00-1714 OCT2991

October 25, 1991

Mr. Brian Lamb
C Span
400 N. Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20001

Re: Concerns and Fears -- Correspondence with Senators Graham and Bentsen and Congressman Lamar Smith

Your grasp of the political situation, in my opinion, is phenomenal, and most of the people who appear on your programs seem to be well-versed on the issues and seem to approach the issues as unbiased as is humanly possible.

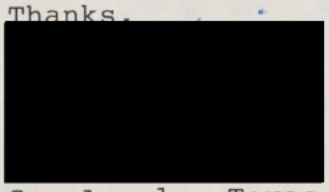
I've made several attempts to call but the lines are always busy; and since I can't get through to you, I'll send you copies of letters I have written to my congressman and senators in which I have voiced my concerns over issues of importance to me and many others in my family, church and community. Certainly, I realize I couldn't have covered even one of the issues in a telephone conversation; however, this may be the best method because it affords me an opportunity for another perspective on my concerns, fears and frustration--not another perspective but A PERSPECTIVE because I have not received an answer from either of the senators. None of the items I covered in the letter have gone away; rather they loom like grim specters over the country.

I did receive an answer to my letter to Lamar Smith; however, I'm not sure he satisfied the questions I posed. Perhaps, as one of my friends stated, "You should've addressed your concerns to the White House." That's a real laugh--who thinks Bush would ever see the letter; and if he did, he would probably arrogantly ignore it as the maunderings of some biased individual from the hinterland of ignorance. Also, I might have been paying more attention than I thought to a comment of another friend, "I would be afraid to write anything to White House that was contrary to a position held by Bush and his staff--you know I've heard that the bunch in the White House can deal very harshly with people who don't agree with them." This is not necessarily one woman's fear; it's been voiced in this community for a number of years--from the Nixon incumbency to the present.

October 25, 1991
Brian Lamb - C Span

When I become annoyed with cable programming, I bring myself up short by reminding myself I wouldn't be able to receive C Span or ESPN. C Span has given me a wider world to contemplate and ESPN has given my husband the sports programs he so enjoys. I hope C Span continues with its "world class" programs which give us a glimpse of the world of politics which has been lacking for so long.

Thanks,



San Angelo, Texas 76904

Atts

LAMAR SMITH
21st DISTRICT, TEXAS
JOHN W. LAMPMANN
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

422 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-4236

HOUSE REPUBLICAN
POLICY COMMITTEE
SELECT COMMITTEE ON
CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY
SUBCOMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC AND COMMERCIAL LAW
SUBCOMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL LAW, IMMIGRATION, AND REFUGEES
COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE, SPACE, AND TECHNOLOGY
SUBCOMMITTEE ON ENERGY
SUBCOMMITTEE ON SPACE

July 24, 1991

Ms. [redacted]
San Angelo, Texas 76904

Dear Ms. [redacted],

Thank you for letting me know your concerns about the Bush Administration and for sending me clippings from the San Angelo Standard Times.

I appreciate your frustrations. Public officials whose salaries are paid by the taxpayers have a responsibility to act in the public interest and set an example by not wasting government funds.

Although I cannot speak for President Bush about the way he runs the White House, I want to assure you that I vote based on my constituents' interests and my own judgment. My votes reflect that philosophy.

Again, thanks for writing.

Sincerely,

Lamar

Lamar Smith
Member of Congress

LS:jcb

PLEASE REPLY TO:

☐ 10010 SAN PEDRO AVENUE
SUITE 530
SAN ANTONIO, TX 78216
(512) 229-5880

☐ 1006 JUNCTION HIGHWAY
KERRVILLE, TX 78028
(512) 895-1414

☐ 33 EAST TWOHIG STREET
SUITE 302
SAN ANGELO, TX 76903
(915) 653-3971

☐ 201 WEST WALL STREET
SUITE 104
MIDLAND, TX 79701
(915) 687-5232

PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER

June 1991

Congressman Lamar Smith
422 Cannon Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Smith:

I would like to cover some of my concerns about the principal actors and actions in the White House--SOME OF WHICH ARE BEGINNING TO FRIGHTEN AND ANGER ME!

How much attention does Congress pay to the machinations of Bush's staff? Namely, John Sununu. The news media maintain that the problem of John Sununu lies in his unpopularity with some of the White House Staff. Who in the White House? The press further maintains that Sununu's travel is a relatively minor item leaked purposely to discredit him with the American people. See attached article, Bush: Sununu's Trips Look Bad to Public, which appeared in the San Angelo Standard Times, Thursday, June 20, 1991.

