

View of proposed Millican Dam site looking north from State Highway 244, two miles from Navasota.

Senate to hold meeting tonight

A bill allowing two-thirds of the Student Government Executive Committee to conduct business during the summer will be introduced tonight on emergency status during the last Senate meeting of the school year.

Beginning at 7:30, the meeting will be held in Room 204 of the Harrington Center.

Student Body President Jeff Dunn will also nominate the Executive Director, the Director of Public Relations, and the Recording Secretary of Student Government, all subject to the approval of 2-2/3 of the Senate members.

The new members and the chairman of the Judicial Board will also be appointed.

One other position will be filled

when the Senate elects its speaker for the upcoming year.

The Senate will also consider three resolutions on emergency status. Besides the proposal allowing executive action during the summer, there will be a resolution asking for funds to send an observer to the National Student Association convention scheduled for early August.

The final resolution to be considered will allow a referendum in the fall semester to place the Director of Public Relations on the executive committee.

All of the university committee appointments will be presented to the Senate, and if approved, will then be forwarded to the administrator for final approval.

The Battalion

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SG radio station appears defunct; manager resigns

The proposed Student Government (SG) "open-air" radio station appears all but dead as of Tuesday night.

The plan, although never approved by the Senate, collapsed on Monday when Scott Sherman, SG Radio business manager, received word from Carol Vance, owner of KORA-FM, that she could not approve any plan for student use of the station.

The proposal's death was compounded when station manager Jim James announced his resignation Tuesday morning.

The "open-air" proposal called for SG Radio to buy time from KORA-FM and broadcast its own programs. SG Radio would then sell ads

or "spots" to pay the staff and the cost of station use.

Bob Bell, former general manager of KORA-FM and KTAM, said there hadn't been recent negotiations with SG.

"I feel SG was trying to settle internal problems and this was a factor in the lack of recent discussions," said Bell.

"I wanted the university administration to express a want for a radio station before we completed the deal," said Bell, who resigned his position on May 1. University officials have never officially discussed the "open-air" proposal.

"I resigned so that they (SG) could select a new manager before the summer session," said James.

Additional reasons for the resignation were illness and the lack of pay.

The new manager will be selected by the SG Radio Board. The board is composed of Troie Ann Pruitt, Mary Ellen Martin, Bill Flores and Kyle Klemcke.

The Senate was to discuss the issue of funding the project tonight at their first official meeting. Talks with Bell had formally been conducted with SG executive committee and SG radio.

One of the reasons for the collapse of the plan is the lack of facilities at KORA-FM. The station became automated last fall and currently is without equipment for disc jockeys.



Photo by Steve McGowan

Watergate prosecutor talks

Leon Jaworski, the Houston attorney appointed special Watergate prosecutor by Ex-President Richard Nixon, spoke before a Rudder Center auditorium crowd last night in a Political Forum presentation. See related story on page 7.

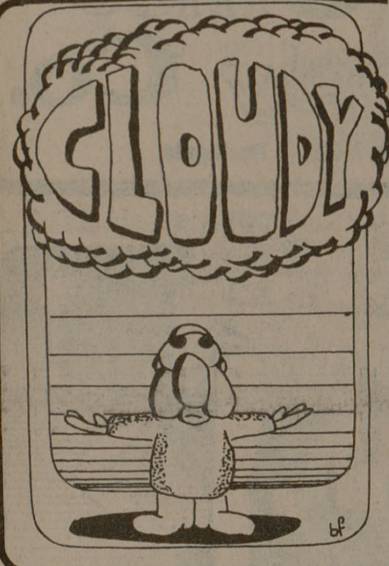
Today

Inside

More Millican . . . pp. 4, 5
Jaworski p. 7
Okie signed p. 13

Weather

Mostly cloudy, warm and humid. 30 per cent chance late afternoon and evening showers. Low tonight 72; high Wednesday and Thursday 86.



Millican to offer flood protection

Flood control benefits of the proposed Millican Dam are "widespread, not local in nature," says Gene Washburn, chief of the Army Corps of Engineers Little Rock District's Report and Economics Section.

By damming the Navasota River 12 miles above the Brazos River, the Corps figures it can increase farm yields in the lower Navasota as well as the lower Brazos Valley.

The land now affected by flooding is predominantly agricultural, says Washburn. "The effect of the flood control varies as you move downstream. As you pick up more drainage area you have less and less control with what the good Lord does with his rainfall."

