

MAX GARRISON  
Coke Stevenson  
Duval County  
"Duke of Duval"

JOE EWALT - WASH.

---

George Parr the meeting

LBT

Ed Lloyd - Dem chair

Bruce Answorth - City commission

87 Vote Margin to  
win

LBT LIBRARY mentioned

Abe Fortas - resigned under fire

Frank Hamer - TX  
Ranger

PETER MANGAN - CASSETTE NOTES

Election Judge - <sup>45</sup> Louis Salas <sup>2022</sup>

1948 TX Dem. Primary runoff

to The Senate, 15 years

later LBJ became president

Jim Wells County Box 13

George B Parr - political

Strongman - committed suicide in  
1975

Garry Granison AP staffer -

went to Alire, TX

200+ votes

Kellis Dibrell

Grivens Parr - George's brother



RESCUE • NURTURE • ADOPT • EDUCATE

[animalleague.org](http://animalleague.org)

1953 (CHAR.)

1928 - 1988

JAMIE STENGLE  
AP REPORTER

Dad died Sept 4. 2015  
(JAMES MANGAN)

he kept the BOX 13 info for  
38 years  
1977 - 2015

he worked @ AP ~ 36 years

- JSTENGLE @ AP.org  
✓ send info + my website

photo of me w/ stuff

Eric Jay - photographer  
out of S.A.

- Jamie<sup>S.</sup> did his obit.

**PROCESSING NOTE:**

The following post-it note was originally attached to the letter from Salas to Mangan, dated June 5. We have removed the note for preservation purposes.

**Jennifer Cuddeback**

**12/20/22**



The author of  
this letter is Luis SALAS,  
the election judge who  
fraudulently gave the  
1948 democratic senate  
primary election to L B S.  
He revealed this fraud  
to me in 1977.

Houston 6/5  
Hello Mr Mangaw;

I dont know if you  
going to accept this proposition.

Forget about the A.P. and  
if you want to be my partner,  
let us contact some producer  
thats willing to buy (LBJ infamous  
Box 13) > thats what my book  
will be called.

I you dont consider  
going in business with me, then  
I have to get in touch with  
Walter Cronkite, John Chancellor  
Hugh Rudd or Bruce Morton.

I think there is a good  
chance to sell this book, remember  
some one bought the story of the  
2 boys that found the money in  
Alice? Well, my book is  
better dont you think so?

Let me know if you are  
interested, and the sooner the  
better. Always your friend  
Luis

T M 190

~~THE TEXAS MEXICAN RAILWAY CO.~~

*Luis Salas*  
*11514 Truckee Rd*  
*Houston TX 77067*



*Personal*

*Mr James W Mangan*  
*Times Herald Building*  
*Dallas, Tex. 75202*

Subj: **RE: LBJ vote fraud**  
Date: 4/5/2004 3:15:03 PM Central Standard Time  
From: [jmacormack@express-news.net](mailto:jmacormack@express-news.net)  
To: [ManganJW@aol.com](mailto:ManganJW@aol.com)

I stand corrected and owe you credit. I read about Salas' coming clean in a much later story that did not specify the circumstances. Thanks for straightening me out. JXM

-----Original Message-----

**From:** ManganJW@aol.com [mailto:ManganJW@aol.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, April 05, 2004 3:12 PM  
**To:** MacCormack, John  
**Subject:** LBJ vote fraud

As the AP reporter who broke the Luis Salas disclosure in 1977 that he had added 200 names (written in green ink!) in Jim Wells country to give the U.S. Senate primary election to LBJ, I need to point out a couple of facts. One, Salas did not "tell reporters" about the fraud. He revealed it privately to me after more than a year of stalling. He finally decided to talk after learning that he had cancer (It turned out later that he did not have it). The story broke for Sunday papers as an AP exclusive. Also, it is incorrect to say the election result withstood the federal legal challenge. The inquiry into the alleged fraud, held in Corpus Christi, was halted peremptorily by Supreme Court Justice Hugo Black before it had been completed. If it had been completed, who knows how history would have been affected?

Best wishes. Jim Mangan.

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Subj:	<b>Ronald Steel book review</b>
Date:	06/20/2002 1:42:25 PM Central Daylight Time
From:	<a href="#">ManganJW</a>
To:	<a href="mailto:Letters@theatlantic.com">Letters@theatlantic.com</a>

Reading Ronald Steel's relentless blasting of Robert Caro's latest book on the life of LBJ (July/August Atlantic) I was disturbed by Steel's lack of knowledge regarding LBJ's theft of the 1948 Texas Democratic Primary. Steel reports Caro's claim that LBJ "stole" the election from Coke Stevenson, and says no proof was offered. Assuming Steel was old enough to read newspapers in 1977, he should have known that on July 31 of that year every major US daily front-paged the revelation from Luis Salas, the election judge in Jim Wells County, that the election was indeed stolen. Fearful of dying of cancer, and pressed by an Associated Press reporter (me) to clear up the matter for history, Salas confessed: "I know exactly how it was done." He said he and a colleague, on the orders of political boss George Parr, added 202 votes to Johnson's total from Box 13, giving LBJ a statewide winning margin of 87. They listed the fraudulent names in green ink and in alphabetical order, a dead giveaway if the ensuing investigation into the election had ever been concluded. It was halted by Supreme Court Justice Hugo Black, thus giving LBJ the victory.

James Mangan  
San Antonio, TX.



# **The New York Times**

220 WEST 43 STREET  
NEW YORK, N. Y. 10036

August 2, 1977

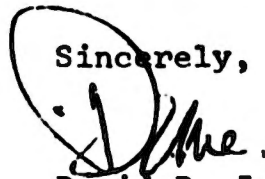
Mr. Louis Boccardi  
Executive Editor  
Associated Press  
50 Rockefeller Plaza  
New York, N. Y. 10020

Dear Lou:

I'd like to thank you---and through you, Jim Mangan of your Dallas Bureau---for the excellent Lyndon Johnson story last Sunday. It was enterprise reporting of the highest order and an important footnote to history. Mangan deserved a byline, and I'm sorry we did not give him one.

Best regards.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "D. R. Jones", is written over a large, hand-drawn oval. The signature is fluid and cursive.

David R. Jones

DRJ:zps

## Today's

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# The Houston '48 Senate election for LBJ, ex-vote j

By JAMES W. MANGAN  
Associated Press Writer



GEORGE PARR



STEVENSON



BLACK

ALICE (AP) — A former Texas voting official seeking "peace of mind" says he certified enough fictitious ballots to steal an election 29 years ago and launch Lyndon Johnson on a path that led to the presidency.

The statement comes from Luis Salas, who was the election judge for Jim Wells County's notorious Box 13, which produced just enough votes in the 1948 Texas Democratic primary runoff to give Johnson the nomination — then tantamount to election — to the U.S. Senate.

"Johnson did not win that election; it was stolen for him. And I know exactly how it was done," said Salas, now a lean, white-haired man of 76. He was then a swarthy 210-pound political henchman with absolute say over vote counts in his South Texas precinct.

The controversy over that runoff election has been a subject of tantalizing conjecture for nearly three decades, ever since U.S. Supreme Court Justice Hugo Black abruptly halted an investigation. But the principals have been silent. George B. Parr, the South Texas political boss whom Salas served for a decade, shot himself to death in April 1975. Johnson is dead and so is his opponent. Salas, retired from his railroad telegrapher's job, is among the few living persons with direct knowledge of the election.

Johnson's widow, Lady Bird, was told of Salas' statements and said through a spokeswoman that "she knows no more about the details of the 1948 election other than that charges were made at the time, carried through several courts and finally to a justice at the Supreme Court."

The Associated Press interviewed Salas frequently during the past three years, seeking answers to questions which, save for rumors, were left unanswered. Only recently did Salas agree to tell his full version of what happened. In his soft Spanish accent, Salas said he decided to break his silence in quest of "peace of mind and to reveal to the people the corruption of politics."

Salas says now that he lied during an aborted investigation of the election in 1948, when he testified that the vote count was proper and aboveboard.

He told the AP that Parr ordered that 200-odd votes be added to Johnson's total from Box 13. Salas said he saw the fraudulent votes added in alphabetical order and then certified them as authentic on orders from Parr.



LBJ, Lady Bird check vo

The AP interviewed everyone connected with the case still alive to corroborate Salas' story. One man who got a brief look at the Box 13 vote tally in the original investigation was former FBI agent T. Kellis Dibrell, who confirmed Salas' statement that the last 200 votes were in alphabetical order.

"It stuck out like a sore thumb," said Dibrell. "Also, the last 202 names were made with the same colored ink, and in the same handwriting, whereas the earlier names in the poll list were written by different individuals and in different color inks."

The final statewide count gave Johnson an 87-vote margin in a total tally approaching 1 million and earned him the tongue-in-cheek nickname, "Landslide Lyndon."

## Delaying Social Security



## n 'was stolen' udge claims



te results in 1948 photo

— AP Wirephoto

Here is how Box 13 generated the haze of suspicion Johnson never quite dispelled:

In the Texas of the 1940s, the Democratic nominee was the sure winner in any statewide general election. Any battles were fought in the party, and if they had to be settled in an election, it was the primary that counted.

Texas Democrats were split in 1948. Johnson, then 39, was a brash 6-foot-3 congressman, representing "new" Democrats in his bid for the U.S. Senate. His opponent was Coke R. Stevenson — 60 years old, six feet tall, three times Texas governor, never beaten and the candidate of the "old" wing of the party.

In the July primary, Stevenson polled 477,077 votes to 405,617 for Johnson. But a third candidate, George Petty, siphoned

off enough votes to deny Stevenson a majority. That forced a runoff between Stevenson and Johnson, set for Aug. 28, 1948.

Stevenson, known as "Calculating Coke," didn't stay in Texas to campaign during the next month, but went to Washington, looking, it was said, for a place to live after the general election.

Johnson spent the month campaigning intensely.

One of the places Johnson went stumping was the hot, flat brush country of South Texas — George B. Parr country, where the Mexican-American vote seemed always to come in a bloc.