By the way, who's really in charge? Do we need a Chief of Staff? The Chief of Staff, whether having always been called such, has caused trouble throughout many presidential terms, whether Democrat or Republican. Why can't persons in the White House attempt to maintain a low profile, rather than assuming the aspects of player in the royal presidency.

Who approves the budget for the White House expenditures? Has Mr. Bush made any effort to lower the operating costs in the White House? AND I'm not talking about reducing the number in the kitchen or dining room but high level jobs such as the Chief of Staff. I'm sick and tired of Bush doggedly backing some member of his staff or some appointee simply because of friendship or because he chose the jackass.

It's quite apparent that Bush's agenda is not the same as that for an ordinary working American, an unemployed American, nor an elderly American on a fixed income. How much time does Bush spend on domestic issues? In my opinion he behaves cavalierly or petulantly when he has been called up short by the press or criticised by members of Congress for his inability to take hold in this area.

It grates on me when the press reports that members of Congress have been "summoned" to the White House for whatever reason. Do you labor under some archaic notion that you, as a Republican, owe him unswerving loyalty, subscribing to his dictates in domestic and foreign affairs? When Bush states that he is doing the will of the people, I take a very jaundiced view of it! A point of information--I voted for you and Bush. So far, I don't regret my vote for you.

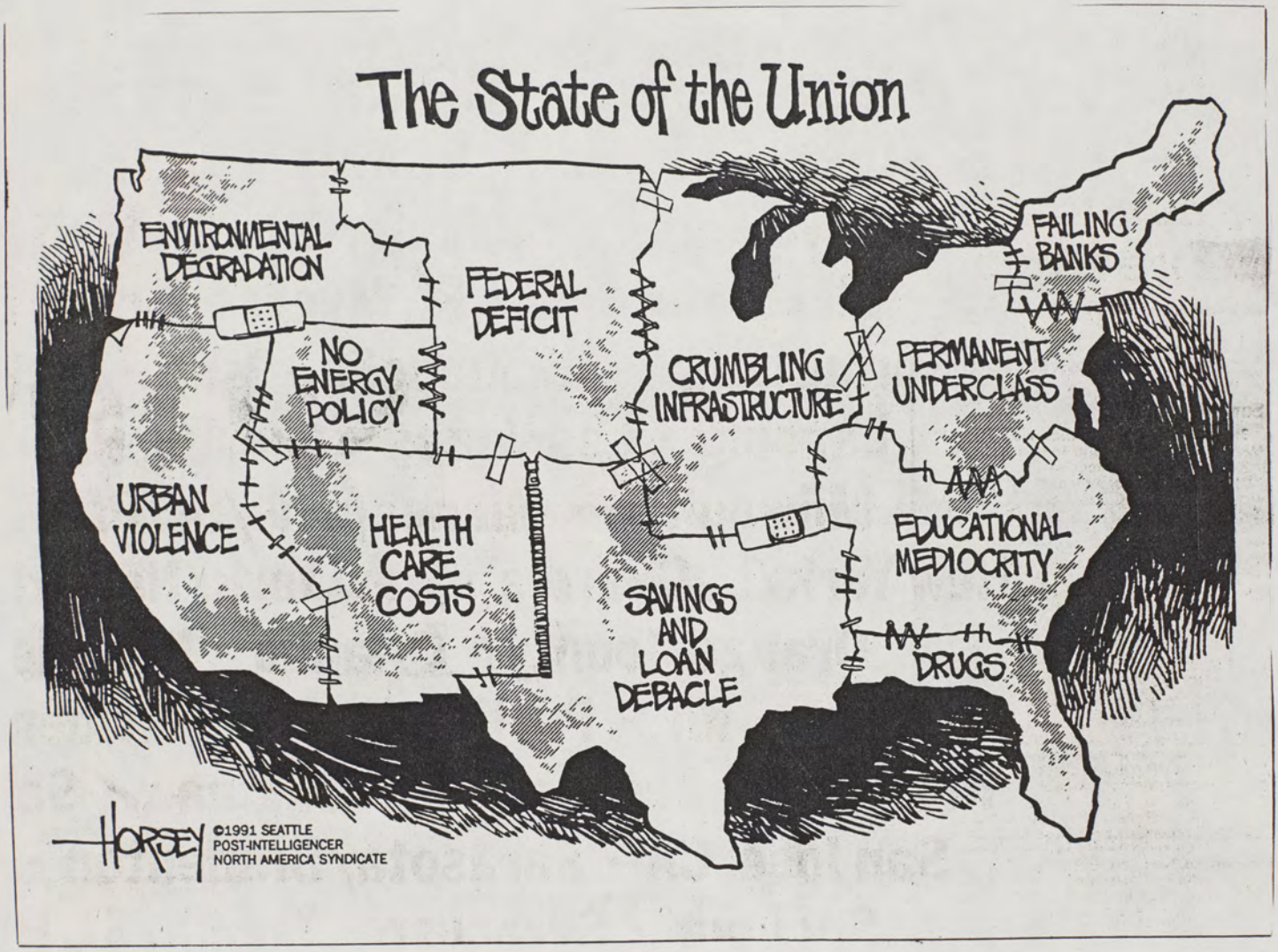
Since I have never written you, I have no idea how you or if you will respond. I sincerely hope that you will give my letter careful consideration. In March, I wrote to the two senators about some serious concerns of mine. To this date, I have not received an acknowledgment from either. However, I did state that I did not want one of their form letters which say nothing much less acknowledge any reason for concern.

