

# Dowdy decides not to seek re-election

DALLAS (AP) — Rep. John Dowdy, D-Tex., of Athens, who appealing his conviction of bribery and conspiracy at Baltimore, said Tuesday he will not seek re-election because of ill health.

Dowdy made known his decision in a letter issued from his Washington office.

"My decision was made in ac-

cordance with the professional advice of my personal doctors, who warned that a vigorous political campaign would likely complicate the serious health problems I have suffered in the past 16 months," Dowdy said.

The New York Times advised Dowdy last Sunday to resign.

At his trial the government contended that the 10-term congressman accepted a \$25,000

bribe at Atlanta airport Sept. 22, 1965. He was indicted on charges that he helped sidetrack a Justice Department investigation into a Maryland home improvement firm in return for the money.

Dowdy, the first congressman in office to be found guilty of a criminal offense in 15 years, faces a maximum possible penalty of 40 years in prison and \$40,000 in fines, but his lawyers are seeking a new trial.

The 59-year-old congressman

has consistently denied the allegations against him and tried to have the indictment quashed on the ground of congressional immunity. He charged a political frame-up by those who resented his work in the House District of Columbia Committee.

In his Washington statement, Dowdy referred to many calls from friends encouraging him or his wife to run.

"As I have previously announced," he said, "I will continue to serve in the House of

Representatives until my present term expires in January of next year."

State Sen. Charles Wilson of Lufkin has announced for the seat now held by Dowdy and last week Norman T. Birdwell of Hardin County Kountze also filed as a candidate.

Most of Dowdy's district was placed into a new district with no incumbent by the 1971 Texas Legislature.

His home county, Henderson, was put in the district of U.S. Rep. Wright Patman, a 40-year House veteran from Texarkana.

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## Remote Sensing Center organizes vegetation lab

A&M's Remote Sensing Center has organized a new Vegetation Systems Laboratory for research into land use planning.

Dr. John W. Rouse Jr., RSC Director, announced Dr. Robert I. Haas will head the lab. The new organization, Dr. Rouse noted, is the first formal RSC laboratory in the College of Agriculture. Cooperating is the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station.

The center has five additional labs — space technology, optics, environmental quality, data analysis and microwave-infrared systems. Remote sensing includes aerial natural and infrared photography, radar, mechanical infrared scanning and microwave radiometry.

A&M's RSC serves the colleges of agriculture, engineering, geosciences and science, Dr. Rouse pointed out.

Dr. Haas, assistant professor of range science, worked under remote sensing pioneer Dr. R. N. Colwell last spring while a postdoctoral research assistant.

Dr. Haas said the Vegetation Systems Laboratory will research remote sensing techniques as a tool for land use planning. He hopes to detect and measure small seasonal differences of vegetated areas, and infer vegetation conditions and land use potentials of broad areas.

"Man is making increasingly greater demands on the world's resources," Dr. Haas said. "We must find ways of planning for the use of natural resources without destroying nature. This is one of the goals of our remote sensing research," he explained.

Dr. Haas said the RSC is emphasizing research into renewable natural resources, such as rangelands and forests.

He stated rangeland, on a world-wide basis, occupies approximately 50 per cent of the land mass. In Texas, however, more than three-fourths of the state's 169 million acres are still covered with natural vegetation, including both range and forest lands.

## Acorns studied for use in human diet; squirrels used in taste test panel

Acorns, one of ancient man's food staples, are being studied at A&M with the idea that the nuts might have a place in modern diets.

The fruit of the oak, in fact, is still finding its way to dinner tables among poorer classes in such places as Italy and Spain. These people utilize the nuts in bread, cake and even as a coffee substitute.

American pioneers learned from the Indians how to use acorns in gruels, cakes and tortillas. The usual process was hulling, grinding, and then leaching with boiling water or water-ash soaks to extract tannin and other bitter principles. The result was pouched into a meal.

At A&M, Graduate Student R. P. Ofcarcik and Dr. E. E. Burns of the Soil and Crop Science Department are studying the chemical and physical properties for human use. And, ever-mindful of wildlife, the study team has a taste testing panel of squirrels,

nature's own acorn gourmets.

All sorts of tests have been devised, Burns said. There is variability according to the kind of oak. Other tests measure moisture, protein and fat. The amount of tannin is an index of bitterness. Physical properties include size, shape, color and texture of shell and kernel.

Generally, crude protein varies from 4 to 7.5 percent, and fat is about 15 percent. Samples from the sandjack, water and southern red oaks tended to be higher. The fat content from acorns of one southern red oak was 31 percent.

Burns said evaluation of some samples was difficult because of masking effect of bitter materials. Some acorns, however, were almost bitter-free, sweet and flavorful.

The squirrel taste panel was highly selective and consistent in its preferences. Acorns with low tannin pleased their palates the most. The bushy tailed connoisseurs demonstrated that their favorite nuts came from the post oaks and the red and black oaks.

Burns said further development of acorns as a food source will involve two approaches.

First, a selection program is needed to find nuts of top taste and nutrition. Second, a processing technology should be developed to cheaply and quickly remove bitterness found in nearly all acorns.

The wide availability and nutritious composition gives acorns considerable potential as a human food, Burns said.

## Dabbs completes last book of Palacio series

Publication of the last book in a three-volume series of "The Mariano Riva Palacio Archives" by Dr. Jack A. Dabbs of A&M has been announced.

The volume concludes the lengthy project Dabbs began in 1954 under sponsorship of the Institute of Latin American Studies, The University of Texas. Dr. Dabbs heads the Modern Languages Department at TAMU.

The Palacio archives project is part of a larger plan of the UT institute to make available to scholars an extensive collection of documentary manuscript material in the Latin American Library at Austin.

Dabbs recently completed work is a detailed description of the library archives of Mariano Riva Palacio, one of the leading political figures of 19th Century

Mexico. The books were published in Mexico.

Palacio's personal papers, including more than 10,000 letters and documents, were studied and summarized in the first two volumes. The third volume is an alphabetical index to the first two volumes.

Dr. Dabbs noted the books will expedite research in Mexican history from original sources.

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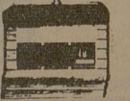
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