seems easy to keep is the one to require any Supreme Court nominee to support *Roe vs. Wade*.

Otherwise, I'm reminded of the old saying about being careful what you wish for.

John Brummett is political editor of *Arkansas Times*. His column appears in the *Democrat-Gazette* Sunday, Tuesday and Thursday. Write him at 201 W. Markham St., Suite 200, Little Rock, Ark., 72201, or call 375-2985.

Bigger national woes might overcome governor

Since I am on record as saying the national political press should not become so caught up in Gov. Bill Clinton's personality, rhetoric and strategies that it fails to consider his record in office, I am obliged to comment on an article that appeared on Page 15 of the Sunday edition of *The New York Times*.

Peter Applebome wrote a 40-inch article with a three-column headline that stated, "Clinton Record in Arkansas: Successes But Not Without Criticism."

That such a lengthy article would be published by the nation's most serious newspaper in its Sunday edition should signal, in case you weren't sure, that Clinton's stock as a candidate for the Democratic presidential nomination is rising.

My first reaction upon seeing the article was that no one in public office for 11 years would be without criticism. My second was that no article quoting Tommy Robinson without explaining that he is a

COUNTERPOINT

John Brummett



discredited wild man could be taken with full seriousness.

I say that even though Robinson's comment - "He spends too much time taking care of his enemies and not enough time taking care of his friends; Clinton wants everyone to love him" - was a bull's-eye shot. And I am aware that Robinson might say the same thing about any article that would quote me, and, incidentally, incorrectly identify me as the editor of *Arkansas Life* magazine.

Beyond that, I thought the article was valuable, well-intended, balanced and more specific than anything previously published by the national press on Clinton's governorship but, alas, lacking in a couple of key areas. But then,

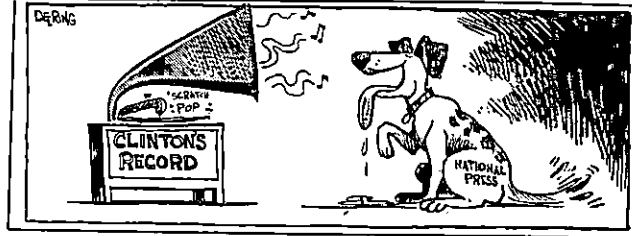
you can't capture 11 years even in 40 column-inches.

Clinton was properly given credit for emphasizing elementary and secondary education and getting large tax increases passed to raise the state's per-pupil expenditure to a nationally competitive level.

He was properly given credit for standing up for his strong belief in early childhood education to rescue underprivileged children from a cycle of poverty, poor health and educational disadvantage.

He was properly given credit for his unyielding support of Dr. Joycelyn Elders, the state health director, in her battles to boldly help children and do what is necessary to curb the alarming number of teen-age pregnancies.

On the other hand, he was properly criticized for becoming overly cautious as a result of his first-term defeat, for pursuing tax policies that have made a regressive tax structure even more regressive by relying on sales taxes and



their unusual application in Arkansas to groceries (and compounded by myriad tax breaks he has signed for business), and for emphasizing education at the expense of issues affecting the environment and social services.

Generally, the article suggested that Clinton is better at high-minded rhetoric and emphasizing selected issues that are ripe for political plucking - education, for example - than with the day-to-day administration of gritty issues.

The article explained that the college-going rate in Arkansas is up and that Arkansas has enjoyed a degree of economic growth in the last dec-

ade that outpaces the national average.

But it also provided perspective, mentioning Arkansas' poor ranking in per capita income and the fact that Clinton's record, whatever you think of it, has been compiled in a small state.

As for what the article lacked: It did not mention that Clinton neglected for several years the need for reforms in our children's services system, leading frustrated children's advocates to seek relief in federal court.

It did not mention Clinton's record on labor issues, which is generally pro-management. On the other hand, the article

did not mention Clinton's extraordinary popularity among black voters.

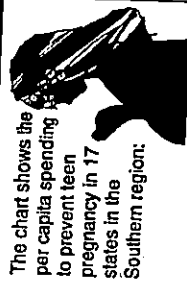
Finally, there was this quote from Diane Blair, an author, political science professor at the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville and dear friend of the Clintons: "This is a state in which the things that need attention will always outweigh the amount of attention one individual can give them."

And people accuse me of being negative about Arkansas.

At any rate, Blair's observation strikes me as something less than a compelling reason to promote the overwhelmed governor to president of the United States, where, believe it or not, there might be bigger problems with higher stakes.

John Brummett is editor of *Arkansas Times* magazine. His column appears in the *Democrat-Gazette* Sunday, Tuesday and Thursday. Write him at 201 E. Markham St., Suite 200, Little Rock, Ark., 72201, or call 375-2985.

State spending



The chart shows the per capita spending to prevent teen pregnancy in 17 states in the Southern region:

STATE	PER CAPITA
Above regional average:	
1. Delaware	\$65.00
2. West Virginia	\$19.90
3. Florida	\$15.40
4. Georgia	\$12.10
5. Maryland	\$9.30
Below regional average:	
6. South Carolina	\$9.30
7. Virginia	\$8.40
8. Kentucky	\$8.20
9. Oklahoma	\$7.50
10. Tennessee	\$6.60
11. ARKANSAS	\$5.70
12. Texas	\$5.70
13. North Carolina	\$5.60
14. Alabama	\$5.50
15. Mississippi	\$5.30
16. Louisiana	\$4.85
17. Missouri	\$2.90
REGIONAL AVERAGE:	\$8.50

SOURCE: Southern Region Project on Infant Mortality.

Pregnancy

Continued from Page 1B

and the state before any changes are made.

"You pop up and surprise the world with it and you are going to get a lot of opposition," he said.

Elders said Arkansas and four other states have just received grants that will provide for a state education-health coordinator to help youngsters from ages 5 to 20 with pregnancy prevention and other health-related problems.

Another reason Oklahoma has had such success is that it has a small minority population and minority birth rates are generally twice that of the general population, Elders said.

10 of 17 in...

Report urges state to spend more to cut teen pregnancy

BY BOBBI RIDLEHOOVER
Democrat-Gazette Health Writer

Southwestern states pay rising costs for teen-age mothers and their babies, but few spend the money necessary to prevent teen pregnancies, according to a report released Monday.

That includes Arkansas, whose teen childbearing rate is the third worst in the region studied, according to the report.

The new report on Arkansas and 16 other states in the Southwest shows they spent more than \$5.7 billion to support teen mothers and their babies in 1991. That amount reflects a 60 percent increase in four years since \$3.6 billion in 1987, it said.

"The crisis of children having children continues ... and continues at an increasing rate," Oklahoma Gov. David Walters said in a teleconference Monday. Walters is lead governor on the Southern Regional Project on Infant Mortality, which issued the report.

The 17 states could save a lot of money by spending a little money now to prevent teen-age

pregnancies, but they are not doing that, according to the report.

Arkansas' teen-age childbearing rate increased 16 percent from 1986 to 1990. Although the state's teen childbearing rate is high, Arkansas spends little per capita to prevent teen pregnancies, the report shows.

The 17 states spent an average of \$8.50 on prevention for each youth between the ages of 10 and 19. Arkansas tied with Texas for 11th place by spending \$5.70 on prevention for each youth.

In 1986, the teen childbearing rate in Arkansas was 43.3 births per 1,000 girls age 15 to 17.

In 1990, Arkansas' teen childbearing rate was 50.1 per 1,000 in the age group, raising the state from fourth worst to third worst behind Georgia and Mississippi.

Dr. Joycelyn Elders, Arkansas Department of Health director, said the teen childbearing rate increased dramatically in Arkansas in the past year.

"What Arkansas needs to do is start investing in preventing the problem and we haven't done that," Elders said.

State and federal spending for primary prevention of adolescent pregnancy in the 17-state area was estimated to be nearly \$110 million in 1992.

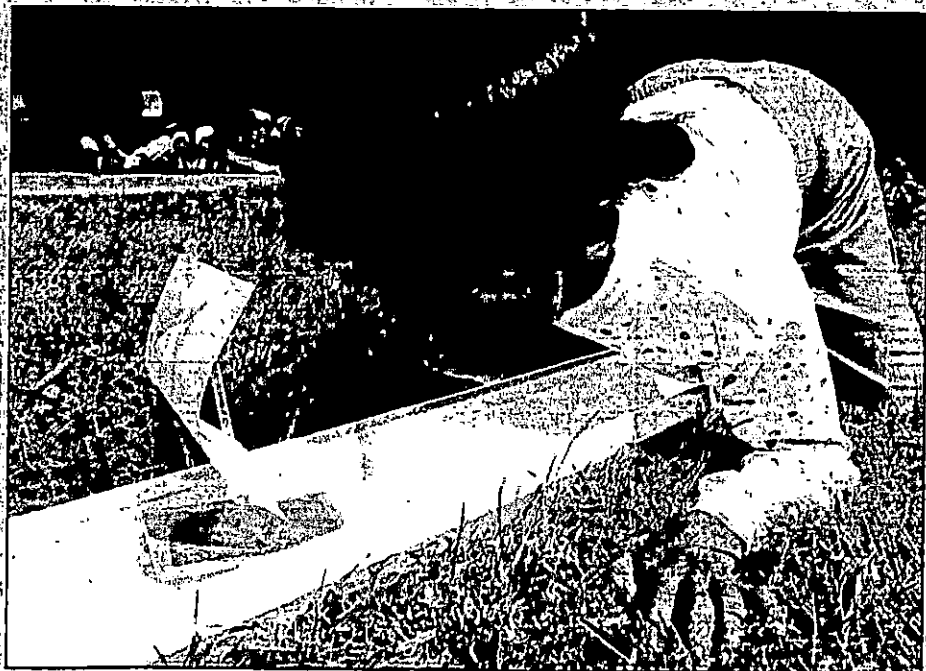
"That's roughly 2 cents worth of prevention for every dollar spent on families started by adolescents," Walters said.

Actually, Oklahoma is investing less than 2 cents in prevention for every dollar on babies born to teens, but is getting good outcomes, according to the report. It is the only one of the 17 states to have reduced the percentage of births to teenagers, the report shows.

Walters credited his state's success to its having been working on the problem for a number of years, to having a state coordinator who works only with the problem of births by teens and to having a lot of communication between parents

See PREGNANCY, Page 3B

Columbus Day sailing



Arkansas Democrat-Gazette/Larry Truesdell

STORMY VOYAGE — Carla Reed, a first-grader, gets a face full of sea spray while putting wind in the sails of her paper boat to propel it down a gutter during a Columbus

Day race at Cloverdale Elementary School on Monday. Nevertheless, she and the rest of the kindergarten and first-grade pupils had a good time.

Take out of this article what you need

Voices

LETTERS

Right to presidency lost

To cast my vote for Mr. Clinton in this presidential election would tell me some things about myself that I wouldn't like.

If I understand his position on certain issues, my vote for him would say that I approve the killing of the unborn with no restrictions; that I see nothing wrong with homosexual and lesbian lifestyles being spread to every segment of society, including our military, high government offices and public school systems.

As America stands at the crossroads of change, which Bill Clinton promises, I would be concerned that my vote for him would help to lead her in the wrong direction.

Being a veteran who served in combat during WW II through blood and tears, I'm convinced that no war is good. However, I feel that my vote for Clinton would say that I promote an idea that it is all right to disobey a command from the highest authority of the land when called to arms. To avoid this call (the Clinton way), just scheme and maneuver your way through the system, lead demonstrations against our government and armed forces, say you don't like the war, then let someone else take the rap while you sit in some cozy nest in a foreign country.