I'm also attaching an editorial cartoon, The State of the Union, which appeared in the San Angelo Standard Times early in 1991. The cartoon still holds true--some of the issues are becoming more critical; e.g., the savings and loan debacle, federal deficit, etc., etc., etc., on and on.

[redacted]
Constituent
[redacted]
San Angelo, Texas 76904

Atts

cc: San Angelo Standard Times - San Angelo, Texas


The State of the Union
ENVIRONMENTAL DEGRADATION
FEDERAL DEFICIT
NO ENERGY POLICY
URBAN VIOLENCE
HEALTH CARE COSTS
SAVINGS AND LOAN DEBACLE
CRUMBLING INFRASTRUCTURE
FAILING BANKS
PERMANENT UNDERCLASS
EDUCATIONAL MEDIOCRITY
DRUGS
HORSEY
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Bush: Sununu's trips look bad to public

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Bush acknowledged Wednesday that his chief of staff, John Sununu, had created "the appearance of impropriety" by using a chauffeur-driven government limousine to travel to New York for a stamp auction.

Bush made clear he does not want Sununu to use his government car for such trips again. Yet, he defended his aide's conduct as appropriate, said his job was safe, and that he was not angry at him.

"I recognize, and I think the governor (Sununu) does, there's an appearance problem," Bush said.

Sununu's travels have been a source of embarrassment for Bush ever since it was disclosed the former New Hampshire governor had been using military planes for frequent political and personal trips.

The controversy prompted Bush to impose a new travel policy May 9 barring Sununu from using government aircraft for such travel.

In the wake of that decision, Sununu used his White House limousine to take him to New York for a stamp auction and a political fund raiser in New Jersey last Wednesday.

The chief of staff also has been turning to corporations and businessmen for free travel on private jets. Since the restrictions were imposed on his use of government planes, Sununu has hopped a corporate jet on five occasions for GOP fund-raisers.

Defending Sununu's use of the car, Bush said, "I think it was appropriate." He said Sununu had spent much of the trip conducting official business by cellular telephone, working on legislation and a speech that Bush would deliver that night.

"When you look at the facts surrounding this particular trip," Bush said, "this beating that he's taken is unwarranted in my view . . . And there's plenty of reason that this was done, and it doesn't set a precedent.

"It doesn't say anybody that has access to a car can go anyplace anyone wants at any time," the president added. "The governor would be the first to say that."

Later, presidential spokesman Marlin Fitzwater said that Bush "expects this is a one-time-only thing, or at least it was a very rare occurrence."

He said Bush and Sununu had discussed all the publicity generated by the limousine trip and that "they're both concerned about the appearances, and I'm sure the governor will pay attention to that fact."

Fitzwater said that Sununu "realizes this is a situation that's created an appearance that no one wants. And I think that that will help everybody in making judgments about uses of the car in the future."

AP Laserphoto

White House Chief of Staff John Sununu (center) sits in during a meeting between President Bush and Congressional leaders in the Cabinet Room of the White House. The president said Wednesday that Sununu created an 'appearance problem' by using a government car to attend a New York stamp auction. Vice President Dan Quayle is at right.