The power had passed to Parr from his father, Archie, a state senator who had sided with Mexican-Americans in a 1912 battle with Anglos over political control in Duval County. The younger Parr was known as the "Duke of Duval."

Salas said he was Parr's right-hand man in Jim Wells County from 1940 to 1950, but quit over Parr's failure to support a fellow Mexican-American who had been charged with murder.

"We had the law to ourselves there,"

Salas said. "It was a lawless son-of-a-bitch. We had iron control. If a man was opposed to us, we'd put him out of business. Parr was the Godfather. He had life or death control.

"We could tell any election judge: 'Give us 80 per cent of the vote, the other guy 20 per cent.' We had it made in every election."

The night of the runoff, Jim Wells County's vote was wired to the Texas Election Bureau, the unofficial tabulating agency: Johnson 1,786, Stevenson 769.

Three days after the runoff, with Stevenson narrowly leading and the seesaw count nearly complete, Salas said, a meeting was called in Parr's office 10 miles from Alice. Salas said he met with George B. Parr; Johnson; Ed Lloyd, a Jim Wells County Democratic Executive Committee member, and Bruce Ainsworth, an Alice city commissioner. Lloyd and Ainsworth, like Johnson and Parr, now are dead.

Salas told The AP:

"Lynden Johnson said: 'If I can get 200 more votes, I've got it won.'

"Parr said to me in Spanish: 'We need to win this election. I want you to add those 200 votes.' I had already turned in my poll and tally sheets to Givens Parr, George's brother.

"I told Parr in Spanish: 'I don't give a damn if Johnson wins.'

"Parr then said: 'Well, for sure you're

Please see '48 election/page 3A



Top picture shows Luis Salas about the time he presided over Box 13 in controversial runoff election for Democratic Senate nomination in 1948. Picture below shows Salas as he looks now.

— AP Wirephotos



PRESERVATION COPY

## Salas once rode with Villa

ALICE (AP) — "Sometimes I wonder why I didn't get the electric

father's urging, to help relatives in Canada. He got a Washington

he could because an Anglo and a



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"Parr then said: 'Well, for sure you're

Please see '48 election/page 3A

## Salas once rode with Villa

ALICE (AP) — "Sometimes I wonder why I didn't get the electric chair," said Luis Salas, gently shaking his head as he recalled his years as a henchman of George B. Parr, the late South Texas political strongman.

Now 76 and long retired from his telegrapher's job with the Texas-Mexican Railroad, Salas lives quietly with his wife. His two daughters and son are married and have their own families.

Salas reportedly now lives in the Houston area.

Lean and white-haired, Salas seems to feel his age. In his prime, he was a tough 210 pounds, packed a pistol and was ready for anything.

His decade with Parr, controlling the vote count from Box 13 in Alice, followed an exciting period in Mexico where he rode with the revolutionary hero Pancho Villa.

Salas, born in Durango, Mexico, left school after the fourth grade. His first job was on a farm. In 1913 when he was 12 he was hired by the National Railroad of Mexico to learn telegraphy.

"When Pancho Villa came through Durango, I followed him for about 2½ years. He had a huge force of about 25,000 men that moved by train and horseback. I would send messages for Villa's army."

Salas left Mexico in 1924, at his

father's urging, to help relatives in Laredo. He got a warehouseman's job there with the railroad. Two years later he moved here as a telegrapher.

His interest in politics came after a dispute with Sheriff Charlie Price of Jim Wells County.

"Price cussed me out as a lousy Mexican and tried to kill me but was stopped. Price tried to force me to leave Alice. I told him he had the upper hand now but I would have my revenge."

In 1940, a party was formed to oppose Price and others. When Salas got his citizenship that year he joined. "I met with George B. Parr in his San Diego office. Parr told me: 'If you help us I can guarantee we will get rid of Charlie Price.' I said OK."

That began a relationship that lasted 10 years. "I had lots of power," Salas said. "I was a policeman at one time and later a deputy sheriff. Really I was a troubleshooter for Parr."

Salas and Parr split in 1950 after Sam Smithwick, a Mexican deputy sheriff, was jailed on a charge of murdering a radio news reporter.

"I asked George B. what he was going to do to help Sam. He told me he could do nothing since Sam had killed an Anglo. I asked him if the victim had been a Mexican could he do something? Parr said he thought

he could because an Anglo and a Mexican were two different things.

That was enough for me. I was through with Parr from then on."

Looking back, Salas wonders at Parr's power over Mexican-Americans. "Why do people follow like sheep? We all did it."

In 1974, when the Associated Press began an investigation into Box 13, Salas was still in Alice and in the phone book.

The probe opened with a knock on the door of his small, frame house.

Although 26 years had passed since the controversial election, Salas said he had no intention of telling anybody anything.

But over the years — as principals in the case died — Salas became more willing to talk. The AP conducted at least a dozen interviews with Salas during the three years since the first contact and also interviewed all others connected with the case and still alive.

The result was Salas' startling account of how a few men in a small south Texas town manipulated history.

Does Salas feel better after discussing Box 13? "I don't have much time left to live. Yes, I feel better that I told the story."

## When it comes, most shots won't miss

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targets at extreme range, whether 4,000 yards for a TOW antitank missile, 400 miles for a Tomahawk shipkiller, or 2,000 miles for a submarine-launched nuclear-tipped Cruise missile.

This new accuracy, the single-round kill resulting from what are called "precision-guided munitions" (PGM), is the greatest advance in warfare since the development of rifling.

But heightened accuracy alone is not the whole story. Other changes now taking place, for example, eliminate night on the battlefield.

Anything that can be accurately plotted on a map can be hit by weapons to which darkness means nothing.

Lethal minefields can be precision-laid

at long range by artillery shells, while enemy mines can be precision-detonated by rocket-launched charges. New ammunition can drill through any conventional armor now made. At least one new explosive can generate the blast and pressure effects of most tactical nuclear weapons.

These are some but by no means all the startling developments in military technology which are already here. Unlike nuclear weapons, there is no uncertainty as to whether they will be used when combat comes. No planner can ignore their implications for the next round.

These new weapons and techniques call for near-total reorganization of the

armament, tactics and structure of the U.S. armed forces.

They also raise disturbing questions: What will be the effect of the new technologies on big expensive advanced aircraft like the embattled B-1 or F-14? On new model battle tanks? On big aircraft carriers and surface warships generally? Will today's balance between offense and defense, dating from World War II, tilt back toward the defense?

The heart of it all, from which the above and many other questions and implications stem, lies in the interaction of three elements, all of which are now making or already have made major

Please see II/page 3A



# '48 election stolen for LBJ, ex-vote judge says

From page 1

going to certify what we do.'

"I told him I would, because I didn't want anybody to think I'm not backing up my party. I said I would be with the party to the end. After Parr and I talked in Spanish, Parr told Johnson 200 votes would be added. When I left, Johnson knew we were going to take care of the situation."

Salas said he saw two men add the names to the list of voters, about 9 o'clock at night, in the Adams Building in Alice. He said the two were just following orders and he would not identify them.

The AP interview then produced this exchange:

**Q** When you told Parr you would certify the votes, he said he would get someone else to actually add the names?

**A** Yeah. And I actually saw them do it. I was right there when they added the names.

**Q** Were all 200 names in the same handwriting?

**A** Oh, yeah. They all came from the poll taxes, I mean, from the poll tax sheet.

**Q** But some were dead?

**A** No one was dead. They just didn't vote.

**Q** So you voted them?

**A** They voted them.

**Q** You certified?

**A** I certified. So did the Democratic county chairman. I kept my word to be loyal to my party.

**Q** Had some of those names already voted?

**A** No, they didn't vote in that election. They added 'em. They made a mistake of doing it alphabetically.

**Q** They added them alphabetically, although they had walked in to vote alphabetically?

## Lawyer calls LBJ story 'impossible'



RAEBURN NORRIS

By FRANCES VICTORY  
Post Reporter

A Houston lawyer who said he represented South Texas election officials in a hearing over alleged fictitious ballots in Box 13 said Saturday he does not believe allegations Lyndon Johnson plotted to steal a 1948 election.

"I don't know anything about Luis Salas adding 200 votes," said Raeburn Norris, 61. "I think it was impossible," he said when asked about a statement by Salas, who was county election judge, that he watched while two men added 202 names to the list of voters.

Why? "Because I was there when everything occurred," said Norris, who said he and then Alice attorney Gilbert Sharpe represented Salas and other Jim Wells County Democratic

election officials in hearings over the incident which launched LBJ's political career.

Sharpe, retired as a judge on the state Court of Civil Appeals in Corpus Christi, now lives in Brownsville. He was unavailable for comment late Saturday.

Asked why Salas, who is now 76, should lie about the votes, Norris said, "I don't know. It's a mystery to me that he would be saying something like that . . ."

Norris denied Salas was under pressure from South Texas political boss George B. Parr and other party officials to lie at a federal hearing on the matter.

"He wasn't under pressure from anybody I know of," said Norris. "He testified in an open hearing."

Norris said Salas never told him of any voting irregularities and he be-

lieved Salas was telling the truth when he denied them.

Furthermore, Norris said, he does not believe Johnson was in Alice or nearby when an alleged meeting took place in Parr's office a few days after the primary. At the meeting, Johnson, according to Salas, said he needed 200 votes to win the Democratic nomination for the U.S. Senate against Coke Stevenson.

"Alice is a small community, not like Houston. If Lyndon Johnson had been there, I think I would have known it," Norris said.

Norris, who practiced law in Alice from 1945 to 1960, said he was active in the Democratic party while there. He was a judge on the 79th Judicial District Court in Alice in 1950 during the illness of a regular judge and was later a district attorney there for two years.

changed figures as approved by the committee. Usually, there's only a few vote difference from the unofficial election night figures; this time there was tremendous change," DuBose dispatched the new figures to the Election Bureau in Dallas.

Salas said that in a book he is writing about the entire Box 13 episode, he would name the persons who actually wrote down the 202 additional names.

