

The Battalion

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Three top state leaders oppose ERA rescission

United Press International

AUSTIN — Contending an effort to rescind the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) would set Texas back five years, three of the state's top leaders have vowed they will work to block the plan.

Lt. Gov. William P. Hobby, Atty. Gen. John L. Hill and Land Commissioner Bob Armstrong told reporters Tuesday they oppose legislation to rescind the state's ratification of the ERA.

Hill said efforts by Sen. Walter M. Duggan, R-Houston, and Rep. Clay Mothers, D-Dallas, to repeal the ERA are more symbolic than realistic. He said the Texas Constitution is committed to equal rights for everyone.

"This is no time to turn back," Hill said,

referring to the state's ratification of the ERA. "We took our stand. We did it thoughtfully and through our elected representatives and we did it strongly and did it early.

"I think it's important to remember where we are and from where we come on this issue," Hill said. "It seems like our state should not turn back from a course that it set five years ago."

Hobby said Texas historically has been a leader in granting and securing equal rights to women. He said his father, the late Gov. William P. Hobby Sr., was proud of the fact he helped women obtain voting rights.

"It's not a women's issue. It's an issue of basic rights for all persons in the state," Hobby said.

Armstrong said he has no trouble supporting the ERA because it symbolizes progress, equality and freedom for all persons.

"I just don't see why anybody should be denied freedom for any reason, particularly because of reasons of sex," Armstrong said.

Hill disagreed with opponents who contend the ERA will cause social and moral problems, for instance, induction of women for combat in the service, banning separate public toilet facilities for the sexes and permitting homosexual marriages.

"Broadly speaking, the points I've seen that would urge changes in the law are simply not supportive of this," Hill said. "There's no legal basis for that."

Income tax forms change

By GARY WELCH

This year taxpayers noticed a change in their Federal Income Tax forms. The computations that most had grown used to were different and became harder to figure out. Still, most people do not know why the forms have been changed.

"The change reflects the recent 1976 Tax Reform Act," explained Marlene Gaysek of the Internal Revenue Service's Public Affairs Division. The new tax structure closes many loopholes and restricts some tax shelters, she said.

Many taxpayers can expect benefits from the 1977 forms. For example, credit can be received for child care expenses. Also, a general tax credit of \$35 per person has been added to the forms.

Although the new forms are more complicated, most people are handling the transition well, Gaysek said.

The error rate is not much higher than last year's. Taxpayers are becoming more sophisticated along with the system," she said. One area of confusion is that the 12 optional tables on previous tax schedules has been reduced to one table and three schedules, Gaysek added.

"The general public response is hard to gauge, though," she said. "Face it, it's never very favorable when people have to pay."

The IRS is utilizing instructions

packages, television commercials and news releases to simplify filling out the new forms, Gaysek said, but there are still complaints from taxpayers.

"The major complaint is that the forms are still very complex," she remarked. "People found out that for some lines on the long form you have to fill out extra forms. Still, most people are accepting the situation."

In January the IRS received 15 per cent less tax returns than usual, she said. The more complicated forms were thought to be causing the delay, she added, but the returns caught up in February and are about normal now.

"Usually about 20 per cent of taxpayers wait until the last seven or eight days to file their returns," Gaysek said. She said it should be about the same this year.

"Anyone who files a return around the deadline can expect to receive his return in 10 to 12 weeks," she explained.

Those who make mathematical mistakes can rest assured that the IRS will catch the errors.

"Some mistakes can be corrected at the IRS Service Center," she said. "Very often the taxpayer will receive more money than he thought because of his error."

Gaysek did not predict whether there

would be a federal tax rebate. The matter rests with Congress, she said.

"The IRS has nothing to do with making the laws," she emphasized. "We only administer the laws."

Gaysek warned that taxes could rise in the future because of incomes raised by inflation and the relatively inflexible tax structure.

A sliding scale would be impossible to update every year, she said.

Corps plans freshman orientation

By STEVE MAYER

Mike Gentry of Huntsville, named Corps Commander for 1977-78, says the Corps is already planning activities for the next school year.

"To some degree, we have already started taking over some of the work and learning it while the seniors are still here," Gentry said.

New for this fall will be an optional week-long orientation for freshmen entering the Corps, Gentry said.

