

AFRICA NEWS

A Weekly Digest of African Affairs

U.S./AFRICA

[AN] Last November 4, when Ronald Reagan and other Republicans were making a sweep at the polls, first-term Democratic congressman Howard Wolpe was winning re-election in the traditionally Republican Third district in Michigan.

A more senior Democrat, Bob Carr, went down to defeat in the nominally more liberal district to the east, and Reaganite David Stockman (now White House budget director) was winning to the west. But Wolpe, with a solid record of service to his constituents, overcame the conservative tide and beat a high-spending opponent by a larger margin than he won by in 1978.

That victory positioned Wolpe for another campaign, won earlier this month, that could have an important impact on U.S. Africa policy over the next

few years. Democrats on the House Foreign Affairs Committee chose him to chair the subcommittee on Africa, after voting down by 11-8 a bid by Dan Mica of Florida for the post. (The chairs of all committees and subcommittees are filled by the majority party — Democrats in the House, Republicans in the Senate.)

His election seems to insure that the subcommittee, which has a history of lively hearings during previous Democratic and Republican administrations, will, along with the Congressional Black Caucus, offer a forum for opposition to major rightward shifts in the U.S. stance toward Africa.

Wolpe is one of three new subcommittee Democrats, who are apparently eager to have active regional panels to keep watch over the Reagan administration's

foreign policy.

[Stephen Solarz of New York, the energetic chairman of the Africa subcommittee during the last Congress, who was re-elected in November, is sure to continue his activism as head of the Asia subcommittee. And Michael Barnes of Maryland, who won the Latin America post after Pennsylvania's Gus Yatron was rejected, offered his long-time interest in the area and his fluency in Spanish as proof of his commitment to that subcommittee's revitalization.]

As a member of the Africa panel since his election to Congress in 1978, Wolpe has supported the Carter administration's southern Africa policy, advocated increased and better administered aid to Africa, endorsed recognition of Angola, and opposed the new military assistance to Somalia and Morocco. He has a Ph.D. in political science from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), for which his fieldwork was done in Nigeria. And he is the author of *Urban Politics in Nigeria: A Study of Port Harcourt* (University of California Press, 1979), as well as several articles and book reviews.

Because of his academic background and his stand on the issues, Wolpe was supported during last fall's campaign by various Michigan Africanists, and his bid for the subcommittee chairmanship attracted letters of support from faculty members at a number of universities across the country.

But far more significant, in political terms, was the opposition he had to overcome to defeat Mica, as indicated by a Rowland Evans and Robert Novak column that appeared the day before the committee caucus voted.

The conservative commentators labeled the push to get Wolpe elected "a power play of liberals versus conservatives in the committee's Democratic ranks" and "a quixotic attempt to repeal the [1980] election and restore politics of the 60s and 70s."

Specifically, they focused on Stephen Weissman, the number two member of Solarz's subcommittee staff. Weissman, they charged, was a part of the anti-CIA campaign because an article he had written on the CIA and Zaire for an academic publication had been reprinted in *Dirty Work 2: The CIA in Africa*, which also carried a listing of suspected CIA operatives on the continent.

They also charged that Weissman is "so distrusted by the government of Zaire that he is regarded as an enemy by that U.S. ally." "In informal remarks to the African Studies Association in Philadelphia last

October 16," Evans and Novak report, "Weissman used his subcommittee position to attack Zaire in a way surpassing the latitude taken by members of Congress themselves."

Weissman, in a letter to the *Washington Post*, accused the columnists of "disregarding information I provided them" and of distorting his views. "It looks as though they're trying to make their way back to the McCarthyist 1950s," he countered.

In particular, Weissman said it was known he had complained to the editors of *Dirty Work* (which he said also contains reprints from a Defense Department consultant's writings and from the *New York Times*) after he learned of the CIA listings. And he cited an *Africa News* tape recording of the ASA panel, saying it demonstrates "their quotation of my remarks is torn completely out of context and [is] partially inaccurate."

Wolpe won anyway, and as Evans and Novak predicted, he has retained Weissman and staff director John Carson. (Priscilla Newman, a Wolpe aide, and Mickey Harmon, make up the rest of the subcommittee staff.)

But Evans and Novak got their message across to millions of readers — their column, syndicated by Field Enterprises, is published in some 230 newspapers. And they demonstrated the conservative interest in countering any potential critics of Reagan policies.

In this camp, the Congressional Black Caucus rates as one of the most important. In spite of the conservative triumphs in the November election, the Caucus emerged stronger than ever, with eighteen members in the House. The officers recently selected for this session include District of Columbia Delegate (non-voting House member) Walter Fauntroy, chairman; William Gray from Philadelphia, vice chairman; Julian Dixon, California, treasurer; and Harold Washington from Illinois, secretary.