Salas explained that regardless of how the ballots were marked, he called the election night for whichever candidate he wanted. "I could have given Stevenson whatever I wanted. I should have given him only four votes."

Jim Holmgreen, now a mortician in Alice, worked as a poll watcher in Box during the runoff balloting. He said in recent interview:

"I saw more votes stolen for Lyndon Johnson than Johnson won the election by. A ballot would be pulled from the box marked for Stevenson but would be called out for Johnson. I know because I watched and saw it."

Although there had been a writ mandamus issued stipulating that poll watchers be permitted full access to the balloting process, it was ignored, Salas told the AP. "I just ordered them to sit in a corner and keep out of the way."

Holmgreen said he tried to look over his shoulders to see how the ballots were marked. "A police officer seemed to just grow out of the ground and next thing I knew he took me to the city jail and locked me in a cell, on the orders of Luis Salas," Holmgreen said.

Asked about his testimony in the aborted Alice hearing, Salas said:

"I was in the middle when they stopped the investigation. But, you know they had all the election clerks subpoenaed. But I was gonna . . . if they started implicate my clerks, I wouldn't let 'em. Would just tell the truth."

To save the clerks?

"Damn right. But it never got to the point. Black stopped it."

out. He made a speech, saying Stevenson "issued a statement inferring that the county's vote was for sale. If he had evidence to that effect in those years when

early October, and one name or the other had to be included.

Instead, Stevenson went to federal court in Fort Worth. On Sept. 14, Judge

to a party and parked my car outside. Somebody stole them (the lists) while I was inside."

Salas told the AP, "That's what I said but I lied. I was just going along with my

quoted former Texas Gov. Jimmy Alford as summing up the Box 13 dispute this way: "Well, Lyndon's backers thought Coke Stevenson had stolen the 1941 election in East Texas and they didn't see



ke of doing it alphabetically.

Q) They added them alphabetically, although they had walked in to vote phabetically?

A) Yeah, that's what I told George B., and he wouldn't listen to me. I said: Look at the A, you add 10 or 12 names that letter. Why don't you change it the other, C or D or X, mix 'em up?"

George said, "That's all right." George is stubborn. He would not listen to anybody. But it was stupid. They went to the all tax list and got those names. For instance, on the A they got 10 or 12 names.

Q) People who had not voted?

A) That's right. They went on the B the same way, until they complete 200, and I told George, "That's wrong."

Q) While they were doing it you told m?

A) Yeah, and he said: 'It's OK.'

Q) They should have changed the handwriting?

A) How? Only two guys? How they liked to change it? The lawyers spotted right away, they sure did.

Salas said he remembers the first name added to the poll list was that of Miguel Acero, followed by the name Miguel Acero. "We also added Hector Cerda. He was against our party and we told him for Johnson. Cerda was in Inglesville (about 25 miles away) on election day. Cerda was mad as hell." Six days after the runoff, on Sept. 3, a second telegram to the election bureau changed Jim Wells County's vote: Johnson 11,988, Stevenson 770.

Johnson had gained 202 votes; Stevenson 1. They came from Box 13, the Mexican-American precinct in Alice, controlled by Luis Salas.

The next day, the official statewide canvass gave Johnson 494,191 and Stevenson 494,104. Box 13 gave Johnson a edge.

Stevenson protested, claiming the 202 Johnson votes from Box 13 were added after the polls closed. There was more on a touch of irony in the complaint. Salas said Stevenson himself had received one-sided votes from Parr's area of south Texas in his gubernatorial campaigns. "Mr. Stevenson was on our side," Salas said. "I told him after Johnson was called the winner, 'You're mad it was time because the votes didn't go our way as they did before.'"

Johnson lost no time in pointing this

out. He made a speech, saying Stevenson "issued a statement inferring that the county's vote was for sale. If he had evidence to that effect in those years when he received the vote, it was his duty to present the evidence to a grand jury. If he has the evidence today, it is still his duty. I know that I did not buy anybody's vote."

Thirteen days after the runoff election, on Sept. 10, Stevenson went to Alice. His party included former Texas Ranger Frank Hamer, a respected and feared lawman whose exploits included a role in the 1934 ambush slaying of desperadoes Bonnie Parker and Clyde Barrow, and former FBI agent T. Kellis Dibrell. They demanded the Box 13 poll and tally lists. The poll list records names of individuals as they sign in to vote; the tally list gives the total votes cast.

B.F. "Tom" Donald, secretary of the Jim Wells County Democratic Executive Committee, produced a copy of the poll list, but, Dibrell said, snatched it away when Dibrell began to copy names from it. "We didn't have a court order or anything and legally there was nothing we could do about it," Dibrell said.

Dibrell told The AP recently that the brief look confirmed a suspicion that the last 202 names were in alphabetical order. "It stuck out like a sore thumb. Also, the last 202 names were made with the same colored ink, and in the same handwriting, whereas the earlier names in the poll list were written by different individuals and in different color inks," Dibrell said.

Donald, reached at his home in Alice, said: "I'm old and retired. I don't want to talk about it. I hate to be rude, but I don't want to be bothered. If I gave an interview, what would you pay me?"

The chairman of the Jim Wells County Democratic Executive Committee in 1948 was Clarence Martens, now an oilman in Laredo. He told the AP his committee met after the election and routinely certified the results. "I did not actually see the poll and tally lists for the precincts. Once the total was certified by the committee, it was over as far as I was concerned. I heard rumors afterward, of course."

Stevenson decided against suing in state court. Dibrell said a judge supported by Parr would have presided. Also, time was short. Ballots for the November general election had to be printed in

early October, and one name or the other had to be included.

Instead, Stevenson went to federal court in Fort Worth. On Sept. 14, Judge T. Whitfield Davidson signed a temporary restraining order forbidding certification of Johnson as the Democratic nominee.

On Sept. 21, Judge Davidson opened a hearing on his order with a surprise suggestion that both names be placed on the ballot. "In other words, let the people of Texas decide the winner, he suggested."

Stevenson agreed immediately. Johnson refused.

The hearing lasted two days, but none of the witnesses testified to the key allegation that the last 202 names on the Box 13 list were in alphabetical order. The judge ordered an on-the-spot investigation of voting in Jim Wells County.

When that inquiry began, on Sept. 27, reporters from around the country showed up in Alice. By then it was national news. That same day, in Washington, U. S. Supreme Court Justice Hugo Black agreed to hear Johnson's petition to lift the injunction. Johnson's attorney was Abe Fortas, in later years a Johnson appointee to the high court.

Stevenson was in Alice that day; Johnson was on President Harry S. Truman's campaign train elsewhere in Texas. During a campaign stop in Temple, Truman brought Johnson to his side and publicly endorsed him as the next senator from Texas. Also on the train at San Antonio that day, according to Salas, were George B. Parr, who had received a presidential pardon from Truman in 1946 after serving nine months on an income tax conviction, and executive committeeman Lloyd.

Salas told the AP he was summoned the next day by Lloyd and told: "Luis, everything is all right. We talked to Truman on the train. Don't worry about the investigation."

At the hearing, Salas, as the election judge, was subpoenaed. He testified: "I went to see Mr. Donald on the night of Sept. 14. I borrowed his poll and tally lists. I wanted to compare his lists with mine. They tallied, the election was level."

"Where are those lists now, Mr. Salas?" a Stevenson lawyer asked.

"Well," Salas testified, "I put my lists and the ones I got from Mr. Donald in the glove compartment of my car. I went

to a party and parked my car outside. Somebody stole them (the lists) while I was inside."

Salas told the AP, "That's what I said but I lied. I was just going along with my party. I was told by Ed Lloyd what to say."

The hearing ended abruptly two days later, on Sept. 29. Justice Black, in an order he dated himself in longhand, voided the temporary injunction against putting Johnson's name on the ballot. Black said "it would be a serious break with the past" for a federal court to determine an election contest.

Stevenson had lost; Johnson had won.

The Box 13 ballot box was opened in court just as the hearing was ended. Subsequently, the ballots were destroyed as prescribed by law, and the poll and tally lists vanished.

Salas said he was convinced that if the investigation had been allowed to continue, the vote fraud would have been revealed.

Salas said he felt sorry for Stevenson. "He won that election, he sure did. But our machinery was too tough for him."

Shortly before his death in 1975, Stevenson told a reporter: "I remember that we have had for years the calculation that Box 13 deals only with 200 votes, but they actually stole 50,000 votes."

Stevenson said he felt the Johnson-Parr forces had called in the Mexican-American vote from San Antonio to El Paso, and south to Brownsville. A check of the voting records for this predominantly Mexican-American area did show Johnson doing dramatically better in the runoff election than in the primary.

For example, in Bexar County, where San Antonio is located, Stevenson received 23,471 votes in the primary, but lost nearly 8,000, reducing his total to 15,511, in the runoff. Johnson received 11,994 in the primary and increased his vote by nearly 4,000, to 15,610, in the runoff.

Eventually, Parr lost his power base, and federal investigators obtained an indictment on new income tax charges, related to money he allegedly received as political payoffs. In April 1975 he shot himself to death with a pistol in a Duval County field at the age of 74.

The 1948 chairman of the Texas Democratic Executive Committee was Robert W. Calvert, now a retired Texas Supreme Court justice. In a recent speech, he

quoted former Texas Gov. Jimmy Auer as summing up the Box 13 dispute this way: "Well, Lyndon's backers thought Coke Stevenson had stolen the 1941 election in East Texas and they didn't see anything wrong with doing the same for their candidate in 1948."

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"Sometimes I wonder why I didn't get the electric chair," he commented at one point.

"It was awful what we did. The 'Godfather' book was fiction; what we did was real."

"I did plenty wrong, and I repent now. I also did plenty of good. Like, say, a man's wife is sick. I would say to him: 'Go to the drugstore and get medicine.' I would tell the drugstore to give him the medicine and charge the bill to me. Parr would pay it. All that kind of stuff, you know. Funerals. I would tell the funeral home: 'Go ahead and bury them, and charge Parr.'"

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A Yeah, and he said: 'It's OK.'

Q They should have changed the handwriting?