Later, when you feel the timing is right, the issue is dead or covered up, never to resurface, you have the gall to ask to be commander-in-chief of that military you refused to be part of. If

this unthinkable thing does happen, this event would surely unfold as a dark chapter in American history.

When considering the particulars surrounding Clinton's draft record and the double-taking he has done in dealing with it, which portrays character, it is my belief he has forfeited his right to even ask to be awarded the honor of the office of president.

RAY JONES
Belleville

One who served

I am a native Arkansan. Near the end of the Great Depression, September 1939, I left Arkansas and went to Detroit; worked in industry almost five years.

In March 1944 Uncle Sam said, "I want you." Thirty years old at the time with a son, 4, and daughter, 2, and employed in defense work, I left my family and served my country two years in the U.S. Navy. I did not have any pull to be deferred.

I remember dodgers and the Jane Fondas. I have no use for either. The Bible teaches us to obey civil authorities. Early Christians were under the oppressive Roman governments. Our Lord said render to Caesar the things that are his and to God the things that are his.

RAYMOND BAILEY
Searcy

Measure would protect all life

"Euphemism" is defined as a mild or indirect expression instead of one that is harsh or unpleasantly direct.

Society has come up with some dandies. We say someone expired or passed on instead of died. Once we said a woman is with child. Now we use the word pregnant. Might it be that was the harbinger of our apathy for the unborn?

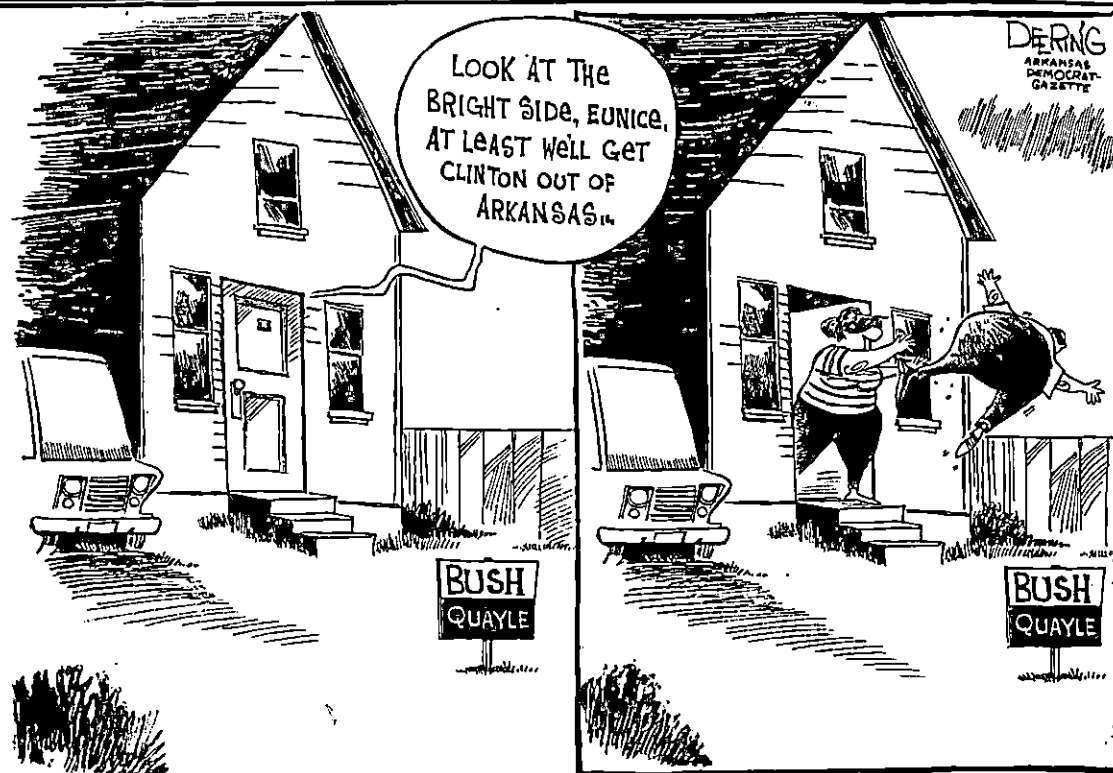
Instead of a baby, it's coldly called a fetus or embryo. Now abortion or terminating pregnancy is used for murder or taking the life of an innocent child. Aren't we clever?

There are those who feel America should not legislate morality. Nonsense. Morality is the right or wrong of an action and has been legislated many times over. Otherwise, it would be OK to gun down someone, to embezzle, rob a bank,

wrongs (morals). Clinton seems to be imitating Pontius Pilate: He's washing his hands of the matter and is saying let the voters and the black-robed nine decide whether to kill an innocent person. There can be no choice here. His stand is a green light for more permissive killing down the road.

The domino theory is being geared up. Some are trying to get a law passed to kill all those reaching the age of 80. Then what? The retarded, the crippled or anyone not classified as wanted or having value as a tax-paying American?

Like any wrong actions against society, laws against the slaughter of the innocents must be passed. A human life amendment will be passed to protect all human life. Yes, even those babies conceived (rarely) by rape or incest.



Arkansas Democrat-Gazette/John Deering

Stockdale *did* undermine Perot

Polls are entertaining, but they can be pretty irritating.

Not to mention worthless.

Take, for instance, the polls conducted this week following the vice presidential debate.

Consider this: Almost as many people watched the vice presidential debate Tuesday as saw the first presidential debate on Sunday.

More than 15 million households tuned in to the vice presidential debate. That compares with an estimated 17.5 million households tuned to the first presidential debate.

If you'll recall, independent candidate H. Ross Perot wowed the public and most of the pundits with a feisty performance liberally peppered with clever one-liners.

Then came the vice presidential debate, and retired Vice Adm. James Stockdale's pathetic performance. Only the pundits were kind. Voters, in interviews and private conversations, allowed as to how they couldn't possibly vote for Perot knowing that Stockdale would be a fateful heartbeat away from

POLITICS 1992

Meredith
Oakley



formation to swallow, given that the poll was conducted Monday and Tuesday. Are we to believe that pollsters shut down their phones before the early debate (6 p.m. Central) involving Stockdale, Vice President Dan Quayle and Sen. Al Gore was broadcast?

Hardly. Most polling is done after business hours, when potential voters are more likely to be at home. It is incredible that anyone but the most diehard Perotite could stay the course after Stockdale's embarrassing showing.

(Perhaps the admiral wasn't embarrassed, but I was embarrassed for him. His stumbling and bumbling and inattentiveness made me so uncomfortable that several times I turned down my

dents in an NBC poll conducted immediately after the vice presidential debate said Stockdale's performance had rendered them less likely to vote for Perot on Nov. 3. Only 14 percent said they would be more likely to do so.

That's more like it. That's more in line with what members of the general public were saying as they gathered around the water cooler or the coffee urn the next day.

Kudos

Congratulations are due the staff of *The Echo*, the student newspaper at the University of Central Arkansas in Conway.

Their determination to see that university officials recognize and respect the public's right to know has spurred a dramatic change in policy regarding the release of public safety "incident" reports.

The threat of a lawsuit didn't hurt, either.

Winfred L. Thompson, the UCA president, said this week that beginning Nov. 1 UCA will comply with federal

down someone, to intimidate, to a bank, not pay child support, sell drugs, practice libel, drive while drinking, lie on the witness stand, have more than one spouse, not file a tax return, and so on. There are laws against all these

conceived strategy of rape of innocent. They are no less innocent than any other helpless baby.

BILLIE TOUCHSTONE SIGNER
Ponca

Military cutbacks cost jobs

Cut military spending and use the money for humanitarian needs, says Bill Clinton. This will solve our economic problem.

Look at the Northeast where high technology skills produced the shy war for the Reagan administration which included the Patriot missile used in the Iraq war.

Work was stopped on the Wolf Pack submarine that could not be detected by sonar. The Russian breakup stopped the production on this craft. Result: Many jobs were lost in the Northeast.

California has been the area where many Air Force planes have been built for years. The cutback on military planes was a severe blow to that state.

Hundreds of smaller companies produce component parts for these military contracts and it has created loss of jobs. The job loss will run into the thousands from cuts that have been made. The cutback is tied to our economy.

I do know the answer, but Bill Clinton would have you believe that cutting back on military would be the thing to do.

More cuts in military spending results in more jobs lost, and what we need is how to cut military spending and not create another recession. Maybe some of you know.

R.M. MOREHEAD
Little Rock

Vital addition to liquor laws

Yes, Mr. Editor, you missed a great deal in your Sept. 25 editorial ridiculing the "good neighbor" addition to state liquor laws, which the Downtown Neighborhood Association and other concerned citizens achieved in the 1989 General Assembly with the cooperation of the state Alcoholic Beverage Control Board executive director and state Rep. W.H. "Bill" Townsend.

That law filled an important gap, and any legislator taking your suggestion to attempt repeal of the law in the 1993 session will face a partisan crowd of neighborhood activists determined to retain this protection for neighborhoods.

This legislation gives state liquor regulators the authority to consider how a permit holder's business operation impacts other businesses and residents nearby. For offenders who repeatedly break the rules for selling alcohol and who attract lawbreakers and fail to control violence and criminal acts, this legislation gives regulators the authority to consider, with all due process, whether the permit holder should be stripped of his permit, which is supposed to be operated in the public interest.

Turn down a neighborly request to borrow a cup of bourbon? Real-world taverns are not all identical to the television program "Cheers." You owe it to your readers and your own reputation to check out a topic before writing an editorial.

KATHY WELLS
Little Rock

Spanks



about several times I talked down my "hearing aid" — the volume on the television set.

Yet a CBS-New York Times poll released Wednesday showed that Perot had the support of 10 percent of those surveyed. That's the same amount of support he had in a CBS-Times poll conducted 10 days earlier, long before Stockdale was unveiled to the American public.

That's a very difficult piece of in-

Up and down with Al Bore

Overlooked in the coverage of the vice presidential debate was Al Bore's (pardon me, I mean Al Gore's) throw-away line about things going up and down.

The line, obviously written by Gore's handlers, went something like this: Under the George Bush-Dan Quayle administration, everything that should have gone up had gone down, and everything that should have gone down had done up.

The press wouldn't have let Dan Quayle get away with such a stupid statement, but Gore, prep school- and Harvard-educated, couldn't make a stupid remark, could he?

Let's see. Under Bush-Quayle, interest rates have gone down. Was Gore saying they should have gone up?

Under Bush-Quayle, the rate of inflation has dropped. Was Gore saying it should have risen?

Under Bush-Quayle, the number of free nations in the world has gone up. Was Gore saying there should be fewer free nations?

Under Bush-Quayle, international respect for the United States has gone up.

Was Gore saying he thinks it should have gone down?

Under Bush-Quayle, both the rich

DEAR READER

John R. Starr



and the middle class are paying smaller percentages of their income in taxes. Was Gore saying taxes on both the rich and the middle class should have gone up?

Under Bush-Quayle, the Berlin Wall came down. Is Gore saying it should have gone up?

I have dozens of these, but you get the point.

Unemployment, bankruptcies, the number of AIDS victims are things that are up but that we wish had gone down under Bush-Quayle.

If Gore had been specific, he could have made a point. But he didn't. He made a broad, wild charge, and the fact that he was not nailed for it by Quayle during the debate does not excuse reporters failing to pin him down after the debate.

No Clinton defense

Some news stories have centered on the point that I made, but not strongly enough, in Thursday's column.

Dan Quayle said over and over: "Bill Clinton has trouble telling the truth." Republican spin doctors dwelt on that statement.

"Gore did not once defend Clinton's character," said campaign spokeswoman Mary Matalin.

