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VIEWPOINT

Senate scrutiny too lax

WASHINGTON—(NEA)—When Congress quit for the year in mid-December, it left 62 of President Carter's nominees for various federal jobs twisting slowly, slowly in the wind.

The adjournment effectively wiped out every one of those appointments which ranged in significance from assistant secretaries of the new Department of Energy to a trustee of the Harry S. Truman Scholarship Foundation

Unlike the unfortunate L. Patrick Gray III, the would-be FBI director of the Watergate era, most of the Carter nominees have little to fear The president will resubmit their names when the new session begins Jan 19, and the Senate will proceed with confirmation.

There are, however, some exceptions Two of the Carter nominees have already been rejected by the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works, which means their prospects for confirmation are extremely dim

According to the White House personnel office, Carter has not yet decided whether to resubmit the nominations of Kent F Hansen for the Nuclear Regulatory Commission and Marion Edey for the Council on Environmental Quality.

The committee deemed Hansen, an M.I T professor who has served as a consultant to Westinghouse and General Electric on nuclear issues, to be excessively industry-oriented for the sensitive nuclear regulatory post. It had exactly the opposite concern about Edey, former head of the League of Conservation Voters.

A half-dozen other nominations are in varying degrees of trouble, although they remain odds-on favorites for confirmation if Carter resubmits their names and fights for them.

Overall, the president has fared far better on Capitol Hill with his appointments than he has with his programs

At year's end, the Senate had confirmed a record total of 4,681 presidential nominations for civilian jobs in government.

Only a half-dozen Carter nominations were withdrawn because of Senate resistance, but one of those — Theodore Sorenson, the former top Kennedy aide who was Carter's first choice to head the Central Intelligence Agency — was the first Cabinet appointment blocked by the Senate in nearly 20 years.

Carter's track record on winning confirmation for his nominations is slightly better than his two Republican predecessors, which is only to be expected with a Democratic president and a Democratic Senate

But his success is less a commentary on the quality of his appointments than it is a reflection on the superficiality of the Senate's confirmation process

The glaring inadequacy of that process became painfully evident with the forced resignation of Bert Lance, Carter's longtime friend and director of the powerful Office of Management and Budget.

Throughout the summer hearings into Lance's dealings as a Georgia banker, it became increasingly obvious that the Senate Governmental Affairs Committee had blithely ignored innumerable danger signals during its original confirmation proceedings back in January

Had the committee done a half-way decent investigation in the first place, Lance would never have been confirmed

Acknowledging as much, Chairman Abraham Ribicoff, D-Conn., and ranking GOP Sen Charles Percy, R-Ill, subsequently introduced legislation to standardize and stiffen the confirmation procedures of all Senate committees.

Their bill, however, has drawn stubborn resistance from a number of other committee chairmen and is now resting quietly in a desk drawer

As a consequence, Carter can no doubt expect continued smooth sailing for the vast majority of his nominations. But he has no guarantee that later disclosures, by the press or his political foes, won't lead to another embarrassment like the Lance scandal.

AS TIME GOES BY

Freauf charged

FORTY YEARS AGO
—1937—

Roderick Freauf was charged with breaking and entering in connection with the Nebraska Hide and Leather in a complaint filed by County Attorney Edwin Moran...Conductor W.E. "Billy" Griffin made his last run on the Lincoln-Nebraska City Burlington run after 48 years as a conductor...The U.S. Chamber of Commerce and Robert W. Babson both made optimistic forecasts for the economy in 1938...County Conservation committee chairman Ralph Hanks said Otoe county raised a much larger grain crop in the fall of 1938 than most grain dealers believed.

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO
—1952—

County Highway Engineer Lester Ehlers was appointed to that position for another six months by the county board...The U.S. Court of Appeals upheld a ruling denying a retrial for convicted atomic spies Julius and Ethel Rosenberg...The C.B. & Q. Depot at Percival was receiving a new coat of paint ...Kansas State won the Big Seven holiday tournament...A .22 caliber bullet struck a window frame at the Harry Gess home near Dunbar.

TEN YEARS AGO
—1967—

Kevin Lee Perry, son of Mr and Mrs Gary Perry, rang in the New Year in Nebraska City arriving at 4:57 a.m. January 1 and becoming the New Year's Baby of Nebraska City ..."In the Heat of the Night" starring Sidney Poitier and Rod Steiger was showing at the Pioneer Theater. Bus Wymore, who spearheaded the petition campaign to force an election on a change in city government, said additional signatures would be obtained over the required number of 449...A rash of auto accidents late in the holiday period cost the nation its safest New Years weekend since 1962.