A How? Only two guys? How they going to change it? The lawyers spotted it right away, they sure did.

Salas said he remembers the first name added to the poll list was that of Mrs. Miguel Acero, followed by the name of Miguel Acero. "We also added Hector Cerda. He was against our party and we voted him for Johnson. Cerda was in Kingsville (about 25 miles away) on election day. Cerda was mad as hell."

Six days after the runoff, on Sept. 3, a second telegram to the election bureau changed Jim Wells County's vote: Johnson 1,988, Stevenson 770.

Johnson had gained 202 votes; Stevenson 1. They came from Box 13, the Mexican-American precinct in Alice, controlled by Luis Salas.

The next day, the official statewide vote canvass gave Johnson 494,191 and Stevenson 494,104. Box 13 gave Johnson the edge.

Stevenson protested, claiming the 202 Johnson votes from Box 13 were added after the polls closed. There was more than a touch of irony in the complaint. Salas said Stevenson himself had received one-sided votes from Parr's area of South Texas in his gubernatorial campaigns. "Mr. Stevenson was on our side then," Salas said. "I told him after Johnson was called the winner, 'You're mad this time because the votes didn't go your way as they did before.'"

Johnson lost no time in pointing this

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By FRANCES VICTORY  
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Furthermore, Norris said, he does not believe Johnson was in Alice or nearby when an alleged meeting took place in Parr's office a few days after the primary. At the meeting, Johnson, according to Salas, said he needed 200 votes to win the Democratic nomination for the U.S. Senate against Coke Stevenson.

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# If another war comes, weapons will be honed

From page 1

breakthroughs: (1) weapons accuracy; (2) weapons power; and (3) a mix of sensors, communications and cybernetics, all highly advanced.

Precision-guided munitions (PGM) have already been mentioned. They comprise aircraft bombs, artillery shells, anti-tank and anti-air missiles, and several naval shipkiller missiles. Their common capability is extreme accuracy at extreme range. They can be guided to a point target by homing laser, by homing TV, by infrared heat-seeker, or by seekers that can lock on a hostile radar beam and back down it.

These "smart" weapons can be mass-produced in great quantities. Moreover, they will be cheap.

Within five years, over half of all enemy battlefield targets will be "visible" to one or several devices which, in the words of one officer, will constitute "a huge electro-optical-infrared eyeball." By 1985, up to 80 per cent of such targets will be detectable.

The effect will be to abolish front lines and to convert the battlefield to a lonely place where small teams wielding violent firepower grope for each other with sophisticated sensors. If they stay in one place very long, they will be annihilated.

Typical detection devices now entering operational acceptance include:

1) FLIR ("forward-looking infrared sensor"), which detects all emissions of

heat or light ranging from a lighted cigarette to an idling tank-engine or a gun-flash.

2) An airborne radar that singles out and pinpoints anything that moves within a 10-mile radius.

3) Acoustic and radar sensors which the Army calls "Firefinder," that "see" an incoming projectile in flight, backplot its point of origin before it can land and give data for immediate counterfire.

4) Artillery-projected TV cameras which, parachuting earthward, give observers an overview of key terrain features, assembly areas and weapons positions 10-12 miles inside enemy lines.

The increased power and lethality of conventional munitions — leaving out nuclear weapons, chemical and biological agents, death-ray laser and other exotics — is the third factor which is bringing about radical changes in the shape of warfare.

All artillery ammunition, in which until recently there have been few changes since the 1930s, has been upgraded in such fundamentals as improved ballistic design and fusing, more lethal fragmentation and quantum increases in velocity.

The development of artillery submunitions, or "bomblets," as they are called, took place during the Vietnam war. This shell bursts in the air and scatters a field of miniaturized antipersonnel and antiarmor mines over

a wide area.

The ability to penetrate all but the most advanced designs of heavy armor (like the so-called ceramic armor built into our new XM-1 battle tank) is another new capability that may change both land and sea battles of the next decade. Not only have the proven hollow-charge projectiles been rendered even more efficient in literally burning their way through armor, but the United States, as using high-density depleted uranium, has developed a so-called kinetic-energy slug which, traveling at high velocity, smashes its way inside the toughest tank turrets.

But the most revolutionary explosives development is the "fuel-air explosive" (FAE), popularly known as the "conclusion bomb." The bomb gets its name from its powerful detonation, with fragmentation effect, which produces stunning waves of shock and blast of pressures of up to 800 pounds per square inch. Overpressures of 10 pounds per square inch will kill humans.

Although it causes blast, shock and overpressure comparable to a small nuclear weapon, the FAE is neither a clear nor a conventional nitrocellulose explosive. It works by dispersing vaporized fuel over an area, after which it violently detonates in the air.

The powerful concussion can kill armor by killing the crews, penetrate and kill inside heavy fortifications, knock out emplaced field artillery position-areas with a single burst. Y leaves no deadly radiation.

Nowhere more than in tactical air

warfare does the balance seem more likely to be shifting toward the defender, in this case the man on the ground with an inexpensive laser-guided or heat-seeking air-defense missile or a bullet-spraying multibarrel antiaircraft automatic cannon.

One implication is that the high-quality precision close air support against enemy front lines in which U.S. aviation has become adept is likely to become very costly. If this is so, remotely piloted drones (RPV) launched from inside friendly lines and electronically "flown" by ground controllers may be the close support aircraft of the future.

A second and related implication is that classic air-to-air fighter duels, whether dogfights or with long-range missiles, are less likely to take place — in other words, that the battle for air superiority over the battlefield may become one between planes and ground-based air defenses.

Just as the new weapons threaten the tank on shore, so also they seem to threaten the tank's seagoing counterpart, the large surface warship. One major advantage of the warship, however, is that it affords a platform for a dense and varied mix of defensive weapons — missiles, guns and electronics — which themselves partake of all the advantages of the new technologies in strengthening the defender whether ashore or afloat.

In deep waters, nonetheless, the surface ship is vulnerable to attack submarines which can go faster submerged

than many ships can steam on the surface.

In shallow waters, the non-Communist navies now as never before face a challenge of increasing magnitude: the mine — a weapon that never gives up, and has been greatly sophisticated, especially by the Russians. Yet the U.S. Navy has only three active minelayers today compared to 356 in the Soviet fleet. Indicating the priority the USSR attaches to mine warfare in the next decade, it has built 140 minesweepers since 1962; we have built none.

It is reasonable to expect that any NATO war in the next decade will see a concentrated long-range Soviet mine effort aimed at closing the ports of the Atlantic Coast and thus choking off North American seaborne reinforcements that NATO plans depend on. Today, all Russian submarines, much of their naval aviation and 75 per cent of their surface ships have mine-laying capabilities. Are we prepared for mine warfare? Most experts think not.

At sea as well as ashore, the fuel-air explosive weapon — possibly in a missile warhead — must be regarded as a future shipkiller. In 1974, an FAE bomb was exploded adjacent to the old destroyer USS McNulty. The ship opened up like a sardine can, rolled over and sank before it could even be towed into deep water for decent burial.

With this potent weapon, the world's navies face a cheap non-nuclear weapon that can sink ships as readily as a small atom bomb.

The large aircraft carrier — a kind of

floating bomb itself, loaded with ordnance, fuel and combustibles, emitting every kind of electronic and infrared radiation — would furnish a juicy target for such an attack. (But the defenses of the modern carrier — maneuver, early detection, electronic countermeasures, its own planes and missiles — make the ship appreciably less vulnerable than critics assert: no attack carrier has been sunk since 1942 in the course of three wars.)

Because of its unerring precision, this new firepower will do maximum damage to intended targets and minimum damage to nontargets.

In almost no calculations can such developments fail to work impressively for the defense. The ability to "see" the enemy at night, to detect his movements and thus his deployments, gives defenders much needed warning of attack.

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"I was in the middle when they stopped the investigation. But, you know, they had all the election clerks subpoenaed. But I was gonna . . . if they started to implicate my clerks, I wouldn't let 'em. I would just tell the truth."

To save the clerks?

"Damn right. But it never got to that point, Black stopped it."

If the investigation had been allowed to continue to the end, would they have proven a vote fraud?

"Yes, absolutely. Because what they did, they did wrong. I mean, because those people didn't vote. And the lawyers knew it right away."

Calvert recalled that he ordered the committee secretary to keep all county chairman election reports unopened in a vault, until the official canvass.

The canvass committee counted the county reports and declared Johnson the winner by 87 votes. Calvert said he had reminded them of a 1932 Texas Supreme Court ruling that the canvassing committee was only to count the county returns, certify the reports came from the county chairmen, and declare a winner based on the majority of the vote as reported.

out. He made a speech, saying Stevenson "issued a statement inferring that the county's vote was for sale. If he had evidence to that effect in those years when he received the vote, it was his duty to present the evidence to a grand jury. If he has the evidence today, it is still his duty. I know that I did not buy anybody's vote."

Thirteen days after the runoff election, on Sept. 10, Stevenson went to Alice. His party included former Texas Ranger Frank Hamer, a respected and feared lawman whose exploits included a role in the 1934 ambush slaying of desperadoes Bonnie Parker and Clyde Barrow, and former FBI agent T. Kellis Dibrell. They demanded the Box 13 poll and tally lists. The poll list records names of individuals as they sign in to vote; the tally list gives the total votes cast.

B.F. "Tom" Donald, secretary of the Jim Wells County Democratic Executive Committee, produced a copy of the poll list, but, Dibrell said, snatched it away when Dibrell began to copy names from

early October, and one name or the other had to be included.

Instead, Stevenson went to federal court in Fort Worth. On Sept. 14, Judge T. Whitfield Davidson signed a temporary restraining order forbidding certification of Johnson as the Democratic nominee.

On Sept. 21, Judge Davidson opened a hearing on his order with a surprise suggestion that both names be placed on the ballot. "In other words, let the people of Texas decide the winner, he suggested."

Stevenson agreed immediately. Johnson refused.

The hearing lasted two days, but none of the witnesses testified to the key allegation that the last 202 names on the Box 13 list were in alphabetical order. The judge ordered an on-the-spot investigation of voting in Jim Wells County.

