

# Food bank passes close House vote

WASHINGTON (AP) — The House overpowered President Nixon's farm-policy backers Wednesday night and voted to set up a national food bank while raising wheat and feed-grain price supports by 25 per cent.

The vote was 182 to 170. After rejecting efforts to gain consideration of a \$20,000-per-farmer annual limit on federal subsidies, the House linked two highly controversial measures—both opposed by the administration—into a massive farm-aid bill.

Democrats said it is aimed at helping stave off a depression in the Farm Belt. But Republicans attacked the bill as a highly costly federal project that could yield more mischief than relief.

The Democrats crushed Republican attempts to revise the bill. The legislation would:

—Establish a \$1.5-billion national food bank of wheat and

feed grains, with an annual average storage cost of \$215 million.

—Raise the total grain-crop value by more than \$2 billion through a 25-per-cent mandatory two-year boost in minimum loan rates to protect producer income, at an estimated cost to the government of \$281 million in the year ending next June 30.

The bill was sent to the Senate, where it is expected to receive an enthusiastic welcome from Democrats and intense opposition from Republicans. The administration has said it prefers its own approach to solving farm problems, including such things as a recent announcement of government plans to buy corn on the open market in a bid to firm up farm prices.

## Physics colloquium to be Thursday

Dr. Robert Geroch of the University of Chicago will give the physics colloquium lecture Thursday at A&M.

The Enrico Fermi Institute professor's talk is entitled "Is the Energy of the Gravitational Field Positive?"

Physics colloquiums are open to the public and begin at 4 p.m. in Physics Room 146.

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**BRUSSELS, Belgium (AP) —** U.S. Secretary of Defense Melvin R. Laird called Wednesday for a major redeployment of allied navies to counter a Soviet buildup in the Atlantic and Mediterranean.

Laird submitted a three-point proposal to the defense planning committee of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

His plan envisioned formation of a permanent international fleet in the Mediterranean and an expanded NATO naval presence in the Atlantic.



BRIAN DEBOISE, 9, of Worcester, Mass., races down slope in the Junior Scholarship Races this past weekend at Waterville Valley. His time was fast enough to earn his third place overall in the eleven-year-old and under class. (AP Wirephoto)

# Laird calls for buildup of allied navies

It also incorporated an offer to provide European countries with American weapons systems, electronic warfare help and other highly sophisticated gear being withdrawn from Indochina.

Details of Laird's proposal as relayed by U.S. officials:

—NATO's standing naval force in the Atlantic, set up in 1966, should be augmented by countries, like West Germany, with fleets which currently are not participants. The allied naval force in the Atlantic now includes Ameri-

can, British, Canadian, Dutch, Norwegian and Portuguese vessels.

—NATO's on-call naval force in the Mediterranean should be replaced by a standing naval force, with countries like Greece and Turkey taking full part far beyond their normal area of operations. Other participants now include the United States, Britain and Italy. But any allied navy with ships to spare should seriously consider joining.

—NATO nations have the chance to take up an American offer of help based on U.S. experience in Vietnam. This would take the form of electronic warfare gear, presumably missile systems, and techniques of tactical air control.

The defense planning committee is composed of all NATO members minus France which stays out of the allied military system.

Laird said he was pleased with what he regarded as a new spirit permeating the alliance. He stressed that the United States would regard any unilateral cutback of defense spending as reckless.

It was essential, he insisted, that as the allies move from confrontation into a negotiation with the Communist world, there

should be no letup of effort, no lowering of the allied guard.

In that context the defense secretary had the backing of the West Germans. They joined the United States in stressing that any Big Four deal on Berlin must be signed, sealed and delivered before the West goes into European security talks with the Communist powers.

The development amounted to rejection of Tuesday's call by Soviet leader Leonid I. Brezhnev for early Western moves toward the long-projected security parity.

At the same time Secretary of State William P. Rogers signaled allied willingness to negotiate a program of balanced force cuts with the European Communist powers. He urged the Soviet Union, as a first step, to receive Manlio Brosio of Italy who has been named special allied envoy for the task of preparing the ground for the negotiations.

On arrival from Washington Rogers also announced that "the United States will not diminish our partnership with western Europe, our support for its unity and our commitment to its defense."

The 50th session of the North Atlantic Council, beginning Thursday for two days, will focus mainly on the political, economic and strategic affairs of Europe.

# Scasta wins scholarship

David E. Scasta of Bryan was honored with a \$250 scholarship Tuesday by Continental Oil Co.'s Natural Gas and Gas Products Department.

Scasta, son of Mr. and Mrs. Emil Scasta of 3304 Colson Road, Bryan, competed with 10 summer engineers at different Conoco plant locations for three scholarships.

A junior chemical engineering major, Scasta has straight "A's" at A&M.

Bill Medlin, operations manager for Conoco's Natural Gas and Gas Products Department, said Scasta was given an engineering problem and was required to write a report showing its solution. Scasta worked during the summer at the Grand Chenier,

La., gas processing plant and worked on the problem during his free time.

Engineering Dean Fred J. Benson told Medlin "we have the highest regards for your program." The dean said such summer programs assist the university in graduating better engineers.

Scasta also was honored at a dinner Tuesday night. He is a member of four A&M scholastic honor societies and vice president of the student chapter of the American Institute of Chemical Engineers.

# Property refund requests available at Fiscal office

A&M students who do not plan to re-enroll at the university and want their property deposit refunded must file a request for the refund at the Fiscal Office, announced R. Clark Diebel, controller.

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