

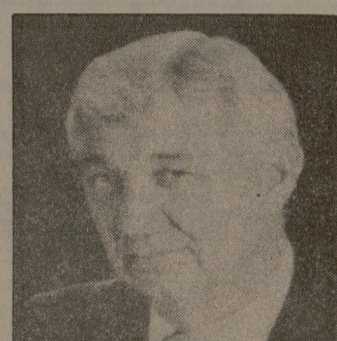


Crime Dog McGruff to visit schools

Page 6

Ags host Bears Metcalf goes for No. 200

Page 10



Texas A&M The Battalion

Vol. 80 No. 90 USPS 045360 16 pages

College Station, Texas

Wednesday, February 6, 1985

Budget director criticizes military pensions

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Budget Director David Stockman virtually invited Congress on Tuesday to seek cuts in President Reagan's defense buildup, and said some military leaders are "more concerned about protecting their retirement benefits than they are about protecting the security of the American people."

"When push comes to shove they'll give up on security before they'll give up on retirement benefits," Stockman told the Senate Budget Committee, quickly adding he would probably "get in hot water" for his comments on military pensions.

In his first appearance in Congress in defense of the president's \$974 billion budget for 1986, Stockman also complained bitterly about farmers seeking emergency aid to alleviate the current credit crisis, although he said political pressure would lead the administration to produce a bailout package swiftly.

"I cannot figure out why the taxpayers of this country should have the responsibility to go in and refinance bad debt which was willingly incurred by consenting adults," he said.

The military pension program will cost nearly \$16 billion this year and is scheduled to rise in cost to

\$17.8 billion in the president's new budget for the 1986 fiscal year. Under the plan, military personnel who retire after 20 years of active-duty service can receive retirement benefits of 50 percent of base pay, regardless of age.

Stockman called the military pension system a "scandal" and "a disgrace," but when asked about his views, said he was voicing a "personal opinion."

Defense Secretary Casper Weinberger also declined to comment on Stockman's remarks, but in response to a reporter's question, said, "There's no scandal that I know of."

involving the military retirement benefits program.

In testimony Tuesday before the House Armed Services Committee, Weinberger acknowledged there has been disagreement within the administration on military retirement programs.

But he said he believed it was essential to maintain the full scope of the retirement program in order to keep promises made to retired veterans and to avoid any chance of disrupting the success of the present all-volunteer recruitment program.

There were these other developments as Congress began digesting the spending plan—with a deficit

of \$180 billion—that the president submitted Monday:

- Reagan issued a follow-up to the budget, the annual economic report, in which he said his administration had produced the "the strongest recovery in 30 years." The report mentioned the severe recession of 1981-1982 only long enough to blame the Federal Reserve for making things worse than they needed to be.

- Federal Reserve Chairman Paul A. Volcker told a congressional committee he sees "bright promise in the longer run" for the economy but

that continued growth hinges on reducing the federal deficit.

- Rep. Les Aspin, D-Wis., the new chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, said he might end his support for the controversial MX missile, a weapon he helped preserve in congressional maneuvering a year ago. Aspin also said Reagan's defense buildup is virtually certain to be cut as it makes its way through Congress.

Many members of Congress have talked of freezing defense spending next year, while others have suggested slicing Reagan's requested 6 percent increase in half.

Meese wins committee approval

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Attorney General-designate Edwin Meese III, overcoming concerns about his ethical behavior, won 12-6 approval Tuesday from the Senate Judiciary Committee, as Republicans remained faithful to President Reagan and two Democrats gave them a helping hand.

The two-to-one margin signaled a likely end to Meese's 13-month ordeal that included two rounds of rigorous committee hearings and a six-month independent counsel's investigation. Senate Majority Leader Robert J. Dole said the full Senate likely will vote on the nomination Feb. 20.

Democratic Sens. Dennis DeConcini of Arizona and Howell Heflin of Alabama joined all 10 committee Republicans in voting for the nomination.