When that inquiry began, on Sept. 27, reporters from around the country showed up in Alice. By then it was national news. That same day, in Washington, U.S. Supreme Court Justice Hugo

to a party and parked my car outside. Somebody stole them (the lists) while I was inside."

Salas told the AP, "That's what I said but I lied. I was just going along with my party. I was told by Ed Lloyd what to say."

The hearing ended abruptly two days later, on Sept. 29. Justice Black, in an order he dated himself in longhand, voided the temporary injunction against putting Johnson's name on the ballot. Black said "it would be a serious break with the past" for a federal court to determine an election contest.

Stevenson had lost; Johnson had won.

The Box 13 ballot box was opened in court just as the hearing was ended. Subsequently, the ballots were destroyed as prescribed by law, and the poll and tally lists vanished.

Salas said he was convinced that if the investigation had been allowed to continue, the vote fraud would have been revealed.

Salas said he felt sorry for Stevenson

quoted former Texas Gov. Jimmy Allred as summing up the Box 13 dispute this way: "Well, Lyndon's backers thought Coke Stevenson had stolen the 1941 election in East Texas and they didn't see anything wrong with doing the same for their candidate in 1948."

Salas speaks with wonderment about the bizarre events in South Texas in the 1940s.

"Sometimes I wonder why I didn't get the electric chair," he commented at one point.

"It was awful what we did. The 'Godfather' book was fiction; what we did was real."

"I did plenty wrong, and I repent now. I also did plenty of good. Like, say, a man's wife is sick, I would say to him: 'Go to the drugstore and get medicine.' I would tell the drugstore to give him the medicine and charge the bill to me. Parr would pay it. All that kind of stuff, you know. Funerals. I would tell the funeral



Salas said he remembers the first name added to the poll list was that of Mrs. Miguel Acero, followed by the name of Miguel Acero. "We also added Hector Cerda. He was against our party and we voted him for Johnson. Cerda was in Kingsville (about 25 miles away) on election day. Cerda was mad as hell."

Six days after the runoff, on Sept. 3, a second telegram to the election bureau changed Jim Wells County's vote: Johnson 1,988, Stevenson 770.

Johnson had gained 202 votes; Stevenson 1. They came from Box 13, the Mexican-American precinct in Alice, controlled by Luis Salas.

The next day, the official statewide vote canvass gave Johnson 494,191 and Stevenson 494,104. Box 13 gave Johnson the edge.

Stevenson protested, claiming the 202 Johnson votes from Box 13 were added after the polls closed. There was more than a touch of irony in the complaint. Salas said Stevenson himself had received one-sided votes from Parr's area of South Texas in his gubernatorial campaigns. "Mr. Stevenson was on our side then," Salas said. "I told him after Johnson was called the winner, 'You're mad this time because the votes didn't go your way as they did before.'"

Johnson lost no time in pointing this

thing and legally there was nothing we could do about it," Dibrell said.

Dibrell told The AP recently that the brief look confirmed a suspicion that the last 202 names were in alphabetical order. "It stuck out like a sore thumb. Also, the last 202 names were made with the same colored ink, and in the same handwriting, whereas the earlier names in the poll list were written by different individuals and in different color inks," Dibrell said.

Donald, reached at his home in Alice, said: "I'm old and retired. I don't want to talk about it. I hate to be rude, but I don't want to be bothered. If I gave an interview, what would you pay me?"

The chairman of the Jim Wells County Democratic Executive Committee in 1948 was Clarence Martens, now an oilman in Laredo. He told the AP his committee met after the election and routinely certified the results. "I did not actually see the poll and tally lists for the precincts. Once the total was certified by the committee, it was over as far as I was concerned. I heard rumors afterward, of course."

Stevenson decided against suing in state court. Dibrell said a judge supported by Parr would have presided. Also, time was short. Ballots for the November general election had to be printed in

black agreed to hear Johnson's petition to lift the injunction. Johnson's attorney was Abe Fortas, in later years a Johnson appointee to the high court.

Stevenson was in Alice that day; Johnson was on President Harry S. Truman's campaign train elsewhere in Texas. During a campaign stop in Temple, Truman brought Johnson to his side and publicly endorsed him as the next senator from Texas. Also on the train at San Antonio that day, according to Salas, were George B. Parr, who had received a presidential pardon from Truman in 1946 after serving nine months on an income tax conviction, and executive committeeman Lloyd.

Salas told the AP he was summoned the next day by Lloyd and told: "Luis, everything is all right. We talked to Truman on the train. Don't worry about the investigation."

At the hearing, Salas, as the election judge, was subpoenaed. He testified: "I went to see Mr. Donald on the night of Sept. 14. I borrowed his poll and tally lists. I wanted to compare his lists with mine. They tallied, the election was level."

"Where are those lists now, Mr. Salas?" a Stevenson lawyer asked.

"Well," Salas testified, "I put my lists and the ones I got from Mr. Donald in the glove compartment of my car. I went

he won that election, he sure did. But our machinery was too tough for him."

Shortly before his death in 1975, Stevenson told a reporter: "I remember that we have had for years the calculation that Box 13 deals only with 200 votes, but they actually stole 50,000 votes."

Stevenson said he felt the Johnson-Parr forces had called in the Mexican-American vote from San Antonio to El Paso, and south to Brownsville. A check of the voting records for this predominantly Mexican-American area did show Johnson doing dramatically better in the runoff election than in the primary.

For example, in Bexar County, where San Antonio is located, Stevenson received 23,471 votes in the primary, but lost nearly 8,000, reducing his total to 15,511, in the runoff. Johnson received 11,994 in the primary and increased his vote by nearly 4,000, to 15,610, in the runoff.

Eventually, Parr lost his power base, and federal investigators obtained an indictment on new income tax charges, related to money he allegedly received as political payoffs. In April 1975 he shot himself to death with a pistol in a Duval County field at the age of 74.

The 1948 chairman of the Texas Democratic Executive Committee was Robert W. Calvert, now a retired Texas Supreme Court justice. In a recent speech, he

name: Go ahead and bury them, and charge Parr."

"It was a way of life to threaten people."

"I carried a gun all the time. Oh, I tell you, we had real power. I changed three chiefs of police in Alice in less than three years. I would just tell George B.: 'I don't like that guy, he's against our people. Get him out.' And he sure did."

"That's the way it was. I would go into a saloon, 10 or 15 men drinking there, and I would say: 'The beer's on me.' Sometimes I'd stay two or three hours, spend \$30-\$40 every place I go. I would just sign my name, and the saloon would collect off George B. Parr."

"Parr also told me not to worry about spending. He said I should spend all I wanted on the elections, and I did. He said the money came from Austin; all those places."

Cliff DuBose, an employee of the Alice News who was the election bureau's correspondent in Jim Wells County, recalled the 1948 election in a recent interview.

"I just sent in the figures as they were given to me on election night," DuBose said. "Then six days later a county executive committeeman, Mike Rios, came by the office and gave me the

been perpetrated in Jim Wells County." Calvert said in his speech. "The 202 names added to the voter signature list were all in the same handwriting and were in the same ink. Nevertheless, if I had been forced to vote to break a tie, I would have voted for Johnson. My decision would have been based on that 1932 Supreme Court decision." Calvert said he did not actually see the 202 names on the list, however.

Parr once indicated that his split with Coke Stevenson — the split that brought Lyndon Johnson into Parr's favor — came about because of Stevenson's failure to appoint E. James Kazan, a Parr candidate, to the post of district attorney in Webb County, when Stevenson was governor.

"This election (in 1948) was the first time we had an opportunity to vote against him," Parr said in an interview.

A Jim Wells County grand jury that met in 1949 looked again into the allegations concerning Box 13. Several of these grand jurors, contacted recently, said Salas almost was indicted for election fraud. They said the vote was 7-5, but nine votes were required. One juror said: "It (Box 13) was worse than Watergate, because Nixon would have been re-elected anyway. This way, a man became president when he shouldn't have."

# If another war comes, weapons will be honed

From page 1

breakthroughs: (1) weapons accuracy; (2) weapons power; and (3) a mix of sensors, communications and cybernetics, all highly advanced.

Precision-guided munitions (PGM) have already been mentioned. They comprise aircraft bombs, artillery shells, antitank and antiair missiles, and several naval shipkiller missiles. Their common capability is extreme accuracy at extreme range. They can be guided to a point target by homing laser, by homing TV, by infrared heat-seeker, or by seekers that can lock on a hostile radar beam and back down it.

These "smart" weapons can be mass-produced in great quantities. Moreover, they will be cheap.

Within five years, over half of all enemy battlefield targets will be "visible" to one or several devices which, in the words of one officer, will constitute "a huge electro-optical-infrared eyeball." By 1985, up to 80 per cent of such targets will be detectable.

The effect will be to abolish front lines and to convert the battlefield to a lonely place where small teams wielding violent firepower grope for each other with sophisticated sensors. If they stay in one place very long, they will be annihilated.

Typical detection-devices now entering operational acceptance include:

1) FLIR ("forward-looking infrared sensor"), which detects all emissions of

heat or light ranging from a lighted cigarette to an idling tank-engine or a gun-flash.

2) An airborne radar that singles out and pinpoints anything that moves within a 10-mile radius.

3) Acoustic and radar sensors which the Army calls "Firefinder," that "see" an incoming projectile in flight, backplot its point of origin before it can land and give data for immediate counterfire.

4) Artillery-projected TV cameras which, parachuting earthward, give observers an overview of key terrain features, assembly areas and weapons positions 10-12 miles inside enemy lines.

The increased power and lethality of conventional munitions — leaving out nuclear weapons, chemical and biological agents, death-ray laser and other exotics — is the third factor which is bringing about radical changes in the shape of warfare.

All artillery ammunition, in which until recently there have been few changes since the 1930s, has been upgraded in such fundamentals as improved ballistic design and fusing, more lethal fragmentation and quantum increases in velocity.