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The Prayer For Today From The Upper Room

Speak unto the children of Israel, that they go forward. (Exodus 14:15)

PRAYER: Father, as we begin another year, we thank You for Your goodness and mercy in the past. We commit our life and all into Your hands. Strengthen us ever to trust and obey You. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.



"It's all yours!"



Donald F. Graff

COMMENTARY

Rejecting Arab unity

It would be difficult up to this point to find really serious fault with Washington's response to the continuing rapid rearrangement of Mideast realities.

Taken by surprise along with every other capital by Egyptian President Sadat's mission to Jerusalem, it did not go into a sulk because its own diplomatic script was not being followed. Nor has it been too pushy, rushing to count itself in on the suddenly intimate Egyptian-Israeli relationship. The administration, most wisely it would appear, has allowed the two players most concerned to keep control of the ball and the game to remain essentially one-on-one at this stage.

But a question may possibly be permitted about the "pledge," as dispatches from Cairo termed it, that visiting Secretary of State Vance extracted from Sadat, to the effect that the Egyptian-Israeli Cairo conference will not be the forum for a two-party settlement but will work toward an overall Arab-Israeli accord.

Taken literally, this ordering of priorities would appear to be asking everyone to move back to square one, which is entitled Arab unity.

An Arab-Israeli accord is possible only if and when the Arabs are in reasonable accord among themselves, and the impossibility of achieving this under existing conditions on anything but a completely negative basis — hostility to the very existence of Israel and rejection of any accommodation — has been the story of the Mideast stalemate for the past 30 years.

The Arabs, in fact, have not known real unity since the first flush of their eruption from Arabia Deserta in the 7th century A.D. Their political empire soon fragmented and the various fragments eventually succumbed to foreign conquerors. A religious and cultural unity persisted, and in more recent times an economic communality in that the underdeveloped Arab lands were equally disadvantaged as against the industrial West. But that has changed as oil has divided the Arabs themselves into haves and have-nots.

Arab unity in recent times has meant only one thing — hostility to the very existence of Israel — and has had only one policy — rejection of any accommodation with reality. In unity there can be strength, but as defined by the Arabs there has been only paralysis.

It is Sadat's refusal to continue to worship at this empty altar that has, as President Carter put it, "broken through what seemed to be insurmountable obstacles and . . . greatly clarified the issues . . ."

Sadat's Arab adversaries have provided a beautiful demonstration of just what the obstacle is that he has broken through. The "rejectionist" regimes have been able to reach accord among themselves on nothing more substantial than their opposition to Sadat's initiative.

It is true, as Secretary Vance points out, that the objective in the Mideast remains a comprehensive settlement. But meanwhile, as Vance has also pointed out, Cairo is where the action is. What develops there in the coming weeks holds more promise for the eventual achievement of the objective than does yet another attempt to summon into existence a nonexistent Arab unity.

Would a separate Egyptian-Israeli agreement really be so undesirable? At the very least, Egypt's opting out by this means would pretty well preclude further full-scale Arab-Israeli hostilities since it has always been Egypt's role to provide most of the Arab military muscle.

Sadat remains on top of the situation. That position may have its disadvantages in respect to a volcano about to erupt. But for all the rumblings in the Arab world, that does not appear to be the condition of the Mideast at the moment.

Sadat gives no signs of being nervous or of losing his nerve. His radical departure from the negativism of past Arab positions has been stunningly successful in getting the Mideast off dead center.

And it is very difficult to find fault with that.



Martha Angle and Robert Walters

IN WASHINGTON

Carter's on-job training

WASHINGTON —(NEA)— Rome wasn't built in a day, and Washington can't be changed in a year. If nothing else, Jimmy Carter has learned that much these past 12 months.

The White House and Democratic leaders on Capitol Hill are already trying to put the record of the 95th Congress in the best possible light, exchanging paeans of praise for the wonders they have wrought.

But what is striking about the record of this particular Congress is how little it really reflects the impact of the new president.

Carter can rightfully claim credit for forcing a reluctant Congress to face up to the nation's long-standing energy crisis in a comprehensive fashion.

But he is not likely to glean much political benefit from his achievement since he made the mistake, a few months back, of insisting his own performance — and that of the Congress — should be judged by whether an energy bill was enacted this year.

Nothing is certain in the final days of a session, but at this writing it seems likely that no energy bill can be adopted until sometime next year. The mills of the Hill grind slowly, no matter who is turning the wheel at the White House.

Other Carter initiatives fared even worse. His entire election reform package — instant voter registration, direct presidential elections, public financing of congressional campaigns — sank like a rock, as did the related Hatch Act reforming governing political activities of federal employees.

Bills to create a consumer protetcion agency, contain soaring health costs and revise labor laws are languishing on the vine and may or may not revive next year. The cargo preference bill Carter pressed, in keeping with a campaign promise to the maritime lobby, was clobbered in the House.

