

The Battalion

Vol. 67 No. 76

College Station, Texas

Friday, February 11, 1972

Cloudy
and
cooler

Today — Cloudy skies, rain showers and thundershowers. Winds between west and east at 5-10 mph. High 59°.

Saturday — Cloudy skies in morning becoming partly cloudy in afternoon. Easterly winds 10-12 mph. High 66°, low 48°.

845-2226

Gus Mutscher trial still going through

ABILENE, Tex. (AP) — A district judge denied two key defense motions Thursday and the state announced it would prosecute Texas House Speaker Gus Mutscher and two associates Feb. 28 on charges of conspiracy to accept a bribe.

Judge Neil Daniel struck down two motions to quash the criminal indictments against Mutscher, his chief aide, Rush McGinty and State Rep. Tommy Shannon of Fort Worth.

Travis County District Atty. Bob Smith disclosed then that he would move first against all three defendants on the conspiracy charge.

Mutscher, 39, is also under state indictment alleging he ac-

cepted a bribe. Shannon and McGinty were named only in the conspiracy indictment, although the defense argued that the charge is worded in such a way as to allege acceptance of a bribe also.

The case, arising from the Texas stock fraud scandals, was transferred from Austin on a change of venue.

The tall, dark-haired, soft-spoken judge cleared the courtroom 30 minutes after the hearing began for debate on a motion to quash subpoenas of four newsmen.

The judge granted the motion after the four reporters testified separately behind closed doors.

The defense thus failed in its

attempt to learn the sources of information for two news stories that appeared last September before the grand jury indictments were returned.

In what was interpreted as a related action, Judge Daniel overruled the first two defense motions to dismiss the indictments.

The defense later attacked the indictment itself as unconstitutional, contending also that it is "overly broad, overly vague . . . and should be dismissed."

"I overrule the motion," the judge said softly.

Mutscher, flanked by McGinty and Shannon, sat silently and unsmilingly behind his attorneys, occasionally adjusting his horn-rimmed glasses while the legal confrontation unfolded.

The four reporters, who testified behind closed doors, were Robert Heard of The Associated Press Austin bureau, Glen Castleberry and George Kuempel of the Austin American-Statesman, and Don Fisher of the Dallas Times Herald.

The four had written stories last September linking Mutscher, McGinty and Shannon with the indictments before the indictments were handed down by the grand jury.

Judge Daniel told newsmen that the reporters did not disclose the sources of their exclusive information. He said that their answers were immaterial to the motions presented by the defense.

Mutscher's battery of lawyers won one battle without firing a shot when the judge ordered the jury selection will be on an individual basis, which is unusual except in capital cases.

It was at this point that chief defense attorney Frank Maloney told the judge that the pre-trial hearing could be excused.

Presumably Maloney intended to use the articles they published and broadcast about the case to support a motion for individual jury selection.

Smith voiced no objections although he had previously said that he saw "no reason to make an exception in this case."

The hearing ended in mid-afternoon.

S. Vietnam's Thieu refuses additional peace concessions

SAIGON (AP) — President Nguyen Van Thieu declared Thursday night that South Vietnam will make no further peace concessions despite Secretary of State William P. Rogers' assertions of flexibility in the allied position.

Thieu confirmed a rift between Saigon and President Nixon's administration over the latest allied peace plan. He sharply criticized Rogers, saying that if the secretary meant what he said, "It is a serious violation of Vietnamese sovereignty."

"I will talk with Mr. Nixon about it," Thieu said in a television interview with five Vietnamese newsmen.

In Washington, the State Department declined comment but Gerald L. Warren, deputy White House press secretary said: "There's no disagreement between this government and the government of South Vietnam."

While saying nothing about a future Nixon-Thieu meeting, Warren emphasized the United States would not indulge in "concessions with Hanoi at the expense of the people of South Vietnam."

Under the allied eight-point peace plan, new election would follow a cease-fire and Thieu would resign a month before the vote, in which all political factions including the Viet Cong could participate.

Rogers told a Washington

news conference Feb. 3 that the United States was flexible on the composition of a caretaker government, on the length of time that Thieu would resign before the election and on other unresolved questions.

"Everybody knows that the proposal is a joint peace plan of the United States and South Vietnam," Thieu declared. "When we said I will resign one month prior to the new election, we mean it."

Thieu said that "we cannot go farther because if we make another step, I am sure we will fall into a bad hole and South Vietnam will fall into the hands of the Communists."

Thieu termed unacceptable two points of the revised Viet Cong peace plan — that he resign now and that the United States set a troop withdrawal deadline in order that discussion could begin on a political settlement.

"The enemy's aim is not peace," he said. "It is a domination of South Vietnam. So they have rejected our proposals, and they keep presenting their unacceptable two points. We will never accept their two points. It means a surrender."

Nixon won't entice Reds on peace plan

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Nixon said Thursday he has gone as far as he intends to go to entice the Communists to a negotiated settlement of the Vietnam war until Hanoi begins to negotiate seriously.