The development of artillery submunitions, or "bomblets," as they are called, took place during the Vietnam war. This shell bursts in the air and scatters a field of miniaturized antipersonnel and antiarmor mines over

a wide area.

The ability to penetrate all but the most advanced designs of heavy armor (like the so-called ceramic armor built into our new XM-1 battle tank) is another new capability that may change both land and sea battles of the next decade. Not only have the proven hollow-charge projectiles been rendered even more efficient in literally burning their way through armor, but the United States, using high-density depleted uranium, has developed a so-called kinetic-energy slug which, traveling at high velocity, smashes its way inside the toughest tank turrets.

But the most revolutionary explosives development is the "fuel-air explosive" (FAE), popularly known as the "concussion bomb." The bomb gets its name from its powerful detonation, with no fragmentation effect, which produces stunning waves of shock and blast overpressures of up to 300 pounds per square inch. Overpressures of 10 pounds per square inch will kill humans.

Although it causes blast, shock and overpressure comparable to a small nuclear weapon, the FAE is neither a nuclear nor a conventional nitrocellulose explosive. It works by dispersing vaporized fuel over an area, after which it is violently detonated in the air.

The powerful concussion can halt armor by killing the crews, penetrate and kill inside heavy fortifications, and knock out emplaced field artillery position-areas with a single burst. Yet it leaves no deadly radiation.

Nowhere more than in tactical air

warfare does the balance seem more likely to be shifting toward the defender, in this case the man on the ground with an inexpensive laser-guided or heat-seeking air-defense missile or a bullet-spewing multibarrel antiaircraft automatic cannon.

One implication is that the high-quality precision close air support against enemy front lines in which U.S. aviation has become adept is likely to become very costly. If this is so, remotely piloted drones (RPV) launched from inside friendly lines and electronically "flown" by ground controllers may be the close-support aircraft of the future.

A second and related implication is that classic air-to-air fighter duels, whether dogfights or with long-range missiles, are less likely to take place — in other words, that the battle for air superiority over the battlefield may become one between planes and ground-based air defenses.

Just as the new weapons threaten the tank on shore, so also they seem to threaten the tank's seagoing counterpart, the large surface warship. One major advantage of the warship, however, is that it affords a platform for a dense and varied mix of defensive weapons — missiles, guns and electronics which themselves partake of all the advantages of the new technologies in strengthening the defender whether ashore or afloat.

In deep waters, nonetheless, the surface ship is vulnerable to attack submarines which can go faster submerged

than many ships can steam on the surface.

In shallow waters, the non-Communist navies now as never before face a challenge of increasing magnitude: the mine — a weapon that never gives up, and has been greatly sophisticated, especially by the Russians. Yet the U.S. Navy has only three active mincraft today compared to 356 in the Soviet fleet. Indicating the priority the USSR attaches to mine warfare in the next decade, it has built 140 minesweepers since 1962; we have built none.

It is reasonable to expect that any NATO war in the next decade will see a concentrated long-range Soviet mine effort aimed at closing the ports of the Atlantic Coast and thus choking off North American seaborne reinforcements that NATO plans depend on. Today, all Russian submarines, much of their naval aviation and 75 per cent of their surface ships have mine-laying capabilities. Are we prepared for mine warfare? Most experts think not.

At sea as well as ashore, the fuel-air explosive weapon — possibly in a missile warhead — must be regarded as a future shipkiller: In 1974, an FAE bomb was exploded adjacent to the old destroyer-escort USS McNulty. The ship opened up like a sardine can, rolled over and sank before it could even be towed into deep water for decent burial.

With this potent weapon, the world's navies face a cheap non-nuclear weapon that can sink ships as readily as a small atom bomb.

The large aircraft carrier — a kind of

floating bomb itself, loaded with ordinance, fuel and combustibles, emitting every kind of electronic and infrared radiation — would furnish a juicy target for such an attack. (But the defenses of the modern carrier — maneuver, early detection, electronic countermeasures, its own planes and missiles — make the ship appreciably less vulnerable than critics assert: no attack carrier has been sunk since 1942 in the course of three wars.)

Because of its unerring precision, this new firepower will do maximum damage to intended targets and minimum damage to nontargets.

In almost no calculations can such developments fail to work impressively for the defense. The ability to "see" the enemy at night, to detect his movements and thus his deployments, gives defenders much needed warning of attack.

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# '48 Senate election 'was stolen' for LBJ, ex-vote judge claims



GEORGE PARR



STEVENSON



BLACK

By JAMES W. MANGAN  
Associated Press Writer

ALICE (AP) — A former Texas voting official seeking "peace of mind" says he certified enough fictitious ballots to steal an election 29 years ago and launch Lyndon Johnson on a path that led to the presidency.

The statement comes from Luis Salas, who was the election judge for Jim Wells County's notorious Box 13, which produced just enough votes in the 1948 Texas Democratic primary runoff to give Johnson the nomination — then tantamount to election — to the U.S. Senate.

"Johnson did not win that election; it was stolen for him. And I know exactly how it was done," said Salas, now a lean, white-haired man of 76. He was then a swarthy 210-pound political henchman with absolute say over vote counts in his South Texas precinct.

The controversy over that runoff election has been a subject of tantalizing conjecture for nearly three decades, ever since U.S. Supreme Court Justice Hugo Black abruptly halted an investigation. But the principals have been silent. George B. Parr, the South Texas political boss whom Salas served for a decade, shot himself to death in April 1975. Johnson is dead and so is his opponent. Salas, retired from his railroad telegrapher's job, is among the few living persons with direct knowledge of the election.

Johnson's widow, Lady Bird, was told of Salas' statements and said through a spokeswoman that "she knows no more about the details of the 1948 election other than that charges were made at the time, carried through several courts and finally to a justice at the Supreme Court."

The Associated Press interviewed Salas frequently during the past three years, seeking answers to questions which, save for rumors, were left unanswered. Only recently did Salas agree to tell his full version of what happened. In his soft Spanish accent, Salas said he decided to break his silence in quest of "peace of mind and to reveal to the people the corruption of politics."

Salas says now that he lied during an aborted investigation of the election in 1948, when he testified that the vote count was proper and aboveboard.

He told the AP that Parr ordered that 200-odd votes be added to Johnson's total from Box 13. Salas said he saw the fraudulent votes added in alphabetical order and then certified them as authentic on orders from Parr.



LBJ, Lady Bird check vote results in 1948 photo

— AP Wirephoto

The AP interviewed everyone connected with the case still alive to corroborate Salas' story. One man who got a brief look at the Box 13 vote tally in the original investigation was former FBI agent T. Kellis Dibreil, who confirmed Salas' statement that the last 200 votes were in alphabetical order.

"It stuck out like a sore thumb," said Dibreil. "Also, the last 202 names were made with the same colored ink, and the same handwriting, whereas the earlier names in the poll list were written by different individuals and in different color inks."

The final statewide count gave Johnson an 87-vote margin in a total tally approaching 1 million and earned him the tongue-in-cheek nickname, "Landslide Lyndon."

Here is how Box 13 generated the haze of suspicion Johnson never quite dispelled.

In the Texas of the 1940s, the Democratic nominee was the sure winner in any statewide general election. Any battles were fought in the party, and if they had to be settled in an election, it was a primary that determined the winner.

Texas Democrats were split in 1948. Johnson then 39, was a brash 6-foot-3 congressman, representing "new" Democrats in his bid for the U.S. Senate. His opponent was Coke R. Stevenson — 60 years old, six feet tall, three times Texas governor, never beaten and the candidate of the "old" wing of the party.

In the July primary, Stevenson polled 477,077 votes to 405,617 for Johnson. But a third candidate, George Petty, siphoned

off enough votes to deny Stevenson a majority. That forced a runoff between Stevenson and Johnson, set for Aug. 28, 1948.

Stevenson, known as "Calculating Coke," didn't stay in Texas to campaign during the next month, but went to Washington, looking, it was said, for a place to live after the general election.

Johnson spent the month campaigning intensely.

One of the places Johnson went stumping was the hot, flat brush country of South Texas — George B. Parr country, where the Mexican-American vote seemed always to come in a bloc.

The power had passed to Parr from his father, Archie, a state senator who had sided with Mexican-Americans in a 1912 battle with Anglos over political control in Duval County. The younger Parr was known as the "Duke of Duval."

Salas said he was Parr's right-hand man in Jim Wells County from 1940 to 1950, but quit over Parr's failure to support a fellow Mexican-American who had been charged with murder.

"We had the law to ourselves there," Salas said. "It was a lawless son-of-a-bitch. We had iron control. If a man was opposed to us, we'd put him out of business. Parr was the Godfather. He had life or death control."

"We could tell any election judge: 'Give us 80 per cent of the vote, the other guy 20 per cent.' We had it made in every election."

The night of the runoff, Jim Wells County's vote was wired to the Texas Election Bureau, the unofficial tabulating agency: Johnson 1,786, Stevenson 769.

Three days after the runoff, with Stevenson narrowly leading and the saw count nearly complete, Salas said, a meeting was called in Parr's office 10 miles from Alice. Salas said he met with George B. Parr; Johnson; Ed Lloyd, a Jim Wells County Democratic Executive Committee member, and Bruce Ainsworth, an Alice city commissioner. Lloyd and Ainsworth, like Johnson and Parr, now are dead.

Salas told The AP: "Lyndon Johnson said, 'If I can get 200 more votes, I've got it won.'"

"Parr said to me in Spanish: 'We need to win this election. I want you to add those 200 votes.' I had already turned in my poll and tally sheets to Givens Parr, George's brother."

"I told Parr in Spanish: 'I don't give a damn if Johnson wins.'"

"Parr then said: 'Well, for sure you're

Please see '48 election/page 3A



Top picture shows Luis Salas about the time he presided over Box 13 in controversial runoff election for Democratic Senate nomination in 1948. Picture below shows Salas as he looks now.

— AP Wirephotos



## Delaying Social Security until age 68 under study

WASHINGTON (UPI) — Commerce Secretary Juanita Kreps said Saturday administration officials are discussing the money-saving possibility of withholding payment of full Social Security benefits until recipients reach age 68.

