

Weather

Mostly cloudy Thursday with occasional breaks in the overcast. Strong N-NE winds 8-15 gusting to 20 mph. High today 45 degrees; low tonight 24 degrees. Gradual clearing to partly cloudy Friday with a high of 49 degrees.

The Battalion

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House strikes; Ford's oil tariff may be halted

WASHINGTON (AP) — Challenging President Ford's energy program and bidding for time to construct its own, the Democratic-dominated House voted Wednesday, 309 to 114, to halt Ford's tariff on imported oil.

The bill the House passed and sent to the Senate would suspend for 90 days the authority Ford claims to impose by presidential order a \$3 a barrel tax on foreign oil. The \$1 tax imposed Feb. 1, the first of three planned increments, would be cancelled.

Ford is expected to veto the bill if it clears the Senate.

The vote by which the House passed it was greater than the two-thirds that would be required to override a veto. Forty-two Republicans joined 267 Democrats to pass the bill.

In a second blow to Ford's overall economy-energy program, the Senate joined the House in passing legislation to kill an administration plan to raise the price of food stamps March 1.

The stamps are bought by needy persons and redeemed for a greater dollar amount of food. The Ford

proposal would have replaced a sliding scale with a flat charge of 30 percent of adjusted net income for the stamps.

The 76-8 vote sent the bill, passed Tuesday by the House, to Ford for signature or veto.

A third measure sought by the administration to increase the federal debt limit was passed by the House, 248 to 170. It would increase the limit to a record \$531 billion to accommodate borrowing expected through next June 30 as government spending continues to outpace revenues.

The Treasury Department had reported that the debt would approach the present \$495 billion by Feb. 18, bringing the threat of a fiscal crisis if Congress had not acted by then.

The debt bill now goes to the Senate.

Despite the setback on the tariff bill, a White House spokesman said "The President was encouraged by the size of the vote and he felt that he had come a long way since he began his meetings with members of Congress. He plans other meetings with members of Congress to

continue the explanation of his program."

Passage of the tariff-delaying bill came after a flurry of White House activity and reports and denials that compromise might be in the wind.

Ford entertained about 100 Republicans at dinner Tuesday and about the same number of Democrats, largely from the South and Southwest, at breakfast Wednesday, with briefings by high officials on energy and economic matters.

Chairman George H. Mahon, D-Tex., of the House Appropriations Committee, one of those who attended, said Ford "made the point he had been waiting for Congress to take definite action and he felt he had to take steps to bring it to a head, so he took the initiative by imposing the oil tax."

Mahon also said Ford indicated he would be open to suggestions, but did not intend to back down

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Cram it

These people aren't creating a new fad, they are participants in the MSC Car Cram sponsored by the Recreation Committee. The contest was held Wednesday

near the MSC fountain. Winners received gift certificates for food at McDonald's.

Photo by Douglas Winship

\$98 million

Senate passes state school bill

AUSTIN (AP) — Texas senators tried Wednesday to offset inflation and rising enrollments by approving Gov. Dolph Briscoe's request for an extra \$98 million for public schools and junior colleges.

The House is expected to complete legislative action Thursday on the two proposals appropriating the money.

Both passed the Senate on 290 votes without debate.

The Senate approved and sent to the governor a resolution permitting him to spend \$500,000 appropriated in 1973 for disaster relief for flood victims. The federal government will match the state money \$3 to \$1.

It also tentatively approved, 19-10, a bill establishing standard procedures for hearings before state agencies. Sen. Oscar Mauzy, D-Dallas, protested that it would take away the right of a person to

reopen the entire matter in court after a hearing examiner has made a ruling.

One of the educational bills provides \$80 million in state funds for local school districts. The money is earmarked for maintenance and operation—not teachers' salaries.

Witnesses have testified that school budgets are suffering from rising utility and gasoline costs, and some districts also began new programs in anticipation of the emergency funds.

The average amount of additional aid under the bill will be \$32.60 per pupil.

The other bill increases state aid to public junior colleges by \$18 million-\$12 million for vocational-technical instruction and 6 million for general academic programs.

Spokesmen have told legislative committees that junior college enrollments have risen by 29 per cent since 1972, when they last requested state money, based on a projected enrollment increase of only 18 per cent.



OPAS brings Bach

Entertainment was provided in the Rudder Auditorium Wednesday by the Bach Aria Group. The production sponsored by OPAS

featured a program of cantatas and arias from the cantatas of J. S. Bach.

Photo by Tom Kayser

Veterans' benefit bill approved by Senate

AUSTIN, Tex. (AP) — A Senate committee approved three bills Wednesday to benefit veterans but balked at allowing disabled veterans to fish and hunt free in Texas.

