

Weather

Partly cloudy and cool Wednesday with N-NE winds 8-16 mph. High today 63. Partly cloudy and warmer Thursday at 67. Low tonight 37.

The Battalion

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Council votes to oppose dam

By JIM PETERS
Staff Writer

After four years of conducting environmental, social and economic impact studies, the Environmental Action Council (EAC) of Brazos County has voted to oppose construction of the Millican Dam project.

In a statement issued this week, the 220-member citizen committee unanimously recommends a halt to any further Federal expenditures for the proposed 73,800-acre reservoir.

"We are concerned for every aspect of the local environment—and the quality of human life if this reservoir goes through," said Cornelius van Bavel, president of the EAC.

The Council had not taken a solid stand against the Millican Dam project earlier, van Bavel said, "because we didn't feel at that time we had enough facts to argue a solid case against it. But now we do."

"The time to head the project off is now, rather than after construction starts which would be tragic," van Bavel said.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has prepared preliminary plans for construction of a dam on the Navasota River, seven miles north of Navasota. The resultant Millican Lake would extend about 50 miles north along the eastern border of Brazos County.

The EAC's opposition, the group says, is based mainly on the impact of pollution, litter and uncontrolled sprawl around the lake and the destruction of the last extensive river-bottom ecosystem in Central Texas.

"Although there are legitimate recreational benefits to the dam,"

the statement continues, "the alleged benefits of water supply and flood control have been overrated by the proponents, and the costs to local taxpayers have been overlooked."

Total construction cost of the project would run between \$160 and \$250 million, with a seven-year building program and a four-year filling period.

These costs would be borne by the Federal government, but local taxpayers would have to handle the expense for increased law enforcement, maintenance crews, new access roads, and the increased burden on the public schools, the EAC says.

Local or state governments would also have to pick up the tab for recreational facilities, such as boat ramps, toilets and picnic and swimming areas. A new policy of the Corps of Engineers no longer provides for recreational development except where an existing road bisects the lake.

Presently, 85 percent of all sewage from the Bryan-College Station area is dumped into a tributary of the Navasota River—or an arm of the proposed reservoir.

Under Environmental Protection Agency guidelines, the council claims, the existing sewage-treatment plant would either have to be relocated or converted to a more elaborate treatment system. Such a conversion process could qualify for Federal funds, however.

The lack of county or state land use planning laws would allow "uncontrolled development along the shores of the reservoir," the EAC charges. The potential of septic tanks leaking into the lake could

make bathing and waterskiing unsanitary.

The group also questions several of the project proponents' claims, such as:

— The importance of the reservoir's water supply and flood control aspects. The EAC report points out that a 10,000-year supply of ground water exists in this area, with a safe yield of three times the present rate. Those involved agree that the Gulf Coast area would be the major recipient of Millican water.

The main flood protection afforded by the lake would be for the agricultural lands around Brazoria County (also on the Gulf).

However, the EAC claims, the primary beneficiaries have not "significantly participated in the Congressional efforts of dam proponents."

— The need for hydroelectric power. "The Navasota site is not suited for power generation," the report states, and it "has never been part of the Corps of Engineers' plan."

— The attraction of new industries and the expected increase in retail business to the area. "The Bryan-College Station area has all the water it needs to attract industry." Since Lake Somerville (located 20 miles west of B-CS) was begun in 1962, the statement notes, no new industries have located in that area.

"From the Somerville and Lake Conroe situations we can learn that the profit potential in developing rural home sites and lake shore developments causes ownership of the land to shift from residents to outsiders, often corporations," the Council concludes.

Congressional hearings on requests for continued project funding will be held in Washington, D.C. this April.

Former senator calls for repeal of amendment

SHERMAN (AP) — Former U.S. Sen. Margaret Chase Smith called Monday for a repeal of the 25th Amendment to the U. S. Constitution regarding presidential appointments to the vice presidency.