The objective, she said, would be to ease the financial strain on the nation's pension system.

Kreps — cautioning that talks are only in the exploratory stage — said the deferral of benefits is being discussed in conjunction with efforts to push the mandatory retirement age beyond 65.

Under current law, people are entitled to partial Social Security benefits at age 62 and full benefits at 65. Many companies require employees to retire at 65, and Kreps thinks that could be changed.

"If you were to extend work life to 68 and not start Social Security benefits until age 68, you would reduce enormous-

ly the Social Security burden," she said in an interview.

Asked if she thinks the payment deferral idea might become administration policy, Kreps replied, "I wish I knew the answer to that."

"I now see in the press frequent references to the fact that the only way to solve the Social Security problem is to spread the work life out a little longer. I never saw reference to that except in my own writings until the last several months."

"It could gain some momentum; it could happen. We would do it gradually. But I think within eight years it's possible that could become a policy, sure."

She said she has been discussing the idea with Joseph Califano, secretary of Health, Education and Welfare.

"I'll keep reminding him," she said.

Government experts say the Social Security system could run out of money in future years if current patterns continue, and President Carter has asked Congress to dip into general revenue funds to shore up the pension reserves.

According to the Treasury Department, which makes out the checks, the federal government now pays out \$4.5 billion more in Social Security benefits

annually than it collects from workers and employers.

Kreps long has been an advocate of "flexible" working schedules — allowing older persons to work beyond age 65 and permitting younger people to take extended leaves of absence without losing seniority or promotions.

Carter also has said he thinks it is unfair to require everyone to retire at 65, and Labor Secretary Ray Marshall supports a bill passed by the House Labor Committee hiking the mandatory retirement age to 70 for most Americans and eliminating it entirely on federal employees.

Kreps said expanding one's working life makes economic sense.

"If you segregate all of your leisure from ages zero to 21 or 22, all your work from 22 to 64 and then all of your retirement leisure at the end, you concentrate all the work in the middle... you're in poverty in youth and old age," she said.

On another matter, Kreps said the administration's record on hiring women so far is "very disappointing. The numbers are still very small. The administration's record is not a bad record for women. But... to any professional woman, it's very disappointing that we haven't been able to do better."

## Salas once rode with Villa

ALICE (AP) — "Sometimes I wonder why I didn't get the electric chair," said Luis Salas, gently shaking his head as he recalled his years as a henchman of George B. Parr, the late South Texas political strongman.

Now 76 and long retired from his telegrapher's job with the Texas-Mexican Railroad, Salas lives quietly with his wife. His two daughters and son are married and have their own families.

Salas reportedly now lives in the Houston area.

Lean and white-haired, Salas seems to feel his age. In his prime, he was a tough 210 pounds, packed a pistol and was ready for anything.

His decade with Parr, controlling the vote count from Box 13 in Alice, followed an exciting period in Mexico where he rode with the revolutionary hero Pancho Villa.

Salas, born in Durango, Mexico, left school after the fourth grade. His first job was on a farm. In 1913 when he was 12 he was hired by the National Railroad of Mexico to learn telegraphy.

"When Pancho Villa came through Durango, I followed him for about 2½ years. He had a huge force of about 25,000 men that moved by train and horseback. I would send messages for Villa's army."

Salas left Mexico in 1924, at his

father's urging, to help relatives in Laredo. He got a warehouseman's job there with the railroad. Two years later he moved here as a telegrapher.

His interest in politics came after a dispute with Sheriff Charlie Price of Jim Wells County.

"Price cussed me out as a lousy Mexican and tried to kill me but was stopped. Price tried to force me to leave Alice. I told him he had the upper hand now but I would have my revenge."

In 1940, a party was formed to oppose Price and others. When Salas got his citizenship that year he joined. "I met with George B. Parr in his San Diego office. Parr told me: 'If you help us I can guarantee we will get rid of Charlie Price.' I said OK."

That began a relationship that lasted 10 years. "I had lots of power," Salas said. "I was a policeman at one time and later a deputy sheriff. Really I was a troubleshooter for Parr."

Salas and Parr split in 1950 after Sam Smithwick, a Mexican deputy sheriff, was jailed on a charge of murdering a radio news reporter.

"I asked George B. what he was going to do to help Sam. He told me he could do nothing since Sam had killed an Anglo. I asked him if the victim had been a Mexican could he do something? Parr said he thought

he could because an Anglo and a Mexican were two different things.

That was enough for me. I was through with Parr from then on."

Looking back, Salas wonders at Parr's power over Mexican-Americans. "Why do people follow like sheep? We all did it."

In 1974, when the Associated Press began an investigation into Box 13, Salas was still in Alice and in the phone book.

The probe opened with a knock on the door of his small, frame house.

Although 26 years had passed since the controversial election, Salas said he had no intention of telling anybody anything.

But over the years — as principals in the case died — Salas became more willing to talk. The AP conducted at least a dozen interviews with Salas during the three years since the first contact and also interviewed all others connected with the case and still alive.

The result was Salas' startling account of how a few men in a small South Texas town manipulated history.

Does Salas feel better after discussing Box 13? "I don't have much time left to live. Yes, I feel better that I told the story."

### The Houston Post

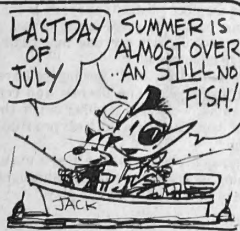
News summary/page 2A

Action line	18AA	Jumble	40CC
Ashby	1B	Names	1B
Ask Us	18AA	Oil, gas	18C
Astrocast	16A	Scarlett	1D
Business	15-18C	Sound-Off	3B
Courts/police	19C	Spanish	17A
Crossword	40CC	Sports	1-14C
Deaths	19C	Today	1-20AA
Editorials	2B	TV changes	18A
Hale	3B	WANT ADS	1-42CC
Homes	1-32BB	Weather	2A

Amusements in Spotlight

32nd Year

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Mr. Weatherby

HOUSTON: Partly cloudy Sunday. High Sunday mid-90s, low early Monday low-70s. For more weather, see page 2A.

## If war comes, most shots won't miss

By COL. ROBERT D. HEINL JR.  
NANA-Detroit News

WASHINGTON — The world is awash in military technology.

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This new accuracy, the single-round kill resulting from what are called "precision-guided munitions" (PGM), is the greatest advance in warfare since the development of rifling.

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These are some but by no means all the startling developments in military technology which are already here. Unlike nuclear weapons, there is no uncertainty as to whether they will be used when combat comes. No planner can ignore their implications for the next round.

These new weapons and techniques call for near-total reorganization of the

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They also raise disturbing questions: What will be the effect of the new technologies on big expensive advanced aircraft like the embattled B-1 or F-14? On new model battle tanks? On big aircraft carriers and surface warships generally? Will today's balance between offense and defense, dating from World War II, tilt back toward the defense?

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Please see II/page 3A



# The Houston Post

Good morning!

50 cents

It's Sunday, July 31, 1977

## '48 Senate election 'was stolen' for LBJ, ex-vote judge claims



GEORGE PARR



STEVENSON



By JAMES W. MANGAN  
Associated Press Writer

ALICE (AP) — A former Texas voting official seeking "peace of mind" says he certified enough fictitious ballots to steal an election 29 years ago and launch Lyndon Johnson on a path that led to the presidency.

The statement comes from Luis Salas, who was the election judge for Jim Wells County's notorious Box 13, which produced just enough votes in the 1948 Texas Democratic primary runoff to give Johnson the nomination — then tantamount to election — to the U.S. Senate.

"Johnson did not win that election; it was stolen for him. And I know exactly how it was done," said Salas, now a lean, white-haired man of 76. He was then a swarthy 210-pound political henchman with absolute say over vote counts in his South Texas precinct.

The controversy over that runoff election has been a subject of tantalizing conjecture for nearly three decades, ever since U.S. Supreme Court Justice Hugo Black abruptly halted an investigation. But the principals have been silent. George B. Parr, the South Texas political boss whom Salas served for a decade, shot himself to death in April 1975. Johnson is dead and so is his opponent. Salas, retired from his railroad telegrapher's job, is among the few living persons with direct knowledge of the election.

Johnson's widow, Lady Bird, was told of Salas' statements and said through a spokeswoman that "she knows no more about the details of the 1948 election other than that charges were made at the time, carried through several courts and finally to a justice at the Supreme Court."

The Associated Press interviewed Salas frequently during the past three years, seeking answers to questions which, save for rumors, were left unanswered. Only recently did Salas agree to tell his full version of what happened. In his soft Spanish accent, Salas said he decided to break his silence in quest of "peace of mind and to reveal to the people the truth about the 1948 election."



LBJ, Lady Bird check vote results in 1948 photo

— AP Wirephoto

The AP interviewed everyone connected with the case still alive to corroborate Salas' story. One man who got a brief look at the Box 13 vote tally in the original investigation was former FBI agent T. Kellis Dibrell, who confirmed Salas' statement that the last 200 votes were in alphabetical order.

Here is how Box 13 generated the haze of suspicion Johnson never quite dispelled:

In the Texas of the 1940s, the Democratic nominee was the sure winner in any statewide general election. Any battles were fought in the party, and if they had to be settled in an election, it was the primary that counted.

off enough votes to deny Stevenson a majority. That forced a runoff between Stevenson and Johnson, set for Aug. 28, 1948.

Stevenson, known as "Calculating Coke," didn't stay in Texas to campaign during the next month, but went to Washington, looking, it was said, for a place to live after the general election.

Johnson spent the month campaigning intensely.

One of the places Johnson went stumping was the hot, flat brush country of South Texas — George B. Parr country, where the Mexican-American vote seemed always to come in a bloc.

The power had passed to Parr from his father, Archie, a state senator who had sided with Mexican-Americans in a 1912 battle with Anglos over political control in Duval County. The younger Parr was known as the "Duke of Duval."

Salas said he was Parr's right-hand man in Jim Wells County from 1940 to 1950, but quit over Parr's failure to support a fellow Mexican-American who had been charged with murder.