About 614,000 acres below Millican will get protection from the 100-year flood, says the Corps in its justification for funding. (The 100-year flood level is an estimate by the Corps which shows land that has a chance of flooding once every 100 years.) Corps estimates show a possible \$74.8 million in damages (at '74 price levels) if a maximum flood should occur.

The Corps also estimates annual flood control benefits totaling \$6.2 million. This is money which the Corps figures could be made if land is developed which now lays unused because of flood hazard. Washburn says the Corps surveys farmers and county agents for this information.

James W. Yeager, Navasota city manager, says the flood plains of the lower Navasota are used for farming, mostly corn. The big problems with flooding lie near the coast where Brazoria County, for example, is 40 to 60 per cent in the 100-year flood plain. A levee system under construction near Sugar Land will protect the coastal areas, says the Environmental Action Council (EAC).

The Corps is restudying Millican Dam, and part of their study will consider five alternatives to the dam plans: 1) a reduced release rate through the dam, 2) no dam at all, 3)

action by non-federal groups (In the early '60s, a coalition of industries and cities contracted a Houston engineering firm for plans of a dam and lake. The plans were dropped when negotiations in Washington bogged from local opposition), 4) a dam without channelization below, or 5) buying all the flood plain to protect it from private damage.

Another proposed dam ten miles north of Millican Reservoir, called Navasota No. 2, will more likely provide flood control for the Bryan-College Station area. But again, the Corps is still gathering data, and information on its effect in flood control is not yet available. Navasota No. 2 is expected to be built in the year 2010.

A study by the EAC says downstream flooding could be a larger problem after Millican is built. Landowners below the completed Somerville Dam told the EAC that although flooding was not as drastic after the dam was built, the water stayed longer. It seems the dam levels out a high flood which would normally last a few days to a low flood which may last several weeks.

The increased length of the flooding kills plant life where the short massive flood was less destructive to plants and trees.

The EAC also notes that the land will permanently flood more land than it protects and flood insurance will protect losses in the areas now endangered.

Lignite obstacle to dam project

Coal sought in Millican before flooding begins

The biggest obstacle lying in the path of the proposed Millican Dam project is the deposits of lignite coal located in the reservoir area.

About 20 percent of a 20,000-acre lignite field would lie under water, cutting through one of the broadest portions of the reservoir, says Jack Ard, Bryan Utilities Director.

The city of Bryan, in conjunction with the Texas Municipal Power Pool (TMPP), is obtaining options for lignite leases in the area. If use-

able deposits are found they will be strip-mined, with the coal fueling a proposed \$300 million power plant.

Last month the Bryan City Council voted to oppose continued appropriations for the Millican plans, citing the lignite field explorations.

Traditionally, both the Bryan and the College Station City Councils have supported the Corps of Engineers plans for Millican. (The College Station council last month voted to neither support nor oppose the Corps plans.)

The discovery of lignite is nothing new. Area residents remember coal companies drilling core samples in the 1920's. One rancher recalled that water drawn from wells first had to be strained through flour sacks, because of the pieces of coal in the water.

"If you drank that water today you'd die. But we didn't know any

better. And nobody died," he said.

However, it has never been economically feasible to mine the cheap, light-weight coal until the recent energy crisis.

Whether the mining is now feasible is the subject of a study by the TMPP. That should be completed within a year, said Lou Odle, Bryan city manager.

Meanwhile, about half of the persons The Battalion talked with in the lignite field area said they had signed leases with the power cooperative. The leases range from a two-year exploratory to a 30-year development lease.

Ard said that 5,000 acres have already been leased, and that options have been secured on another 4,000.

Ard estimates that strip-mining

could begin in 1981, with the coal-fueled electric generating plant in operation by the following year.

After the Bryan City Council voted to oppose the Millican project, the Brazos River Authority (BRA) submitted a supplemental statement to the Congressional hearings in Washington, D.C. concerning additional funds for the plan.

"In order to meet the country's pressing needs for energy and water, it is vitally important that we properly exploit available fuel sources and at the same time achieve effective development of our available water resources," the statement read.

