

Voter apathy may determine winner of Texas elections

By PAM TROBOY
Battalion Staff Writer

Voter apathy, a chronic problem for Democratic candidates in Texas during recent years, may be the prime factor in Tuesday's general election, according to top party officials.

Even the wet-dry issue (listed as constitutional amendment number two), traditionally a bitterly contested point, has drawn little interest.

"Apathy this year is so bad that the Baptist minister hasn't even preached one sermon against liquor by the drink," bemoaned State Democratic Executive Committeeman Jerry Kraft.

The liquor issue is generally considered to be helpful to Democratic candidates, however since dry, rural areas normally heavily Democratic, will have a large turnout.

Only two state-wide races have drawn measurable interest this year—Preston Smith and Paul Eggers in the governor's race and Lloyd Bentsen and George Bush in the United States Senate contest.

Other state offices being contested this year include lieutenant governor, attorney general, comptroller, treasurer, land commissioner and agriculture commissioner. Seven constitutional amendments are also on the bal-

lot.

Bentsen has said his chances of winning are on "thin ice" when the total voter turnout is at 1.6 million votes, and improve as turnout increases. He has predicted a turnout of more than two million and has concentrated on getting out the vote during the last two weeks of the campaign.

The Ripon Society, liberal arm of the Republican Party, has said, however, that "it is likely that the turnout in November will be the smallest in a decade—a development traditionally thought helpful to the Republican cause."

Both Bush and Bentsen have tried to capitalize on their differences but there really aren't many aside from party labels. Bush is 46, Bentsen is 49; both are wealthy; both were shot down as pilots in World War II, Bush in the Pacific and Bentsen in Europe.

Politically, both are against welfare abuse, gun registration, inflation, excessive government control, pollution, crime and the war in Vietnam. Both have served in the House of Representatives, Bentsen from 1948 to 1955 and Bush from 1966 until this year when he gave up his seat to run for the Senate.

The campaign itself has been more of an issue than any other topic, although both candidates

have spoken out on the economy, welfare reform and protection of the oil and gas industry.

Calling recent visits to Texas by the president, the vice president, the secretary of the treasury and the secretary of commerce a political power play, Bentsen has claimed that Bush is a "coattail candidate."

"National Republican officials have been wearing out their planes coming to Texas," he said. "These people are more interested in seeing another number, another Republican, rather than a man who represents the State of Texas, elected. When Mr. Bush calls on those kinds of forces to help him, you can imagine how much independence he'll have up there in Washington."

"I've been seeing some of those bill boards of my opponent's where he's looking up in the air," Bentsen said. "I finally figured out what he's doing. He's looking for Air Force One."

"The non-partisan Congressional Quarterly reports that I have supported President Nixon 64 per cent of the time," Bush said. "I am independent enough to support him when I think he's right—even on the tough ones—and battle him when I think he is wrong. I can guarantee you that I can always get the Texas message through to the President."

Despite numerous appearances by Republican leaders endorsing Bush, he is playing down the party label on his billboards. Bentsen has emphasized that he is a Democrat.

Bentsen also has hopped from small airport to small airport in order to capture the rural vote, hoping to establish a "plain folks" image. He has relied on a liesurely traditional appeal to Democratic strength in Texas while Bush has waged a dynamic Kennedy-style campaign.

Bentsen has also accused Bush of trying to buy the election—a charge leveled at him during his close primary contest with Ralph Yarborough.

Bush reported that he has spent \$969,008 in his campaign while Bentsen said he spent only \$419,332.

A report in a Washington newspaper Tuesday that Bush is being considered for the vice presidency in 1972 and that this may cloud the campaign issue in the last few days of the race.

"We are trying to elect a senator to represent Texas for the next six years, not a new speaker-maker for the Republican party," Bentsen said.

Bush denied the report, terming it "wild speculation with no credibility at all."

The main issue of the campaign

so far has been whether Republican policies can halt inflation.

Bentsen has called for the president to use stand-by credit controls and to talk with business and labor leaders about holding down price increases and wage demands.

"This is no time to give the Republicans a vote of confidence on policies which have put nearly two million Americans out of work without stopping inflation," he said. "Texans want a chance in the policies that have brought us soaring prices, rising unemployment, a crippled housing industry and a tumbling stock market."

Bush has claimed that the economy is "better today than it was several months ago" and still improving.

He said Nixon "inherited a whale of a problem" from the Democratic administration because of its big federal spending deficits and the only real "cure" for inflation "is for Congress not to spend more than the taxes will bring in, or if it does, to have the guts to raise them."

"The economy is clearly reviving—yet at the same time inflation is coming under control," he said. "We are moving forward with real strength in our fight against inflation. All economists agree on this."