Congress did manage to enact a number of major bills this year — a $21 million economic stimulus package, tough new strip mining controls, a huge farm bill, food stamp reform and a sizeable increase in the minimum wage.

The White House is trying to share the credit for these measures, but Carter actually played only the slightest role in their development and passage.

His principal contribution to the economic stimulus package, for instance, was a proposed $50 income tax rebate which Congress forced him to abandon. Both the farm price supports and the minimum wage increases adopted by Congress were higher than the president wanted. Food stamp reform was all but completed before he took notice, and so was the strip mining legislation.

difficult and sobering year of on-the-job training for Carter. Congress, accustomed to setting its own course under eight years of Republican rule at the White House, proved more resistant than he expected to guidance from a Democratic president.

Carter's problems were exacerbated by his own inexperience and that of his key White House aides in dealing with legislative procedures and congressional egos. Congress, the president discovered the hard way, is not merely the Georgia legislature writ large.

The administration has already sent Congress a staggering array of new program proposals, ranging from measures to stem the tide of illegal aliens to welfare reform. More are on the way, including tax reform and national health insurance.

But the White House no longer expects to accomplish all of the president's objectives in the first year, or even the first term. Carter may not have lowered his sights, but he has certainly lengthened his perspective.



Ivan D.E. Beaumont

THE BUCK ENDS HERE

On top of the hill

Top of the hill—

We've started a new regular feature in the News-Press, and one in which we hope you enjoy reading. It's a story about retired people, but perhaps more than that, it's a story about the activities of the retired.

Everett Reimers was featured in the opening article last week. He hit the nail on the head when he spoke about retirement: "It's pretty hard to shut yourself off from the world."

Everett is a busy man and enjoying every minute.

If you have a suggestion on someone who is working-after-retirement, we'd appreciate a call

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So long, Mr Sewell—

Emmett Sewell who died recently will long be remembered as the man who kept Second Avenue school shining.

He prided himself in the cleanliness of the school and didn't hold back with tongue lashing on youngsters who slopped through his clean building.

He was particularly proud of the gym floor and it certainly held a masterful glaze. The children learned about housekeeping from him and showed their respect in similar habits. He spoke, they listened.

Mr Sewell is silent now, but he's remembered by his many friends.

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Medical Group—

Dr. R. C. Fenstermacher will no longer be associated with Nebraska City Medical Group. A note to his patients says he will be moving at the end of January to the new addition under construction on the west side of the Dr. J H. Wilmes building at 1306 First Avenue.

Dr. Rod Koerber will remain at Nebraska City Medical Group. The doctors will make an announcement soon on the change and the new medical service and facility.

Nebraska City is well known for its medical community which serves the tri-state area. It wasn't too long ago that we all kinda got the shakes when we read of the retirement of several doctors within a year.

Oh, by the way...saw retired Dr J. P Gilligan the other day...naw, Virginia...he's not an Outcast of Poker Flat...the nurses at Medical Group welcomed him and especially his good humor.

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V-Lanes...a granddaughter—

Virg Miller had just sold a flashy blue Columbia bowling ball to daughter, Mrs Bryan (Denise) Mable, Sargent. He visited as he went about the precision task of fitting the ball to the bowler and the hand and fingers.

That's when we heard about Melissa. She's something else! She's six months old and Velma came over and just happened to have a colored picture of the Miller family.

Melissa is the daughter of Mr and Mrs Verle (Jill Eads) Miller, Atlantic, Ia. Also in the picture were daughter, Vicki, and her husband, Dan Creal of Lincoln.

This year was an especially good Christmas for the Miller family.

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Congratulations...

...to Carl Orndorff, rural Nebraska City, for winning the grand prize of $1,000 in scrip money in the retail Christmas promotion.

Carl's son, Doug, works in the camera and press departments at the News-Press. Doug is pretty quiet and doesn't generally say much...but he sure smiles a lot.

The $25 winners were Barb Schaefer, Syracuse; Rose Ann Rea, Nebraska City and Stan Moyer, Hamburg. A special bonus this year was in the form of two $50 checks from the American Agriculture organization and Chamber to Elsie Heiser, Dunbar and Mrs Robert Kreifels, rural Nebraska City.

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The new arrival—

A number of Nebraska City businesses will have a special welcome for the first baby of the year in the form of gifts as announced in the News-Press.

Last year's winner was Brendan Jay, son of Mr and Mrs Charles Arnold, Nebraska City. He arrived New Year's day at St. Mary's. Brendan, his mother and sister, Heather, visited the News-Press the other day and with Society Editor Dorene Duffey.