The BRA specifically suggested that the lignite mining and the dam construction be coordinated in such a way "to permit recovery of mine-

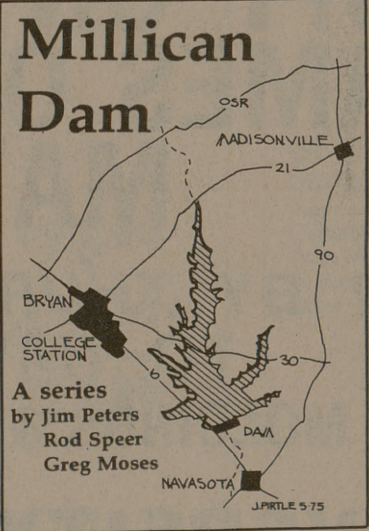
able lignite in the lake area before water is impounded."

Frank Thurmond, a member of the BRA (Board of Directors) and chairman of the Bryan-College Station Chamber of Commerce's Mill-

ican committee, spoke of a possible solution to the problem of mining and reservoir construction in the river bottom.

The plan would call for construction of the 4.8-mile concrete and earth fill dam before strip-mining begins. Then, rather than filling the reservoir immediately, Thurmond suggested it could remain empty until all the strip-mining was completed.

"If everything goes according to schedule," Thurmond said, the reservoir could be completed "as early as 1985 or as late as 1990."



Water OK for drinking

Water in the proposed Millican Lake should be good enough for drinking, if anyone needs it.

The biggest threat to the lake's water quality will come from Bryan and College Station sewage through the Carter Creek arm. The treatment will have to be improved or the plants will have to be moved if Carter Creek is to be bearable in color and smell.

But the Carter Creek question seems to be moot, because the federal government is requiring zero pollutants from sewage treatment by 1983. Millican, if everything is on schedule, will not be completed until 1985. The cities will have to clean their sewage treatment whether Millican is built or not.

With a few precautions suggested by an A&M study, the rest of the lake's water supply should hold up to drinking standards. These pre-

cautions include clearing 90 per cent of the forested Navasota bottomland which will be flooded, controlling sewage in waterfront developments and further studying the effects of lignite operations.

Outstanding among Millican Lake's features is its shallowness. It will be an average 18 feet deep and 21 per cent of the area will be six feet deep. This will increase the likelihood of dense plant life because the

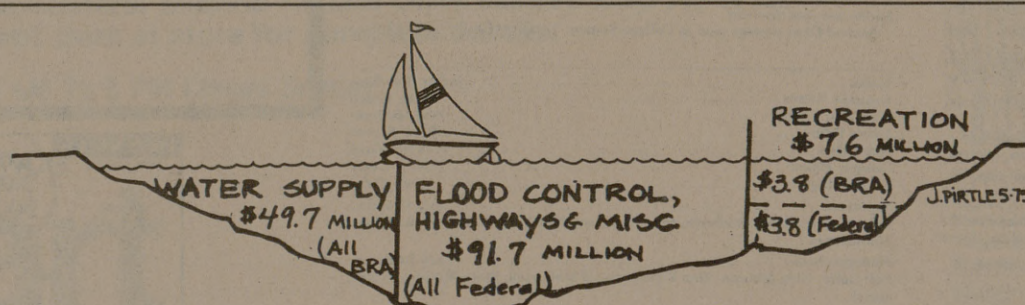
sun will reach much of the lake's depth. But the studies say good water management will limit this problem to the upper, more shallow parts of the lake. One study noted that Lake Houston, with dimensions smaller and shallower than Millican, has supplied Houston with reliable water.

But the big question remains: Who needs surface water? According to the Brazos Valley Development Council, which coordinates regional planning, the Brazos watershed has an abundance of water. According to the Environmental Action Council, there is enough ground water to supply this area for 10,000 years.

"Even though there is an extremely good source of ground water in this area," says Frank Thurmond, a local member of the Brazos River Authority, "there are many industries that want to see their water supply." He explained that the surface water isn't necessarily cheaper, but it's more reliable than estimates of water you can't see.

Millican facts

Proposed Millican Dam site is 18 miles southeast of Bryan on the Navasota River. The improvement provides for a concrete and earthfill dam, 83 feet high and 25,000 feet long including a 472-foot gate-controlled concrete spillway. The lake would cover from 42,000 acres in surface area to 66,000 acres depending on the water level. Total controlled storage would be 1.5 million acre-foot for flood control, water supply and sediment reserve. The lake would cover parts of Brazos, Grimes and Madison Counties.



Total estimated cost of Millican Dam project — \$149 million