Both Bush and Bentsen have courted the powerful oil and gas industry, each endorsing legislation which will take the authority to fix prices away from the Federal Power Commission (FPC).

Punitive government regulations particularly the FPC's gas price-fixing policies, have curtailed exploration at the expense of the consumer who is now the victim of an energy crisis, Bentsen has said.

Bush agreed saying that federal controls have forced producers to sell intra-state, resulting in a "critical gas shortage" in other parts of the country.

Bentsen has criticized Bush for voting for the welfare-reform act that has gained the tag of a guaranteed annual income bill.

The bill will double welfare costs and increase the number of welfare recipients from 10 million to 24 million, he said.

Bush has repeatedly said that he is opposed to a guaranteed annual income but favors welfare reform that will require welfare recipients to register for job training and for work availability.

"If we do nothing, the cost of welfare will be \$12 billion a year by 1974," Bush said.

The outcome of the gubernatorial race may well have a bearing on the senate race. Voter apathy about the Eggers-Smith

race is a bad sign for the Democratic party and may pull Bush and Eggers into office by a slim margin.

The incumbent, Smith has served six years as state representative, six years as state senator and six years as lieutenant governor. He defeated Eggers two years ago in the first major Republican campaign for governor.

Eggers' experience in government has been on the national level. He has served as general counsel for the treasury, as liaison officer on minority affairs and on the Presidential Task Force on Dangerous Drugs.

Smith did little campaigning until the last two weeks, depending on his record to re-elect him. He has attacked Eggers' lack of understanding of state government and defended the record of his administration as "sound one-party leadership here in Texas."

"I looked at his record to try to attack it," Eggers countered, "but there's not much you can say for or against Preston. He's just been there."

He challenged Smith's claims of accomplishment on the economic front, citing statistics he said proved "we're losing ground in terms of personal income when compared to other states. I don't believe we need this kind of help (See Voter apathy, page 4)

Friday — Clear. Winds from the west at 10-15 mph. Low 44 degrees. High 71 degrees.

Saturday — Clear. Northerly winds at 10-15 mph. Low 47 degrees. High 68 degrees.

Kyle Field — Partly cloudy, easterly winds 10-15 mph. 67 degrees.

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Clear,
windy,
moderate



Kirby Brown, left, and Fernando Giannetti discuss International Association Constitution proposals at Wednesday night's meeting. (Photo by Hayden Whitsett)

In International Association proposal

Assembly to consist of one per country

BY LEE DUNKELBERG
Battalion Staff Writer

Discussion was frenzied and confused as foreign students met to discuss a proposed constitution for a foreign student organization.

The proposed draft was presented by the group's coordinator, Fernando Giannetti, and Kirby Brown, Student Senate advisor. Kirby explained that the committee had been formed by the Student Senate, with the help of the Great Issues Committee, in order to help generate an understanding between foreign and American students.

Kirby proposed that the name of the group be the International Association. He explained that it was "an international grouping of people in one association." The purpose of the group will be to generate understanding and to provide a voice for foreign students about campus life.

There was a long discussion on membership requirements of the group. It was finally decided to open membership to all students. Foreign students will automatically be members, and American students will have to register.

American students will have to register rather than automatical-

ly be considered members, due to the number of them and to enable the group to have an idea of active American support, Giannetti explained.

The organization of the association was presented by both Giannetti and Brown. They explained that there would be a

General Assembly elected by the members of the association and an executive committee which would be elected by the assembly.

Each country is to elect its own representative to the General Assembly. This representative will be the only delegate of that country that will be allowed

to vote in the assembly, although other delegates of that country may participate in debates and discussion.

"These are not the clubs' representatives," Giannetti stressed in regard to the different countries' clubs. "They are the countries' clubs." (See Assembly, page 3)

la warfare of the kind advocated by Communist China's leader Mao Tse-Tung.

The American officials said that between the choice of protracted war or negotiations, there is a significant possibility that negotiations would be the Communist choice.

North Vietnam, the Viet Cong and Communist China all rejected Nixon's five-point peace initiative, made on Oct. 7, as a "peace fraud," but there have been indications that the Communist side is interested in talking about the Nixon plan, the sources said.

Tuesday at MSC

Ski trippers will meet

A meeting of A&M students, faculty-staff and active former students interested in the 1970-71 "Ski the Alps" trip will be held Tuesday at the Memorial Student Center.

"Ski the Alps" chairman Jim Summers of Shreveport said the 8 to 9:30 first meeting about the Jan. 3-13 trip will be in Rooms 2A and B.

The trip is sponsored by the Ski the Alps committee, a part of the MSC Travel Committee.