Heflin said he remained troubled by Meese's ethics, but supported him "in the absence of clear and convincing evidence that he is unfit ... I decided to give Mr. Meese the benefit of the doubt."

DeConcini said Meese "should be confirmed because he has the backing of the chief executive officer of the land and ... our standards of competence are satisfied."

"The question then comes: Do we ask for something more than a bill of health that says 'you may have some warts, you may have some skin cancer, but you don't have anything terminal'?"

The nomination was maneuvered smoothly through the committee by Chairman Strom Thurmond, R-S.C. Waiting patiently until all other committee members had their say, he pronounced Meese "a man of honesty, dedication and integrity. The truth has come out and Mr. Meese should be confirmed."

Independent counsel Jacob A. Stein, in a report issued Sept. 20, found "no basis" to prosecute Meese for criminal wrongdoing, but left questions about his ethics for the Senate to resolve.

Opponents had criticized the federal jobs given to Meese's financial benefactors; his promotion in the Army Reserve; and his acceptance of a \$10,000 payment from a presidential transition organization after its legality was questioned.

By Monday, Democrats acknowledged that Meese had the votes. On Tuesday, the nominee's most vocal critics, Democrats Howard M. Metzenbaum of Ohio and Joseph R. Biden Jr. of Delaware, had decided to cast their "no" votes without even making statements.

Also voting no were Sens. Edward M. Kennedy of Massachusetts, Minority Leader Robert C. Byrd of West Virginia, and Max Baucus of Montana, all Democrats.

Among those voting for the nomination were Republican Sens. Thurmond, Dole of Kansas, Assistant Majority Leader Alan K. Simpson of Wyoming, Arlen Specter of Pennsylvania, and Democrats Heflin and DeConcini.



Photo by ANTHONY S. CASPER

SSSSHHHH...

Recording the Albritton Bell Tower's music is all in a day's work for Jarvis Davis, employee of the Rudder Theatre Complex. Davis says the tape he is making will be used as a master for copies to be sent to Ford D. Albritton, for A&M files and to make other tapes that will be sold to the public.

An 'investment in the future'

Easterwood to expand

By MICHAEL CRAWFORD
Staff Writer

It's not the hub of the traveling world, but according to Bryan Mayor Ron Blatchley, Easterwood Airport is important for the area's growth.

That's the reasoning behind the Bryan City Council's decision to contribute \$60,000 for improvements at Easterwood. The payment ends a five-year contract among Bryan, College Station and Brazos County to contribute \$30,000 a year each to the airport. Bryan did not make last year's payment to the airport.

The funds and an additional \$6.1 million appropriated by the Texas A&M Regents will fund airport runway and taxiway extensions, and additional runway lighting requirements. The runway will be extended from its current 5,200 feet to 7,000 feet.

"Obviously you don't have to live in College Station to use Easterwood Airport," Blatchley said, "so in essence it's not a University airport, it's

not a City of College Station airport, it's a regional airport. The citizens of Bryan use that airport as much as anybody. Maybe more."

Director of Aviation Harry Raisor said between 100,000 and 125,000 people departed Easterwood airport in 1984. The figures are kept for the Federal Aviation Administration, which Raisor hopes will reimburse the airport for most of the improvements' costs. The airport is owned and operated by the University.

Blatchley considers airport improvements vital and the \$30,000 yearly payment by Bryan as an investment in the future.

"Unless we have adequate air transportation to Bryan, College Station and the Brazos Valley," Blatchley said, "we're not going to be able to do the things that a first-class, quality community is going to be able to do. We have got to have access to air transportation for both passenger and commercial use."

"If you're going to attract major industry in here, then the companies usually have some air transportation and need some supplies; they are going to have corporate planes and that sort of stuff. If you can't get those people in and out of your community, then it's hard to attract the kind of clientele we want."

The airport has already disappointed officials at Westinghouse Electric Corp.

