

The Battalion

Thought for the day
For what avail the plow or sail or
land or life if freedom fail?
—Ralph Waldo Emerson

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Economic decline ruins budget hopes

WASHINGTON (AP) — Inflation and economic decline are playing havoc with the administration's budget hopes for 1975 and 1976, and some officials say a balanced budget in 1976 probably is now beyond reach.

Unless there are cuts in 1975 spending, the government faces a 1975 budget deficit of at least \$13 billion, instead of the \$11.5 billion deficit projected in May, an administration source said.

The Ford and Nixon administrations have made a reduced budget deficit in fiscal 1975 and a balanced budget in 1976 a major part of their anti-inflation program.

The last time the federal budget wasn't in deficit was in 1969, when it showed a surplus of \$3.2 billion. Treasury Secretary William E. Simon and others have said the continuing federal deficits are a major cause of the nation's inflation.

But inflation also has made the goal of balanced budgets more elusive.

Fall board due Tuesday

Final board installments are due by Tuesday. Students on the 7-day Board Plan must pay \$127 and students on the 5-day Board Plan owe \$114. The payments may be made either at the main fiscal office or in the new branch office in the Rudder Tower.

38 per cent turnout

Cliff-hangers mark election

By The Associated Press
If a bare handful of the near-record number of Americans who stayed away from the polls had voted, many who lost cliff-hanger elections Tuesday might have been elected to high government office.

Five races for state governorships will go on record as being decided by less than 5,000 votes. One of the five squeakers still is undecided. In a sixth close contest, a candidate conceded that he had lost, only to learn later that he was the winner.

There were cliff-hangers in five U.S. Senate races. In one, the final unofficial returns had the candidates less than 100 votes apart, too close for the outcome to be decided before an official canvass.

In another one, the spread was less than 300 and in a third it was about 600. The two others were decided by fewer than 5,000 votes.

Voter turnout for Tuesday's election—estimated at 38 per cent—was at its lowest level since 1946, when 37.1 per cent of the voting age population went to the polls. The lowest figure on record is 32.5 per cent for 1942, when millions of men were away at war.

Republican Paul Laxalt, the former governor of Nevada, narrowly won his U.S. Senate race by some 600 votes out of about 158,000 cast in the race. The same for U.S. Rep. Louis C. Wyman, another Republican, who won by less than 300 votes in a New Hampshire race where 220,000 ballots were cast.

Incumbent Oklahoma Republican Henry Bellmon got by a little more easily. Even though some 777,000 persons voted in the race, Bellmon won by a little more than a 3,000-vote margin.

Today

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Weather

Continued mostly cloudy Friday and Saturday. Light drizzle today and winds from the east-northeast 5-10 mph. Slightly warmer Saturday. High today 57°; low tonight 50°; high Saturday 64°.

Salaries raise budget Commissioners to act Monday

By STEVE GRAY
Staff Writer

Increases in revenue sharing funds as well as salary raises are responsible for the overall increase in the proposed \$2,429,272 county budget for 1975, County Judge William R. Vance, said Wednesday.

Commissioners' court will consider approval of the proposed budget during its regular monthly meeting Monday at 10 a.m.

The salary increases, which include a 10 per cent across the board pay raise for most county employees, total nearly \$80,000 in the proposed budget. Revenue sharing funds are up \$248,000.

Approximately \$400,000 has been appropriated for salaries in 1975 along with \$374,471 in re-

venue sharing funds. Those funds will probably be used for purchasing real property, Vance said.

"The bulk of increases in the general fund, however, are due mainly to the salary raises alone," said Vance.

Appropriations for the general fund total \$1,017,440, representing a \$62,508 increase over 1974.

Top county officials will receive a \$43,500 increase in their salaries under the proposed budget.

"Actually, it's difficult to compare the other increases in the proposed budget with the 1974 one because of the budget format change," Vance said.

"Various appropriations have been added to the general fund that

were formerly listed under other categories in this year's budget."

Vance said that the new format will allow more detailed itemization of funds.

"There's not doubt that we'll be able to keep better track of where the money is going once we change over to the new computerized accounting system."

Vance pointed out that each county office will have its own insurance listed under the office instead of all insurance policies being listed under proposed disbursements as in 1974.

The proposed budget includes a 300 per cent increase in voters' registration expenses under the tax assessor-collector's office. Vance said the increase was necessary be-

cause of precinct re-districting.

"We've got a monumental task coming up in that we are going to have place voters in their correct precincts. This happens when people do not register or vote in their precinct at least once every three years," he said.

Vance said this must be done between now and March 1.

More than \$96,000 was appropriated for the Highway 6 west by-pass project. Vance said that money may not be used.

