

LEads primary at tight race

Ford begins longest campaign tour

Associated Press
WASHINGTON — President Ford begins his longest speaking tour of the campaign today, aiming at voters who will choose between him and Ronald Reagan on Saturday in a primary that Ford wins an uphill battle.

Ford was making an afternoon flight to Barksdale Air Force Base, and nearby Shreveport to conduct a public forum and address the annual military ball of the Louisiana National Guard.

The Louisiana stops, which precede an overnight stay in Longview, Tex., were on the agenda because Shreveport's television stations claim sizeable audiences in the nearby Woods country of East Texas.

In a filmed interview Monday with KMOL-TV of San Antonio, Ford again said he is the underdog in the May 1 primary, with 96 dele-

gates at stake. But he added, "I think we have an opportunity to close the gap and make it a very, very tight race."

Reagan has contended that Ford has allowed the United States to lapse into second place in military power. But the President told the San Antonio station, "I don't think there are any reliable sources that say the United States is No. 2."

On Reagan's statements that the Soviets have about twice as many men under arms as the United States, Ford said "only about half of those are what we would call active duty military forces."

Ford added that "if Mr. Reagan is saying that the United States should have four million men, not 2.1 million, then I think you have to assume that he is expecting to reinstitute the draft. . . ."

Deputy White House Press Secretary John Carlson said Monday that "at this point I know of no plans for Ford and former Texas Gov. John B. Connally to meet during Ford's visit to the state."

Few in the Ford entourage would be surprised at a meeting, although Connally has indicated he has no plans to endorse Ford or Reagan. Ford acknowledged that a Connally endorsement would have a "very significant impact," and some Texans with ties to Connally suspect the ambitious former governor might give Ford an 11th hour boost.

Ford will make appearances Wednesday in Tyler, Fort Worth and Houston. On Thursday, he will go to Conroe, Waco and Dallas. He will visit Lubbock and Abilene on Friday before returning to Washington.

Teague defends poor vote record

Congressman Olin E. "Tiger" Teague said Friday morning that his voting record was justified in light of the time he spends in committee hearings.

Campaigning for re-election to the 6th Congressional seat, Teague said that too much time was wasted on roll calls. Teague's opponent, Ron Godbey of Ft. Worth, has charged the congressman with high absenteeism in Congressional roll calls.

"We waste more damn time on a quorum call, just to say, 'I'm here,'" he said. "And yet, throughout the day you establish the fact that you were there."

"Time is so important to me," Teague said. "And to run over to the floor, I go about three blocks to answer a roll call and come right back. Well, that's just ridiculous. The people I work with know I haven't abused my voting, and anybody can establish where I was every minute."

Teague encouraged Brazos County "to look where it's going in

1980." With an expanding population in the 6th District, Teague forewarned a split in the near future where Brazos County will be in another district. The congressman did not say if he would run in the new district.

Teague said people are becoming more concerned and knowledgeable about politics, and public frustration over political decisions in government is of prime concern.

"Take defense, for example. Everybody wants to be first," Teague said. "They don't mind you spending money when they're getting their money's worth, but they sure get upset if you waste it."

As chairman of the congressional science and astronautics committee, Teague emphasized the technical advances made on the way to the moon. He said the moon project is overemphasized and more consideration should be given to the accomplishments achieved as by-products to the space industry.

Animal shelter is goal of humane society

The kind to Animals Week will be next week to promote awareness of the responsibility of pet owners to their pets.

The Brazos County Humane Society will hold a benefit auction and race to raise funds to build an animal shelter. It will begin at 8 p.m., May 1, in the National Guard Armory, 1700 E. 25th St., in Bryan. A number of items have been donated, including a used Volkswagen, slide

projector, movie camera, a vacuum cleaner, some tents and many novelty items.

Tickets are \$1.50 in advance and \$2 at the door. They are available at Bill's Garden Center, First Bank and Trust, KTAM Radio Station, Kirby Vacuum, Triangle Fish Supply and the University Center Beauty Salon.

Anyone wishing to donate an item for the auction or any group wishing to add a ribbon to the Maypole is

asked to call the Humane Society at 846-1031 or 846-1890.

The Humane Society and the Auxiliary to the Texas A&M Chapter of the American Veterinarian Medical Association will conduct a pet clinic at the College of Veterinary Medicine from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, May 1. It is designed for young children and will cover all aspects of pet care.

The fifth annual Pet Adoption Day will be held May 1 from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. in the parking lot of the old Cook's Dept. Store. To Cover the costs of distemper and worming shots, dogs will cost \$16.00 and cats \$12.50.

Centennial class to dedicate parting gift in Spence Park

The centennial class of 1976 will dedicate its parting gift to the University at 11 a.m. Saturday.

The gift is a replica of the centennial logo and stands at the north end of Spence Park. It has a six-foot, maroon concrete base topped by a bronze eagle. The eagle is 5 feet tall and has a wingspread of 9-1/2 feet.

The class of '76 has been sponsoring fund-raising projects for two years to raise the \$17,000 needed to pay for the memorial. It is the second

piece of sculpture to be dedicated on campus this year. Both works were created by Houston artist Pat Foley. His other creation is of two students and stands on the mall by the Rudder Tower.

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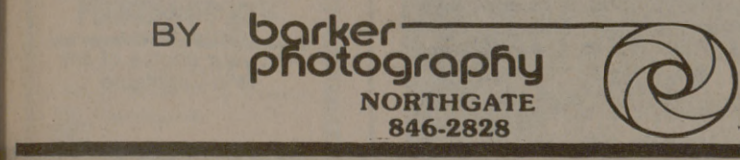


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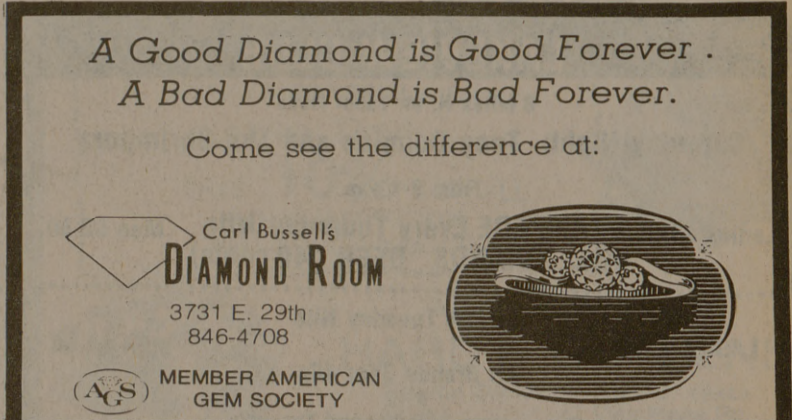
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