

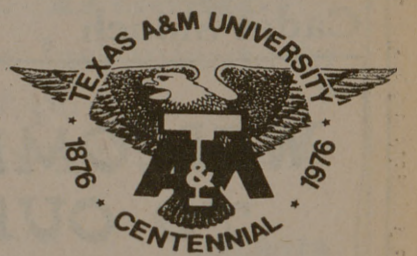
Partly cloudy and mild through Wednesday. High today in the upper 80s, low tonight in the low 70s. High tomorrow in the upper 80s. Precipitation probability 30 per cent today, 20 per cent through tomorrow.

The Battalion

Vol. 69 No. 138
12 Pages

Tuesday, August 31, 1976
College Station, Texas

News Dept. 845-2611
Business Dept. 845-2611



Staff photo by Kevin Venner

Bikes are back . . . Manpowered two-wheeled vehicles seem to be more popular each semester on the A&M campus. This rack, located by the Memorial Student Center, shows that many stu-

dents wish to avoid parking permit fees, gas bills, long walks to class and dents on their cars. With the increase in the bike traffic, University officials may find it necessary to issue bicycle parking permits.

Panel favors tax cuts

By CARL C. CRAFT

WASHINGTON — Senate-House negotiators working on the income tax bill agree that the existing \$15 billion in annual individual tax cuts should continue through next year.

Meanwhile, in the House, a gift and estate tax package, bearing features similar to those the Senate put in the income tax bill, is in trouble.

Working yesterday on the income tax bill, Senate-House tax conferees settled on an extension of current tax cuts, worth \$180 to a typical family of four earning \$15,000 annually. The cuts became law last year to

help combat the recession.

All decisions by the conferees remain subject to approval by the full House and Senate before this tax bill can be sent to President Ford.

The conferees agreed to continue two features of the temporary tax cuts through 1977, and to make a third one a permanent part of the law.

Extended through Dec. 31, 1977, would be:

✓ An across-the-board tax credit, subtracted directly from taxes owed, of \$35 for a taxpayer and for each dependent. Or, the taxpayer could take a credit of 2 per cent of the first \$9,000 of taxable income, for a

maximum \$180 credit.

✓ A special tax credit, called a "work bonus," for poor working families as a reward for remaining off welfare. This is a credit of 10 per cent of up to \$4,000 of wages and self-employment earnings, meaning a top \$400 credit. As income rises, the benefit is scaled down and ends when income reaches \$8,000.

This work bonus is a so-called refundable credit, meaning that if a family does not earn enough to owe taxes, the government will send out a check for up to \$400 a year.

The conferees decided to make permanent the existing temporary boosts in the minimum and maximum standard deductions, used by persons who do not itemize deductions.

The minimum standard deduction is \$1,700 for single persons and \$2,100 for couples — previously it was \$1,300 for both. Together with personal exemptions, this eliminates individual income taxes for persons with low incomes.

The maximum standard deduction is 16 per cent of adjusted gross income, up to \$2,400 for singles and \$2,800 for couples — previously it was 15 per cent and \$2,000 for both. This simplifies the tax system by encouraging people not to itemize deductions.

The tax-cut package is worth \$180 for a family of four making \$15,000 annually; \$182 for a single person earning \$8,000; \$204 for a couple making \$10,000; and \$445 for a family of four earning \$6,000.

The conferees also agreed to liberalize tax deductions for moving expenses, to clarify the tax law's treatment of motion pictures, and to revamp and extend a tax program covering contributions to plans designed to expand workers' ownership of businesses.

Rubber contract ratified

Associated Press

AKRON, Ohio — Goodyear and Firestone rubber workers have ratified a new three-year contract and are gearing up their factories to start making tires again after a four-month strike.

Eight of the 11 Firestone locals ratified the pact Sunday, and maintenance and service workers in Akron reported to work later in the day. A Firestone spokesman said the plants might be up to full production by as early as midweek.

