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VIEWPOINT

Gun lobby contributions

In an election characterized by "me first" politics, no single-issue zealots outworked or outspent the oldest practitioners of the trade — the so-called gun lobby

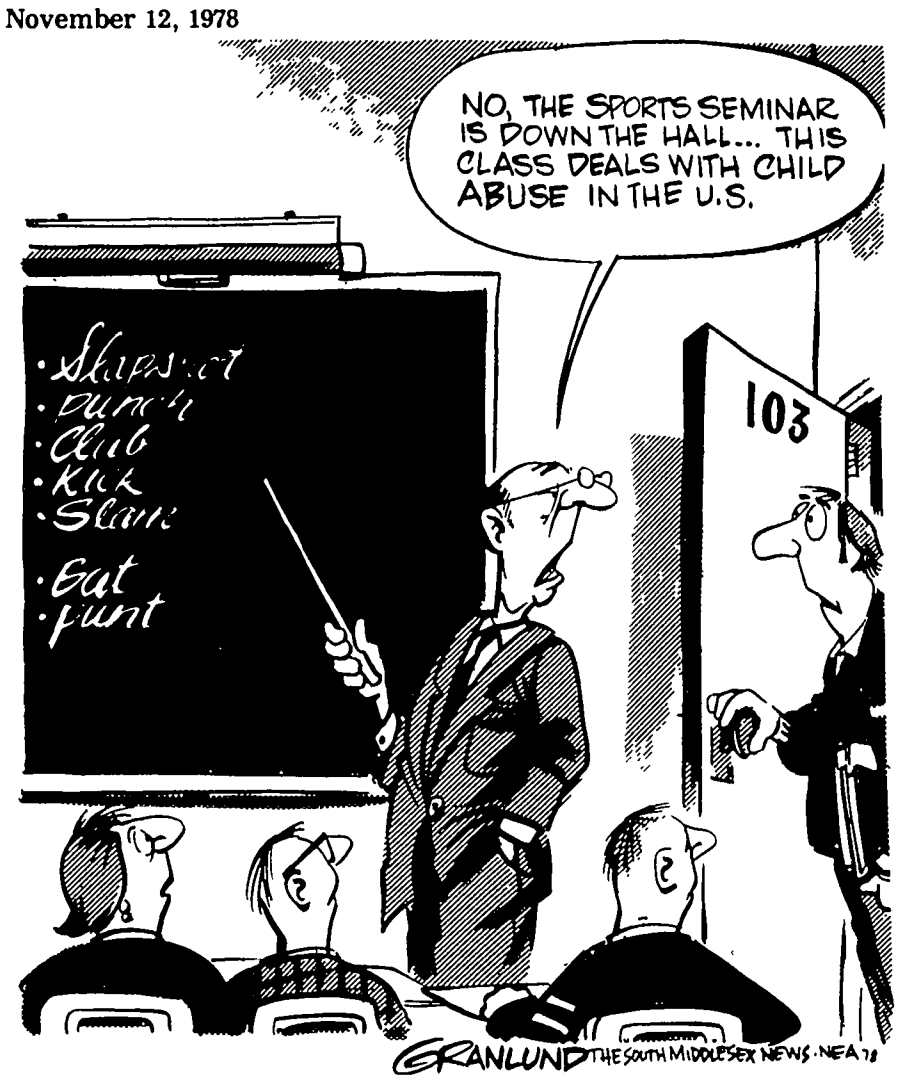
Gun control wasn't even a visible issue in most campaigns this year, especially when compared with taxes and government spending Even among the growing list of with-us-or-against-us issues, it didn't cut as deeply as the abortion controversy, the death penalty, the Boundary Waters Canoe Area and the like

But that didn't stop three well-financed anti-gun control organizations, led by the venerable National Rifle Association, from raising and spending something over $1 million to influence the makeup of the 96th Congress.

One reason for the unprecedented flow of money into congressional campaigns was the fact that President Carter, precluded by budget constraints from pressing [illegible] social programs next year, may decide the time is ripe to seek fulfillment of his campaign commitment to handgun control

And with Sen. Edward M Kennedy, D.-Mass , the nation's leading gun control proponent, due to become chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, such legislation would be assured a friendly hearing in one part of Congress at least

The gun lobby, consequently, put most of its money and muscle into House races, contributing to more than a third of the members of the House Judiciary Committee, which has jurisdiction over gun control bills.