"Gore didn't once defend Clinton's character," echoed William Kristol, Quayle's chief of staff.

Nov. 1, UCA will comply with Federal law governing access to information contained in campus law enforcement records.

It's about time.

Associate Editor Meredith Oakley's column appears every Wednesday, Friday and Sunday.

Gore could have said: "Senator, I know Bill Clinton. Bill Clinton is a friend of mine. Bill Clinton is not a liar, senator. Bill Clinton tells the truth."

If Gore believes Bill Clinton is truthful, he could have said so.

Instead, he said, in effect, George Bush is a liar, too, as if untruthfulness by Bush excuses untruthfulness by Clinton.

Perhaps Gore, after he is reminded by his handlers that at this one point he should have departed from the script, will defend Clinton's integrity. Perhaps he won't, unless it is written into his script for the rest of the campaign.

Meanwhile, let me say, "I know Bill Clinton. Bill Clinton was once a friend of mine. Dan Quayle is right. Bill Clinton has trouble telling the truth, and he will lie to further his political career."

Contradictory clips

I have a copy of the "Clinton vs. Clinton Debate" tape that the Bush campaign prepared for showing in Grand Rapids, Mich., when Bush failed to show up for the first debate.

The tape shows film clips of Clinton contradicting himself on a number of matters of controversy in the campaign. The tape runs a little over five minutes. It could and should be expanded to 10 minutes.

If Bush doesn't blanket the airwaves with it in the closing days of the campaign, I will go into the voting booth on Nov. 3 believing that Bush was "doing a Clinton" (not telling the truth) when he said he wanted to be re-elected.

John R. Starr's column appears every day.

Tell us your views

The Democrat-Gazette welcomes your opinions. Send letters of no more than 250 words to Voices, Arkansas Democrat-Gazette, P.O. Box 2221, Little Rock, Ark., 72203. Please sign your letter and include a daytime telephone number for verification.

The contents of the Voices page, including columns and staff cartoons, do not reflect the opinions of the Democrat-Gazette, which are found only in the editorial column on the Editorial page. The views expressed by columnists are their own.



Rebels top Hogs 17-3 for 3rd straight win in football rivalry
— Page 1C



Arkansas journalist gets firsthand look at emerging Europe
— Page 1J



Gannett stock's gain from sale of Gazette put at \$300 million
— Page 1G

Arkansas Democrat Gazette

ARKANSAS' NEWSPAPER

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SUNDAY

In the news

■ **Orlando Hudson**, a Superior Court judge in Durham, N.C., ruled that putting Torrey Reid on bread and water for three days — as was ordered by another judge after Reid assaulted an officer while he and several other inmates were being moved from their jail cells — would be cruel and unusual punishment.

■ **Anthony Rainier**, a grocery store owner in Jamestown, N.Y., chased a would-be robber armed with a meat cleaver from his store by pelting him with cans of soup.

■ **Darrell Stokling**, 30, of Newark, N.J., dressed only in cutoff shorts, ran across two active runways at Newark International Airport, forcing incoming planes to delay their landings, police said, adding Stokling was taken to a hospital for psychiatric evaluation.

■ **Lynn Anderson**, 45, the country singer, was in the Nashville, Tenn., jail serving a two-day sentence for violating a court order for cursing her ex-husband, Harold Stream III, in front of their two children, ages 11 and 13.

■ **Sinead O'Connor**, the Irish singer who drew criticism for tearing up a picture of Pope John Paul II on "Saturday Night Live," ran sobbing from the stage of New York's Madison Square Garden during a tribute to Bob Dylan when the audience booed her.

■ **Joe E. Russo**, developer and

Bush camp slow to pay travel tab

BY JOHN SOLOMON
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — President Bush's campaign paid more in August for balloons, bands and banners than it did to reimburse taxpayers for political travel aboard government aircraft, an Associated Press review has found.

And what the campaign did reimburse — just \$38,812 — was for travel Bush and Vice President Dan Quayle took aboard their special planes, Air Force One and Air Force Two, as much as three months earlier.

The campaign acknowledges it won't be until after Election Day that the public will see the August travel tab despite a seldom-enforced legal requirement that such expenses be publicly disclosed or at least estimated in the month they occur. Federal election laws require presidential candidates to file spending reports each month.

The AP discovered the slow reimbursement through a computer analysis of Bush's spending reports for



200 prosecutors pick Clinton



READY TO LEAVE — Chelsea Clinton, 12, daughter of Democratic presidential candidate Bill Clinton, stands at the Little Rock airport Saturday as her father speaks to

reporters before leaving for Michigan to receive endorsements from attorneys. Chelsea suffered a stress fracture to her foot in a dance class earlier this month.

Associated Press

Group says Brady bill key factor

BY RANDY LILLESTON
Democrat-Gazette Washington Bureau

ROMULUS, Mich. — Gov. Bill Clinton picked up endorsement from about 200 former and current prosecutors Saturday — support that may offer him political protection in the weeks to come.

"I do not promise miracles in the fight on crime, but I understand what it is like," Clinton said at a hotel in Romulus, a suburb of Detroit. Clinton is in Michigan to prepare for the final presidential debate Monday night.

Crime control has been an important symbolic issue in past presidential campaigns, and this campaign may be no different. President Bush picked up the endorsement of the national Fraternal Order of Police earlier this month.

Bush used the issue effectively against former Massachusetts

See CLINTON, Page 6.



Pennsylvania takes sides — east vs. west

BY RANDY LILLESTON

eastern part of the state, the

Voters face amendment to eliminate furniture tax

EDITOR'S NOTE: This is the first in a series on proposed constitutional amendments.

BY RACHEL O'NEAL
Democrat-Gazette Capitol Bureau

Arkansas is the only state in the nation that still taxes household furniture — a tax voters will have the chance to abolish Nov. 3.

But opponents of the proposed state constitutional amendment have said eliminating the tax will cost school districts millions of dollars annually.

"We are the only state in the nation that still assesses and collects this unfair tax. It's not a big tax, but it's so unfair," said state Sen. Cliff Hoofman of North Little Rock, who sponsored the proposed amendment.

But Tommy Venters, executive director of the Arkansas School Boards Association, said recently that he was worried the proposed amendment would reduce school district financing. He said the proposed amendment would "replace some of the tax money but not all of it."

Lt. Gov. Jim Guy Tucker also has expressed concerns about the measure, which will appear on the ballot as Proposed Amendment No. 2.

"It has terrific appeal from a simplification view point," Tucker said. "But I'd have to admit that I have some apprehension about the impact on revenues for school districts."

Under the amendment, all household property — like furniture, appliances and clothes — would be exempt from personal property ad valorem taxes.

Household property generates about \$13.8 million annually. About 80 percent of that money goes to county school districts.

A closer look



OLD NOTES — Amanda Jones, a twelve-year-old coin collector from North Little Rock, examines a ten dollar annual coin show at the Best Western Inn Towne in Little Rock on Saturday. The show continues today.

Robinson, Glascock find bingo swamping politics at NLR roast

BY JOE STUMPE
Democrat-Gazette Staff Writer

Tommy Robinson and Darrell Glascock, two politicians familiar with controversy, attended a fund-raiser Saturday at a North Little Rock bingo parlor under investigation by the state.

Robinson, the former U.S. representative from Central Arkansas, returned to his old stomping grounds in North Little Rock's Ward 3 to raise money for aldermanic candidate and ex-aid Glascock.

The event, a combination of bingo game, political roast and

bingo, not politics. The fact that it was held in a bingo parlor the state is investigating at least gave participants something to talk about.

"I'm afraid (Attorney General) Winston Bryant may come charging through that door at any minute," Robinson said.

"I told Tommy, 'I hope we don't get arrested,'" Steve Goss, who organized the event, said. "He said, 'I've been arrested before.'"

Ann Wade of Little Rock was one of about 40 people who played bingo before and after Robinson and Glascock's brief

Wade was disappointed, saying larger prizes had been promised when the event was being promoted.

Goss had billed the event to the media as a "roast" of Glascock by Robinson in the Razorback Room, 2633 Pike Ave. The Razorback Room was one of five bingo parlors closed by court order Sept. 29 after a judge ruled that they constituted illegal lotteries.

It reopened under the name of Club 120, purportedly having been taken over by the non-profit American Legion. The attorney general's office is in-

Teachers hear Bumpers talk up wetlands swap

BY JAKE SANDLIN
Democrat-Gazette Staff Writer

U.S. Sen. Dale Bumpers told a group of geography instructors Saturday that he wants to be remembered for "voting against Reaganomics" and for his work preserving part of Arkansas' environment.

Bumpers, a Democrat who chairs the Senate subcommittee for public lands, national parks and forests, appeared at a Little Rock meeting of the Arkansas Geographic Alliance and spoke about environmental concerns.

"God only gives us one chance to take care of it," Bumpers said of non-renewable resources. "So ever since I've been in the Senate, I've tried to be deeply involved in preserving what all of us ought to be good stewards over."

Bumpers listed among his environmental protection efforts: preserving almost 100,000 acres of Arkansas forests in 1978; backing this year's legislation preserving seven Arkansas rivers "so they can never be developed, never be polluted;" and this month's completion of a complex land swap involving 41,000 acres of east Arkansas wetlands that will make it a national wildlife refuge.

The swap involved land in Arkansas and Monroe counties, owned by Potlatch Corp., and federal timberland in Idaho. The deal was three years in the making and involved five land trades. President Bush is expected to sign the bill.

"You know, I want somebody to put on my epitaph, 'He voted

The geography alliance is composed of teachers and geography professors from throughout Arkansas. Partially financed by the National Geographic Society and the state, it is part of the National Geographic Society's \$7 million effort to train teachers in geography, said Nancy Wood, a teacher consultant from Eureka Springs.

The effort followed a 1988 survey in which Americans ages 18 to 24 scored lowest in basic geography skills compared with those in nine other countries.

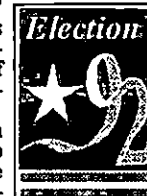
Bumpers, who faces opposition in the Nov. 3 election from Republican Mike Huckabee, told the group about his four-year effort to repeal an 1872 mining law signed by then-President Ulysses S. Grant meant to encourage westward settlement.

The law still allows for anyone to claim 20 acres of federal lands for hard-rock mineral mining. If a mineral that can be commercially produced is found, a deed to the land can be bought for either \$2.50 or \$5 an acre from the Bureau of Federal Land Management, Bumpers said. The government never checks on the land after it's deeded, he said.

Bumpers said one such operation owned in part by an oil company is in the process of acquiring 2,000 acres of federal land for \$10,000 which, he said, contains \$45 billion worth of palladium and platinum beneath it.

However, if the law is repealed, that company could possibly sue the government for the profit it could have gained from that claim — \$4 billion to \$5 billion, Bumpers said — "for refusing to give them a deed to something they paid \$10,000 for."

If not repealed, Bumpers



tricts.

Removing household furniture from personal property taxes is an idea that has been debated for years.

Currently, county assessors use the value of a home to determine the household taxes, meaning some people pay taxes on furniture and other items that don't exist while others enjoy expensive furnishings that are taxed at a lower rate.

"Of course, that's a preposterous thing to do and without having scientific evidence of it, it is my strong impression that it produces a great discrepancy and is very regressive," Tucker said.

The proposed constitutional amendment is one of three submitted to the voters by the Legislature.

The other two would increase salaries of state elected officials and allow local voters to increase property taxes that support public libraries.

"My personal opinion is that taxes should be fair, and we ought to repeal the ad valorem taxes on household goods, notwithstanding the costs, because it's so unfair," Hoofman said.