"We had the law to ourselves there," Salas said. "It was a lawless son-of-a-bitch. We had iron control. If a man was opposed to us, we'd put him out of business. Parr was the Godfather. He had life or death control."

"We could tell any election judge: 'Give us 80 per cent of the vote, the other guy 20 per cent.' We had it made in every election."

The night of the runoff, Jim Wells County's vote was wired to the Texas Election Bureau, the unofficial tabulating agency: Johnson 1,786, Stevenson 769.

Three days after the runoff, with Stevenson narrowly leading and the saw count nearly complete, Salas said, a meeting was called in Parr's office 10 miles from Alice. Salas said he met with George B. Parr; Johnson; Ed Lloyd, a Jim Wells County Democratic Executive Committee member, and Bruce Ainsworth, an Alice city commissioner. Lloyd and Ainsworth, like Johnson and Parr, now are dead.

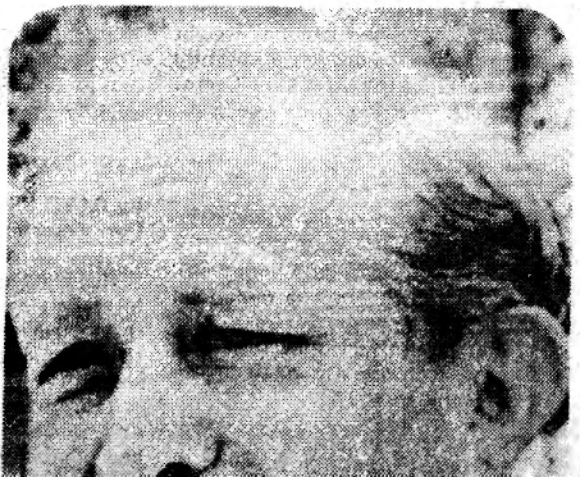
Salas told The AP:

"Lyndon Johnson said: 'If I can get



Top picture shows Luis Salas about the time he presided over Box 13 in controversial runoff election for Democratic Senate nomination in 1948. Picture below shows Salas as he looks now.

— AP Wirephotos





Salas says now that he lied during an aborted investigation of the election in 1948, when he testified that the vote count was proper and aboveboard.

He told the AP that Parr ordered that 200-odd votes be added to Johnson's total from Box 13. Salas said he saw the fraudulent votes added in alphabetical order and then certified them as authentic on orders from Parr.

made with the same colored ink, and in the same handwriting, whereas the earlier names in the poll list were written by different individuals and in different color inks."

The final statewide count gave Johnson an 87-vote margin in a total tally approaching 1 million and earned him the tongue-in-cheek nickname, "Landslide Lyndon."

Johnson, then 39, was a brash 6-foot-3 congressman, representing "new" Democrats in his bid for the U.S. Senate. His opponent was Coke R. Stevenson — 60 years old, six feet tall, three times Texas governor, never beaten and the candidate of the "old" wing of the party.

In the July primary, Stevenson polled 477,077 votes to 405,617 for Johnson. But a third candidate, George Petty, siphoned

"Parr said to me in Spanish: 'We need to win this election. I want you to add those 200 votes.' I had already turned in my poll and tally sheets to Givens Parr, George's brother."

"I told Parr in Spanish: 'I don't give a damn if Johnson wins.'"

"Parr then said: 'Well, for sure you're

Please see '48 election/page 3A

# Delaying Social Security until age 68 under study

WASHINGTON (UPI) — Commerce Secretary Juanita Kreps said Saturday administration officials are discussing the money-saving possibility of withholding payment of full Social Security benefits until recipients reach age 68.

The objective, she said, would be to ease the financial strain on the nation's pension system.

Kreps — cautioning that talks are only in the exploratory stage — said the deferral of benefits is being discussed in conjunction with efforts to push the mandatory retirement age beyond 65.

Under current law, people are entitled to partial Social Security benefits at age 62 and full benefits at 65. Many companies require employees to retire at 65, and Kreps thinks that could be changed.

"If you were to extend work life to 68 and not start Social Security benefits until age 68, you would reduce enormous-

ly the Social Security burden," she said in an interview.

Asked if she thinks the payment deferral idea might become administration policy, Kreps replied, "I wish I knew the answer to that."

"I now see in the press frequent references to the fact that the only way to solve the Social Security problem is to spread the work life out a little longer. I never saw reference to that except in my own writings until the last several months."

"It could gain some momentum; it could happen. We would do it gradually. But I think within eight years it's possible that could become a policy, sure."

She said she has been discussing the idea with Joseph Califano, secretary of Health, Education and Welfare.

"I'll keep reminding him," she said.

Government experts say the Social Security system could run out of money in future years if current patterns continue, and President Carter has asked Congress to dip into general revenue funds to shore up the pension reserves.

According to the Treasury Department, which makes out the checks, the federal government now pays out \$4.5 billion more in Social Security benefits

annually than it collects from workers and employers.

Kreps long has been an advocate of "flexible" working schedules — allowing older persons to work beyond age 65 and permitting younger people to take extended leaves of absence without losing seniority or promotions.

Carter also has said he thinks it is unfair to require everyone to retire at 65, and Labor Secretary Ray Marshall supports a bill passed by the House Labor Committee hiking the mandatory retirement age to 70 for most Americans and eliminating it entirely on federal employees.

Kreps said expanding one's working life makes economic sense.

"If you segregate all of your leisure from ages zero to 21 or 22, all your work from 22 to 64 and then all of your retirement leisure at the end, you concentrate all the work in the middle . . . you're in poverty in youth and old age," she said.

On another matter, Kreps said the administration's record on hiring women so far is "very disappointing. The numbers are still very small. The administration's record is not a bad record for women. But . . . to any professional woman, it's very disappointing that we haven't been able to do better."

# Salas once rode with Villa

ALICE (AP) — "Sometimes I wonder why I didn't get the electric chair," said Luis Salas, gently shaking his head as he recalled his years as a henchman of George B. Parr, the late South Texas political strongman.

Now 76 and long retired from his telegrapher's job with the Texas-Mexican Railroad, Salas lives quietly with his wife. His two daughters and son are married and have their own families.

Salas reportedly now lives in the Houston area.

Lean and white-haired, Salas seems to feel his age. In his prime, he was a tough 210 pounds, packed a pistol and was ready for anything.

His decade with Parr, controlling the vote count from Box 13 in Alice, followed an exciting period in Mexico where he rode with the revolutionary hero Pancho Villa.

Salas, born in Durango, Mexico, left school after the fourth grade. His first job was on a farm. In 1913 when he was 12 he was hired by the National Railroad of Mexico to learn telegraphy.

"When Pancho Villa came through Durango, I followed him for about 2½ years. He had a huge force of about 25,000 men that moved by train and horseback. I would send messages for Villa's army."

Salas left Mexico in 1924, at his

father's urging, to help relatives in Laredo. He got a warehouseman's job there with the railroad. Two years later he moved here as a telegrapher.

His interest in politics came after a dispute with Sheriff Charlie Price of Jim Wells County.

"Price cussed me out as a lousy Mexican and tried to kill me but was stopped. Price tried to force me to leave Alice. I told him he had the upper hand now but I would have my revenge."

In 1940, a party was formed to oppose Price and others. When Salas got his citizenship that year he joined. "I met with George B. Parr in his San Diego office. Parr told me: 'If you help us I can guarantee we will get rid of Charlie Price.' I said OK."

That began a relationship that lasted 10 years. "I had lots of power," Salas said. "I was a policeman at one time and later a deputy sheriff. Really I was a troubleshooter for Parr."

Salas and Parr split in 1950 after Sam Smithwick, a Mexican deputy sheriff, was jailed on a charge of murdering a radio news reporter.

"I asked George B. what he was going to do to help Sam. He told me he could do nothing since Sam had killed an Anglo. I asked him if the victim had been a Mexican could he do something? Parr said he thought

he could because an Anglo and a Mexican were two different things.

That was enough for me. I was through with Parr from then on."

Looking back, Salas wonders at Parr's power over Mexican-Americans. "Why do people follow like sheep? We all did it."

In 1974, when the Associated Press began an investigation into Box 13, Salas was still in Alice and in the phone book.

The probe opened with a knock on the door of his small, frame house.

Although 26 years had passed since the controversial election, Salas said he had no intention of telling anybody anything.

But over the years — as principals in the case died — Salas became more willing to talk. The AP conducted at least a dozen interviews with Salas during the three years since the first contact and also interviewed all others connected with the case and still alive.

The result was Salas' startling account of how a few men in a small south Texas town manipulated history.

Does Salas feel better after discussing Box 13? "I don't have much time left to live. Yes, I feel better that I told the story."

## The Houston Post

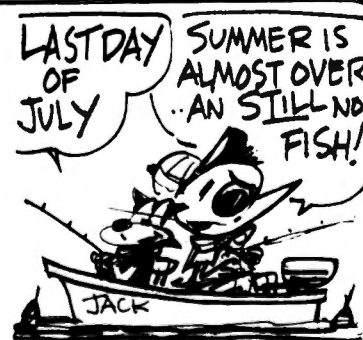
News summary/page 2A

Action line	18AA	Jumble	40CC
Ashty	1B	Names	1B
Ask Us	18AA	Oil, gas	18C
Astrocast	16A	Scarlett	1D
Business	15-18C	Sound-Off	3B
Courts/police	19C	Spanish	17A
Crossword	40CC	Sports	1-14C
Deaths	19C	Today	1-20AA
Editorials	2B	TV changes	18A
Hale	3B	WANT ADS	1-42CC
Homes	1-32BB	Weather	2A

Amusements in Spotlight

93rd Year

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Mr. Weatherby

HOUSTON: Partly cloudy Sunday. High Sunday mid-90s, low early Monday low-70s. For more weather, see page 2A.

# If war comes, most shots won't miss

By COL. ROBERT D. HEINL JR.  
NANA-Detroit News

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Ever since soldiers began shooting at each other most shots have missed. In the next war, most shots — at least those against important targets — will hit.

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