Donald F. Graff

COMMENTARY

Focus on legislatures

Attention, as usual, has focused on Congress — the glamor races

But this time around it's the state legislatures which may expect to see some of the most significant post election action

That is because in most states, the legislators selected Nov 7 will be participating a few years hence in one of the most important rites of the American political system — redrawing boundaries of congressional and legislative districts to conform with population changes recorded by the 1980 census

Determining congressional representation was, in fact, the original justification for the census, as set forth in Article I of the Constitution The decennial headcounting has long since progressed to more engrossing national statistics, such as the numbers of bathtubs and mothers-in-law per capita But for both political parties and thousands of individual politicians, it remains a periodic test by electoral fire, the consequences of which they often must live with for far longer than the decade between censuses

Effects of redistricting can be cumulative in that districts frequently are structured so that one party can maintain congressional and legislative majorities despite population shifts

For Republicans, the most recent redistricting was a costly case in point With more than 40 percent of the vote in 1976, the party's candidates took only a third of the seats in the House of Representatives — from the GOP point of view, a classic case of gerrymandering

One party's gerrymandering, however, is usually regarded as the other's smart politics In practice, neither has a monopoly on redistricting for maximum partisan advantage It's usually a case of a party, once in power, demonstrating that anything the other can do, it do even more effectively

No wonder then the special attention this year to legislative races According to a Washington Post report, the Republicans allocated a third of their $6 million campaign budget to the state races — "the highest priority we have," in National Chairman William Brock's view

With good reason Republicans have been losing ground in the legislatures since 1966, currently controlling both houses in only four — Colorado, Idaho, South Dakota and Wyoming. They control one house in eight others — Arizona, Indiana, Kansas, Maine, New Hampshire, New York, North Dakota and Vermont.

It is not the best of legislative positions on the eve of a redistricting of the House of Representatives in which the GOP has held firmly to its minority status since 1953

Particular attention is being paid a handful of populous states such as New York, Illinois, Michigan and Florida where shifts in legislative balances this year and in 1980 could be reflected significantly in a redistricted House.

What it adds up to is a reminder that one should never underestimate the influence of the nation's 7,500-some state legislators

As politicians, they may be strictly grass roots But their impact can be national

BEAT THE BUREAUCRACY

Howard K. Ottenstein

Here's aid for job seekers

By Howard K. Ottenstein

At least 5 million unemployed Americans are seeking work at any one time. And many of the nation's 93 million employed citizens are looking around for better jobs. Perhaps you are one of these job seekers

If it's a federal job you're after, head directly to one of the 114 Federal Job Information Centers (FJICs) These centers, administered by the Civil Service Commission, are located in each of the 50 states.

Competition is fierce for most federal jobs. FJICs fielded 11 million inquiries about the 200,000 white-collar jobs that were filled in fiscal 1977. But as in other dealings with the government, patience and persistence can pay off. Don't give up, even if your first attempt is unsuccessful.

On your visit to the FJIC, find out about jobs you might qualify for and how to apply for them. To be considered for any of these jobs, you must first obtain a civil service rating. The Civil Service Commission assigns these ratings on the basis of education, experience and, frequently, performance on written Civil Service exams.

Would you prefer a job in business or industry? The U.S. Employment Service, through a nationwide network of 2,500 federal-state employment offices, annually finds jobs for 5 million Americans in the private sector

These offices provide all the services of private employment agencies — and more — without charging you a cent. At any one of these offices, you can receive job counseling, take aptitude tests, learn about vocational education programs and obtain information on job openings in your community.

Each office is staffed with counselors trained to assist groups that have had special problems getting jobs: older people, youths, minority group members, women, the handicapped, rural folk, even ex-offenders.

Thanks to the computer, many of these offices can now furnish up-to-the-minute information on job openings elsewhere in your state.

Of course, the Employment Service can be as useful to employers as it is to would-be employees. If you or your firm has a job to fill, contact the government job office first.

To locate the employment office nearest you, check the state government listing of your telephone directory. You can also obtain its address from your nearest FJIC.

A government publication you might find helpful in your search for work is "Merchandising Your Job Talents." The 28-page booklet offers tips on preparing a resume, writing a letter of application and interviewing for a job. That publication can be purchased from the Consumer Information Center, Pueblo, Colo. 81009.

AS TIME GOES BY

Thurman winner

FORTY YEARS AGO
—1938—

An official canvass gave Republican Ray Thurman an 11-vote victory over Democratic incumbent Leo Chandler in the Otoe county clerk race John C. Miller, clerk of the Otoe county district court, was named the winner of the 1938 Rotary Club civic award.. George Heinke picked up 126 votes in Lancaster county to widen his lead over Congressman Henry Luckey in still unofficial results. Popeye, Mickey Mouse and other comic strip characters were banned by Italy's fascist government

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO
—1953—

Susan Hobson of Weeping Water was crowned eighth annual Apple Bowl Queen in Nebraska City Keith Drake and his Elmwood teammates picked up an easy 45-8 decision over Sterling in the Apple Bowl game at Hayward Park American Legion Commander Les Kinnison crowned the new queen during halftime ceremonies Former President Truman refused to comply with a House Un-American Activities Committee subpoena Tecumseh beat Nebraska City, 32-6

TEN YEARS AGO
—1968—

Among the war dead honored on Veterans Day 1968 were Lt James Poggemeyer, Specialist Ronald Moore, Corporal Robert Kempkes and Richard Giittinger .Walt Disney's "Jungle Book" was showing at the Pioneer Theater starring James Garner, Debbie Reynolds and Maurice Ronet Mrs Robert Arnold was chairman of the VFW Buddy Poppy Sale in Nebraska City .Pam Williams, 17, daugher of Mr and Mrs James Williams, was among students honored by the Optimists during Youth Appreciation Week

SAFETY VALVE

"...reading..."