"We have been disappointed since we moved to town," Westinghouse's Human Resources Manager Bill Sensibaugh said. "The promise of an expanded airport and more airlines certainly helped our decision to move here."

Sensibaugh said he is glad most of the visitors who come to the plant have their own plane. He believes current airport facilities are inadequate to serve the demands of the region.

White checks guard plans

Associated Press

AUSTIN — After getting a briefing from Pentagon officials Tuesday, Gov. Mark White said he has asked the Defense Department for more information about plans to send 450 Texas National Guard troops to Central America for training.

"We'll be monitoring it closely," White said after a meeting with military officials. "I am looking very closely at additional details and looking for some additional information."

The Texas Guard last week announced some of its troops would be sent to Honduras — which borders on the war-torn nations of Nicaragua and El Salvador—to participate

in a training operation called Big Pine 3.

The guardsmen are scheduled to participate in April exercises with regular U.S. Army troops and troops from the Honduran army, said Maj. David Cottom, spokesman for the Texas Guard.

Although Cottom said White gave his approval for the trip when approached earlier by Guard officials, the governor has since said he wants assurances about the Texans' safety before giving a final OK.

After his briefing Tuesday, White said, "I was very impressed with the plans they have established and the detailed planning that has gone into this whole operation."

The briefing team from the Pentagon was headed by Col. Charles Kent, a member of the Central American Joint Intelligence Team. Also at the session were Lt. Col. Frederico Lopez of McAllen, who will command the Texas task force in Honduras, and the state adjutant general, Maj. Gen. Willie L. Scott.

"They (the Pentagon team) were briefing not only on the concept of the exercise but the local situation in the country, political implications, neighboring countries," Cottom said.

He said the Texas officials were told that the chance of the Texas troops encountering hostile action was "very minimal."

Entrepreneurship requires hard work

By LEIGH FORREST
Reporter

Texas A&M students have the "right stuff" to successfully join the ranks of entrepreneurs, said David G. Eller, chairman and chief executive officer of Granada Corp., during the Career Fair Banquet Tuesday night.

Entrepreneurship and new ventures require hard work, determination, good attitude, and a solid education in the fundamentals of business, he said.

"These are the attributes that many of you are developing and that A&M is known for," he said.

Although Eller said entrepreneurship is essential to "the economic vitality and job growth" in the United States, the Texas A&M regent stressed the importance of looking at the good and bad before making the decision.

"Think about the pros and cons of being an entrepreneur," Eller said.

"Entrepreneurship and new venturing is not for everyone."

An entrepreneur, he said, "is one who combines resources to create

"The entrepreneur plays to win, isn't afraid of failure, focuses on results, accepts responsibility, constantly seeks out new opportunities, stays in touch with his market, leads by example, ... and prefers simplicity." — David G. Eller, chairman and chief executive officer of Granada Corporation.

new value and who assumes the risks for an enterprise."

But, Eller said, there is a difference between an entrepreneur and a bureaucrat.

"The entrepreneur plays to win, isn't afraid of failure, focuses on results, accepts responsibility, constantly seeks out new opportunities, stays in touch with his market, leads

by example, ... and prefers simplicity," he said.

"The bureaucrat, on the other hand, plays to tie, avoids failure, and thus does not take risks; is activity-oriented rather than results-oriented; shifts or ducks responsibility; seeks stability rather than opportunity; and prefers or creates complexity even when simplicity will do."

But, he said, the main difference is the willingness to explore the alternatives.

"An entrepreneur will explore a variety of options, from A to Z," Eller said. "A bureaucrat will explore a variety of options from A to B."

Eller listed nine barriers to successful entrepreneurship that could be used as a checklist before launching a new venture:

- Lack of a viable idea or concept;
- Lack of market knowledge;
- Lack of technical skills required for the product or service;
- Lack of seed capital;
- Lack of business knowledge;
- Lack of people skills;
- Lack of motivation and persistence.



David Eller