March 5, 1991

Dear Senator:

I am attaching articles and edtorial cartoons from the San Angelo Standard Times. Why am I sending them to you? These are the kinds of things which fill me with fear, contempt and helplessness.

- Fear of what you people (congress) have subjected us to and are leading us into. It's not you that I'm in fear of. I'm not sure that you can always prevail against other members in the Senate or will you or can you always withstand the onslaughts from the White House.

- Contempt for the arrogance of the policy makers in government, elected and appointed officials, some of whom seem to become experts immediately upon election or appointment. In other words, it appears that many of these people chucked his/her common sense and humility on his/her way to Washington.

- Helpless in the hands of the self-serving politicians who choose to raise their pay while adding to the heavy burden already carried by the middle class and the working poor. It seems our efforts go for naught:

    - Some of us vote in every election.

    - Some of us even write to you about our concerns to which you do not acknowledge having received much less indicating that you have passed the letter to responsible committees. I'm not referring to myself but to my brother and others. Perhaps you should investigate to see if letters from some of your constituents are being treated as inconsequential.

    - Some of us have worked all our adult lives, paid our taxes, income and social security. For what! To have our needs treated with less concern than the needs of almost any of the foreign countries with whom our government has any kind of relationship.

How can a debtor nation, such as ours, help anybody else? Not long ago I saw an article referring to rebuilding the war-torn Persian Gulf and stabilizing the economy and the politics of that region. (However, Friday, March 1, 1991, the President said that he didn't want one thin dime of taxpayers' money to be spent on Iraq except for humanitarian purposes. Another comment made to the effect of establishing a new world order annoys me greatly--this borders on the rediculous. Who in the world thinks we can do business with people who have such divergent ideas and who hate us. Really can we or do we have the right to impose our ideas on others when our domestic situation is in such a mess! Where is the money coming

from? Do you dare to raise taxes to meddle in the politics or reconstruction of the Persian Gulf or any other region in the world? How can a debtor nation such as ours help anybody else? How can a nation in a recession engage in a war and attend to the gravely serious problems at home? Most of the problems have been plaguing us for years and years. Ignoring them or debating them certainly has not made them go away.

EMPLOYMENT: I personally know too many people who are without jobs, not because they don't want to work but because of the insensitivity and duplicity of government, big business and unions. Government and big business speak of cutting their work forces and the unions stand by mouthing a lot; but I never hear a word about what will happen to those who will lose their jobs. Of course, the news on television shows people standing in line at the employment office filling out forms for jobs which do not exist.

HEALTH CARE: More and more people are falling through the cracks, unable to get health insurance. With the growing unemployment, more people have no health care--doctors and hospitals are refusing to care for those who do not have health insurance or do not have the cash for immediate payment.

SOCIAL SECURITY: Contrary to the belief of some, retirees are doomed to live on social security benefits and pensions even when combined are at the poverty level or below. Shameful isn't it! Social Security should never be considered a general fund item. It should be treated as a pension fund and administered accordingly.

ENERGY: Do you still plan for us to be held hostage by the Middle East for oil. What happened to our pride for getting things done with our own resources? What have we done about harnessing the wind, solar power and developing ways of augmenting gasoline with agricultural products such as corn? Is the oil lobby so powerful that these other methods cannot be developed? If this is true, then we are in a terrible, dangerous dilemma.

TRANSPORTATION: Why has there not been more of an effort to develop a fast rail system as an alternative to air travel and highway travel? Airways are becoming too congested and dangerous. Highways and bridges are deteriorating and too much real estate has already been tied up in the highway system. Trucks have become a number one menace on the highway. Truck weight is beating the pavement to pieces and their rate of speed is a menace to the other traffic. Besides, with the energy situation as it is, we need a system which can handle more with less consumption of energy.

CRIME: Even though not listed first, if we don't get crime under control, none of the other things will matter. There has been a major increase in all kinds of crime in West Texas. Did you know there are youth gangs in Abilene, Texas, which is 96 miles north of San Angelo? I'm sick and tired of statistics being quoted. We need something done. Two hundred ninety four policeman have been

killed in recent months. Isn't this number more than were killed in the Persian Gulf War (allied forces). If drugs are the reason for the increase in crime, let's declare war on it. I know words to this effect have already been said. Maybe a superforce needs to be called up from the armed forces, trained by the FBI and sent out to search out and bring to justice. At this point we are losing the battle, and it's clearly evident the average citizen has no protection from crime.