"That is my position. Let the burden be placed on the Legislature to fairly raise any revenues that might be lost. But with this measure, it's built in to offset any loss," Hoofman added.

The proposal allows the Legislature to enact legislation requiring Arkansans to pay their motor vehicle property taxes, which would remain in effect, when they renew their registrations and licenses.

Currently, the vehicle taxes are due with other state property taxes each Oct. 10.

Larry Crane, director of the Assessment Coordination Division of the Public Service Commission, said recently that making motor vehicle taxes due at the time of assessment would in effect move property taxes on motor vehicles forward by one year.

That would allow less depreciation loss on vehicles prior to taxation, thus creating between \$11 million and \$14 million in new funds annually, Crane said.

"Our best projection statewide is it would come pretty close to being a wash. ... There may be some districts that could come out behind," Crane said.

But James E. Metzger, an economist with HISTECON Associates Inc. in Little Rock, said recently that the tax change only

See FURNITURE, Page 3B

bingo game, political roast and supper, defied easy description.

A large part of the small crowd seemed to have come for

Robinson and Glascock's brief remarks.

"As you can see, 85 percent of the people are here for bingo," she said.

BY JAKE SANDLIN
Democrat-Gazette Staff Writer

Health-care reform is one of the major issues voters want candidates to address in this election year and statistics support those concerns.

According to *Congressional Quarterly*, about 35 million Americans are without health insurance; the cost of health care has exceeded inflation every year since 1980; and Medicaid consumes 14 percent of state budgets.

Congress is a target for those demanding immediate health-care reforms for cost controls and increased insurance coverage. U.S. Senate candidates Sen. Dale Bumpers and Mike Huckabee said last week that they are

well aware of these concerns.

Bumpers, a Democrat, gave as an example of rising costs the drugs used in the national child immunization program, based on a program Bumpers and his wife, Betty, began in the 1970s while he was governor of Arkansas. The cost of the drugs has increased 3,500 percent since the program began, he said.

"It is staggering," Bumpers said of the cost increase. "And that increase is not rare."

Huckabee, the Republican Senate nominee, said the health-care problems have gone on too long because of political battles in a slow-moving Congress.

"Both (political) parties have

created this nightmare," Huckabee said. "Now it's got to be solved by people whose primary motive is what's best for the country and not what's best for the party."

Both candidates agreed that administrative procedures are a large part of the problem and called for standardized insurance forms to cut down on often confusing paperwork.

"There are a lot of things we can do to reduce health-care costs very dramatically," Bumpers said. "The first one is we ought to have every state design a package of benefits that should be basic, nothing exotic."

"Secondly, we should develop a standardized form for everybody — Medicare, Medic-

aid and for every insurance company — so that everybody could read it, everybody knows what it is and so on. Now, there, in my opinion, we would save a lot of money."

Huckabee said changes must be made because "business as usual with health care won't work."

"There are several elements of reform to start the process," Huckabee continued.

He said that, according to medical publications, "at least 30 percent" of medical tests are unnecessary except to cover doctors against possible malpractice lawsuits. A group of doctors, he said, told him that figure may be closer to 50 percent.

said, "You take \$45 billion off and then you walk away from it and you leave an environment. See BUMPERS, Page 2B

Health-care cure a cause for Senate hopefuls

Decade good to UALR chief Recalls pressures, looks forward to break

BY DANNY SHAMEER
Democrat-Gazette Education Writer

Dr. James Young looks none the worse for wear as he approaches his 10th anniversary Wednesday as chancellor of the University of Arkansas at Little Rock.

He doesn't look older or beaten after a decade in which he successfully endured debate and controversy — public and private — about whether UALR should have doctoral degrees, a dormitory, a modern law school building, scholars program or even a basketball team.

Unlike some of his colleagues who encountered similar face-offs at their universities across the country, he survived with his job intact.

And he helped make those projects a reality on his 12,419-student campus.

"I had to ask myself, 'Look, do you want to go hopscooting around the country like some of your colleagues do, and sort of brush each one of those places, or do you really want to spend some time and get into the fabric of the institution, and try to make some change that can last,'" Young said. "I decided on the latter course."

He said the last 10 years have been enriching and rewarding, personally and professionally.

Yet, he acknowledges that a chancellor's job can wear down a person, and that maybe 10 years in one place is enough.

Last spring he announced that he is resigning, effective Dec. 31. He wants to teach and pursue outside interests that include writing, photography, his relationship with his wife and his spiritual development.

"Could I go on another 10 years?" Young, 56, said. "I could. But I think that I would need a sabbatical before I could do that, and that's impractical. So I think 10 years is about maximum."

"You can do it longer. But there needs to be things that rejuvenate your life, and I think I do that pretty well with my writing and photography, and the wonderful times I spend with my wife."

He paused, then added: "I don't know. Two years from now, I may decide to get back into one of these (jobs) again. But right now I need to change."

Young came to UALR fresh off the presidency of the State

University College of Arts and Sciences in Pottsdam, N.Y.

He was perceived by some people as a chancellor who would use UALR as a short-term position, a steppingstone for greener pastures — an unpopular idea at a campus with a history of long-term leadership that dated back to its days as a junior college.

But Young also entered an era in higher education when increased job pressures began causing the average tenure of academic presidents and chancellors to shrink to a range of three-to-seven years, compared with the common reigns of 15 and 20 years a generation ago.

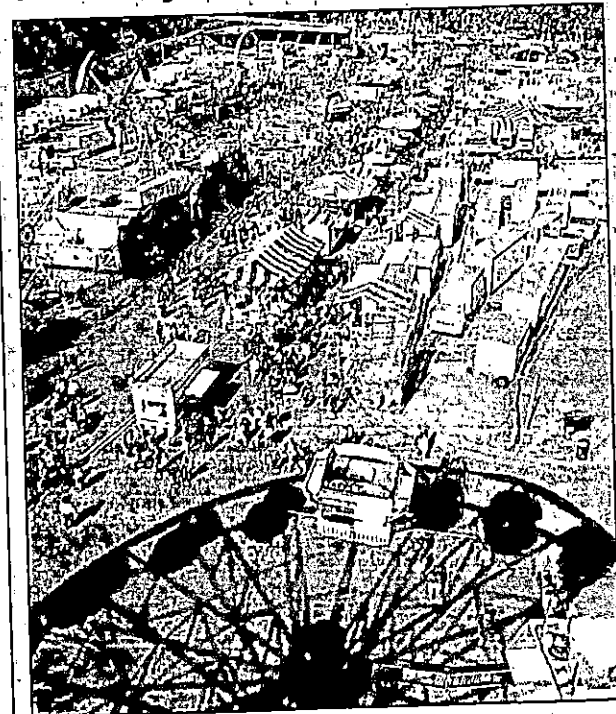
He spent the early part of his UALR tenure trying to pull the campus together after the departure of G. Robert Ross, a popular chancellor who served nine years.

There was a great deal of talk before Young's arrival about whether UALR should have succeeded from the University of Arkansas system.

Some hard feelings, including a sense of competition in some areas, lingered between the University of Arkansas at

See YOUNG, Page 2B

Bird's-eye view



THE BIG PICTURE — Thousands of people walk the midway at the Arkansas State Fair and Livestock Show on Saturday, taking advantage of the cool, crisp day in Central Arkansas. The good fall weather is expected to continue today for the last day of the fair.

Arkansas Democrat-Gazette/Mike Stewart

EDITORIALS

Let's get moving

Arkansas' taxing problem

A good idea has come up again, as it periodically does: Take the state sales tax off groceries. Will the notion be dismissed once again? Or actually get somewhere this time? Alas, whenever it has been run up the flagpole, along comes a spoilsport with an ax.

John Pagan, a state senator from Little Rock, bravely raised the flag two years ago, only to have the Senate Revenue and Taxation Committee play lumberjack. Senator Pagan, a legislative rookie at the time, made a rookie's mistake. His bill would also have raised the corporate income tax. Talk about a death warrant — especially when the state was hunting new industry. His bill flew no farther than an ostrich in combat boots.

John Pagan now has picked himself up, dusted off his hands, and is back trying again. He has proposed legislation to give poor families a rebate on the sales taxes they pay on groceries. The increase in the corporate tax is gone from this year's proposal, which made the Joint Interim Committee on Revenue and Taxation so happy it agreed to study the idea.

"I favor doing away with the sales tax on groceries because it's highly regressive," Senator Pagan said, becoming the latest in a long line to point out the obvious. Sales taxes hurt the poor most because they take a greater proportion of poor folks' income. They're not a great deal for the middle class, either. The smaller the income, the bigger share of it the state's 4.5 percent sales tax will collect on essentials.

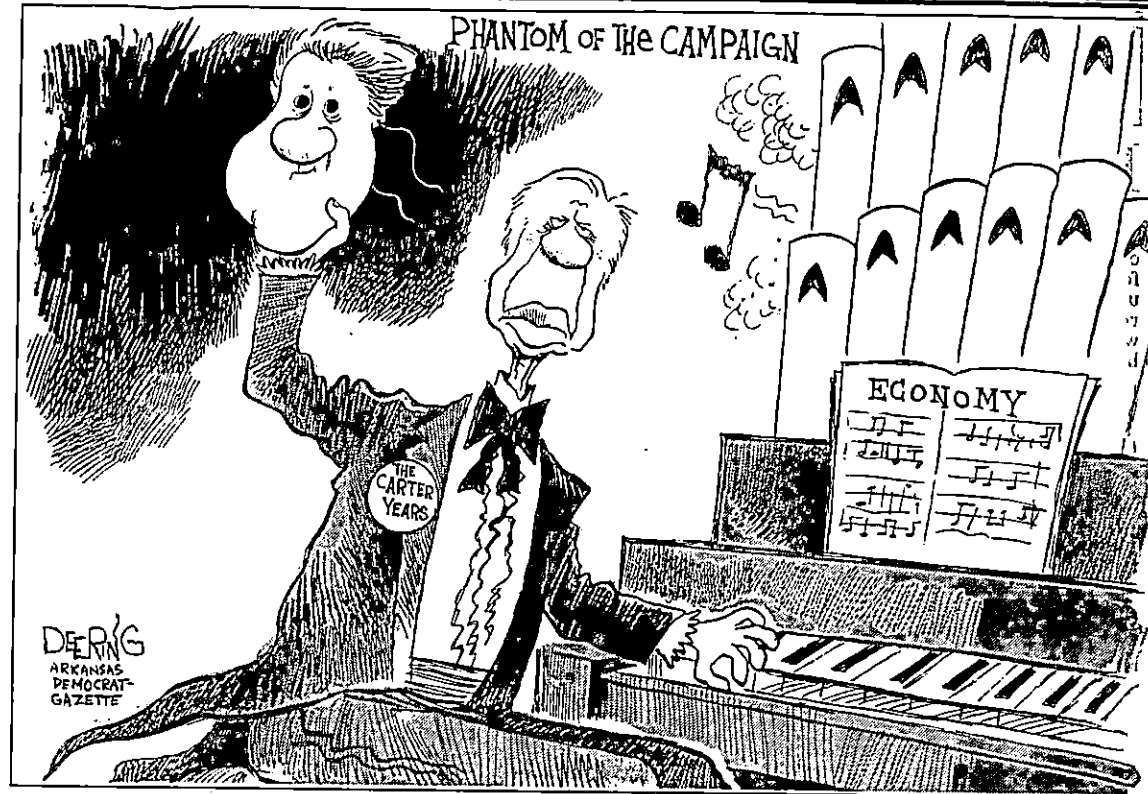
Families would get a graduated rebate under the Pagan Plan. For instance, a family with an income of \$20,000 to \$25,000 would

efited some in-state, too) but there's a difference between attracting investment and giving away the store, or rather the state treasury. These tax breaks for investment, which continue to mount in the millions, could at least be capped at some reasonable point for each investor. Particularly when the state continues to collect its sales tax on the bare necessities of life.

