



MISSY LEONARD does strange things with her face after donating blood to the Wadley Blood Bank in Dallas. Nurse Zola Rutherford lends a helping hand to the punctured victim. The Aggie Blood Drive continues through Friday in the basement of the Memorial Student Center. (Photo by Mike Rice)

## Smith will veto tax bill moves by legislature

AUSTIN (AP) — Gov. Preston Smith, enmeshed in the fight of his life for re-election, promised Texans Wednesday night he would veto any tax bill passed by the legislature in the coming special session.

"I will present a budget that will require no new taxes, and I will use every available authority of the governor's office to insure that such a budget is enacted by the legislature," Smith said in a statewide telecast over 19 stations.

He openly used the no-new-taxes pledge as a vote-getting device for the May 6 Democratic primary.

"If you do not want higher taxes, and if you do not want to give the legislature a blank check to spend more of your money, then you should vote for Preston Smith," he said.

The telecast was paid for from his campaign funds.

A gubernatorial veto could be overridden by a two-thirds vote of the House and Senate.

Even though he might lose the primary, Smith still would be governor and have his veto authority during the special session.

Estimates of new taxes that would be required to finance the state budget for the fiscal year beginning Sept. 1 have been in the neighborhood of \$150 million.

Smith's veto last year of appropriations for the next fiscal year made a special session, which the governor is expected to call in June, mandatory.

The governor told his viewing audience that he had saved them more than \$140 million this year by forcing the legislature to drop plans in 1971 to pass an increase in the gasoline tax.

"The gasoline tax increase was nearly as distasteful to me as was the extension of the sales tax to groceries and medicine which Ben Barnes pushed through the Texas Senate, a tax which might have been adopted if it had not been for my opposition and that of the majority of the people in Texas," Smith said.

He referred to a 1969 conference committee proposal to impose the sales tax on food. Smith told the 10 House members and senators on that committee that he would sign the food tax bill if it were passed. Senators approved the measure, but widespread public outcry forced the House to kill it.

If you pass this bill, I will approve it," Smith told the committee.

The governor also said he has always recommended budgets that were "significantly lower than those finally enacted by the legislature."

Smith said that once an appropriation bill is passed at the special session, he would open the session to other subjects.

He listed a statewide food stamp program, childhood development programs, repeal of a law requiring independent braking systems for trailers.

### McMurtry comments

## Film-makers are thinking harder

Commenting that "going broke has been good for Hollywood," Larry McMurtry told an audience Wednesday that "financial difficulties have forced film-makers to think harder and work more creatively and creatively."

McMurtry, whose novel "Horsemen Pass By" was filmed as "The Picture Show" in 1962, is the author of the highly successful new film "The Picture Show."

Hollywood has changed enormously in the last 10 years, McMurtry noted in his comparison of the filming of the two movies. "It is much more exciting place for a writer to work now than it was in 1962."

Economic pressures are responsible for the changes, he said, noting that "Hud," starring Paul Newman, Patricia Neal and Melvyn Douglas, was a typical "star system" Hollywood production.

Financing for the \$4.5 million "Hud" was obtained on the strength of Paul Newman's box office appeal, McMurtry explained. "No one would have loaned that much money for the film on the basis of a book, author or director."

Claiming that much of the money spent on "Hud" was wasted, McMurtry said the actual production value of the film was about \$1 million, approximately the amount spent to film "The Last Picture

Costs for "The Last Picture Show" were kept down through the use of much smaller technical crews, fewer high-salaried "stars", shorter shooting schedules and by cutting out such luxuries as individual rental cars for the use of movie personnel on location.

Commenting that film-makers often seem to be in awe of writers, McMurtry said he was treated with great respect when he arrived in Hollywood as a 22-year-old author of a successful first novel.

"They seemed to feel they had to treat me with kid gloves, but I was a very junior instructor at TCU at the time and was just glad they were making the film."

Despite his success as a screenplay writer, McMurtry said he still feels the novel is a more satisfactory media for an author to work in.

"A novel is something I can do in the whole," he explained. "This can never be the case with film where the writer must always enter into collaboration with others."

McMurtry, a native of Archer City who now resides in Washington, D.C., added he preferred novels to films for other reasons as well, including the novelist's greater freedom "to create a world not structured by time limits" and the fact that an unsuccessful writer can always write another book while the moviemaker who fails will probably not get another chance.

## Rucker discusses environment on campus

The lighting situation of the Zachry Engineering Center is a "fiasco," said A&M Landscape Architect Robert Rucker Wednesday in front of Sbsa Dining Hall.