Participating in an Austin College seminar as Woodrow Wilson senior fellow, the Maine Republican said "I feel very strongly that the 25th Amendment should be amended. Gerald Ford is operating under a cloud of suspicion because he was appointed by a discredited president."

Mrs. Smith explained that he would have this handicap removed had he been elected to the post.

If you're going to vote

Here's what you'll have to do



Jay Wells, Mimi Pickell, Laura Williams, and Gary Roeder register to vote.

Students wishing to vote in the upcoming city and school board elections should be sure they are registered at least 31 days prior to either election.

City elections will be held April 1 and school board elections are scheduled for April 5. Persons not registered to vote in Brazos County must change their registration from their home county.

To do this it is necessary to fill out a voter registration form and turn it in along with the previous home county voter registration card to the Brazos County Tax Assessor-Collector's office in the county courthouse in Bryan.

Students may change their registration or register to vote on the first floor of the Memorial Student Center through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. The tax assessor-collector's office is open during the same hours.

Anyone having voted in the past three years need not register.

Halter will run for council seat

City Council sets spring election

Two other office terms up

By STEVE GRAY
Staff Writer

In a special called meeting Tuesday, the College Station City Council designated April 1 as the date for the city elections.

Councilman Fred Brison announced at the meeting that he will not run for re-election, having served four years on the council. Two other council positions now held by Councilmen Larry Bravence and Don Dale are up for re-election.

Gary M. Halter, an assistant professor of political science at TAMU, announced Tuesday his candidacy for Place 1 on the council now held by Brison. Halter, who lives at 1204 Ashburn, said he is seeking election because he is concerned about the lack of land-use planning and enforcement of the zoning ordinance. Halter said he favors use of Community Development Funds to improve low-income neighborhoods in College Station and development of an expanded park program in the city.

In other business City Manager North Bardell presented a budget

report outlining revenue and expenditures from July, 1974 to December, 1974. The city spent \$577,095 out of its general fund and received \$503,185 in revenue. Bardell said the city's budget of \$1,172,692 is in good shape even though more than 50 per cent of it has been spent.

A representative from the Arts Council of Brazos Valley (ACBV) asked the council for its support of a program which would help local art groups get funding from governmental agencies for culture programs. Dede Matthews, vice president of the council, said the ACSV acts as a coordinator for many local activities including the Aggie Players and Town Hall at TAMU. Matthews told the councilmen that these groups sometimes have trouble finding space to perform and store props.

He said the ACSV is working on a program that would help such organizations get grants to support their activities. Matthews said the proposed program will outline the needs of the various community cultural organizations. He said he

hopes someday they will receive money to fund construction of community arts center.

Matthews said the ACSV re-

ceived \$50,000 last year and \$58,000 this year in grants from the Department of Health, Education and Welfare.

In-state rates up; Inflation blamed

AUSTIN, Tex. (AP) — Attorneys for Southwestern Bell Telephone Co. indicated Tuesday the firm will cite "double-digit inflation" as justification for a proposed \$45 million increase in intrastate long distance rates in Texas.

State attorneys hinted that "effective rate of inflation" — reducing the rate through economies and great production — will be their answer.

Atty. Gen. John Hill seeks a temporary injunction in state district court to block the proposed increase, which is set for March 1.

It is the first time in Texas history that the telephone company has been called upon in court to justify rates charged for intrastate calls. Texas is the only state without statewide regulation of such rates.

Tuesday's testimony dealt mostly with accounting procedures used in rate-making. Two of Hill's assistants then began reading excerpts from the first of seven depositions taken Feb. 17 from Bell officials in Dallas. The reading will continue Wednesday morning.

Pat Loconto, a telephone rate expert with a Dallas accounting firm, fended for three hours with Bell attorney Will Sears of Houston.

Sears stressed the importance of dividends to stockholders of Bell's parent company, American Telephone & Telegraph.

"If AT&T cut its dividends, it would affect the economy of the entire nation, wouldn't it?" Sears asked.