In an impromptu news conference at the White House, Nixon said the Communists had not yet responded formally to his Jan. 23 eight-point peace proposal and there will be no further concessions on our part "until or unless the other side joins in genuine negotiations."

Senator Byrd

TV is politician's most influential tool



Sen. Robert Byrd of West Virginia speaks with a member of Political Forum after his delayed speech Thursday. See accompanying story. (Photo by Mike Rice)

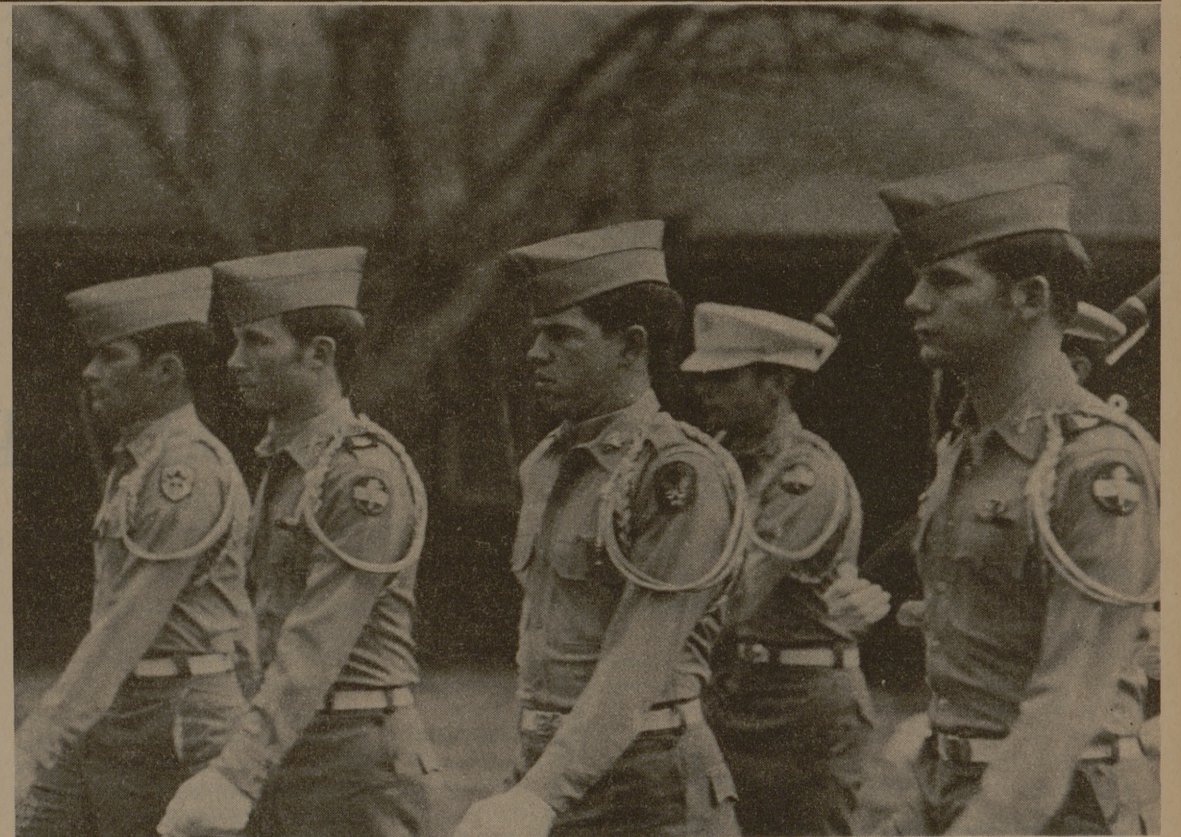
"The medium of television is the most influential tool available to a politician," Senator Robert Byrd told Thursday afternoon's Political Forum crowd in the Memorial Student Center Ballroom.

Speaking on "Political Parties and the New Politics," the West Virginia Democrat called the "new politics" a media catch phrase and put it in the same category as the "Credibility Gap." He further described it as a "disenchantment with the political process in the U.S. which the new politicians characterize as having a cynical attitude toward the people and disinterest in critical problems facing the nation."

Byrd also said these new politicians proclaim the media have revolutionized the political process so the "traditional concept of parties no longer applies to the American scene."

Byrd cited the University of Michigan Survey Research Center as a believer that the independent voter feels no strong loyalty to either major party because he is poorly informed, and uninterested in politics. He opposed this viewpoint saying these "swing" voters could be appealed to via "slick television spots and highly charged campaigns" whose origins are the "copy rooms and production studios of Madison Avenue and other advertising complexes."

In the 1940's about 80 per cent of the electorate could be counted on to vote a straight ticket



The Ross Volunteers are practicing for their performance in the Mardi Gras parade. See accompanying story. (Photo by Robert Williams)

RVs to escort King Rex

The Ross Volunteer Company of A&M makes its annual appearance in the Mardi Gras Parade in New Orleans Tuesday, acting as the escort for King Rex.