IMMIGRATION: I vaguely remember some sort of action being taken; however, I doubt that it was sufficient. Do you not think it's time for us to take care of our own poor and downtrodden? We don't need more mouths to feed nor more persons to increase the criminal population. Don't you think it's time for every person to stay in his/her own country and do whatever he/she can do toward making it a better place to live in. Maybe it is better to be poor in the USA but we can no longer pick up the tab.

ENVIRONMENT: Something has to be done right now and not ten years down the road. I don't know much about this subject except I do know we are running out of landfills for our garbage and the government is trying to make Texas a dump for chemical waste.

There's so much that needs to be done it boggles my mind. Only you, the elected officials, can see these problems objectively, if you only will, and seek out the experts to solve them fairly and expeditiously.

Let me ask a question, "Why do you scoff at us when we say, 'Put the United States first'"? If we take care of our people first, our economy will support much of the needs of the world. Many of us have already paid our dues--We've been cold, hungry and homeless right here in the land of so-called plenty. We struggled out of this abyss of misery by hard word, minding our own business, helping the less fortunate and paying our taxes. Why should we be subjected to this again while our government continues to funnel money to countries who for the most part hold us in contempt and would do us harm.

By the way, don't acknowledge my letter with a form letter. Whether I have all the facts at my disposal is beside the point--I don't and you do and if you don't, it's time to get busy and get the facts for me and your other constituents. Surely you have persons on your staff who are familiar enough with you and your stand on the issues to answer me one issue at a time.

Sincerely yours,

[redacted]