"It would certainly affect the stockholders involved," Loconto responded.

Sears asked if a more realistic figure on rates would result from us of "current cost of debt" rather than the original cost.

"You end up with unreasonable rates," Loconto said.

"Just answer the question," Sears snapped. "You end up with a different figure."

"You end up with a higher figure," Loconto said, but then went on to explain that Bell's cost on a 30-year, 3 per cent bond was the same no matter what happened to current cost of debt.

Sears said Bell would have to discount the bonds if it tried to sell them in today's market. Loconto said such bonds never are sold by telephone companies.

Sears asked how Bell could be expected to separate the cost of local telephone service from the cost intrastate telephone service.

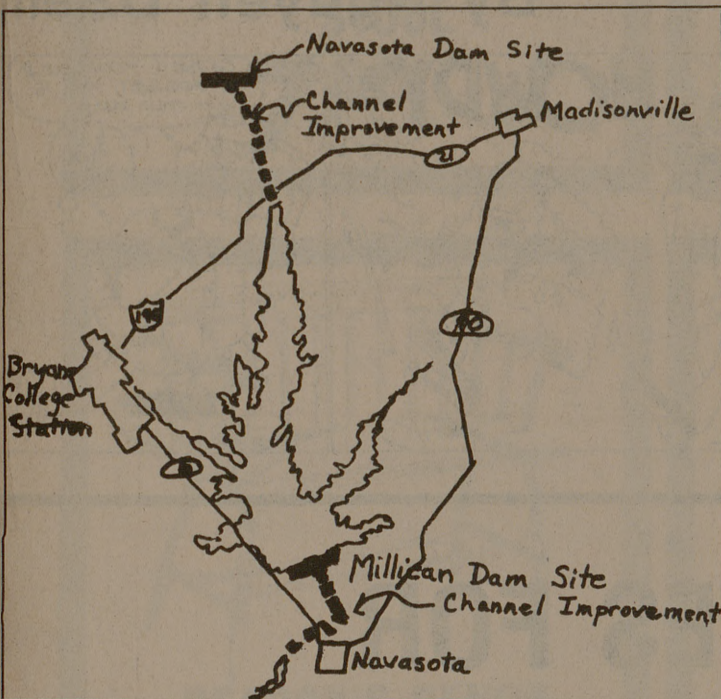
Loconto said an accepted manual contains formulas for separating interstate calls from other costs; that local telephone service costs could be determined by data used to justify rates in municipalities; what's left is the cost of intrastate calls.

Charles Marshall, Bell vice-president and chief executive officer in Texas, said in his deposition the \$45 million increase was planned early in 1974, before he was transferred from the Illinois Bell system.

Marshall said \$48 million in potential revenue is tied up in requests for local rate increases in 10 cities.

Hill told newsmen two weeks ago he suspected Bell's \$45 million intrastate increase was designed to make up for revenue in local rate hike requests on which city councils have delayed action because of recent scandals involving Bell.

Allegations in a civil suit against Bell claim the firm kept two sets of books to persuade cities with false figures into setting higher local rates. The same suit claims Bell made illegal corporate contributions to politicians through Bell officers.



Propose site of Millican Dam and Lake

Money . . . where will it come from?

By JUDY BAGGETT
Staff Writer

International students at A&M are petitioning against a \$26-an-hour tuition increase proposed by state Senator Bill Moore in Bill 228.

Senator Moore's secretary said the bill has come out of the Committee on State Affairs favorably.

"As far as I know, it is still pending in the Senate," she said.

If the bill passes, tuition would be raised from \$14 to \$40 an hour.

"We're trying to get this petition signed by both foreign and American students," said Fathallah Mohammed Ben-Ali, president of the International Student Association.

Petitioning booths have been set up in the MSC and in the mall between the library and the Academic building.

Some of the money spent importing oil could be regained from the foreign students through the increase was one reason Moore gave as justification.