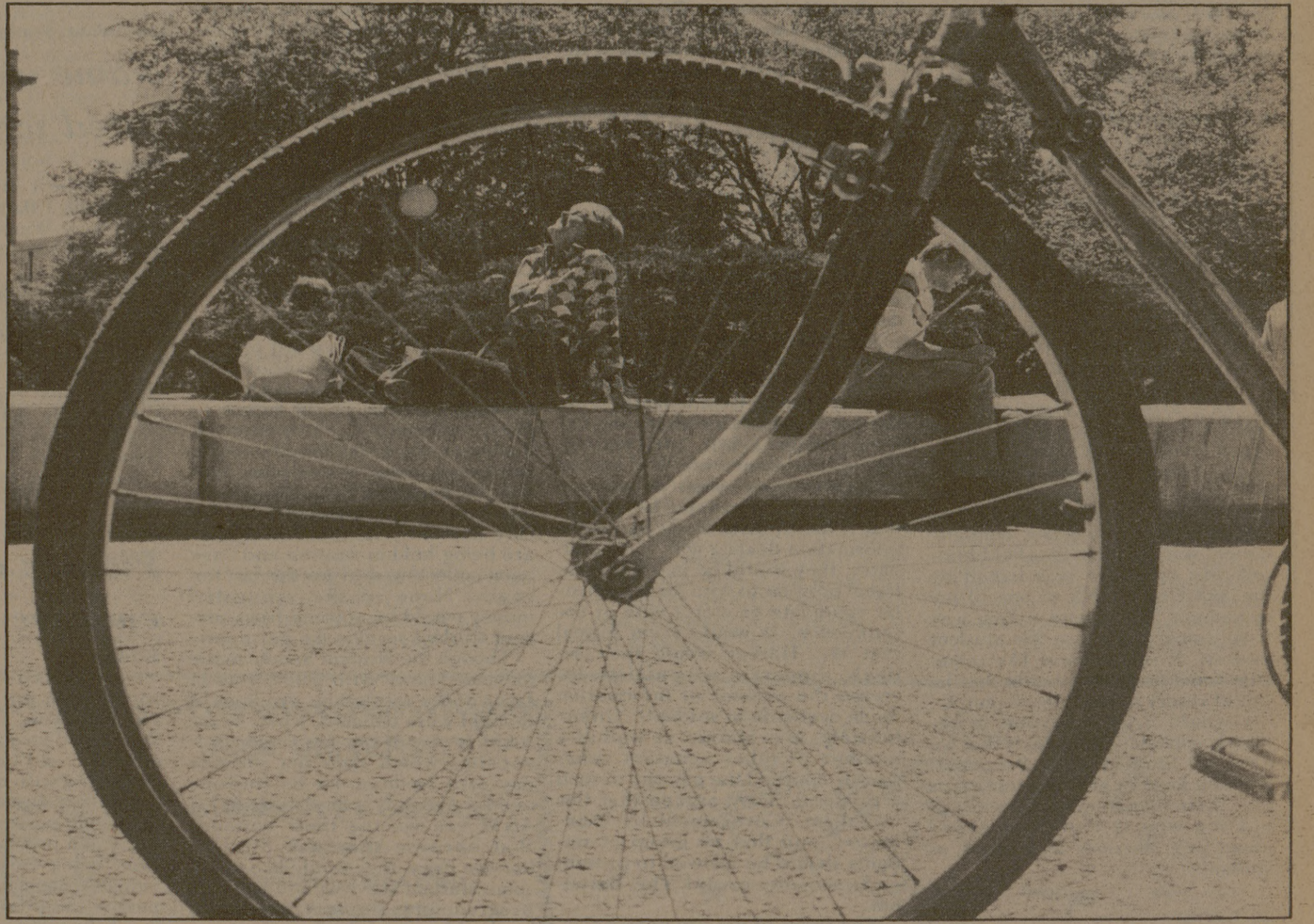
The program should help scholastic proficiency and retention of Corps members, Gentry said.

"It's trying to spread out over a week what we attempt to do in two days," he said.

"We'll take them on tours of the library and G. Rollie White. We'll also take each one with his schedule and show him where his classes are. Professors will speak on how to study."

An orientation on the Corps for all new faculty members will also be initiated this fall, Gentry said.

"People sometimes don't understand the Corps. We'll be trying to explain to them what all these people are doing running around in uniforms," he said.



Spokes of sunshine

Terri Pylant, a freshman accounting major, soaks up the sun in front of the Academic Building.

Battalion photo by Kim Tyson

Representatives study 'no frills' school bill

United Press International

AUSTIN — A proposal to give public school teachers an across the board 25 per cent pay raise may not reach a vote during House consideration of a \$708 million school finance bill, speaker Bill Clayton says.

Texas school teachers, who packed the House gallery yesterday for the first day of debate on the complex school finance bill, are supporting the amendment by Rep. Dewitt Hale, D-Corpus Christi, which has a price tag of more than \$800 million.

But Clayton said any attempt to inject a teacher pay raise in the school finance debate may be killed on a technicality — that it is not germane to the bill because the school finance bill did not originally deal with salaries.

In the opening round of debate, representatives indicated they want a no-frills school finance bill that will leave some money in the state treasury to finance separate legislation giving teachers a salary increase.

An amendment deleting a \$5.2 million increase in funding for regional education service centers was overwhelmingly adopted yesterday, leaving the lawmakers with 79 remaining amendments for consideration today.

The school finance bill, considered the most complex and one of the most important issues of the session, would mandate a freeze on local school district taxes next year, and require local districts to reduce

property taxes by about \$74 million the following year.

It would increase the share of the basic school costs paid by the state from the present average of 77 per cent to about 85 per cent, leaving local districts to finance the remaining 15 per cent.



