

Gramm blames feds Thompson studies scholarship basis for inflation increase

Actions of the federal government have contributed to current high inflation rates, said Dr. W. Phillip Gramm of the economics department at the Texas Manufacturers Association (TMA) Thursday.

Speaking at a TMA luncheon in Fort Worth, Gramm blamed the production decrease in the first half of 1974 on the lingering disruptive impact of wage-price controls, effects of the energy crisis and the safety and environmental restraints on output.

due to both this production decrease and an increase in demand, he said.

Gramm cited government spending as a factor in the continuing inflation.

"Since 1965, the government has run over \$100 billion deficit and has financed 40 percent of that deficit by printing money through the Federal Reserve Bank," Gramm said. "No matter how much the American consumer tightens his belt, it will be impossible to stop the inflation if government spending continues to accelerate."

Gramm charged that the current credit shortage, which has caused interest rates to rise, has been caused by government competition with private borrowers. Because of the interest rate ceilings, private borrowers cannot compete with the government for funds, resulting in less investment money to expand output and jobs.

"Until the government deficit is reduced there will be a severe credit shortage which will continue to stifle investment and produce high interest rates to both the consumer and the producer," he said.

AUSTIN (AP) — Rep. Senfronia Thompson, D-Houston, asked the attorney general Thursday to decide if state college scholarships can be awarded on any basis other than financial need.

Mrs. Thompson, chairman of the House Committee on State Scholarship Program, said a staff report showed that many schools require scholarship applicants to meet certain academic and moral requirements.

She said that some schools award scholarships on a competitive basis, devising a point system which give priority to a "B" student over the "C-plus" student, even though the

latter has three times as much financial need.

Mrs. Thompson also asked if the University of Texas regents have authority to establish rules for colleges within the UT system saying that such scholarship funds would be set up "when and where such a fund is deemed appropriate by the chief administrative officer" of the school.

Grand Jury

(Continued from page 1)
—Commissioners court or district and county judges can hire the director of the office. The director then could hire the staff under authorization of the commissioners court or district and county judges.

—If the office is established in a judicial district then the counties must share the costs of administering the office in accordance with the population according to the preceding federal census.

—The court that releases the accused on a personal bond must assess a fee of \$10 or 3 percent of the amount of bail fixed, whichever is greater. The court may waive the fee if good cause is shown.

—These fees may only be used to pay expenses used in the personal bond office including expenses of extradition.

—The fees will be put into the county treasury unless the office serves more than one county. Then the fees will be distributed to each county according to the counties share of the cost for the office.

"I feel that the personal bond offices are needed so that the bondsmen will not make so much money on the bonds they establish," said grand juror Paul L. Rodriguez.

"Bondsmen collect a certain percentage of each bond that is set. The personal bonds will also cut the number of people in the county jail and there may not be a need to increase its size," he said.

Experts say strip mining favorable; underground more dangerous

By ROSE MARY TRAVERSO Staff Writer

Strip mining has many advantages over underground mining methods, said experts at the Environmental Action Council (EAC) meeting Thursday at the Bryan Utilities Building.

Dow Chemical's purchase of 2,500 acres of land east of Bryan for the purpose of strip mining for lignite has provoked a study by the EAC into strip mining's environmental effects.

Underground mining is more dangerous, said Dr. Chris Mathewson, an A&M specialist in engineering geology. The danger of highly combustible lignite in underground mines resulted in the Federal Employers Safety Act which encourages strip mining, he said. A lot of valuable land above underground mines is wasted because of the threat of cave-ins, Mathewson said. Strip mined lands can be completely reclaimed in a few years, he said.

"I would estimate that within a year's time an area could be revegetated," said Dr. Lloyd Hossner, an A&M soil scientist who has researched the Fairfield lignite project.

"Actually the texture of the soil has improved since we started," Hossner said. "We started out with sand and now we have loam."

Hossner pointed out that the lignite seams in Texas are in clay pan soils which are sandy, light-colored and infertile. Beneath the lignite is a dense layer of clay which effectively prevents ground water seepage of mining wastes.

Reclaimed areas have been made parks, recreational areas and can support small, high-rise buildings, but are impractical for residential purposes, Mathewson said. After the tightly compressed clay is removed and smoothed over it is full of holes and subject to subsidence, so only buildings with extremely deep foundations can be supported.