Earlier, 12 of 15 Goodyear locals ratified their contract and some employees began

returning to work Friday night and Saturday.

The two other major tire makers, Goodrich and Uniroyal, are still negotiating noneconomic issues with the United Rubber Workers, but settlements are expected shortly.

The URW went on strike against the industry's four leaders April 21, idling more than 6,000 workers at 47 plants and cutting nation's tire production by about 60 per cent. The longest previous URW strike was 97 days.

Goodyear employees won a \$1.35 hourly

wage boost over three years, and Firestone workers will receive an extra \$1.44.

For the first time, all the tire makers have granted the union a cost-of-living adjustment which provides for a one-cent-an-hour wage increase for every four-tenths of one per cent rise in the Consumer Price Index. During the third year of the contract, the one cent boost is triggered by a three-tenths rise in the index.

Consumers, as a result, can look forward to higher tire prices. Industry spokesmen have said that tire prices will go up 12 to 16 per cent.

Congressional panel claims abuses in Medicaid program

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A congressional investigation that included undercover work by Sen. Frank E. Moss has found that much of the money paid by taxpayers for the Medicaid program is wasted.

Moss, who charged that the Ford administration hasn't done enough to control the

Medicaid abuses, was accused Monday by the White House and Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare David Mathews of "grandstanding."

Mathews said, "We are well ahead of Moss in terms of identifying the problem and doing something about it."

With federal help, states are already

monitoring Medicaid to uncover fraud, Mathews said.

Moss, a Utah Democrat who visited three Medicaid clinics posing as an indigent patient, said, "After this first-hand personal experience, I am outraged."

In a summary Monday of an eight-month investigation by a Senate subcommittee on aging, Moss said, "Whatever part of the Medicaid program we studied, we found substantial problems, mismanagement, waste and fraud." He charged that HEW efforts to control abuses were "singularly unimpressive."

White House Press Secretary Ron Nessen, who said that Medicaid was primarily a state responsibility, added that the federal government does a good job of running Medicare and is helping states uncover fraud in Medicaid.

The federal-state program is designed to provide health care to the poor. Instead, Moss said, storefront clinics in inner city areas bill the government for extensive and often unnecessary tests, many of which are never performed.

The impoverished Medicaid patient seldom sees a doctor for more than a few minutes and the treatment is inadequate about 90 per cent of the time, the report of the subcommittee staff estimated.

Six staff members, who had been found to be in perfect health by a physician, made a total of more than 200 undercover visits to Medicaid clinics in New York, California, Michigan and New Jersey. They usually told clinic personnel they had a cold.

Moss said that during one of his undercover visits "I put on the oldest clothes I could find."

"The physician gave me a brief, cursory examination, and took a quick medical history asking if I had high blood pressure, diabetes or anything of the sort. Even though there was nothing wrong with me, he told me that I had a red throat and ordered blood and urine tests and X rays," Moss said.

The physician then referred him upstairs to a chiropractor, who examined him briefly, Moss said. He was told to return the next day, when he was given more X rays.

Moss said when he left he was reminded to fill his prescriptions at the pharmacy next door. It is illegal for a doctor to refer a patient to a specific pharmacist.

Ford-Carter debate plans still uncertain

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — What is the status of the Great Debates? Jimmy Carter says plans for the televised confrontations are almost set, but a spokesman for President Ford says no agreement is in sight.

Even before the Federal Election Commission yesterday gave approval to sponsorship of the debates by the League of Women Voters, Carter announced that negotiators for both sides had reached a tentative agreement on the form the sessions will take.

The Democratic presidential nominee said the negotiators had agreed to match the candidates in a series of three debates, each lasting an hour and 15 minutes, beginning the third week in September.

But Ford's spokesman, Ron Nessen, denied there was any agreement on the debates. "There's just no agreement," he said.

Nessen refused to discuss Ford's views of the negotiations, saying representatives of both nominees had agreed to keep the talks secret.