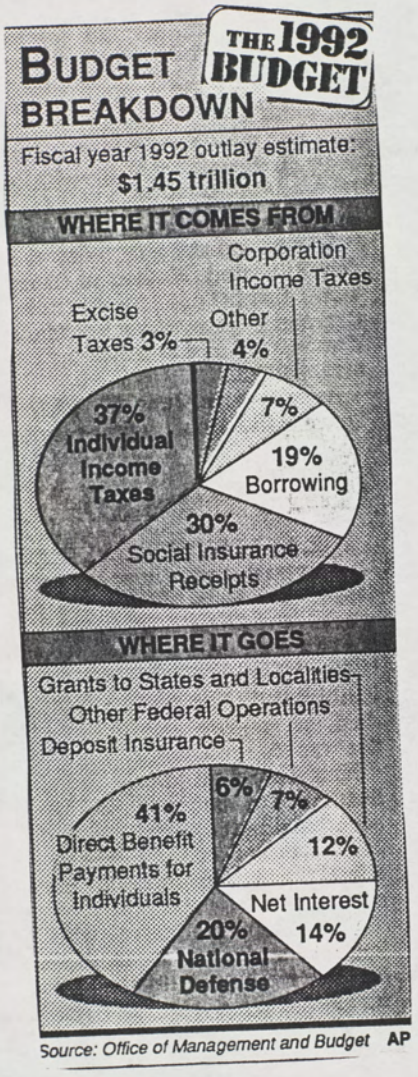
Constituent

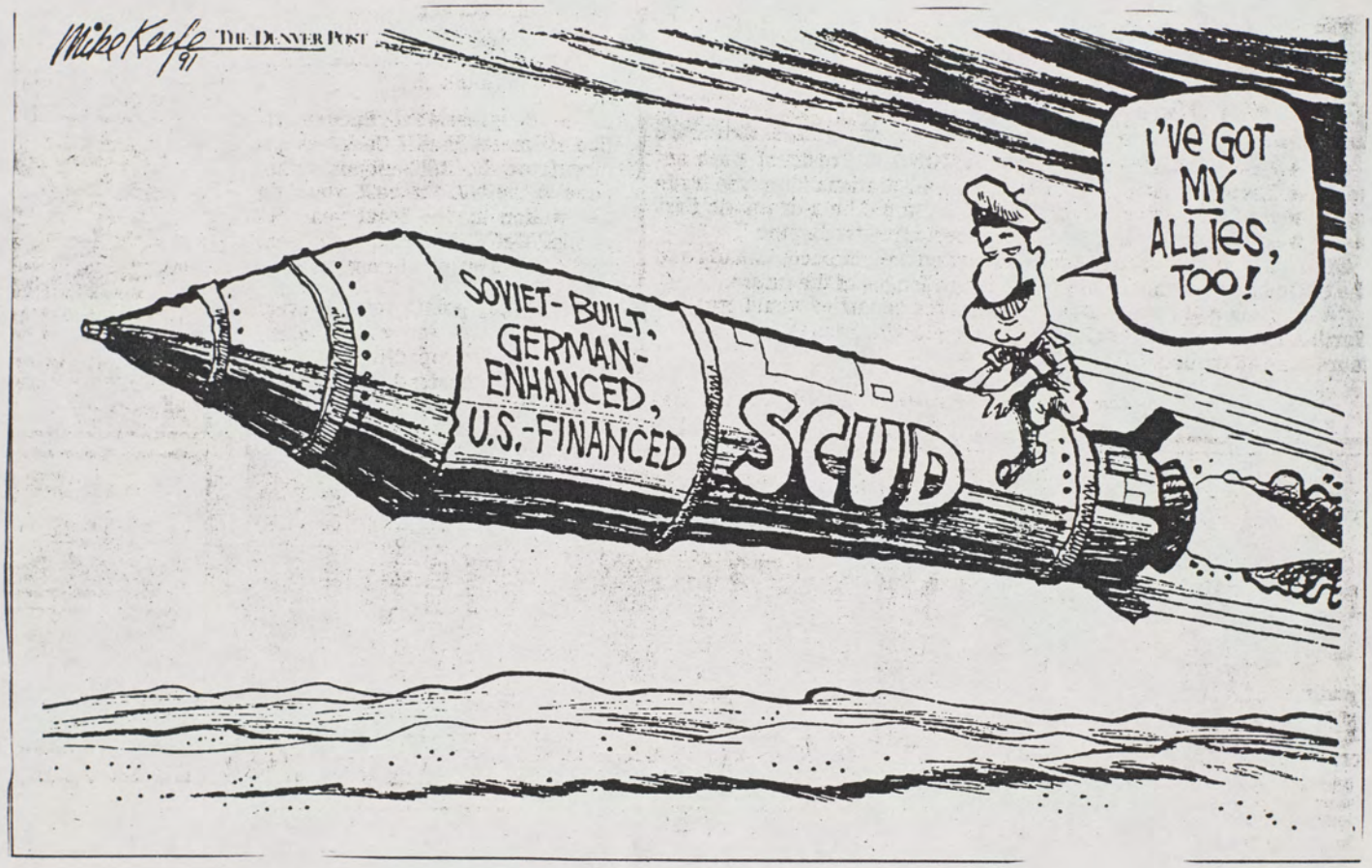
[redacted]

