

# Records of nuclear blast may help scientists predict earthquakes

WASHINGTON (AP) — Recorded underground nuclear blast at Amchitka Island last November have yielded information that promises to help toward predicting and even mitigating natural earth-

quakes, the government said Wednesday.

The Commerce Department reported that the code-named Cannikin test "produced some of the most precise seismic data ever recorded for a tremor, natural or manmade."

Although environmentalists feared that it might cause serious harm, officials said the blast triggered no natural earthquakes or tidal waves.

However, the hefty, magnitude-7 earth shock from the detonation itself temporarily shook the lonely island at least 1.5 inches up

and down and 2.3 inches sideways, the report said. It also created a tiny fault in one area.

The Atomic Energy Commission previously reported that the blast, equivalent to nearly five million tons of TNT, produced only minimal environmental damage, killing some birds, fish and other wildlife on the island.

As the most powerful underground blast detonated in the Western world, Cannikin apparently opened the way to making the Spartan anti-ballistics missile fully operational, the AEC has said.

Monday's report by the Commerce Department's National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration said it might take a year to fully analyze the data. But in listing "probable results," the report said:

"NOAA seismologists expect to extract significant new information on the casual mechanisms of earthquake after-shocks, and hope to be able to apply that knowledge to an improved understanding of natural earthquake source-mechanisms.

"Because this work might apply to natural earthquakes, it holds particular promise for scientists studying earthquake prediction and mitigation techniques."

The report said: "Scientists in the United States and in other nations used the seismic waves emanating from Amchitka as a 'window' to the earth's interior."

Other benefits may be toward helping produce earthquake-resistant buildings and studying the theory of "continental drift," it said.

No discernable natural earthquakes were triggered in the United States, the report said, and "apparently, Cannikin had no effect on earthquake activity elsewhere on the planet."

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## Orr will probably resign as Democratic chairman

DALLAS (AP) — State Democratic chairman Roy Orr, under fire for holding the party position after being appointed a Dallas County commissioner, said Wednesday he will probably resign the party post within 30 days.

Secretary of State Bob Bullock is holding up Orr's certifi-

cation to the \$27,600 county job until he determines whether holding both jobs would be a conflict of interest. Rep. Dick Reed of Oak Cliff joined Bullock in objecting to Orr's appointment.

Orr, however, said that "The best legal information I have is that I could continue in both

posts." He said Dist. Atty. Henry Wade's office had cleared his appointment.

Reed filed a request with Bullock Monday to hold up the certification until the attorney general could render an opinion. He added he may run against Orr in the May primary charging Orr would be County Judge Lew Sterrett's man on the commissioner's court.

Reed said Wednesday his phone "had been ringing constantly" with calls from persons offering to support him in a race against Orr. Most of them, he said, were from Oak Cliff and Grand Prairie, the two most populous areas in commissioner's district four.

Orr would not comment on Reed's accusation or possible primary challenge.

"I have no comments on anybody's political announcement," he said. Orr originally had indicated he would continue in the state party position until the September state convention but had changed his mind by Wednesday.

"I'm sure I will resign after I get a few things worked out," he said. "I just don't want to walk out on something. He will probably have our new party convention's rules worked out and adopted by mid-February and I think by then things will be in pretty good shape."

Reed said there is a section of the election code which prohibits party officials from holding any other position of public trust for which they are paid money.

## Cadets to participate in exercise with Texas National Guard units

Army ROTC cadets of A&M will participate this weekend in a training exercise with Texas National Guard units at Fort Hood.

Col. Thomas R. Parsons said more than 50 cadets will cooperate with units of the Third Battalion (Airborne) of the 143rd Infantry, 71st Airborne Brigade, in a combat equipment mass tactical drop and maneuvers at North Fort Hood.

TAMU cadets will act as aggressor personnel against Guardsmen in small unit tactical missions. The A&M group will include members of the Ranger Company commanded by Stephen O. Swanner, Airborne and Ranger-qualified Cadets and Marine Corps Platoon Leader Class participants.

"The exercise will serve as an excellent training vehicle for our people as well as 71st personnel," pointed out Colonel Parsons, TAMU professor of military science.

National Guard units of the Waco, Temple, Marlin and Bryan area will marshal at James

Connally Technical Institute in Waco.


They will jump into North Fort Hood from C-130s. The drop will occur at 2 p.m. Saturday with the maneuvers to run into the night.

A&M cadets in six squad-size teams of eight to 10 men will conduct harassing missions such as raids, ambushes, combat and reconnaissance patrols. Each team will be led by a Ranger-qualified A&M graduate of 1971, who will serve both as instructor and leader.

The TAMU group will leave Saturday morning and return Sunday, accompanied by Capt. Charles Briscoe, Sgt. Maj. John McDonald and M. Sgt. Alfred H. Petty Jr.

Captain Briscoe noted that the TAMU group will not jump during the exercise, though with proper clearance some of the Airborne-qualified cadets may jump.

"Our cadets will have good opportunity to practice small unit leadership," Sergeant Major McDonald said. "If the exercise is successful, it may be done again."



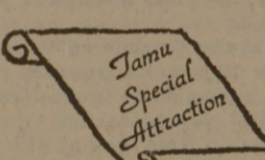
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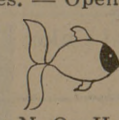
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