Meanwhile, Carter told AFL-CIO leaders here today that the chairman of the Federal Reserve Board should be under closer presidential control. Carter said the president should have the right to fire the board chairman, who now serves a 14-year term and can only be removed for wrongdoing.

He told the union leaders a Carter administration would give the nation firm economic control, free from "wild, roller-coaster dips of the last eight years."

AFK-CIO President George Meany,

who called the union leaders to Washington to discuss campaign strategy, said Ford runs a government "by veto, by stalemate, by inaction, by deceit and by pardon."

Ford spent yesterday in Washington where he met with his Cabinet and heard glowing reports on the state of the nation and the economy.

Carter spent the day beating the campaign carpet for votes, speaking of his dedication to Israel before Jewish leaders, about voter registration to black leaders and rapping dishonesty in the Medicaid program and resulting inadequate care given to the elderly.

In Atlanta, Carter said the nation has not had a president in the foreign policy area because Henry A. Kissinger "is, in effect, both the secretary of state and the president at the same time."

In a speech to a group of Jewish community leaders from throughout the country, Carter said he is committed to the right of Israel "to exist as a Jewish state permanently and in peace."

And, he said, "as a Christian myself, I think the recreation of the state of Israel is a fulfillment of biblical prophecy."

Later, Carter accused Ford and resigned President Ford and resigned President Richard M. Nixon of ignoring charges of illegality in the Medicaid system.

Commenting on a report by Senate investigators, who said they found widespread abuses by health service providers and Medicaid recipients in a 10-city study, Carter said Medicaid's record of fraud and poor care is "a terrible example of federal bureaucratic indifference."

What the tax cut means

Here is what existing individual income tax cuts are for some typical taxpayers. The cuts were enacted last year and would be extended through 1977

under an agreement reached yesterday by Senate-House conferees on the pending tax bill. Income means adjusted gross income.

| SINGLE PERSON | | MARRIED COUPLES | | FAMILY OF FOUR | | FAMILY OF SIX | |
|---------------|-----------|-----------------|-------|----------------|-------|---------------|-------|
| Income | Reduction | | | | | | |
| \$ 3,000 | \$ 95 | \$ 3,000 | \$ 28 | \$ 3,000 | \$300 | \$ 3,000 | \$300 |
| \$ 5,000 | \$127 | \$ 5,000 | \$192 | \$ 5,000 | \$398 | \$ 5,000 | \$300 |
| \$ 6,000 | \$147 | \$ 6,000 | \$200 | \$ 6,000 | \$445 | \$ 6,000 | \$225 |
| \$ 8,000 | \$182 | \$ 8,000 | \$229 | \$ 8,000 | \$265 | \$ 8,000 | \$312 |
| \$10,000 | \$151 | \$10,000 | \$204 | \$10,000 | \$216 | \$10,000 | \$275 |
| \$12,500 | \$180 | \$12,500 | \$177 | \$12,500 | \$147 | \$12,500 | \$210 |
| \$15,000 | \$180 | \$15,000 | \$180 | \$15,000 | \$150 | \$15,000 | \$210 |
| \$17,500 | \$180 | \$17,500 | \$180 | \$17,500 | \$150 | \$17,500 | \$210 |
| \$20,000 | \$180 | \$20,000 | \$180 | \$20,000 | \$150 | \$20,000 | \$210 |
| \$25,000 | \$180 | \$25,000 | \$180 | \$25,000 | \$150 | \$25,000 | \$210 |
| \$30,000 | \$180 | \$30,000 | \$180 | \$30,000 | \$150 | \$30,000 | \$210 |
| \$35,000 | \$180 | \$35,000 | \$180 | \$35,000 | \$150 | \$35,000 | \$210 |
| \$40,000 | \$180 | \$40,000 | \$180 | \$40,000 | \$150 | \$40,000 | \$210 |

High school seniors named President's Scholars

Texas A&M University has named 40 President's Scholars from the 1976-77 senior classes of Texas high schools.