Jim Keet, who is running for Senator Pagan's seat in the Senate, suggests phasing out the sales tax on groceries (and on over-the-counter drugs, too) over a five-year period. He counts on the usual increase in state revenues to make up the loss. If phasing out this tax squeezes state government, the governor and Legislature may get serious about reviewing or even removing some of the current exemptions from the sales tax. And there are lots of them.

Arkansas' sales and use tax comes with a thick sheaf of exemptions. Each needs to be reconsidered. Easily said but politically impossible — so goes the conventional wisdom, or rather the conventional cynicism. Every one of these exemptions is the result of a special interest's influence, or even of some wholesome impulse or instance of sound judgment, and every one should be considered anew. And a sunset clause added to assure that they'll be reviewed regularly in the future. Yes, it's a big job, but one that has needed doing for years. Putting it off won't make it any smaller.

This year's presidential campaign seems to have overwhelmed interest in the state's problems except as something for the candidates to construe and misconstrue. Our absentee governor is too busy for



Excellent on Education

COLUMNISTS

The case for irrelevance

Americans tend to think that our schools shape our society, and that if we could just get education right, all else would follow. Actually, it may work the other way around. Societies tend to shape their schools, and right now the American public school is in many ways a receiver-in-bankruptcy for the rest of society, with all its crime, materialism, family breakdown, and fadthink.

When it comes to fads in education, I see 'em come and I see 'em go: Social promotion. The PEP program. Self-esteem. Values Clarification. Americans have always been big on labor-saving devices, and in education, we seem determined to save not only labor but thought. All these fads have a couple of things in common: They don't last, and they emphasize form to the exclusion of content — a criticism that also has been made of the education of American teachers. The mills of Educanto, like those of God, grind slowly. But not, alas, exceeding fine.

Paul Greenberg



lessness when our environment changes, while those without rigid structures — the amoeba, for example — seem able to create provisional organs to assure their mobility and meet whatever changes their world demands. Having structure, he concluded, hinders creating structure.

He could have been talking about the American educational system, with its credentialism and faddism. Lacking confidence in our values, we seek to substitute an empty pseudo-professionalism, complete with the wonderful pseudo-professional language that educationists can exchange without fear

presidential year — and who wouldn't be? — it may be a reflection of what we now will accept in terms of thought and character. And without character, which is the last fruit of education, all other attainments may prove not only useless but actively destructive.

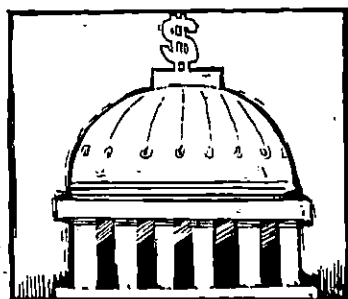
This passion for the practical in education can prove highly impractical. I can remember as a boy complaining about having to go to Hebrew school every day after school. None of us young sophisticates back in the '50s at Congregation Agudath Achim in Shreveport, La., could see the point. What use was it? Why sit around translating the Bible from a language that nobody we knew spoke? Certainly nobody fashionable and up-to-date. Why study a culture that depended on camels for transportation, and still practiced polygamy for goshakes? Yet what I began to learn there has proved the most practical, the most revealing, the most saving, relevant part of what-

...a family with an income of \$20,000 to \$25,000 would get a rebate of \$59. That's a help, but why not go one better? No sales tax on food for anybody — rich, poor, or middle class.

Another state senator, Bud Canada of Hot Springs, points out that only three states now impose sales taxes on groceries. It's time for Arkansas to get with the program. Yes, revenue would be lost, but 47 states have figured out alternatives to taxing basics like bread and milk. Why not Arkansas?

The state would lose \$15-\$17 million on Senator Pagan's current proposal. Taking the tax off all groceries for everyone would be more difficult, of course — about \$120 million would be lost annually in taxes.

How make up the revenue the state would be out? Senator Pagan recommends a "good, hard look" at the multitude of tax exemptions the Legislature has created over the years. Especially prominent is the 1985 tax break that reduces sales taxes for those making investments of more than \$5 million in Arkansas. This tax credit was supposed to keep and attract out-of-state investors (it has ben-



sentee governor is too busy for the moment proclaiming Arkansas a dazzling land of progress actually to make so progressive a reform. But the rest of us need not be distracted.

Session after session, the Legislature has approved so many of these exemptions to the sales tax that its structure now resembles a crumbling old house in the Quapaw Quarter that hasn't been occupied in 30 years — one that needs fixing and cleaning from eaves to basement before it's fit to be lived in.

Some say the state's alliance of veteran legislators and embedded interests will never allow so basic a reform. Maybe they've never been in one of those beautifully restored, now structurally sound houses in the Quapaw Quarter. The job can be done. Let's not underestimate Arkansas' ability to change, or even the Legislature's. (By the way, here's another argument for term limits, and the new blood and new ideas they could bring the Legislature.)

For too long it has been assumed that Arkansas simply cannot do better. Our inferiority complex has been working overtime. It's time to shake off the lassitude of the Clinton Years and get to work reforming the tax structure. Let's make it simpler, fairer, maybe even rational. The tax code should reflect the needs of the state, its people and its economy rather than the influence of every interest with an ally in office. A good tax system not only encourages investment but encourages those citizens who may need encouragement the most. Let's get moving.

But not, alas, exceeding five.

The newest fad is Relevance. We're told we need to make education more practical. But is it really the purpose of education to prepare the next generation for entry-level jobs? That seems to be the thrust of this year's idea of educational reform. It reduces education to: You businessmen tell us the kind of worker you want, and we'll mass-produce 'em.

I'd like to make a case for irrelevant education — for what used to be called liberal education. I take my theme from Jose Ortega y Gasset, a Spanish philosopher not known nearly well enough. He admired the way the English traditionally taught their students the classics — so that they might be educated in the essentials, in pure abilities without specific application, in ancient languages and an archaic civilization. Given a completely impractical education, they made remarkably practical statesmen, explorers, and scientists. Unprepared for anything in particular, they could be prepared for everything in general.

It was a German biologist who pointed out that highly developed organisms like ourselves may be reduced to help-

educationists can exchange without fear of saying anything.

By now we've been making education more relevant for decades. Earlier in our never-ending quest to be relevant, we drifted away from theoretical math, foreign languages, literature, history, art, music, and science. We switched to shorthand, typing, business English, business arithmetic, social studies . . . and then, when it came time to compete with the Russians in space, we rushed to restore science, math and foreign languages to the curriculum.

Having dropped geography some time ago, we're now deep into adding Global Studies. We might have saved ourselves many of these expensive changes and counter-changes if we had stuck to the classical, "unreal," "impractical" disciplines that have always been at the core of liberal education.

The more technological the world becomes, the more — not less — necessary it will be for all to have a liberal education. The very name means an education for the free. It's not just the elite who vote (thank goodness) but everyone. If you're dissatisfied with the quality of the political dialogue this

the most saving, relevant part of whatever education I have.

Let's not confuse data with judgment, or knowledge with wisdom. A fashionable magazine tells us that computers are going to lead to "a transformation of culture similar to the Renaissance." How do you suppose those poor, benighted Europeans ever had a Renaissance without the micro-chip? Thanks to our new super-machines, we're assured, the world is on the verge of "a Second Enlightenment." Isn't it strange that we should ever have had a first at such a primitive stage in our technological development?

Put not your trust in chariots or technologies — certainly not without asking their purpose. It is not more technology we need so much as the wisdom to use it.

Paul Greenberg, editorial page editor of the *Democrat-Gazette*, is attending the National Conference of Editorial writers this week in Lexington, Kentucky. This column, which first appeared December 8, 1991, is based on his talk last year to the annual conference of EDCORE, an educational program sponsored by International Paper Company.

Never mind the facts

David Broder



accuracy of the three men.

Some would say that just confirms the twin cynicisms that are undercutting the legitimacy of our political process — candidates feel no obligation to "tell the truth" and voters view everything politicians say through a miasma of distrust.

That conclusion is too quick — and too cynical. There are truths and falsehoods of all dimensions, and a political campaign is really about sorting out the largest — and most consequential — of them.

In the current election, three large truths dominate all others. These facts overshadow all the minuscule quibbles about smaller matters.

One huge fact is the economy. Most people know — not from listening to political speeches or sifting through the data, but from their own and their friends' experience — that things have changed, and not for the better.

The first and maybe most important judgment voters make is whether the candidates recognize this reality — and have some sensible ideas about addressing it. Bush's single biggest liability is that people believe he was late to grasp it and

still is vague on how to deal with it.

The second big fact is that the political system has gone awry. People in power are not taking individual or collective responsibility for their wasteful spending, and the lack of results. Blame it on incumbency or on divided government or on interest groups, lobbyists and the influence of money, but the "fact" is that voters are justifiably fed up.

Thus the challenge to people of both parties — not just Bush — already in office. Thus, the potency of Clinton's message of "change." Thus, the revived interest in the radical shakeup promised by Perot.

The third big — and enduring — fact voters know is that character counts. Bush is a known quantity. Both his strengths and his weaknesses have emerged in the last 12 years in national office.

Clinton is far less of a proven quality, and despite how well he has withstood the rigors of this long campaign, misgivings remain. The scrutiny of Perot had barely begun when he dropped out of the race, only to return, a fact of history that looms both large and disturbingly in voters' minds.

Compared to these "facts," the stuff over which the rival camps were battling during and after each debate seem trivial to the voters. And they may be right.

David Broder, named the unofficial "chairman of the board" by national political writers, is a columnist for *The Washington Post*.

Arkansas Democrat
Established 1871

Arkansas Gazette
Established 1819

Arkansas Democrat & Gazette
Arkansas' Newspaper

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Environmental abuses *August 23, 1992* abound in Natural State

BY BILL KRAMER

Special to the Arkansas Democrat-Gazette

"How are things in Arkansas, governor?" reporters are fond of asking Bill Clinton now that he's running for president.

His response is that things are looking up — especially since he's been governor.

Better take a closer look, Bill. Things are not looking up in your home state. Instead, more and more workers are losing their jobs and vital industries are being threatened with destruction — all by the very people you are so busy cozying up to.

Increasingly, Arkansas is reminiscent of Oregon, where lumberjacks are replaced by owls and farming strangled as irrigation waters are foolishly diverted to preserve suckerfish.

Some 1,100 timber industry jobs were lost in Arkansas' Ouachita National Forest in 1991 due to appeals of Forest Service tree sales.

"It's not true that we're against cutting trees," proclaimed Jerry Williams the other day to the Concerned Citizens Coalition in Mena. Williams represents an environmental group known as Ouachita Watchdog League — OWL — which is closely aligned with Sierra. Though not invited to speak, he usurped the floor and held forth at great length.

I had just addressed the meeting and accused environmental groups of wanting to lock up public and private forests and prevent any timber harvesting whatsoever.

I accused them of raping United Way drives by demanding access to charity funds, of falsifying science, of putting plants, animals and rocks ahead of humans, and destroying free enterprise, private property rights and human freedoms.

I pointed out they are enormously funded by Old Wealth and Big Business and maintain giant lobbies and publicity factories in Washington and state capitols which intimidate legis-

Commentary

lators into passing laws that benefit environmental bureaucracies but are against the public interest.