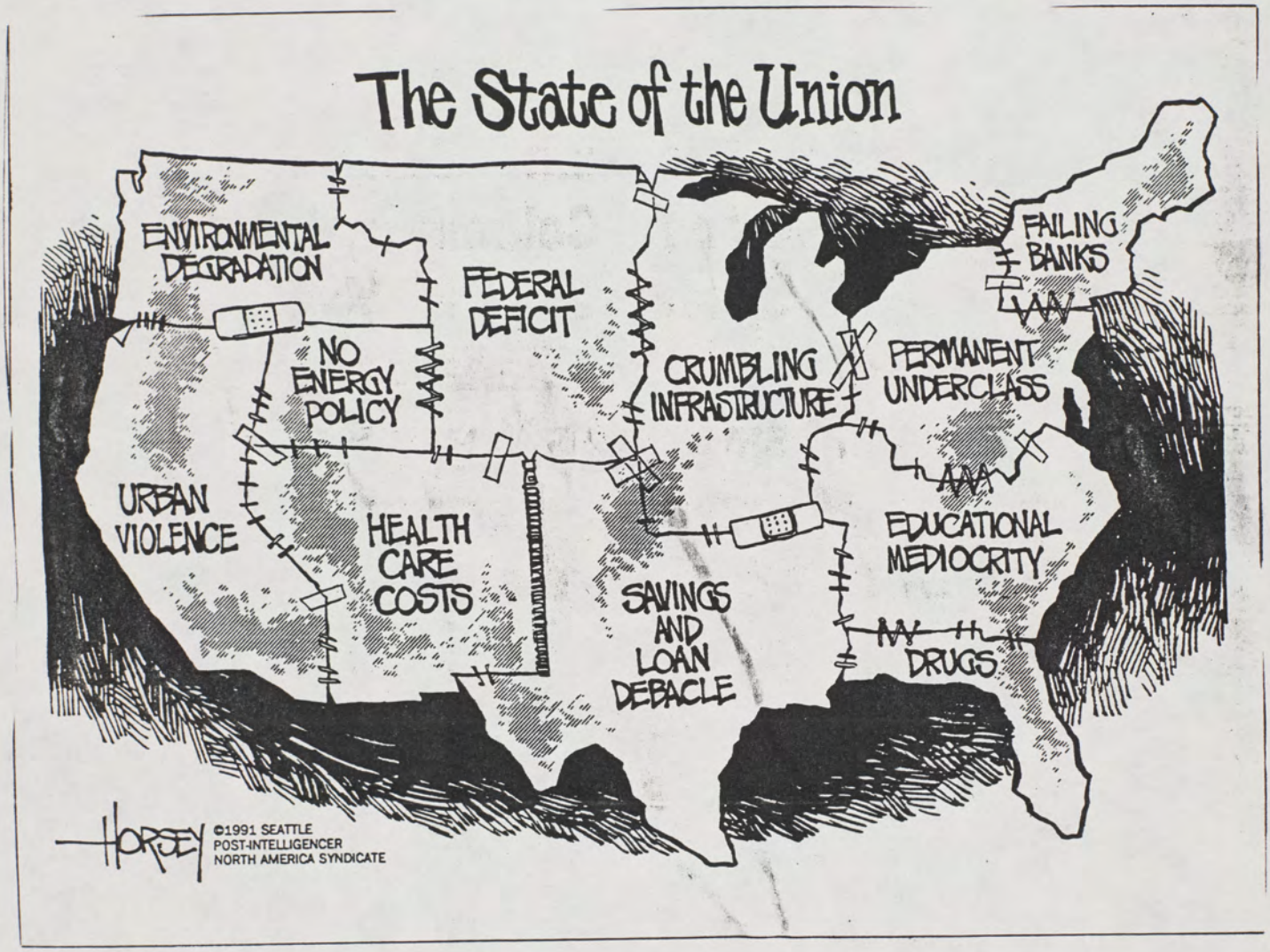
San Angelo, Texas 76904

Atts

cc: San Angelo Standard Times - San Angelo, Texas


THE 1992 BUDGET
BUDGET BREAKDOWN
Fiscal year 1992 outlay estimate:
$1.45 trillion
WHERE IT COMES FROM
Corporation Income Taxes
Excise Taxes 3%
Other 4%
37% Individual Income Taxes
7%
19% Borrowing
30% Social Insurance Receipts
WHERE IT GOES
Grants to States and Localities
Other Federal Operations
Deposit Insurance
41% Direct Benefit Payments for Individuals
6%
7%
12%
Net Interest 14%
20% National Defense
Source: Office of Management and Budget
AP


Mike Keefe '91 THE DENVER POST
SOVIET-BUILT, GERMAN-ENHANCED, U.S.-FINANCED SCUD
I'VE GOT MY ALLIES, TOO!


The State of the Union
ENVIRONMENTAL DEGRADATION
FEDERAL DEFICIT
FAILING BANKS
NO ENERGY POLICY
CRUMBLING INFRASTRUCTURE
PERMANENT UNDERCLASS
URBAN VIOLENCE
HEALTH CARE COSTS
EDUCATIONAL MEDIOCRITY
SAVINGS AND LOAN DEBACLE
DRUGS
HORSEY
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Study: Government not watching HMOs

WASHINGTON (AP) — Thousands of elderly Texans who rely on health maintenance organizations cannot be sure they're receiving quality care because of problems with government oversight, a congressional study says.

The General Accounting Office study said the government is failing to ensure that HMOs are not skimping on service to 1.2 million Medicare recipients, including more than 28,000 Texans enrolled at so-called "risk" HMOs in Corpus Christi, Irving, San Antonio, Houston and Dallas.

After more than three years of operation, the government's oversight program "still has not provided the intended assurance that Medicare beneficiaries enrolled in risk HMOs are receiving quality health care," GAO said in a draft report.

GAO, the investigative arm of Congress, said the problem is that the program has been hampered by a lack of strong central management from the Health Care Financing Administration, which oversees Medicare.