Extensive reclamation has been carried out by the Industrial Generating Co., a subsidiary of Texas Utilities, at Fairfield, Hossner said. "However, the decision to

reclaim varies with individual firms."

"In the absence of reclamation statutes, I'm afraid that reclamation will only take place if it is economically profitable, if the lease holder requires it or if the company feels it is good public relations," Dr. Earl Cook, dean of the college of Geosciences, said.

If a company owns land near an urban area such as the mining project near Dallas, it may decide to reclaim because of the high value of its land, Mathewson said.

Dow Chemical is not required by its lease to reclaim, said Coulter Hoppess, a Bryan lawyer who has worked on the leases of five owners.

Dow has agreed to "pay a pre-

negotiated damage to the surface" and will smooth and seed the lands. "That's a far way from reclamation," Hoppess said.

The pros and cons of strip mining will be explored further by Ed Dobson, an environmentalist and strip mining expert who will speak and present a movie at the Bryan library on Nov. 11.

Granberry claims 'hoodwinking' in Briscoe's voter campaigning

(AP) — Republican Jim Granberry claimed Thursday that Gov. Dolph Briscoe's campaign advertising attempts to hoodwink Texas voters, into thinking Briscoe fought for constitutional revision. The GOP gubernatorial candidate told a San Antonio luncheon that Constitutional Convention leaders repeatedly asked Briscoe's assistance when they were unable to get two-thirds approval on any type of proposed new state policy document.

"But he was strangely silent and refused to provide any leadership," Granberry said in his prepared remarks. "After the convention failed by only three votes, Mr. Briscoe was asked during a news conference if he could have swayed three votes and he replied that he could not . . . Mr. Briscoe's advertising campaign is deceptive by claiming leadership in areas where he was an absolute failure."

Briscoe remained Thursday at Uvalde, carrying on the duties of governor while close to his critically ill mother, Mrs. Dolph Briscoe Sr.

A previously scheduled major campaign speech by Briscoe to the Texas Manufacturers Association in Fort Worth was canceled, and the TMA asked Secretary of State Mark White to make a substitute appearance.

Raza Unida Party gubernatorial candidate Ramsey Muniz told delegates to the Missionary Baptist Church Convention in Abilene Thursday "We don't want politicians coming to our neighborhoods making promises every two years."

"We want to elect our own politicians and we want to determine our own destinies," Muniz said.

The candidate, who was given five minutes to speak to the delegation, said his election "will not solve all your problems but the greatest power we have is the voting power."

The office of Sam McDonnell, American Party candidate for governor, announced the appointment of Mrs. Elizabeth Rardin, free lance writer in Hillsboro, as his state press coordinator. She formerly was assistant county chairman for the Dallas County American Party and is first vice president of the state board of Pro-America, a national women's organization.

Zack Fisher, Republican candidate for agriculture commissioner, said in Beaumont that the present Agriculture Commissioner John White, Democrat, spends much of his time criticizing Secretary of Agriculture Earl Butz and President Ford.

"It would seem that since Texas is

one of the biggest agriculture producers in the world that maybe we should be able to handle our own washing," Fisher said in his prepared remarks. "Rather than blame Washington, why doesn't Mr. White use the power of his office to get something done in the Lone Star State. Rather than running off to a proposed cattle slaughter to get his picture on TV, why not go to Washington to discuss the problems?"

Bryanite murdered

A Bryan resident was found shot to death near City Lake off Sandy Point Road around 12 p.m. Wednesday.

Sheriff's deputies identified the man as Fred Kennedy, 54, 1707 Palasota Dr. He received a bullet wound in the head from a .22 cal. rifle.

The sheriff's department said it believes the shooting occurred between 10:30 and 11:00 a.m. Wednesday.

Suspects are still being sought in the murder.

Local poets give reading

Local poets will present a reading of poems Sunday at 3 p.m. in the Stage Center Theater.

The Bryan-College Station Poetry Society will present Harry Alter, Merle Hudson, Pamela Palmer and Nancy Roberts.

Admission is free and there will be a coffee hour afterwards to meet the poets.

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