This new leadership has re-iterated the Caucus' commitment to activism on African issues, and two newly-elected members have joined the Foreign Affairs Committee, Mervyn Dymally (Calif.) and George Crockett (Mich.).

Crockett, a lawyer with a long civil rights record, represents the Detroit district previously served by Charles Diggs, Jr., the first Caucus chairman and the former chairman of the Africa subcommittee who resigned in 1980 after conviction on misuse of office funds. Crockett has followed in Diggs' tradition by joining the Africa subcommittee.

Even though the Black Caucus and the Democratic membership

on the Africa subcommittee may find themselves on generally common ground on many issues, their positions are sure to face strong opposition. The four Republicans on the subcommittee are all conservatives, the general mood in the House is conservative, and the parallel committee in the Senate is, like the Senate itself, now Republican-led.

Africa Subcommittee Members In The 97th Congress

SENATE
Republicans
Nancy Landon Kassebaum (Kansas) — Chair
Jesse Helms (NC)
S.I. Hayakawa (Calif.)
Charles Mathias (Md.)

Democrats
Paul Tsongas (Mass.)
John Glenn (Ohio)
Christopher Dodd (Conn.)

HOUSE
Democrats
Howard Wolpe (Mich.) — Chair
Stephen Solarz (NY)
Gerry Studds (Mass.)
George Crockett (Mich.)
Dennis Eckart (Ohio)

Republicans
William Goodling (Pa.)
Arlen Erdahl (Minn.)
Olympia Snowe (Maine)
Robert Dornan (Calif.)

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Queen 1980-81

St. Augustine's recently held its 1980-81 homecoming pageant in which Miss Priscilla

Townes was crowned "Miss Homecoming-Sweetheart of the Falcons." SGA President John Jolly, is doing the honors of crowning.

How to get the most from your bank

By Frankie Perry

"I won't think about that until I am at least 65 or 70 years old," many people might respond if they were asked whether or not they have a will. While a young adult may think there is no reason to draw up a will, estate planners recommend that a will be set up once a person is out on his own.

The primary purpose of a will is to ensure that after you die, your belongings are distributed according to your wishes. Most wills are prepared by lawyers, but bank trust departments also can help you work through what you want in your will before your lawyer writes it for you.



Frankie Perry

When you set up your will, you can say who is to receive your property, such as furniture, money, stocks, bonds or real estate. You can appoint your own executor — usually someone you know well and trust in financial matters — to carry out the instructions in your will.

However, if you die without a will, your wishes may or may not be carried out. If you do not have a will when you die, the courts will name an administrator of your estate. This administrator must follow general statutes and laws laid out by state of North Carolina stipulating how property must be distributed if someone dies intestate (without a will).

In your will, it is important that you name who is to serve as guardian for your children if both you and your spouse died at the same time. If you die intestate and no relatives or friends appear before the court requesting custody of your children, then it would be the responsibility of the court to appoint a guardian.

Once you make up your will, it should be held for safekeeping in the vault at your bank's trust department, in your safe deposit box or among your valuable papers. You need to update your will whenever something major occurs to your financial status, such as receiving a large inheritance or a large insurance benefit.

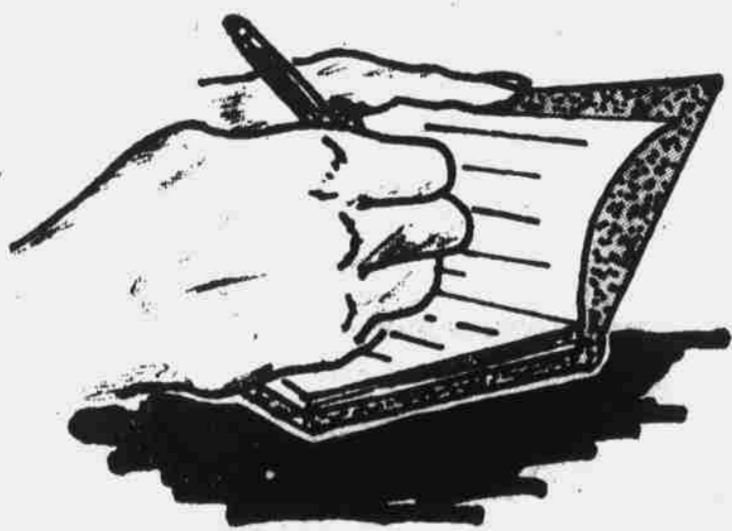
Trust personnel can assist you in financial planning concerning your insurance policies, bank accounts, stocks, bonds, real estate and personal property, and tax planning.

Only a lawyer or attorney can actually draw up a will for you. A hand-written or typed will that you write at home could be easily contested in court.

So if you are on your own and have furniture, real estate or other assets, you can be assured that your desires will be carried out exactly as you want if you have a proper and legal will.