EDITOR, News-Press It seems to me that more publicity ought to be given to those Large Print books that our Morton-James Library has acquired and is offering to subscribers—those of us who have asked for cards I find that relatively a very few people know of the existence or the nature or purpose of these books.

They are not children's books. They are printed in large eighteen-point type faces for the benefit of those people who have reduced vision, which is the case with so many of the older ("Senior Citizens") folk who have, so commonly found the reading of ordinary print—usually about seven point—too tedious to be enjoyable, of late years.

Eighteen point is a quarter of an inch high, since there are seventy-two points to the inch in the printer's scale. Or, in another consideration there are only four lines of print to the inch on the printed page, as compared to ten lines of seven point So the Large Print pages are much more easily read by a person with faulty eye-sight and can be read without the slow laborious tiresome perusal which characterises and is so frustrating to older readers

And there is no paucity of titles in our library's collection There are some five or six hundred volumes and they comprise fiction, history, westerns, "who done its," science, religion and others. And an arrangement with the Southeastern Library Network, on which our Library is a member, will send, on request many others, there is even a catalog of a large number of titles in the possession of the Union of Libraries (twenty-two cities and towns) of Eastern Nebraska.

I have found these Large Print Books a boon and a delight ever since I "discovered" them several weeks ago. And they have been available for more than a year!

D. D. Stonecypher

P.S. Library cards are easily obtained, of course.

HOW TO CONTACT YOUR LEGISLATOR

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Ivan D.E. Beaumont

THE BUCK ENDS HERE

She will be missed

Good luck, Marion —

Marion Straw, assistant manager at Woolworth's in Nebraska City, is working in Fremont as the store manager

We wish Marion much success in her new assignment. Many of the Hotel Grand coffee drinkers will remember that Marion worked for several years at the desk and had to settle a number of arguments on who was going to pay for the coffee.

She will be missed on Central Avenue.

And speaking of Central Avenue, there's the return of another Central Avenue worker Wilma (Mrs Jim Ohnmacht) is working at Family Prescription Shoppe

Wilma was also at the hotel for many years and when the building was destroyed in a fire, she began the coffee serving job at the Friendship Room

Wilma succeeds Mollie (Mrs Willard Joiner) who worked for many years for F L Duffey at Montgomery Ward

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The hunt —

Opening weekend for the pheasant season attracted us to the son-in-law's home at Sargent (north of Kearney, and resulted in a good time and good hunt

We also discovered the world is getting smaller On a drive to the hunting ground we visited with a young man at the wheel of the vehicle

His roommate at the University is Dean Grundman, son of Mr and Mrs Vic Grundman, Nebraska City

The small town of Sargent uses the hunting season as a money-maker The Methodist church sponsors a hunters turkey feast It is advertised for $2 75 and you can fill 'er up.

Yup. It was just like they said. We managed two plates but had to turn down a full slice of apple pie.

To shake it around in the stomach that evening, we accompanied son-in-law Bryan Mabie and State FCA Director Wendell Conover and his son, Tim, to Broken Bow where we watched the very fine Ansley team defeat East Butler in a Class C2 playoff

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Christmas? —

You bet We've seen Christmas decorations up and ads in the paper People are starting early this season and from indication, that will mean a long Christmas season

Why the rush to get to Christmas? We don't know, but it would appear that the shoppers are setting the pace Many just received their Christmas club checks and have started accounts for the 1979 Christmas.

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Congratulations —

to Tracy Edwards, daughter of Mr and Mrs Paul Beccard, on her selection as the FFA Sweetheart. She was selected at the annual FFA dance and received a jacket and other gifts As the FFA sweetheart she gets to sit at the head table with the boys and look pretty and that's always pleasing for the audience

Other candidates were Susan Davis, Deanna Hauptman, Tammy Kreifels, Lori Moles, Jane Porter and Terri Snyder

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Gasohol —

You will be reading more about gasohol in the future and as plans for the plant near Rock Port progress

We don't know much about gasohol, except that Dawson Oil sells it and we've been burning it in our six cylinder Dodge van for over a year

If we don't accomplish anything tangible, we can at least look to the heavens and say "Frank Sorrell — are you watching?"