Chosen for top scholastic ability and exceptional leadership qualities, they will enroll here in the fall of 1977.

The prestigious Texas A&M award is made at the beginning of the President's Scholar's senior year to assure that top students remain in the state for their university educations.

The award includes a scholarship of \$1,250 a year for up to four years study. Few awards, here or anywhere else, surpass the \$5,000 for four years value.

President's Scholars are chosen from nominations by principals of Texas high schools. They are selected by the Faculty Scholarships Committee chaired by Dr. John C. Calhoun Jr., vice president for academic affairs.

Most of Texas A&M's more than 140 President's Scholars awards are endowed by \$25,000 gifts from former students and friends of the University.

Robert M. Logan, student aid director, said the 1976-77 honorees are in the top seven per cent of the nation's seniors, by National Merit Scholar qualifying test results. Almost all of them will be National Merit Scholarship finalists.

Designated President's Scholars at Texas A&M for 1976-77 are Dane L. Aiken, Temple; Anthony A. Albracht, Hereford; Matthew D. Alspaugh, Daniel J. Ayre, Andrea Mead and Steven V. Wadding, Houston; Deborah R. Baze, Dennis S. Davis, Richard C. Schirato, Kathleen E. Sisson and Mark A. Stern, Dallas.

Also, Thomas J. Brosnan, Waco; Matt W. Bumgardner, Eldorado; Melissa Card, Sean D. McCarthy, Larry E. Pedigo and Debra L. Tengwall, Fort Worth; Cheryl A. Cessna, Cleveland; Dan L. Clark, Brownwood; Robert S. Comer, Longview; Virginia F. Danner, Texas City; Rodry C. Davis Jr., DeKalb; Scott K. Davis, Corpus Christi.

In addition, Lilli K. Dollinger, Beaumont; Brian L. Gries, Ozona; Cesar C. Gutierrez, Hebronville; David M. Hazelton and Amy D. Royalty, Clute; Marilyn L. Hendricks, New Braunfels; Kay A. Higgins, Round Rock; Elizabeth A. Newlin, Tyler; Nora L. Ochoa and Nancy L. Steel, San Antonio.

Plus, Glenda G. Redding, Calvert; Joe X. Shaughnessy, El Campo; Mike G. Smith, Princeton; Grace M. Solomon, Orange; David S. Sullivan, Big Spring; Darcy Ann Twardowski, Bellaire, and Bryan Laurie Vroom, Amarillo.

28,000 to enroll at A&M this fall

Almost 28,000 students are expected to attend Texas A&M this fall, the dean of admissions said yesterday.

"My unofficial estimate is that our final figures will show about 27,700 students here," Dean of Admissions Ed Cooper said.

Cooper said his estimate includes students at the Moody campus in Galveston and graduate students who usually register late in large numbers.

26,720 students had registered and paid their fees as of 5 p.m. Friday, he said. That number does not include the Moody campus student body, students enrolled in extension courses and students who registered late last week.

"I think we'll just about nudge 28,000 before we're through," Cooper said. Final enrollment totals will be computed Sept. 14.

Cooper said enrollment is already well ahead of last fall's record 25,463 students.

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The new commanders in the Corps of Cadets were installed last week. Page 4.

A&M received a new scholarship from a real-estate appraisers' group. Page 4.

The Student Radio has positions open for part time help. Page 5.

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There is a new leash-in effect for pets on campus. Page 6.

The Soviet press reveals that there is corruption in the U.S.S.R. also. Page 8.

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8 workmen contaminated in atomic facility explosion

RICHLAND, Wash. — A chemical explosion Monday at a commercial facility on the Hanford Nuclear Reservation contaminated eight workmen with radioactivity.

Six of the men were decontaminated and sent home. One worker, cut in the face and shoulder by flying glass, and a man who came to his aid suffered higher radiation doses and "it will take a little time to learn the extent of their contamination," an official said.

