

**MSC POLITICAL FORUM**

**STATE REPRESENTATIVE**

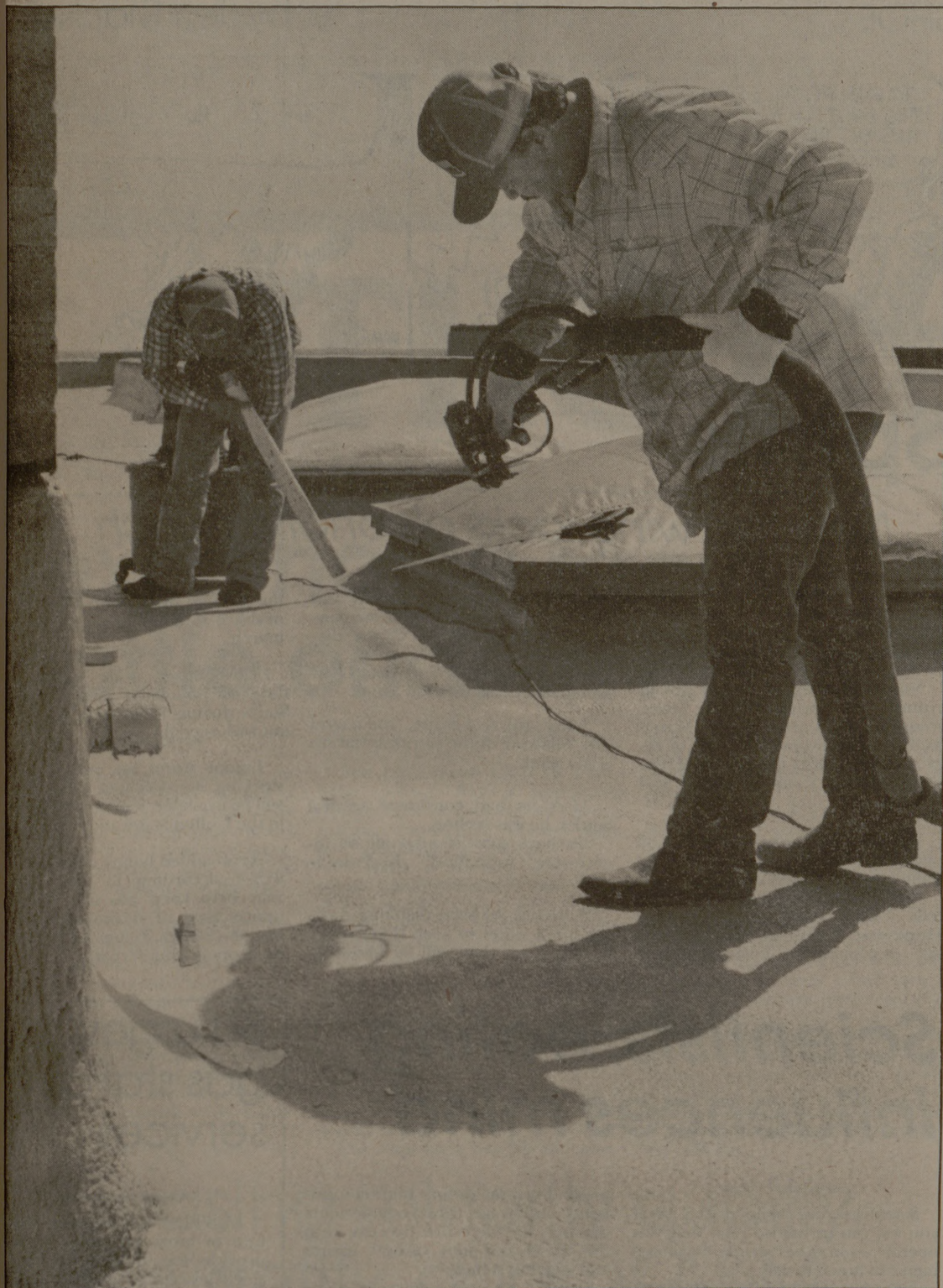
**RICHARD SMITH**

**BUDGET CUTS IN HIGHER EDUCATION: HOW THEY AFFECT STUDENTS**

WED. MAR. 6 601 RUDDER 6:30 P.M.