I detailed pronouncements by green groups advocating elimination of private cars and single-family homes. Finally, I stated that oppressive environmentalism increasingly dominates our society and our government, that the movement is as tyrannical as the Nazis were and more dangerous than Communism ever was.

Williams was angered by my statements and accused me of lying.

"We're not against the timber industry," Williams said. "Our appeals (of Forest Service sales) have not cost a single job. We want selective cutting, not clear cutting. This will bring bigger timber harvests and a better mix of hardwoods and pine."

But Jim Crouch, who also addressed the meeting, had a different message. Crouch spent many years with the Forest Service and was an experienced Forest Supervisor when he left in 1987 to become a management consultant.

"Besides all the jobs lost to frivolous appeals," Crouch said, "federal contributions to Ouachita area counties have dropped \$4 million due to reduced gas, oil and lumbering payments to the Forest Service. This especially hurts school districts."

"My appeals have not been frivolous," Williams insisted. "Here's one of them right here." He exhibited a stack of what appeared to be about 800 pages.

"You know what was in that stack?" Crouch remarked afterwards.

"What?" I asked.

"Reports and maps and nonsense accumulated in the 52 appeals he's filed since 1989," he said.

"There's no substance to them

— the aim is to prevent cutting trees.

"And the fact is there've been no timber sales on the Ouachita since 1990 because appeals tie Forest Service personnel in knots going over and responding to them. It costs the government an average of \$150,000 for every appeal settled.

"Meanwhile, lumber companies have to lay off employees while the timber just sits there."

"Williams has filed 24 appeals so far in 1992 alone," Tyrone Lewis told me in his offices the day after the meeting. He operates Lewis Lumber Co. in Cove.

"We've had to close our mill except for two days a week and lay people off. Actually the Forest Service has done a great job on the Ouachita. There's always been more wood growing than's being cut," Lewis said.

"But leave it sit and eventually it'll get full of bugs because these people don't want pesticides used. Or else it'll be destroyed by fire. Or both. That's what happens in a forest. Meanwhile, lumber prices are going up because of artificial shortages."

As in Oregon, lumber is not the only industry being savaged. Chicken farming also is being targeted by greens and other groups who oppose raising animals for food.

They claim excrement is polluting rivers and lakes.

"It's just not true," Lewis said. "People use chicken dung to fertilize grasslands where they graze cattle. But it's not polluting our water. In fact, the University of Arkansas ran tests and found no contamination from chicken litter."

Three months ago this column predicted that travesties occurring in Oregon in the name of environmentalism would spread to other states. This shows how it's happening.

—♦—
"Fossil Bill" Kramer of Silver Bay, Minn., writes a column called *The Angry Environmentalist*.

MY SOURCES TELL
ME THAT THE U.S.
MAY ATTACK AGAIN
IF WE DONT COMPLY
WITH AGREEMENTS...
HMMM ...



BUT IF WE CAN
STALL UNTIL THE
END OF NOVEMBER...



MAYBE CLINTON
WILL BE PRESIDENT
BY THEN...



Arkansas Democrat-Gazette
Feb. 16, 1992

Scallions
Arkansas Democrat-Gazette

Iraqis back Clinton presidential bid in hope he will resolve standoff

BY MARCIA KUNSTEL
Cox News Service

FUHUD, Iraq — In this backwater town of farmers and fishermen more than 200 miles south of Baghdad, Iraqis are rooting for Bill Clinton for president.

They don't always get the Democrat's name right — merchant Jabar Nazel thought it was "Mr. Linton" opposing George Bush — but the people of Iraq are aware an American election looms, and they want anybody but Bush to win.

And so does Iraq's government, which is trying to influence a reshaping of America's international policy.

"I think it will be different if Clinton wins," said Nazel, 38, accepting the name correction for the Arkansas governor.

Why?

"Because we think Bush is our enemy."

Ali al Eisa, a 23-year-old teacher, agreed.

"We think the Americans like

Iraqis. We think he (Bush) is the only one who hates Iraq," Eisa said.

To the Iraqi people, George Bush has been demonized in the same way Iraqi President Saddam Hussein is almost universally disdained by Americans.

It is not simply government propaganda that molds their opinions, for even in the country's outer reaches people routinely listen to Voice of America, the British Broadcasting Corp., and Radio Monte Carlo for news and views of the world.

They believe Bush is leading the world against Iraq.

Many Iraqis will whisper that they have no quarrel with the American president's decision to fight their country last year, except that they regret that he stopped the battle before the job was finished and Saddam removed from power.

What they do not understand, and what they have come to personalize as Bush's effort to make

the Iraqi people suffer, is the continuation of economic sanctions against them. Goods are increasingly scarce as months go by, and prices keep going up.

Now they say they believe the no-fly zone the Americans, British and French have created, which keeps Iraqi planes from flying in the southern third of their own country, is a political move Bush promoted to enhance his election prospects this fall.

"Yes, we know there are elections, and we think one of the motives behind his move now is to get more votes," said Nazel, who lives in the no-fly district.

Saddam's government also is plugged into American electoral politics.

Privately, one Baghdad official said that Iraq has tailored its mild response to America's politically-charged atmosphere out of concern a more volatile reaction would help Bush to score points in November.

ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE • SUNDAY, DEC. 8, 1991 • 5H

taken seriously



Public Servants



Arkansas Democrat/John Deeri

I'M GLAD THE SCHOOL BOARD
REJECTED RAISING THE GPA...

ME TOO...

'COURSE IT WOULDN'T HAVE
AFFECTED ME PLAYING BALL
ANYWAY...

ME NEITHER...

August 2, 1992

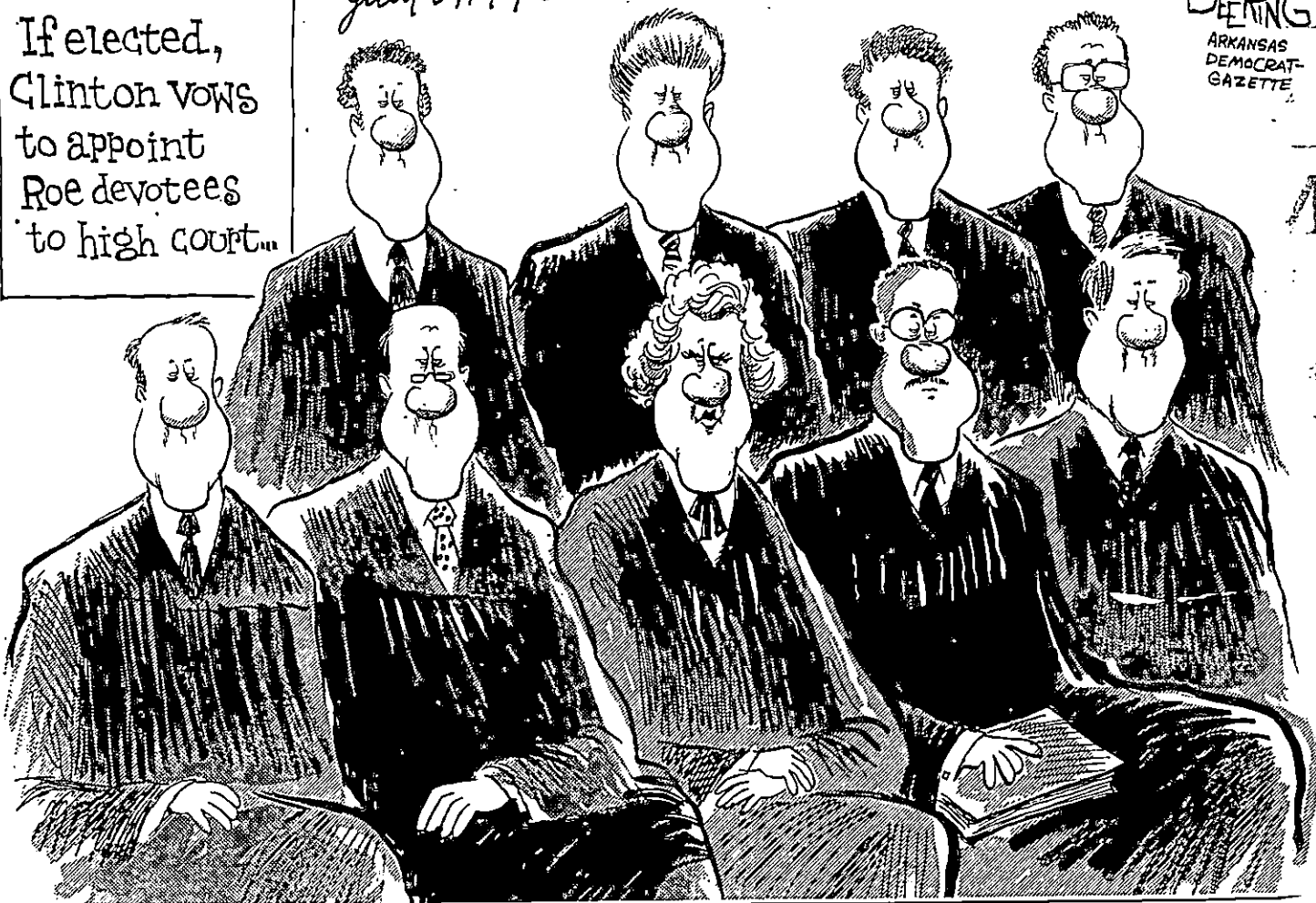
WHAT'S AH'
GPA?

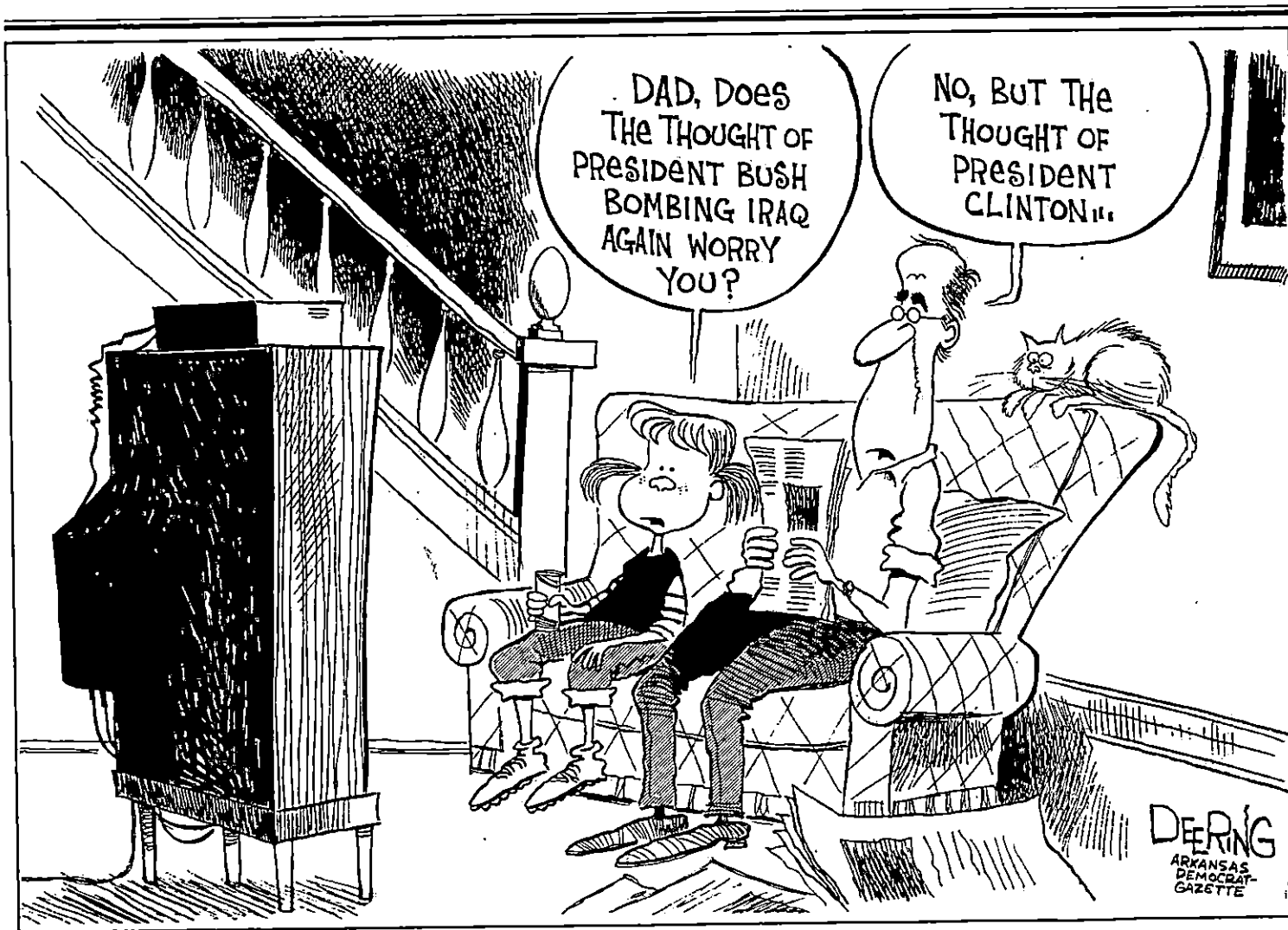
McHARRVILLE
FROM THE PAPER: CATHY

If elected,
Clinton vows
to appoint
Roe devotees
to high court...