Authorities said the blast did not involve a nuclear reactor, and there was no serious radiation leak beyond the relatively isolated Atlantic Richfield Hanford Co. — ARCHO — building where the explosion occurred.

ARHCO President, George Stocking said the explosion occurred in a device called a glovebox, a sealed off, 4-by-8-by-9-foot compartment, through which work-

ers use rubber gloves to handle radioactive material on the other side of a window.

"There was a chemical reaction which caused the radioactive material to fly into the room," Stocking said. "As far as we know, no radioactivity was released into the atmosphere, but some material was tracked out of the room but remained confined to the building."

The injured man, whose identity was being withheld, was treated at the Hanford Environmental Health Foundation, an industrial medical facility.

Officials said he and the other man would be isolated until decontamination. Radioactivity is removed by repeated washings. The process may take until Tuesday, one official said.

The six workmen who received the lesser doses were expected back to work for their usual shift at midnight, Stocking said.

The injured man's cuts were superficial, he said. The man who assisted him "was not nearly as badly contaminated but more than you would like to see," Stocking said. Stocking said the cause of the explosion will not be known for at least 24 hours, the earliest investigators will be able to enter the contaminated room.

Eight committee chairman jobs open in Student Government

Eight committee chairman positions are open in Student Government (SG) according to SG Executive Director Susan Price.

The committee chairman positions are open to all A&M students not on scholastic or conduct probation and include Book Mart manager, refrigerator manager, welfare benefits coordinator, Muster chairman, Parent's Day chairman, two members of Fair Housing Committee and Election Committee chairman.

Price also said that applications will be taken until Monday, September 6 in the SG office, MSC 216C.

Senate seats presently vacant in SG are one sophomore education, two Graduate Engineering seats, two off-campus

graduate seats and one off-campus undergraduate seat.

SG President Fred McClure said Monday that four judicial board positions are open. These are also open to all students not presently on scholastic or conduct probation and include two sophomore seats, one junior seat and one senior seat on the board. McClure said applications will be taken until Friday for the senate and judicial board positions. Applicants can set up interviews with the SG secretary in MSC 216C.

Student Government Information Director Scott Sherman said Monday that the class of '79 treasurer elections will be held on September 14 as announced.

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Common Cause charged Monday that public utility commissions in 31 states improperly conceal their activities from the public and violate conflict of interest standards.

The self-described public interest lobby gave flunking grades to the states based on replies to a questionnaire.

In most states, citizens have no "guarantee that utility requests for multimillion-dollar rate increases are not decided in secrecy by commissioners with an eye on employment in the utility industry," said Common Cause President David Cohen.

The lobby group said that all 5 states and the District of Columbia responded in late 1975 and early 1976 to questions about

whether final decisions were made in public and whether commissioners were barred from working in industries regulated by the commissions once they leave office.

States that give the "wrong" answers to at least half of the 2 key questions failed the test.

The Edison Electric Institute has reported that over \$3.8 billion in rate increases were pending before the state agencies last March 31.

Common Cause listed among its major findings:

✓ Twenty-one commissions admitted they decide utility rate increases in private.
✓ Only 10 states bar commissioners from working for the industries they regulate when they leave office.

Only 19 states have a way of periodically checking compliance with ethics or financial disclosure requirements.

Only five states require commissioners to log contacts with representatives of regulated businesses and only eight require persons who lobby before the commissions to report expenditures.

The states which "flunked" the Common Cause test were Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, Delaware, Georgia, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, Minnesota, Mississippi, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Mexico, North Carolina, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia, Wisconsin and Wyoming.

Graduation announcements ordered soon

Texas A&M students planning to graduate this semester may order graduation announcements Sept. 6-Oct. 1.

Fall semester commencement will be Dec. 11.

Announcement samples and information will be available at the Student Finance Center, Memorial Student Center 217. Orders will be taken there Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.