

Satire his weapon

# 'Candidate' tackles bureaucratic 'profundifying'

By SHERRY KAHAN

James Boren maximized a situation of interpersonal relationships at a recent Livonia Town Hall lecture to formalize his optimal intent to interface after a fluctuating effort with one of the orbital challenges in the country, the office of vice-president.

Translated from the language of the bureaucrat, that means the roly-poly satirist announced to the Town Hall women that he's going to run for the vice-presidency of the country. Mocking bureaucrats as he takes to the campaign trail, he boldly outlined reasons why people should vote for him.

"When in charge, I ponder," he declared. "When in trouble, I delegate, and when in doubt, I mumble."

IN OTHER words, he is the bureaucrat's bureaucrat, or at least Boren's caricature of one. As founder of the International Association of Professional Bureaucrats, he explained some of the organization's most cherished beliefs.

"Nothing should be done for the first time," he emphasized, adding that bureaucrats are the only ones who can say nothing and really mean it. "We are for dynamic inaction wherever we find it," he said.

Having taken upon himself the task of puncturing the sanctimony of the red tape set, Boren gives an award every now and then to bureaucrats who have performed above and beyond the call of reason.

CALLED THE ORDER of the bird these awards have gone to the Internal Revenue Service for being "particularly effective in being creatively unresponsive," and to a government council in England for "keeping papers in orbit for 18 years before deciding the case."

"Had they kept the papers moving for two more years they would have received the maxi-bird award," he added.

A consultant for the Department of Health, Education and Welfare won the bird after analyzing a reading project and writing.

"The objectives did not specify to the quantifiable of the success of the proposed program," Boren said he could only conclude that "to be a consultant doesn't mean you have to be able to read or write."

He also commended HEW for producing 458 pages of regulations on a one-sentence amendment of a bill.

BOREN TAKES delicious pleasure in making up new words like "nocompooification" — the action of the U.S. Postal Department, which, he said, spent "a billion dollars on a mail system that doesn't work while at the same time raising postal rates."

"Anyone can poop off a little money," he told his Town Hall audience, "but only at a billion-dollar level could you call it nincompoification. He has created other words to job at inane bureaucratic action.

"Cattify" means to land on one's feet. To "echostill" means to tell someone what he wants to hear and already knows. "Profundify" means making a simple idea seem profound. "Glotate" refers to looking at the big picture.

If you make a decision which takes more paper than the logic is worth, you are "trashifying." And "loopholitic" is the art of finding escape clauses.

ANSWERS FOR everything are Boren's stock in trade. He offered some

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JAMES BOREN

planks of his platform for the vice presidential job. What should be done about overpopulation? "Launch a research program to double the gestation period from nine to 18 months." He also suggested it might be helpful if the wife had the first child, the husband the second and so on.

Gesturing with his personal pencil, which has an eraser at each end, he offered a solution for inflation.

Policy-makers, he said, should get "a downward adjustment every three months at the same rate as the inflation increases."

UNEMPLOYMENT? No problem.

### Volunteer interviewer is sought

The Oakland County Volunteer Bureau, founded in 1967 to act as liaison between Oakland County agencies needing volunteers and residents interested in providing volunteer services, is currently recruiting a volunteer interviewer to work in Walled Lake.

The new program in Walled Lake will focus on the needs of agencies located in southeastern Oakland County and will communicate these needs to area residents through personal interviews, the placing of ads in local papers, and other means.

The volunteer interviewer will be in charge of the new office. Duties will include interviewing volunteers to match their skills and interests with agency job requests, handling record keeping and administrative duties, as well as contacting area agencies to determine their volunteer needs.

Candidates for this volunteer position must have good communication skills, both in person and over the telephone; be able to relate to individuals and their needs; be self-directed and dependable; and have had experience as a volunteer. Experience or training in interviewing will be a plus.

The time commitment would be for a minimum of four hours per week for four months plus a monthly staff meeting.

## New tours offered for Israel, Egypt

The first group travel combining Egypt and Israel was announced this week by the American Jewish Congress.

"Peace has made it possible for us to give our members an exciting and unique experience — an opportunity to gain new insight into the cultures of Egypt and Israel by juxtaposition, and for Jews to learn first-hand about their cultural roots in the land of the Pharaohs," said Betty Alderson, director of the travel program at a meeting of the AJCongress.

Now in its 21st year, the AJCongress overseas travel program sends more of its members to Israel and Jewish points of interest round the world than all other national Jewish organizations combined.

Two different tours with 17 total departures will be offered. The first flight will leave April 26, returning May 15.

After 13 days in Israel, participants will fly to Cairo. There they will visit sites of general Jewish interest, as well as places of special Jewish interest, led by Egyptian guides. "The obvious experts on their local wonders," Mrs. Alderson commented.

Included in the stay in Cairo will be side trips to Memphis, the ancient capital of Egypt, the Pyramids of Giza and the Sphinx.

For other departure and return dates, call the AJC office, 357-2766.

Prices for this 19-day Israel-Egypt combination range from \$1,660 to \$1,800.

## Widowed learn of investing

Joel and Sara Rosner will discuss "How To Invest in Today's Market," at 8 p.m. Thursday, April 5 in a program sponsored by the Greater Detroit Section, National Council of Jewish Women, in the NCJW office, 15400 W. Twelve Mile, Southfield.

The event is part of a continuing series of programs arranged by the Wid-

owed-To-Widowed Committee of SPACE, a council service for the widowed, divorced, and their families.

You don't have to be a millionaire to learn about the possibilities of investing — all SPACE participants are welcome. Admission is \$1 and refreshments will be served.

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