All the measures were sponsored by Sen. Lindon Williams, D-Houston, who is in charge of legislation for the American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars and disabled veterans.

The bill included:

- A measure giving preference to retired war veterans, as well as those who have been honorably discharged, in hiring state employees.
- A proposal exempting honorably discharged veterans with

service-connected disabilities from the \$1 state park fee.

• A proposal reducing from 70 per cent to 60 per cent the percentage of service-connected disability required in order for a veteran to get free auto license tags.

The bill exempting disabled veterans from buying hunting and fishing licenses was sent to a State Affairs subcommittee after the committee chairman, Sen. W. T. Moore, D-Bryan, complained, "This is going to cost a lot of money."

A fiscal note stated the state would lose \$194,922 in revenue over the next two years.

Enrollment up again

TAMU's spring enrollment is a record 20,585.

Registrar Robert A. Lacey said registration is up 15.8 per cent over the same period last year.

This spring's enrollment includes 5,276 women, for an increase of 1,287 over the 1974 spring semester.

The total enrollment includes 205 students registered at TAMU's Moody College of Marine Sciences and Maritime Resources at Galveston.

The figures represent TAMU's enrollment as of Tuesday, the 12th class day of the semester and official reporting period for the Coordinating Board, Texas College and University System.

Spring enrollment is traditionally lower than in the fall, Lacey noted. He pointed out, however, this semester's drop is smaller than usual, being only 878 below last fall's all-time record 21,463 students. A mid-term record 1,074 students were graduated in December.

Teague succeeds Kennedy

WASHINGTON (AP) — Rep. Olin E. Teague, R-Tex., has been elected chairman of the board of the Congressional Office of Technology Assessment, it was announced Wednesday.

Sen. Clifford P. Case, R-N.J., was chosen vice chairman.

Teague, chairman of the House Science and Technology Committee, succeeds Sen. Edward M. Kennedy, D-Mass., and Case succeeds Rep. Charles A. Moser, R-Ohio.

The 12-member board is a policy-making body overseeing activities of the Office of Technology Assessment, which advises the Congress on technological development.

Teague, a member of the House Science Committee since it was formed in 1959, played a role in the legislation for the U.S. manned space flight program.

By statute, the board leadership posts shift between the House and Senate in alternate Congresses and, by precedent, they are filled on a bipartisan basis with a chairman of the majority party and a vice chairman of the minority party.



Joe Haynes displaying new concrete canoe.

No joke

Synthetic concrete aggregate used in offbeat racing canoe

By ROXIE HEARN
Staff Writer

Have you heard about the Aggies who built a concrete canoe? It's no joke.

Two graduate students, Joe Haynes and Wayne Schoen, and a senior Civil Engineering major, Neil Fisher, compose one of two Aggie teams entering a concrete canoe race the first week of April.

And would you believe one of the rules of the contest states that the canoe must float while completely filled with water?

The canoe, 14 feet long and 3 feet wide, is made of a synthetic, lightweight, concrete aggregate.

Blown glass, rocks that float, and other light materials compose the aggregate, creating a craft which Haynes said weighed approximately 250 pounds.

"First, a frame is built and covered with wire mesh," Haynes explained. It's shaped and then plas-

tered with concrete.

"The frame is removed and the canoe goes through 'curing' for a minimum of seven days," he said.

"The curing is completed in a vault while water rains continually on the overturned craft.

After curing, said Haynes, "the canoe is sanded and painted — we use an epoxy paint."

Award-winning concrete canoes travel about 10 1/2 miles per hour.

Preliminary tests have been made on the concrete, but not on the canoe itself.

"We're thinking about taking it out to Municipal Lake," said Schoen.

He said the main problem they faced was keeping its weight down.

The contest, part of the upcoming national convention of the American Society of Civil Engineers in San Antonio, is open to C.E. majors and Naval Architecture majors.

A university may enter two

canoes, each to be paddled by two students, both of whom must have contributed to its construction.

The convention is hosted by the University of Texas at Austin and entry acceptances have come from UT at Arlington, the University of Houston and A&M.

Concrete-canoe races are extremely popular in the East, said Haynes and Schoen, and this race is an attempt to spread it to the South.

"Only Southern schools have been invited," said Schoen. "I think that after it gets big here the idea is to have competition between schools in the East and schools in the South."

Haynes called the background of concrete sailing vessels "very old."

"In fact, concrete was used quite extensively during the second world war because of the shortage of steel and iron," he said.