The 10-day excursion by DC-8 jet to Geneva, Switzerland, and Argentiere-Chamonix Valley, France, will include plane seat, bus transfer from Geneva to the French resort, nine nights lodging, 12 hours of group skiing lessons, equipment and chairlift for \$284 per person.

Those not interested in skiing may take advantage of a motorizing special at reduced rates depending upon accommodations and travel with parents in France, Italy or Switzerland may take advantage of the travel arrangements, Summers said.

Ski party members will stay at the Grand Roc at the base of the famous "Grand Montets" ski runs.

The area is famous for Mont Blanc, Europe's highest mountain.

Numerous trails to fit the qualifications of novice, intermediate and expert skiers will be found, along with 120 instructors, two skating rinks, discotheques, casino, curling and so forth, Summers added.

A giant slalom race will be conducted for the group, with a presentation party including prizes and trophies for the winners.

Two multilingual guides will meet the group in Geneva and assist until departure.

Summers said the plane will leave Houston International Airport on Jan. 3 and return to the same field Jan. 13. The excursion will take advantage of A&M's long between-semester break.

Only A&M students, faculty-staff and active former students and immediate families can qualify for Ski the Alps 71 application, Summers said.

For the first time this year, the committee will hold a discussion after the film for anyone wishing to participate.

"We hope to generate some type of audience response," film series co-chairman Lynn Jagers said. Refreshments will be served.

Admission will be by season ticket only. Tickets can be obtained at the door or at the Student Program Office.

Series to show Bergman film at 'C'; discussion will follow

The Contemporary Arts Committee Film Series will present Ingmar Bergman's "Through a Glass Darkly" Friday night in the Ballroom of the Memorial Student Center.

Bergman's film, the winner of both the Academy Award for the Best Foreign Film and the Swedish Academy Award in 1961, is an epoch of family strife depicted within a 24-hour period.

Crocker will host TWU 'sister' dorm

Brother and sister usually need no introduction, but this weekend will be an exception when Crocker Hall residents meet the women from their sister dorm, Stark Hall, at Texas Woman's University.

After five weeks' work hall councils from both dorms got the sister dorm program cleared with their respective university's administration, Crocker president James Jones said.

"This will not only bring the two universities closer together, but it will boost our boys' morale and make dorm life here at A&M more bearable," Jones said.

Crocker Hall residents participating in the program have chosen dates from a personality-picture file for this weekend.

Housing will be provided for the women on the top two floors of Crocker, which will be cleared of all men for the weekend.

The girls will be escorted to Town Hall and midnight yell practice Friday, and to the game followed by a steak fry Saturday.

Crocker is sponsoring a dance at the Knights of Columbus Hall Saturday night from 8 until 1. The Ghost Coach will play. Admission will be \$3.00 per couple for non-Crocker residents.

Sunday afternoon Crocker will hold a picnic for the Tessies.

Activities such as "a semi-powder puff football game" will round out the weekend, Jones said.

North Vietnamese rumored interested in 'serious' talks

WASHINGTON (AP) — Official U.S. sources say they have received hints from third parties that North Vietnam is seriously interested in private negotiations on President Nixon's peace proposal for Indochina including a standstill cease-fire.

The third parties were not identified but the American officials said it is their belief that Hanoi has found the cease-fire suggestion intriguing.

Noting that the dry season is now beginning in large areas of Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos, the American sources said there are three options from which Hanoi may choose:

Junior class to hold dance Saturday night

An all-university dance sponsored by the junior class rounds out Texas A&M campus activities Saturday after the A&M-Arkansas football game.

First of the all-university dance series, the juniors' informal Warlock Ball will be from 8:30 p. m. to 12:30 a. m. in the Memorial Student Center Ballroom, announced Class President Jerry McGowen of Mansfield.

Music will be furnished by The Chayns, a well-known group from San Antonio, he said.

"Since this is a Halloween dance, dress will be either costume or casual," the junior class president said. "Civilian students will appreciate the opportunity to shed their coats and ties for the dance and I'm sure corps members will welcome wearing either a simple costume or Class B uniform with ascot."

Admission will be \$2.50 per couple or \$1.50 single. Advance tickets may be purchased for \$2 per couple at the MSC Student Program Office.

Senate to hear reports tonight

Tonight's Student Senate meeting will be devoted almost solely to committee reports, Student Body President Kent Caperton said Wednesday night.

The Senate meeting begins at 7:30 and will be held in the conference room on the second floor of the library.

Committees have been meeting regularly, Caperton said, "but there don't seem to be any issues that anybody's bringing up."

Caperton also said a committee to study possible revisions in the Senate constitution will be formed, with himself as chairman.

"I think this revision study is very important," Caperton explained. "At the meeting, I will be asking senators for their ideas and feelings."

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