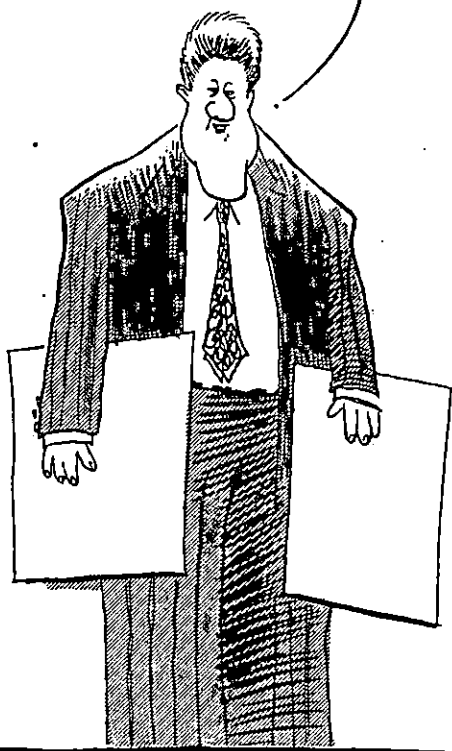
July 5, 1992

DERING
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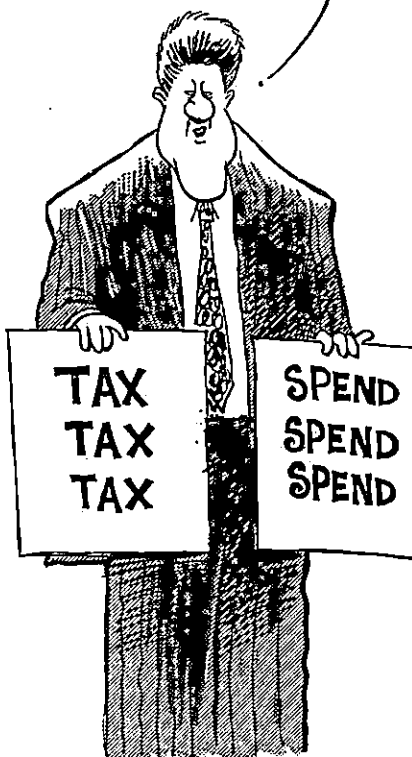




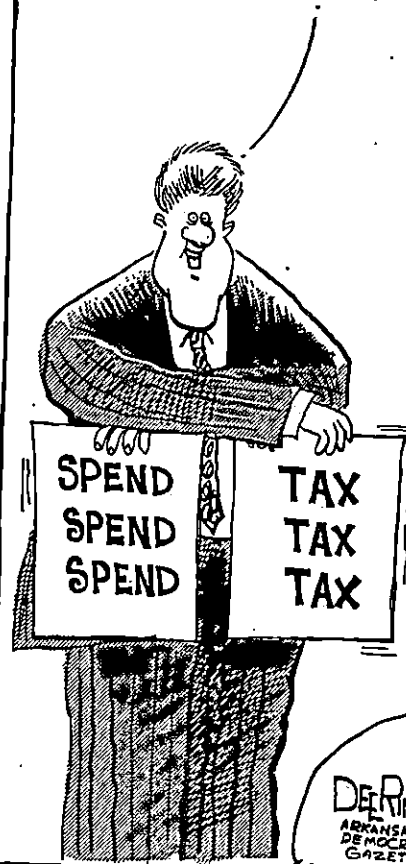
HEY, WE DEMOCRATS
ARE NO FOOLS. WHEN THE
AMERICAN PEOPLE SPEAK,
WE LISTEN...



"THE POLICIES AND
DIRECTION OF MY PARTY'S
LAST 50 YEARS MUST
END - WE MUST..."



"REVERSE OUR
PRIORITIES!!



DERING
ARKANSAS
DEMOCRAT-
GAZETTE

Clinton Not Expected To Address State's Budgetary Problems

7-23-92

LITTLE ROCK (AP) — Gov. Bill Clinton returned home Wednesday to more than hoopla and cheer. He also had some weighty state business to address.

The troubled Medicaid program was placed under a federal court order Monday to raise its rates to some health-care professionals. Lt. Gov. Jim Guy Tucker, who runs the state while Clinton is away running for president, said the decision could be costly, and he recommended an appeal.

The Medicaid budget, plus other problems in the Department of Human Services, threaten to be an embarrassment for the Democratic presidential nominee.

Tucker hoped to meet with Clinton during the governor's brief stay in Little Rock, but he had not heard from the campaign by early Wednesday afternoon, according to Neal Turner, an aide to Tucker.

Clinton was not expected to comment publicly on the matter Wednesday.

"He's coming in for the rally. There won't be an opportunity to ask questions," said Susie Whitacre, a spokeswoman for the governor's office.

She said Clinton planned to study the ruling before making any comments.

The governor was scheduled to fly into Little Rock just in time for a downtown rally in his honor. He is expected to leave the state again Thursday morning.

He has not been in Arkansas since before the Democratic National Convention last week.

U.S. District Judge Susan Webber Wright's temporary injunction ordered the Department of Human Services to restore the old fee schedule for a wide range of children's medical services, pre-natal care and baby deliveries. She said doctors and other providers could not afford to treat Medicaid patients.

On July 1, the agency cut fees by 20 percent for all health-care providers, except hospitals, nursing homes and mental institutions. Last week, several health-care professionals challenged the cuts with a federal court lawsuit.

Mrs. Wright left open the possibility that she might later extend the injunction to other providers whose fees were cut.

Tucker said he fears the ruling could sabotage the Medicaid budget by giving health-care professionals the upper hand in setting their fees.

DHS officials estimated Tuesday that the cuts the judge eliminated would have saved the financially strapped agency about \$10 million in state and federal money.

The entire package of cuts — which is now at risk — was expected to save the agency about \$29 million, officials said.

The cuts were intended to help DHS avoid a \$60 million projected shortfall for this fiscal year, which ends June 30, 1993. Other measures taken to save money included elimination of 25 DHS jobs and plans to require Medicaid recipients to pay part of their bills.

The state's Medicaid budget this year is \$720 million, about \$192 million less than what was spent last fiscal year. Some programs were cut in October and April.

Legislators will be faced with increasing funding to the state's largest agency in 1993. A voluntary tax on health-care providers will expire in June, leaving a gaping hole in the budget.

Clinton headed up efforts this year to settle a suit challenging DHS's child-welfare system.

A group of food stamp applicants sued in 1991, saying the agency was taking more than the federally mandated 30-day time limit to determine eligibility to receive food stamps. A proposed settlement was reached Tuesday in that case.

Memory grows faulty once campaign starts

October 6, 1991

Let's get the obvious out of the way first: Bill Clinton's long-awaited announcement rhetoric did not exactly soar with the eagles.

Did Atlanta teach him nothing?

Thursday's speech was too long. Whatever fire it contained was lost in the smoke of too many words. Once again, he had overprepared.

Clinton is an excellent extemporaneous speaker. Give him a prepared text, and he flags.

If he would only speak from the heart. Ah, but there I go again, wanting him to be something he will never be.

Now that we've got that out of the way, let's look at a few things he actually said in announcing his candidacy for the presidency.

You know, Clinton's long-windedness might not have been quite as irksome if he had not dared once again to take credit for trails he did not blaze, if he had not tried to deflect the shortcomings of his own gubernatorial administration by projecting them onto the presidential administration of George Bush.

A Democratic governor who is responsible for the most and the largest tax increases in a state's history has no business criticizing a president who raises taxes.

A 45-year-old man who has been on the public's payroll for all but a couple of years of his adult life really shouldn't paint himself as a friend of the

POLITICS 1991

Meredith Oakley



working man. And spending so much of his time with millionaires as he does, Clinton really shouldn't insult them by questioning their commitment to a better America.

But those are minor points. More important were Clinton's remarks regarding education in Arkansas:

"We need standards and accountability in education," Clinton told several thousand celebrants, bystanders and reporters on Thursday in announcing his candidacy for the Democratic presidential nomination. "And I'm proud to say that here in Arkansas, thanks to many of you in this crowd today, we have led the way."

No, governor. Arkansas has not led the way.

If memory serves, it was Gov. William Winter of Mississippi who led the way in the areas of education standards and accountability.

His education program was law in Mississippi even before "A Nation at Risk," released in April 1983, sounded the alarm about the "rising tide of mediocrity" in America's education system.

Mississippi passed its education reform package a month before Clinton reassumed the

governorship of Arkansas in January 1983.

As The Associated Press noted in a September 1983 story, "Arkansas traded places with Mississippi for the cellar rating among states in expenditures per child and teacher salaries after the Mississippi Legislature in December (1982) enacted its school reform package."

Winter, also a Democrat, was the trailblazer, not Clinton.

And as for as innovation goes, Clinton's accomplishments in the mid-1980s pale beside those of then-Gov. (and now U.S. Education Secretary) Lamar Alexander, whose 12-point education reform package set a standard Clinton openly envied but was never able to duplicate.

Our governor, who at one time was at the front of the Winter-Alexander cheering section, wants to forget his old friends now that he is officially in the race.

He mustn't be allowed to forget. He's vying for the big stakes now. He wants to do for America what he claims to have done for Arkansas.

Perish the thought.

Postscript: Members of the national press may love him, but they don't know him very well. No less of a journalistic giant than The New York Times referred to him Friday as "William Joseph Clinton." His middle name, of course, is Jefferson.

Associate Editor Meredith Oakley's column appears every Wednesday, Friday and Sunday.

How administration runs state

Arkansas Democrat - Gazette - July 5, 1992

In response to Friday's column about former Medical Examiner Fahmy Malak, Betsey Wright faxed the following statement:

"The only board about which I made the point to the *Democrat-Gazette* reporter that Gov (sic) had limited direct influence on the appointment of members was the Medical Examiner Commission.