"That project is essentially completed," Vance said. "There is a possibility that we may have to spend some money to re-locate some utilities in the area of the west by-pass but I don't think we will."

Texans protest

Demo committee hears challenges

HOUSTON (AP) — A national committee Thursday heard challenges from two groups seeking to replace Texas delegates to a Democratic national mini-convention in December in Kansas City.

The groups, led by Mrs. Billie Carr, a Democratic national committeewoman from Houston, and Joe Bernel of San Antonio, challenged the way 15 at-large delegates of the 98-member convention were chosen at a tumultuous state party convention Sept. 17 in Austin.

Both groups charged the at-large delegation was handpicked by Gov. Dolph Briscoe. They also complained that a minority report at the convention was gavelled down before it could be presented and that the state party failed to adequately attract minority members to the party process.

Those hearing the challenge came from the Democratic National Committee's compliance committee for the 1974 mini-convention. Chairman Charles Ward of Conway, Ark., said he hopes the committee will be able to release its re-

port Friday in Washington.

The hearing committee's report will then go to the full compliance committee which meets Nov. 15.

Bernel's group said the committee should recommend that five more Mexican-American delegates be added to the four at-large delegates currently on the list chosen by the convention.

Mrs. Carr's group said 11 of the 15 members of the at-large delegation should be replaced to make the entire list more accurately reflect the state's percentages of Mexican-Americans, blacks, youth and women.

Of the 98 delegates, 61 were chosen by the 31 state senatorial caucuses at the state convention by the entire convention, and 22 are Democratic national congressmen.

Both groups complained of the failure of Calvin Guest, chairman of the Texas Democratic party who chaired the state convention, to let delegates vote on a minority challenge at the at-large delegation after the majority of the nominating committee had chosen 13 of the 15 at-large delegates recommended by Gov. Briscoe.



W-1 adviser

Lt. Theresa Holzmann spoke to the Women's Awareness group Thursday about the W-1 outfit. (Photo by Glen Johnson)

Strauss says Demo gains show pressure for action

WASHINGTON (AP) — Party chairman Robert Strauss said Thursday that sweeping victory in Tuesday's elections puts pressure on Democrats to lead in the fight against inflation with a legislative program of their own.

But AFL-CIO President George Meany and elections expert Richard Scammon disagreed with Strauss' assessment of the vote as a mandate for the Democratic party.

"I don't believe in this mandate stuff," Meany said in a news conference. "I don't think it was a mandate for the Democratic party. It was a vote against the party which happened to be represented at the

White House." Scammon, a former director of the Census Bureau, told the National Women's Democratic Club the vote was "anti-situation and circumstances, not necessarily pro-Democratic. This was an anti-Nixon, anti-inflation and anti-Republican vote."

But all three agreed that given the congressional strength, the Democrats had better do something with it to ease the public's anxiety over the economy.

Meany said Democrats already control Congress but haven't been producing with current majorities. "We're not getting a great deal of

support for things, the bread and butter issues, that we believe the American people are interested in," Meany said.

Strauss said he had talked to the Democratic leaders in Congress and expected them to come up with a firm legislative program which they will try to pass early in the new Congress, which convenes Jan. 3.

"We need to pin down a rather precise first-stage legislative program," Strauss said at a National Press Club breakfast. "And the Hill leadership will do that."

Otherwise, Strauss said, "We'll hear from the people in a couple of years"—in the next elections.

MSC backed Senate also asks change in Batt editorial policies

By TERESA COSLETT
Staff Writer

The Student Senate passed a resolution Thursday night supporting the MSC Council's criticism of The Battalion's campus news coverage.

Senator Dale Foster sponsored the resolution in response to an MSC Council letter asking The Battalion to re-examine its editorial policy concerning the amount of campus news coverage.

Senator Susan Fontaine said, "If I want to read about the national, state or local news I subscribe to The Eagle. In The Battalion, I want to read about what's going on around this campus."

Student Vice President of External Affairs John Nash said, "There is no implied threat in this resolution. It is merely an attempt to give The Battalion student input and should be taken as a constructive suggestion."

Senator Cindy Wallace said, "I see no reason to side with the MSC."

Before passing the resolution,

senators discussed off campus students' dependence on The Battalion for campus news and the effectiveness of the resolution.

Foster omitted a portion of the resolution requesting a survey of Battalion news coverage due to lack of Student Government funds.

A resolution requesting the Aggie Players be allowed to produce "Marat/Sade", the play canceled earlier by Dr. David Maxwell, dean of liberal arts, was presented on first reading.

John Tyler, student vice president of rules and regulations introduced the motion saying the issue was not the play itself but illegal censorship.

Senator Tom Woodfin said the theater department could never hope to improve with a history of censorship.