"Eighty-five per cent of foreign students come from countries that do not have oil at all," Ben-Ali said.

"Moore is trying to place foreign students in the same category as an out-of-state student," said Rajesh Kent who is from Libya.

Tuition would be the same for both if the bill is approved.

Students explain that the increase would create a problem because income is much lower in their countries.

"The average income per capita in Kenya is \$250 per year," Kent said. Antonio Melo from Colombia said that \$600 would pay the salary of 30 workers in his country.

The main attraction of Southern schools is the low cost of education, several of the students agreed. Those who can afford higher costs tend to go to school in the east or west.

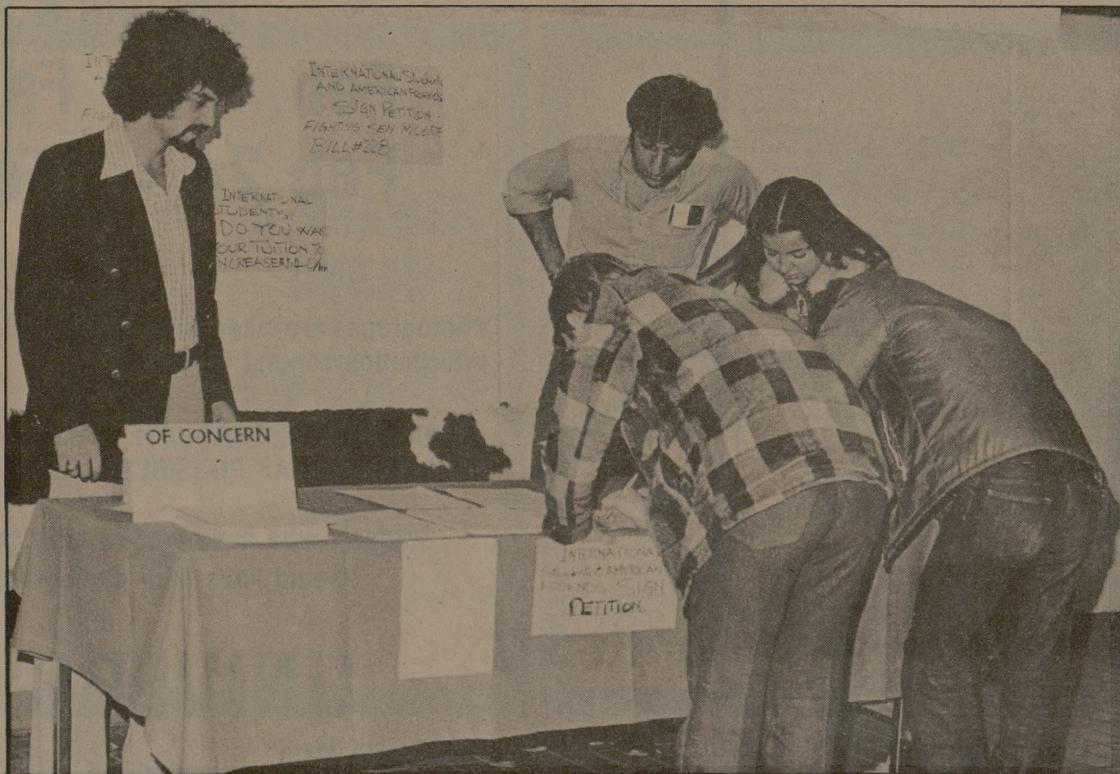
Stringent work laws in Texas have made it difficult for international students to find a means of self-support.

"It is hard to get permission (to have a job) from the Immigration Service," Ben-Ali said.

Kent also pointed out that foreign students are not eligible for Federal scholarships as are out-of-state students.

The students are circulating a questionnaire to determine the impact the tuition increase might have.

Ben-Ali said he thought many international students would change schools, judging from results of forms already filled out.



Ben-Ali Fathallah (L), Raj Kent, and Mary Martin supervise as David Ivey and Lung Yiad Tseng sign petition.