"As I recall, it was composed of one person selected by the sheriffs' association, one selected by the police chiefs' association and one person with a specified position at the medical school. The other two members were members of the Gov's cabinet. As you know, Gov doesn't appoint sheriffs and police chiefs and medical professors. That was my only point in that regard."

The other members were the directors of the state Board of Health and the Arkansas State Police.

Until its abolition in 1991, the Medical Examiner Commission was responsible for hiring the state medical examiner.

Not that the commission did.

The commission didn't hire him because nobody in authority knew of its existence, including most of its members.

It was suggested in this column on Friday that Clinton could have done something about Malak's controversial 12-year reign as state medical examiner had Clinton sought to do so.

Wright, Clinton's former chief of staff, was quoted saying that the governor had little direct influence over members of Malak's governing board.

Apparently that is true enough. He didn't know they existed, either.

First, I direct your attention to a Feb.

POLITICS 1992

Meredith Oakley



18, 1988, news story that appeared in the now-defunct *Arkansas Democrat* under the headline, "Commissioners unaware of 20-year-old panel, duties."

Herewith, some excerpts:

"A majority of the members supposedly serving on the state Medical Examiner Commission, created nearly 20 years ago, said Wednesday they were unaware of their duties.

"I didn't know it even existed," said Ken Wilson, Clarksville police chief and president of the Association of the Chiefs of Police of Arkansas since June 1987. "We've had the same secretary-treasurer for the past six years, and he's never said anything about it." ...

"Three of five members contacted Wednesday ... denied any knowledge of their duties to serve on the commission.

"Dr. Wayne Elliott of El Dorado, president of the state Board of Health, said while he has only held that position since January, a reporter's inquiry about his role was the first knowledge he had of such duties.

"I don't know anything about it," Elliott said. "I'm glad you told me about this." ...

"Dr. Dodd Wilson, dean of the College of Medicine at UAMS, said he thought the commission had been disbanded after reorganization of the medical examiner's office. Dr. Wilson said his information was based on hearsay..."

Oh, but there's more.

On Feb. 26, 1988, the *Democrat* revealed that Malak never was hired to the board as required by law. Clarence White, who was head of the state Crime Lab, promoted him to medical examiner in May 1979.

Malak's selection was signed off on by, of all people, Tommy Robinson, who was then director of the (now defunct) Public Safety Department.

"I basically approved it," the storqued Robinson saying, "and sought the governor's approval."

He said he was unaware in 1979 that the board that should have done the hiring existed.

Was the governor's office any better informed?

"The governor's office has operated under the assumption that as an employee of the crime lab, the medical examiner operates under the function of the director of the crime lab," said Clinton spokesman Mike Gaudin in the Feb. 26, 1988, story.

Existing law, of course, did not give the state Crime Lab director authority to hire the medical examiner.

So what do we have here?

A controversial medical examiner who was improperly hired and allowed to serve virtually without supervision until his abrupt resignation just three weeks before Clinton declared himself a candidate for president in October 1991.

Is that what the Clinton administration calls running the state?

Associate Editor Meredith Oakley's column appears every Wednesday, Friday and Sunday.

78th General Assembly

New taxes and fees of the 78th General Assembly

Total tax increases: About \$311 million

Total new/ higher fees: About \$9.4 million

Major ticket
Items to bring
over \$1 million

Tax / fee	Effective date, Est. annual revenue	Purpose of new money	
1. New trailer park license fees from \$25 - \$75, depending on size of park	90 days \$1,800	Fund Health Dept. licensing of the parks	
2. Raise hearing aid dispenser application, exam and license fees	90 days \$5,000 - \$6,000	Fund operation of the state Board of Hearing Aid Dispensers, including per diem for board, others	
3. Grade A milk fees increase	July 1 \$76,000	Fund program inspection costs	
4. Increases sales tax to 4.5% from 4% and places tax on used cars, mobile homes, airplanes	May 1 \$159 million	Fund a \$4,000 teacher salary increase over next two years	
5. Field seismic operators permit registration fee	Immediately \$2,500	Fund Oil and Gas Commission operations	
6. Increase car and small truck trailer license fee from \$6 to \$7	90 days Not available	Fund state and local highway construction projects	
7. Non-established beauty pagents pay \$50 registration fee	90 days Not available	Fund the secretary of state's registration program	
8. Fee of \$10 for registering each groundwater well and withdrawal point on a surface water pool	Oct. 1 \$400,000 - \$500,000	Education and cost sharing for water conservation	
9. Increase to \$125 from \$75 regist. nurse exam fee and \$100 from \$55 licensed practical nurse exam fee	90 days Not available	Will offset National Council of State Boards of Nursing exam cost increases	
10. Increase state Board of Architects exam fee to \$250 from \$50 & regis. fee to \$50 from \$25	90 days \$55,000	Fund full-time executive director / investigator	
11. Increase diesel fuel tax 4 cents / gallon raises Semi tractor, trailer registration fee	April 1 \$22.5 million	Replaces revenue lost by the repeal of weight-distance tax agreed to in settlement of a lawsuit challenging that tax	
12. Municipal courts authorized to charge \$10 for filing & issuing writ of garnishment	90 days Not available	Proceeds for operation of the various local courts	
13. Establish \$100 - \$200 licensing fee for Heating, Ventilation, Air Conditioning & Refrigeration Board	Immediately \$600,000	Fund Labor Department operation of the newly created board	
14. New filing fee up to \$100 for appeal of a complaint against a real estate broker	90 days \$2,000 - \$3,000	Fund Real Estate Commission costs associated with an appeal	
15. Increase LP Gas Board inspection, application & permit fees	90 days \$100,000	Fund doubling to four the number of board inspectors	
16. Dairy plant license fee increases	90 days \$7,500	Fund Health Department sanitarian services	
17. Gasoline tax increase of 5 cents per gallon and diesel increase of 2 cents per gallon	April 1 \$81 million	Fund \$2.4 billion road program	
18. Allow state Board of Optometry to set registration and application fees	Immediately Not available	Fund board operations	
19. New appraiser license fee up to \$100	Immediately \$60,000	Fund newly created Appraiser Licensing and Certification Board	
20. Increase application fee to \$50 from \$35 and exam fee to \$75 from \$30 for real estate brokers	Immediately \$100,000	Fund expansion of Real Estate Commission operations	
21. Allow courts \$50 fee on DWI offenders for alcohol treatment programs and \$25 fee for reporting costs	90 days Not available	Fund treatment programs and Arkansas Highway Safety Program reporting costs	
22. Boiler inspection fee increase to \$440 from \$200, special inspec. fee to \$100 from \$50	90 days \$12,564	Fund operation of Labor Department boiler inspection program	
23. Allow fee for a Children and Family Services Div. home study in private cases such as divorce	90 days \$150,000	Help offset division costs when performing home study investigations	
24. Increase corporate income tax 0.5% to 6.5%	Immediately \$12 million	Fund upgrade of vocational-technical colleges	

26. New \$200 penalty for felony drug offenders and \$100 penalty for misdemeanor*	Immediately \$25,000	Fund P.D. of Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention Program, drug enforcement training
27. Increase dentist annual license fee to \$100 from \$60 and hygienist to \$50 from \$40	90 days \$50,000	Fund operation of state Board of Dental Examiners
28. Increase doctor license fee to \$50 from \$25	90 days \$100,000	Fund cost of moving state Medical Board to Little Rock, operating board there, fund ex. dir. post
29. Increase food service inspect. permit from \$15 to \$25, new \$50 permit for out-of-state bottlers	Immediately \$165,000	Fund Health Department sanitarian services
30. Sets monthly 15-cent fee on each water bill*	July 1 \$900,000	Fund water testing laboratory to comply with federally mandated statewide drinking water testing
31. Fee for review of sewage disp. permit & subdiv. review cert., to \$30 from \$15; \$50 annual cert. fee*	90 days \$150,000	Fund implementation of alternative individual sewage disposal systems and for Health Dept. sanitarian services
32. Increase elevator inspector license fee to \$50 from \$25, exam fee to \$150 from \$5*	90 days \$600	Fund operation of Elevator Safety Board
33. New fee not yet determined on farm seed producers*	90 days \$10,000 - \$40,000	Fund advertising of Arkansas certified seeds
34. Unspecified fertilizer manufacturer storage site fee	90 days Not available	Replace fertilizer manufacturer registration-of-grade fee with the storage fee
35. One-half of one percent premium tax on property and casualty insurers*	Jan. 1, 1992 \$3 million - \$4 million	Fund fire equipment purchases and fire fighter training statewide 
36. New \$100 fee on each insurer operating in the state	90 days \$160,000	Fund information program to give those intending to buy insurance information and premium prices
37. Fund-raiser regis. fee to \$100 from \$50; increase to \$50 from \$10 fee for professional solicitors*	90 days Not available	Fund attorney general's office operation of the licensing program
38. Double manufac. and wholesaler pharmaceutical dist. initial license fee to \$200, renewal fee to \$100	90 days \$12,200	Fund operations and increased federal requirements on state Board of Pharmacy
39. Increases cigarette tax one cent per pack*	July 1 \$2.8 million	Fund purchase of vans for state elderly support services, including Meals on Wheels 
40. Sets new \$100 registration fee and \$50 annual renewal fee on pet stores*	Immediately \$2,200	Fund Health Department licensing of stores
41. Permit newly created state Board of Physical Therapists to levy unspecified license fees*	July 1 Not available	Fund operations of the board
42. Allows courts to levy fee on pre-trial detainees under court supervision*	Immediately Not available	Help fund pre-trial release programs
43. Increases to \$3 from \$1 amount Wynne can authorize courts to charge on all convictions*	Immediately Not available	Funds City of Wynne municipal court judges and clerks retirement funds
44. Public water sys. op. exam fee to \$50 from \$25, license to \$25 from \$10, renewal fee to \$50 from \$5*	90 days \$27,000	Fund operations of newly created state Drinking Water Advisory & Operator Licensing Committee
45. \$10 fee from non-custodial parent for completing income withholding form of custodial parent*	90 days Not available	Reimburse circuit and chancery court clerks for cost of completing withholding procedure
46. New 15 percent tax on certain gross proceeds collected by certified Medicaid providers*	July 1 \$30 million	Revenue will be used to match federal grants to increase the state Medicaid fund 
47. A 50 percent tax on gross proceeds earned by Medicaid residential care facilities*	July 1 Not available	Funds will go to state Department of Human Services
48. Increased bank & branch app. and app. objection fees; increased bank holding company purchase fees*	90 days \$57,200	Fund operation of state Bank Board
49. Raise misdemeanor court costs - fees to \$10 from \$5; civil action summons to \$1 from 20¢*	Immediately Not available	Fund Crime Victim Reparations Board and local court expenses
50. Removes limit on annual air permit fee for major industrial plants	90 days \$350,000	Fund PC&E monitoring of the plants
51. Landfill disposal fee increases about 50% to \$1.50 / ton; industrial disposal fee of 50¢ / ton	90 days \$675,000	Help fund newly created state Marketing Board for Recyclables
52. A new city, county and private landfill disposal fee of \$1 / ton	90 days \$2 million	Fund newly created post-closure trust fund that will pay for contaminated landfill cleanups 
53. New \$1.50-per-tire fee, \$1-per-tire fee on imported tires & \$10 deposit on lead-free batteries	90 days \$3.75 million	Ten percent to tire dealers for their cost and the rest to fund state tire recycling grants and PC&E operating expenses 

Note: 90 days indicates bills take effect 90 days from end of session, or June 25 this year.

*Bills awaiting action by Gov. Bill Clinton.

Sources: Dept. of Finance & Administration and Bureau of Legislative Research's Office of Tax Research.



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