FREE

**Memorial Student Center**



**Almost Done** Photo by ANTHONY S. CASPER

With 90 percent of the renovation completed, Charlie Sierk of FoamKote of Houston, finishes up work on the roof of the Academic Building. The foam is a weatherproof barrier and should protect the building for the next 10 years. After the work is finished, the building is due to become a state of Texas Historical Landmark.

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## House gives approval to eavesdropping bill

**Associated Press**

AUSTIN — The Texas House gave tentative approval Tuesday to a measure continuing the use of court-ordered wiretaps to catch big-time drug dealers.

The 1981 Legislature approved electronic eavesdropping as a four-year experiment. Without legislative approval this year, the wiretap law would expire Sept. 1.

House sponsor Terral Smith, R-Austin, said the experiment has shown wiretaps to be a big help in the battle against drug sales.

Under the law, prosecutors can get a court order to tap telephones or conversations. All such requests must be cleared through the Department of Public Safety.

Wiretaps now can only be used in drug cases.

The Texas Civil Liberties Union has opposed the law as a potential invasion of privacy.

The DPS reported it has used wiretaps in 17 investigations since September 1981, when the law went into effect. A total of 25,340 conversations were monitored, including 2,378 considered incriminating.

The wiretaps led to 164 arrests and 56 convictions, the DPS said.

Controlled substances worth \$12.7 million, 49 vehicles, 86 firearms and \$140,000 in cash has been seized as a result of wiretaps, DPS officials said.

Rep. Debra Danburg, D-Houston, offered an amendment that would kill the wiretap law in September 1987 if not re-enacted by the 1987 Legislature.

"The overview (by the Legislature) has served us and the people of Texas well," she said.

But Smith said the "sunset" provision is unnecessary.

"The DPS has performed admirably and there is no reason to have any sunset provision," he told the House. "It would take a conspiracy between your police chief, district attorney and (DPS Director) Col. Jim Adams to have an illegal wiretap."

"There have been no complaints. Everything we have heard has been complimentary."

The House voted 86-55 to kill Danburg's amendment.

The measure, given preliminary approval in a non-record vote, faces another House vote before moving to the Senate.

## Rebels want aid renewed

**Associated Press**

WASHINGTON — The chief Nicaraguan rebel commander declared Tuesday his forces are willing to accept heavy casualties in seizing and holding territory inside Nicaragua if that will win renewed U.S. aid from Congress.

"It would be costly for us, but to get the funds, we'll pay that price," said Enrique Bermudez, military commander of the U.S.-backed Nicaraguan Democratic Force, the Honduran-based rebel army known by its Spanish initials FDN.

At a crowded news conference, Bermudez also said that claims his troops are continuing to abuse human rights are "propaganda" by Nicaragua's Sandinista government.

However, the Americas Watch Committee, which issued a report Tuesday containing such allegations, responded that none of its information had come from the Sandinista government.

The 97-page report by the New York-based private human rights group said all sides in the Nicaraguan conflict have violated laws of

**"Continued fighting would be costly for us, but to get the funds, we'll pay the price" — Enrique Bermudez, Nicaraguan rebel leader**

war, but added that the government has reduced its abuses in the past year while those of "contra" rebels have continued unchecked.

Americas Watch also said the Reagan administration aided and abetted the rebel abuses by financing and defending them. It added that by producing a rebel manual with advice on neutralizing Nicaraguan officials, the CIA directly solicited the contras to engage in violations of the laws of war.

President Reagan, in recent appeals for renewal of U.S. aid to the rebels, has praised them as "freedom fighters" and the "moral equal of our Founding Fathers."

In the new report, "Violations of the Laws of War by Both Sides in Nicaragua," Americas Watch said the rebels have launched indiscriminate attacks on civilians, tortured and mutilated prisoners, murdered wounded soldiers, taken hostages and raped women.

Reagan has denied that the CIA manual, "Psychological Operations in Guerrilla War," encouraged assassinations, although several passages advised the rebels on political violence, including one section on the selective use of violence to neutralize Nicaraguan officials.

Bermudez appeared at the Washington news conference along with three FDN field commanders as part of the rebels' campaign to persuade Congress and the American public that the insurgents deserve renewed U.S. backing.

Bermudez described congressional backing for the rebels as vital if the insurgents are to maintain morale and continue receiving assistance from other sources, which he would not identify.

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