Also up for first reading was a resolution introduced by senator Joe Marcello concerning the forced resignation of students Greg Marchand and Elmer Banes.

Marchand and Banes worked for

the Housing Office and were asked to resign by Glenn H. Jennings, Housing Office Manager because of a letter to "The Battalion" concerning Centrex policy.

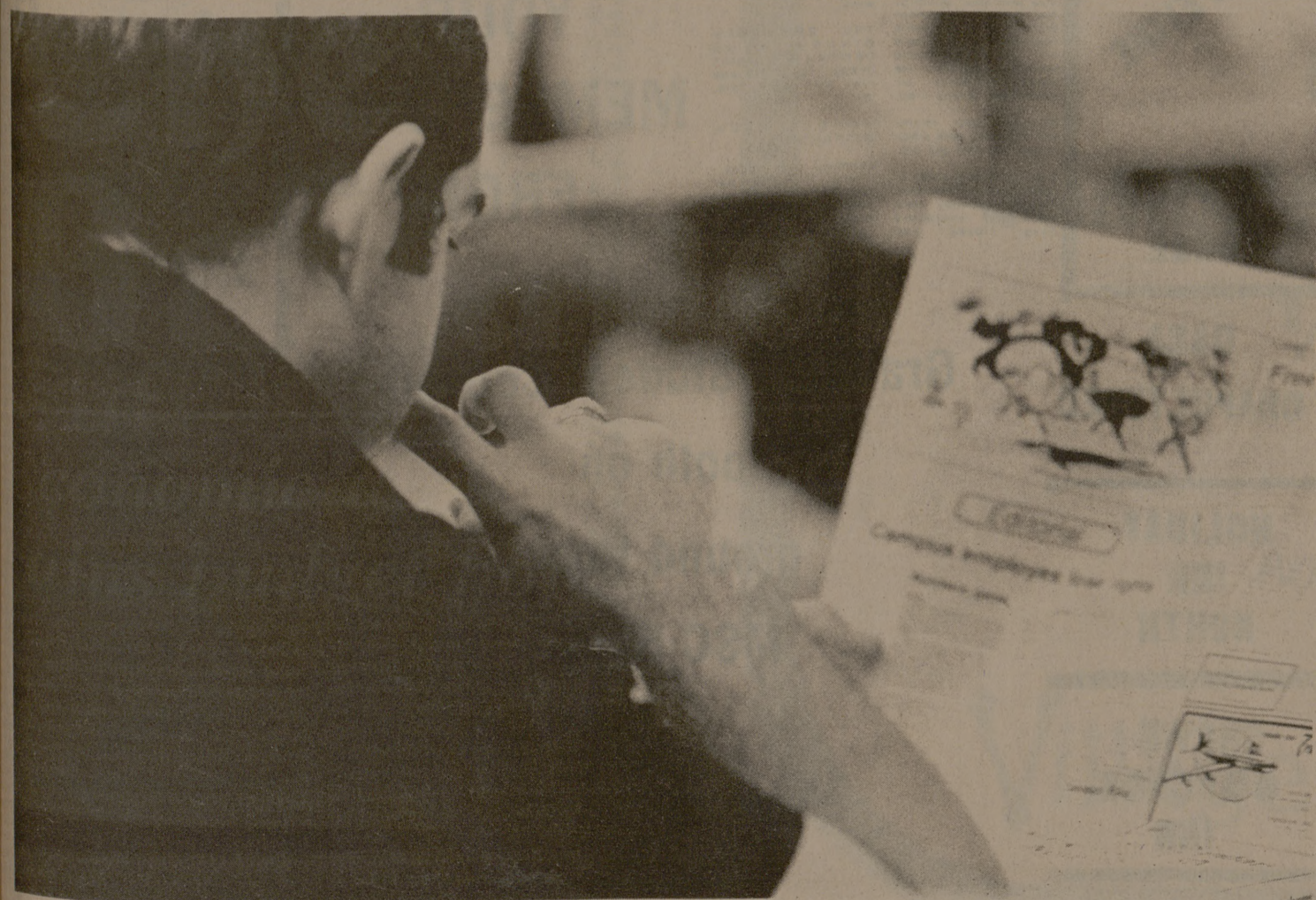
Marcello's resolution would ask Jennings for an explanation of the forced resignations and provide for automatic censure if the senate voted the explanation was unsatisfactory.

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Marcello said, "The senate has a right anywhere students are directly involved. I feel it is a wrong we should investigate."

"If it's only a question of neglect of duty we have no right to interfere."

"But if it involves student rights—that is our business." Passed unanimously at the meeting was a resolution eliminating parallelism in the senate's constitution, involving minor changes in wording.



Senator reads The Battalion—main topic of Thursday's meeting. (Photo by Steve Krauss)