Battalion photo by Diane Christilles

Casino girls

These girls and others like them will provide part of the entertainment at the Residence Hall Association's annual Casino this Friday night. Casino gambling will last from 8 p.m. to 11 p.m., then the auction will begin at 11 p.m. Pictured here are (left to right) Randi Mays, Kathy Boyd, Ursula Schorn, Lisa Castenson, Sheri Chapman and Susie Maas.

Carter cuts Liddy's jail term; others' Watergate terms to stand

United Press International

WASHINGTON — President Carter, while commuting the sentence of Watergate burglar G. Gordon Liddy "in the interest of equity and fairness," has no plans to act on other Watergate convictions.

"As far as the White House is concerned, this ruling has no bearing on other cases," deputy White House Press Secretary Rex Granum said yesterday after announcing Carter's decision to reduce Liddy's sentence. The sentence was set by federal Judge John J. Sirica at from six years and eight months to 20 years.

Liddy, his sentence reduced to eight years, will be eligible for parole July 9 from the federal prison in Allenwood, Pa. He has been imprisoned four years on charges stemming from the June 17, 1972, burglary of the Democratic National Committee headquarters.

Sirica, referring to the President, told UPI, "He did, apparently, what he thought was right and I did what I thought was right when I imposed the original sentence."

Granum said the President "took this action in the interest of equity and fairness based on a comparison of Mr. Liddy's sentence with those of all others convicted in Watergate-related prosecutions."

Former Atty. Gen. John Mitchell and former White House aides H. R. Halde-man and John Ehrlichman received eight-year sentences for their parts in the Watergate scandal that forced President Nixon from office.

Under Carter's action, a \$40,000 fine remains in effect for Liddy. He "would still be required to pay the fine or a portion of it," Granum said.

Liddy has served more time in jail than any other Watergate figure.

The only one of the seven original Watergate burglars still behind bars, Liddy also was given a three-

year sentence for leading the White House "plumbers" into the office of Dr. Lewis Fielding, Daniel Ellsberg's psychiatrist.

He also received 18 months for contempt when he refused to testify before the Watergate grand jury.

Ninety-five per cent felt there was still a place for the Corps in A&M's present environment.

"The environment at A&M is changing so much — we have to learn to get along

with the student body. We cannot survive if we take this separatist attitude.

"We're very aware of this fact," he added. "We don't want to hide away and die."

Gentry said many of the activities this year will be held again next year, such as the march to the Brazos, in which \$8,300 was pledged to the March of Dimes.

People will be invited to eat with the Corps on Thanksgiving, Christmas, Valentine's Day and other special occasions.

Vote tomorrow

Student election runoffs will be held tomorrow from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Polling sites for the elections will be the Memorial Student Center Lounge, the Corps Guardroom, Sbis, the Krueger-Dunn Commons, Zachry, and (weather permitting) the shuttle bus stops at Reed McDonald Bldg, Krueger-Dunn and Throckmorton.

Workers to man polling sites at the bus stops are still needed and interested students should go by the Student Government office (MSC 216).

Beer before exam can aid 'drink-and-study' students

United Press International

CHICAGO — The college student who drinks beer while studying should have a few more before examination time, a scientist says.

Dr. Ronald C. Petersen told a Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology meeting that tests conducted on army volunteers indicate information learned under the influence of some drugs is best remembered under the influence of the same drugs.

Petersen said tests indicate alcohol produces this memory phenomenon.

According to Petersen, the volunteers

studied material after being given scopolamine, a drug included in several pharmaceutical preparations, including Contac and Somnol.

They were then tested for memory, once without using the drug and then with and without the drug.

Petersen said he found the men tended to remember better when they were tested under the same drug conditions that existed when they studied.

He speculated that when a person studies specific information, his memory may store additional information, including his state of mind and any drugs in his body. It is easier for the person to recall the information if his mental state and drug condition are the same as when he learned it, he said.

Weather

Mostly cloudy and mild with a 50 per cent chance of showers and thundershowers today and tomorrow. Winds will be southeasterly at 15 to 20 mph diminishing tonight. High today in the upper 70s. Low tonight in the low 60s. Continued mostly cloudy tomorrow with a 70 per cent chance of showers and thundershowers both tomorrow afternoon and evening.

C.S. to consider longer bar hours

Extending late drinking hours in College Station will be discussed during the regular City Council meeting tomorrow.

Consideration of changing the hours comes at request by the Texas A&M University Student Government.

Also on the agenda are:

✓ Consideration of a resolution on the Milliean Dam Project.

✓ A public hearing on a proposed revision to the Comprehensive Plan.

✓ A public hearing on rezoning parts of the Oakwood Addition from apartment district to single family residential.

✓ Consideration of the Community Development Planner's report on Southland Street.

✓ A presentation on the proposed Hobik Tract.

The meeting will begin at 7 p.m. in the Council chamber at City Hall, 1101 Texas Ave.