Brendan is featured in today's paper. Happy Birthday.

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Our friend, Irma—

Blood donors remember her and so do the doctors, nurses, aides and the Red Cross staff members. Mrs Jack (Irma) Speckhals who died the other day worked for many years in the Red Cross blood program.

We haven't been a regular donor for some time, but we remember our friend, Irma. She held a host of friends and all the guys had a joke for her...for instance..."Irma, you can take my pulse, but it won't be accurate because when you hold my hand, my heart goes flutter-flutter."

She always had an answer (after a hearty laugh): "Get your mind on something else."

Irma was loved by her family and friends. She was active in many organizations and was a charter member of the Eagles auxiliary.

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Missing in action—

The VFW says the MIA's in Vietnam can be accounted for and asks readers to write their senators and congressmen. The December issue of the Nebraska newspaper says that of the 11 American MIA's who returned last March, two were listed in a category as unrecoverable.

The VFW is snorting It believes there are another 178 missing servicemen who can be accounted for by the Southeast Asian government and that another 1,154 men could reasonably be expected to be known by the Viets.

The VFW wants action. You can help. The names and addresses of your Nebraska representatives are printed elsewhere on the editorial page. Your pen might cause the release of a man from war captivity.

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A roll of paper—

Ron Moyer of Percival stopped in the other day to inquire about paper for a farmer petition campaign that would stretch down Pennsylvania Avenue. The only answer we could give him was to put the signatures on a roll of paper.

So, we tried figuring...let's see...30 pound newsprint, 32 inches wide and 40 inches in diameter...QUESTION: How many feet in a 1,000 pound roll?

(Art Sweet — we miss your math help). I fumbled around with my new wedding anniversary pocket calculator...naw, that isn't right and when all else failed, I made a phone call.

The nice voice at the paper company said 34,658 feet, or 6.56 miles...why? I told her about the American Agriculture movement, etc. She said to tell Ron Moyer his idea is a pip; it's unique.



HEALTH

Lawrence E. Lamb, M.D.

What causes heel spur?

By Lawrence Lamb, M.D.

DEAR DR. LAMB — For many years, I have read your good advice pertaining to the human body, all parts inside and out. I need to have your ideas on heel spurs. My thoughts run to a calcium build up. Are they related in any way?

I have had this heel spur years back, but eventually it disappeared until it recurred recently. Is is not a constant pain, but I feel it a number of times a day.

DEAR READER — The problem is related to a long-standing injury to the heel bone, usually associated with walking habits or poor shoes. It is the associated inflammatory reaction which causes the pain.

The tendons and tough connective tissue (plantar fascia) attach to the heel bone, and where they attach they pull at the bony attachment spot. Some doctors think that this causes a small break in the bone and the injured bone then regenerates to form a spur.

Incidentally, you can have the heel pain from the same problem even if there is no spur present. The inflammation from strain and injury can be just as painful without a spur, and will require similar treatment. Some doctors use cortisone injections to treat the inflammation with or without a spur.

The pain may not be from weight bearing either, although you would think the pressure of the tissues against the spur would have this effect. In the course of the development of the spur and the inflammation, there will be changes in the circulation and development of painful nerve fibers in the area. The pain is more related to the continued strain on the attachments to the bony area that caused the spur in the first place.

There are several conservative things that you can do yourself. First, rest the foot or feet as much as possible, and when you are off your feet, elevate them. You can also soak them in warm water or apply heat to the painful area

To help get the stress off the involved area, you can take a broad piece of tape and apply it around or under the heel like a sling. Shifting the weight on the foot will take the strain off the ligaments and connective tissue that attach to that painful area of the foot. That may help a great deal.

Doctors often achieve this same result by putting an inlay under the inner aspect and arch area of the foot. If your home remedy system doesn't work, you should see your doctor and see if he can help you with such an inlay for your shoe.

A foam rubber pad under the heel alone may help. This is not because this cushions the tissue, but because it transfers the weight on the foot forward and stretches the inflamed tendons and muscles involved less.

Orthopedic appliances in the shoe can be used to change the foot position and take the strain off the involved area. Don't expect immediate relief as it make take several weeks after the strain on the involved tendons and attachments is relieved before the pain goes away. These conservative means should be used first, and will work in most cases. Surgery is rarely indicated, and may not always bring relief, because the main problem is usually the inflammation, not the spur itself.

For information on the danger of heart attacks from jogging and exercise, send 50 cents for The Health Letter number 4-2, Jogging, Exertion and Sudden Death. Send your request to Dr. Lamb with a long, stamped, self-addressed envelope in care of this newspaper, P.O. Box 1551, Radio City Station, New York, NY 10019.

Berry's World



"Happy safe and sane New Year, dear!"