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The phone rang —

Thanks to Don Haith and his LT&T crew, we were able to handle an unusually large number of telephone calls election night When we have so many calls on special things like election results, the LT&T folks man the boards to prevent a locking up of switches, er - something like that.

The phones started ringing at 8 p.m , but it was 9 30 before the first results were reported from the courthouse.

A number of callers had comments on the results Some were disappointed their choice wasn't elected, many were happy and a few were irritated because an issue wasn't going their way

John Quinlan and Jerry Wilson manned election headquarters at the courthouse and our society editor, Sue Quinlan, also was on the job getting results and firing them to the News-Press

The courthouse folks worked the longest until about 1 30 a m , but everyone was pooped when the lights went out and it was time to go home.

Reminds me of the time Clerk Jerry Schmitz kept us at the courthouse all night wonder if that was the same night that he started singing, "A Mighty Fortress "



HEALTH

Lawrence E. Lamb, M.D.

Thyroid pills and dieting

DEAR DR LAMB — I have been going to a doctor for my weight problem for two months now He has been giving me diet pills and thyroid pills When I started going to him I weighed 160 pounds Now I'm down to 142 pounds in a period of seven weeks.

Everyone has been telling me that the thyroid pills will mess up my system Before going to this doctor I tried to diet myself and had no luck I want to lose at least 26 pounds I am 24 years old and 5-feet-6 Also, before taking these pills I was on a 1000 calorie diet for one month and lost one-and-a-half pounds This is very discouraging Please help

DEAR READER — I'm glad to hear you're having some success with your weight control and you are correct in losing weight under a doctor's supervision, particularly if you've had so much trouble in losing weight with your own efforts

I don't believe you should try to lose weight any faster than you are If you have really lost 18 pounds in seven weeks, that's an average of more than two pounds a week and that's too fast for a prolonged period of time

Fortunately, the initial weight loss was probably related to water loss and emptying out the digestive system so the actual loss of body fat may not be as great as you think

There are only a few people who have low thyroid function and do better when they receive thyroid replacement The truth is that most people who have trouble losing weight have perfectly normal thyroid function and in these people, giving them thyroid pills is of little help

I'm not sure what kind of diet pills you are taking If they're used to suppress your appetite, you should be carefully monitored by your doctor if they are to be continued at all

In the last analysis, you have not upset the basic laws of nature You can neither create nor destroy energy If your body was not using very many calories at rest because you had a low thyroid, then the addition of thyroid may have helped solve that problem

I would also like to suggest a regular daily exercise program, particularly while you're on the diet.. It will help protect you from many of the undesirable effects that can occur with dieting I am sending you The Health Letter number 4-7, Weight Losing Diet, because it gives you a well balanced diet that you can use as a basis for satisfactory weight control

Other readers who want this issue can send 50 cents with a long, stamped, self-addressed envelope for it Address your request to me in care of this newspaper, P O Box 1551, Radio City Station, New York, NY 10019

You are going to have to learn enough about diet and develop proper dietary habits while you're losing weight or it will all come right back as soon as you're off your regime and return to your previous eating habits The key to eliminating obesity and staying thin is learning proper nutrition and daily habits, particularly exercise, and then following them not for a few months but for a lifetime

Today In History

By The Associated Press

Today is Sunday, Nov 12, the 316th day of 1978 There are 49 days left in the year

Today's highlight in history

On this date in 1941, during World War II, the Soviets halted German invaders at the outskirts of Moscow

In 1603, Sir Walter Raleigh was put on trial for treason in Winchester, England.

In 1812, Napoleon Bonaparte's army reached the Russian city of Smolensk in its retreat from Moscow

In 1915, Haiti approved a treaty making it an American protectorate, with U.S. Marines stationed in the country

In 1927, Joseph Stalin became the undisputed dictator of the Soviet Union as one of the founders, Leon Trotsky, was expelled from the Communist Party

In 1948, a war crimes court in Japan sentenced former Japanese Premier Hikedi Tojo and six other Japanese war leaders to death

Today's birthdays Princess Grace of Monaco is 49 years old U.S. Supreme Court Justice Harry Blackmun is 70. Actress Kim Hunter is 56 Romanian gymnast Nadia Comaneci is 17

Thought for today: The man who lives only by hope will die with despair — an Italian proverb.

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The Prayer For Today From the Upper Room

Jairus, an official of the local synagogue, arrived, and when he saw Jesus, he threw himself down at his feet and begged him earnestly, "My little daughter is very sick. Please come and place your hands on her, so that she will get well and live!" Then Jesus started off with him (Mark 5 22-24 TEV)

PRAYER Our Father, strengthen us to respond to the needs of others by sharing not only our resources but ourselves as Jesus did in His sacrifice for us. We pray in His name. Amen.

Berry's World



"Now that the election is over, I kind of MISS the politicians running around arousing expectations that cannot be satisfied!"