Frankie Perry, a banker for seven years, is a trust assistant in the Personal Trust Department at Wachovia Bank and Trust Company in Durham.

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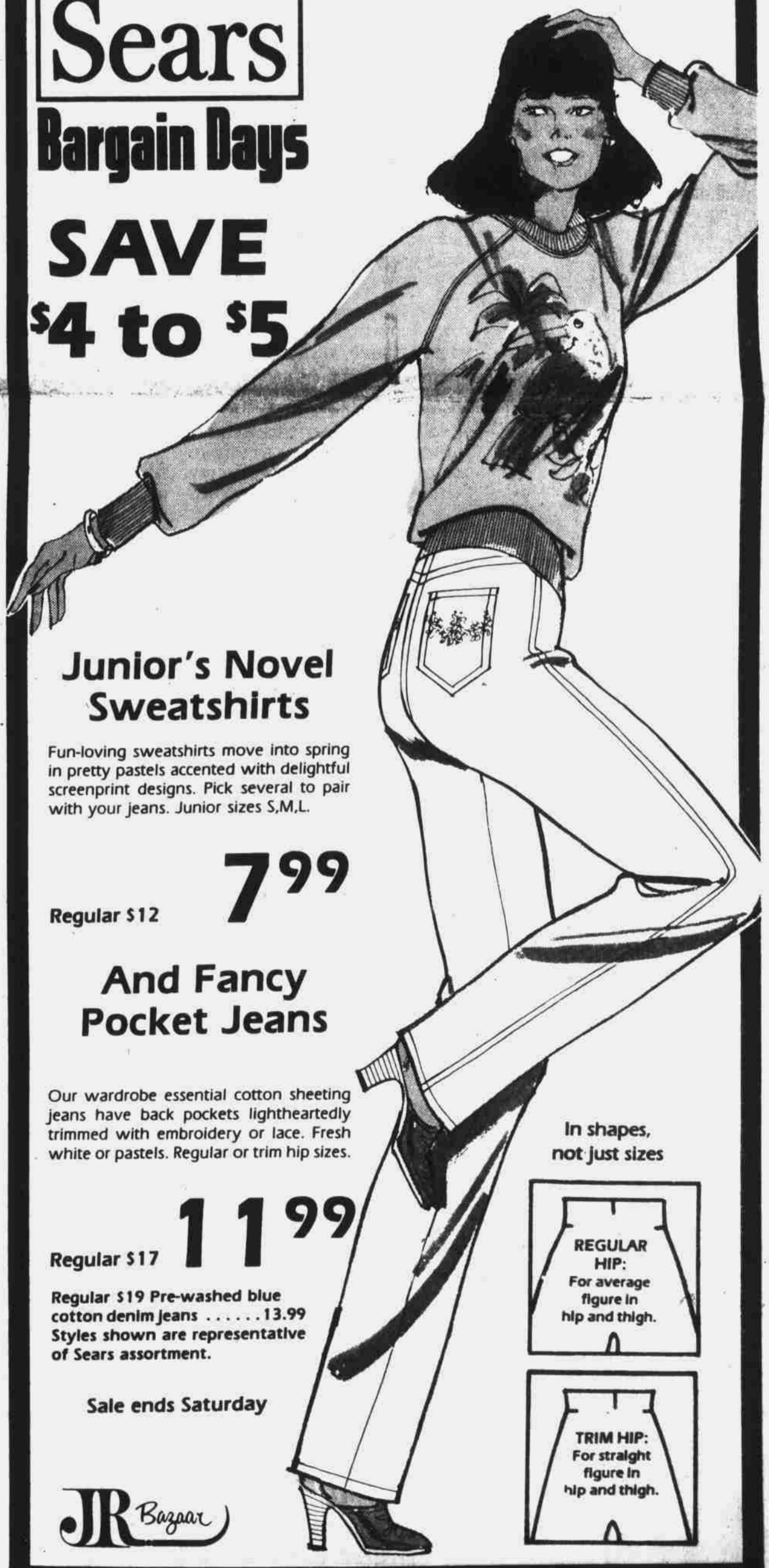
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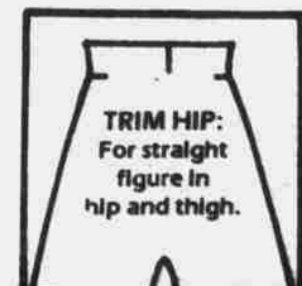
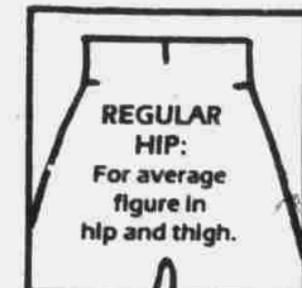
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