"Since the first patient was treated at a Medicare HMO we have spent millions of dollars trying to ensure the delivery of quality health care. And today we still have no idea what kind of care is being provided," said Sen. John Heinz, R-Pa.

Heinz, the ranking Republican on the Senate Special Committee on Aging, requested the study. A hearing on Medicare HMOs was scheduled today.

Leslie Rose, legislative director for the Group Health Association of America, the HMO trade association, cautioned that the GAO report is only a draft, and that some of its findings are based on anecdotal evidence.

"I don't think this report should set an alarm" among HMO patients, she said.

President Bush considering resuming relations with Iran

Washington Calling

A weekly size-up by the Washington staff of the Scripps Howard News Service:

The Bush administration is signaling through third parties it is ready to mend fences with Iran — if Western hostages in Lebanon are released.

The big question: Can Washington deal with Iranian President Hashemi Rafsanjani or will Tehran embarrass a third American president.

The United States is pleased Iran remained neutral during the Gulf war and won't fret much if Iraq gets back the 139 planes that flew to safety in Iran during the conflict.

During his current trip to the Mideast, Secretary of State James Baker is under instructions to talk about how Iran fits into President Bush's plan for post-war stability. The frigid Washington-Tehran climate could warm if the hostage issue can be resolved.

The United States and Iran communicated through Swiss officials during the Gulf war, so a basis for future discussions is already in place.

• • •

American and Japanese automakers are battling to see who gets to replace Kuwait's war-wrecked or stolen cars, trucks, buses and other vehicles.

Analysts estimate that the Kuwaitis will buy upwards of 100,000 vehicles this year, and the early line indicates they are not forgetting who liberated their country.

Kuwaiti government has ordered $10 million worth of American vehicles, including 300 Chevrolet Caprice police cars.

• • •

Insurance Institute for Highway Safety frets the number of fatal accidents involving drunken teens is rising because merchants are willing to sell beer to 19- and 20-year-olds. The minimum drinking age in all 50 states is now 21.

In an insurance industry-sponsored test in Washington, D.C., merchants refused to sell beer to only three of 100 underage buyers. Only 20 of 100 underage buyers were turned down in an identical test in Westchester County, N.Y.

The institute notes drunken teens were involved in 53 percent of all fatal crashes in 1980. The percentage dropped to 28 percent in 1987 after all states passed the 21-year drinking limit. Insurance Institute President Brian O'Neill says the figure is now 32 percent and edging higher.

• • •

Look for the 1992 Democratic presidential challenger to emerge from a list of candidates with distinct problems.

Among them — New York Gov. Mario Cuomo and Senate Democratic leader George Mitchell of Maine, both out-of-fashion Northeastern liberals, and Virginia Gov. Doug Wilder, by law a one-term governor who could fade from scene. Texas Sen. Lloyd Bentsen is too old to wait four more years. Former Sen. Paul Tsongas of Massachusetts and unsuccessful Massachusetts gubernatorial candidate John Silber are so little known they have nothing to lose.

A wild card is House Democratic leader Richard Gephardt of Missouri, even though he is young enough to wait and has a safe seat. But Gephardt has strong drive to be president, might make a run despite long odds.

• • •

Vietnam and Korean war veterans may get their tribute yet.

A number of lawmakers are supporting a resolution to give Vietnam and Korean vets a major role in a victory parade — perhaps over July 4 in Washington — to honor Desert Storm soldiers.

• • •

Odds are good that the jobless rate — now running at 6.5 percent, the highest in more than four years — will stay high for months to come.

Economic skeptics note that unemployment has been increasing since last June, long before the Aug. 2 invasion of Kuwait.

Economist Gordon Richards of the National Association of Manufacturers says consumer spending is off because incomes are lagging behind inflation and won't improve much until incomes improve, too. A survey by Manpower Inc. shows spring hiring plans have fallen to 1982 recession levels.

• • •

The delayed Soviet-American summit is still off track. There won't be a summit without a START treaty and that is still bogged down in technical details.

• • •

Look for the number of black congressmen in the South to double after the 1992 elections. Currently, only five of the more than 100 lawmakers from the old Confederacy are black, although in many states blacks make up 20 percent to 30 percent of the population.

As many as six majority black districts are likely to be added when new congressional districts are drawn up for the 1992 elections. States where blacks would have a good chances at election are Georgia, Alabama, South Carolina, North Carolina, Texas and Virginia.