In the 45-minute question-and-answer session sponsored by the Memorial Student Center Recreation Committee, Rucker sought to clarify issues concerning the campus environment.

The trench that was once Military Walk is going to be turned into a bigger and better mall than presently exists around the library, Rucker said. Although he defended the construction of the newly proposed parking lot because it will be hidden by an "earth sculpture," Rucker attacked structural motifs of other buildings, calling one a "bastard oriental" style.

The landscape architect cited the work done in the Law-Puryear quad as proof that his organization is responsive to the student-interests in the environment. The residents "agreed to police the area themselves," noted Rucker.

"We always want student input but it is difficult to get. One student will be real active but when

he leaves there is no one to take his place," Rucker emphasized. "We used to have the Student Senate's Environmental Awareness Committee meeting every month but then the chairman graduated."

All of the construction on campus has halted any landscaping for the present. "They've torn up the front lawn of the MSC three times during the past two years," said Rucker.

A&M's soil is a big problem, noted Rucker. "We hauled in soil from the Brazos River in some places." The site for the campus was chosen because "if an agriculture student can grow a plant on this land, he can grow one anywhere."

## Chinese short on curiosity, Kalb says

Curiosity isn't killing the China dragon, according to CBS newsman Bernard Kalb's Great Issues presentation Wednesday.

Speaking in the Memorial Student Center Ballroom, Kalb said American reporters who accompanied President Richard Nixon to China were surprised by the small disinterest in American customs.

"This isn't unusual for the Chinese," said Kalb. "They have a great tradition of being preoccupied with themselves plus a dislike in doing things for themselves without the help of outsiders."

According to Kalb, reporters have been "China-watching" for years trying to observe changes in reactions in the Chinese people. He cited power purges, propaganda, and the recent change in attitude toward the U.S. as reasons for this watchful

the eighteen miles from the airport to Peking and during that time we saw many villages on the road, but very few people," said Kalb. "The people in these are held together by a Mao-attitude which is stark, regimented, and poor."

The idea of the poorness of the Chinese people was a thought that stuck with Kalb as he traveled through China. He noticed, contrary to his earlier ideas, the Chinese were rich by their standards, which have progressed by leaps and bounds since the Communist takeover in 1949.

"Who has won since the Communists took over?" Kalb asked. "It would have to be the peasants, the 600 million people who were nowhere before Mao came into power."

Although Mao Tse-tung has offered the people a menu with a "choice of food," he hasn't given them one for thought, said Kalb. He continued saying it was amazing the amount of things achieved from the chaos that used to be.

"It was discouraging for some reporters to visit Peking University, once the greatest university in China," he said. It has been reopened after being shut down for several years after the takeover but only three courses are being offered in Chinese history, for example. We have more in American colleges today."

Kalb said human contact between the Chinese and non-Chinese is a businesslike relationship which is extremely insulated. The Chinese may seem self-sufficient but actually they like the look of the Western countries, he added.

Kalb commented that China's capital city, Peking, is not the "black and white" many people take it to be.

"It took us one hour to drive



Bernard Kalb

## 12 Vanity Fair finalists to contend for 1972 title

Twelve finalists have been selected to vie for the title of 1972 Vanity Fair announced Joe Arredondo, chairman of the selection committee.

The finalists are Virginia Ehrlich, Sara Hedrick, Martha Logan, Mary Kay Maedgen, Karen McKeel, Barbara Louise Neely, Anne Seifert, Jane Shortby, Candace Sliber, Lynn Svoboda, Eileen Urban and Margaret Wagner.

Three alternates were also chosen. These are Becky Myers, Donnelle Atkinson and Susie Heller.

The finalists were chosen from 47 entries by a fourteen member committee. Final selection of six Vanity Fair winners will be made by the people at the Student Publications Banquet April 28.

## Legislation to end the Vietnam war exemplifies Democrats' determinism

WASHINGTON (AP) — House Democrats, spurred by the renewed U.S. bombing of North Vietnam, Wednesday moved toward their strongest action yet on end-the-war legislation.

At a party caucus the Democrats set the stage for adoption of a resolution calling for the fixing of a date to end U.S. ground and air involvement in Indochina, subject only to the release of American war prisoners.

Opponents succeeded in delaying final action Wednesday, but the party leadership promptly scheduled another caucus for today, although the caucus normally meets only once a month.

Antiwar Democrats expressed confidence their resolution will be adopted if a majority of the 256 House Democrats show up so the caucus can function.

University National Bank "On the side of Texas A&M."

—Adv.