While in New Orleans, the Ross Volunteers will stay on an aircraft carrier docked in the harbor. Various organizations of former students in the area host the cadets at social functions in their honor during the four-day stay.

Organized in 1887, the unit consists of junior and senior members of the Corps of Cadets, selected on the basis of leadership, character and activities.

The Ross Volunteers, named after Lawrence Sullivan Ross, an early president of A&M, exists to provide military training to members of the upper classes in the Corps, so that their dress, bearing and conduct will serve as examples to the rest of the Corps.

The company has represented A&M at many functions, including San Antonio's Fiesta, the Governor's inauguration and various campus events. Members also serve as escorts for important visitors to the university.

The Ross Volunteers consists of 122 members, 90 of whom are juniors. Seniors act as non-commissioned and commissioned officers. The company is divided into three platoons.

The company was originally

formed under the name Scott Volunteers, in honor of Colonel T. M. Scott. The intention was to name the unit after each president of the school, but this idea was abandoned in favor of the present name.

Each spring a vote of the juniors in the company determines the members of the Ross Volunteer Firing Squad. This elite group is composed of 21 cadets, seven from each of the platoons. The Firing Squad appears at the annual Aggie Muster, in addition

to serving as the salute unit for Silver Taps ceremonies throughout the school year.

Commander of the Ross Volunteers for 1971-72 is Mike Weynand of Hondo. Robert Lozano of Guadalajara, Mexico, is the executive officer. First sergeant is Jimmy Ferguson of Garland.

Platoon leaders are Jan Bertholf of Annandale, Va., Frank Hertzog of Huntsville, Ala., and Tom Stanley of Mount Pleasant. Stanley is this year's Corps commander.

Woman 'to tell the truth' about Irving and Hughes

NEW YORK (AP) — Nina van Pallandt flew in from London "to tell the truth about Clifford Irving, even if it means him going to jail."

On arrival at Kennedy Airport, she told reporters, "I do not want to answer any questions."

The blonde Danish cabaret singer is scheduled to testify Monday before a federal grand jury probing possible mail fraud in the mystery surrounding Irving's purported autobiography of billionaire Howard Hughes.

Irving claims he collected the material in 100 hours of meetings with Hughes and that one of them was in Mexico just a year ago.

Miss van Pallandt, who has said she loves Irving, disputes that claim, saying she was with Irving on the Mexican trip and that he could not have met Hughes during the less than two hours they were apart.

The fraud question was also being investigated in Zurich, Switzerland, where Robert G. Morvillo, chief of the criminal division in the U. S. attorney's office, and Asst. U. S. Tty. John J. Tighe Jr. arrived earlier in the day. They were trying to clarify just what happened to \$650,000 intended for Hughes, but deposited in banks there by a woman Irving has acknowledged as his wife, Edith.

The money was paid by the

McGraw-Hill Publishing Co. to Irving for relay to Hughes as advance payment for rights to the book. A voice purporting to be that of Hughes said in a telephone interview with a group of reporters that he had never received it.

Irving later admitted that his wife Edith, using the name "Helga R. Hughes," endorsed the three checks making up the amount "H. R. Hughes" and deposited them in a Zurich bank under that name. She later is said to have withdrawn the money and put \$442,000 of it in another bank calling herself Hannah Rosenkrantz, the name of her previous husband's present wife.

The U. S. prosecutors said they went to Zurich in connection with statements made by Mrs. Irving to the grand jury. This appeared to conflict with other reports that she had pleaded the Fifth Amendment to avoid self-incrimination.

Although the federal grand jury is in recess while the two men from the U. S. Attorney's office are in Switzerland, the Manhattan district attorney's office announced a New York County grand jury would begin its own investigation Friday.

It will look into possible grand larceny, forgery and perjury. Asst. Dist. Atty. Leonard Newman of the fraud division will lead the investigation.

Graduate Council will ask for a student on the board

The Graduate Student Council agreed in Thursday's meeting to formally ask the A&M Board of Directors to consider having a student on the board as a non-voting member.

The council voted to send copies of the proposal to the governor, lieutenant governor and legislature.

Ron Tomas, GSC president, feels, however, that there is little to be gained from having a student on the board. "Most of the action taken that affects students is done on an administrative level," he said.

The council previously considered asking that the GSC president, the Student Senate President and possibly a faculty representative sit on the Board of Directors. After much debate and a speech by Ed Cooper, as-

sistant to President Williams, the Jan. 27 GSC meeting of the council decided to ask that only the Student Senate President be a part of the board.

A committee has been formed from the GSC to study the possibilities of having language requirements optional.

Also under study by the council will be the parking lots planned for construction in front of the Systems building. Council members feel that these lots will detract from the beauty of the campus.

The two newly elected members of the GSC are Marvin Daniels and Jim Walsh.

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