

Viewpoint

The Battalion
Texas A&M University

Thursday
October 20, 1977

Gas compromise best

United Press International

Natural gas plays a vital role in the daily lives of millions of Americans. Its most important basic function is providing heat for millions of homes across the land.

And so, while we usually are opposed to governmental intervention in the free enterprise system, something which has literally life and death consequences for consumers should not be without some controls.

It was then with considerable sadness that we learned of the U.S. Senate's vote in favor of legislation which would completely phase out federal controls on natural gas.

We lean to the president's proposal, which would allow natural gas prices to rise but retain controls. As Carter said, what we need is "legislation that provides adequate production incentives while protecting the interests of American consumers."

Propositions affect judiciary, banks, veterans

Seven amendments before Texas voters

By JOHN W. TYNES
Battalion Staff

Editor's note: Texas voters will consider seven amendments to the State Constitution in a special election Nov. 8. The following are brief descriptions of each proposed amendment, plus major arguments for and against each.

AMENDMENT ONE would increase the size of the Court of Criminal Appeals from its present size of five judges to nine judges. It would also allow the court to sit in panels of three judges.

Arguments for point out that an enlarged court would allow a faster administration of justice. The court could hear more cases faster with three smaller panels instead of one large panel.

Arguments against say that this enlargement of the court would still fail to solve the present delay in the court system. A more effective solution would be to add another level of criminal review courts. Sentiment also exists to change the present system of dual courts for criminal and civil cases to a system of one single court of last resort.

AMENDMENT TWO would allow the Veteran's Land Board to issue and sell an additional \$200 million in bonds or obligations and to deposit the proceeds in the Veterans' Land Fund. Surviving widows of veterans could also purchase tracts under certain circumstances.

Arguments for claim that the extra funds are necessary to continue providing benefits of the Veterans' Land Program to Texans. Surviving spouses of Texans who forfeited their lives in the service of the country should also be able to benefit from this program.

Arguments against assert that compensation of veterans is a federal rather than a state responsibility. There has been sufficient time since the Vietnamese conflict for veterans to take advantage of the land

programs and extension of the programs should be unnecessary. Also, the original program was intended in gratitude to veterans for service and not as a benefit for their families, so including spouses in the program is not necessary.

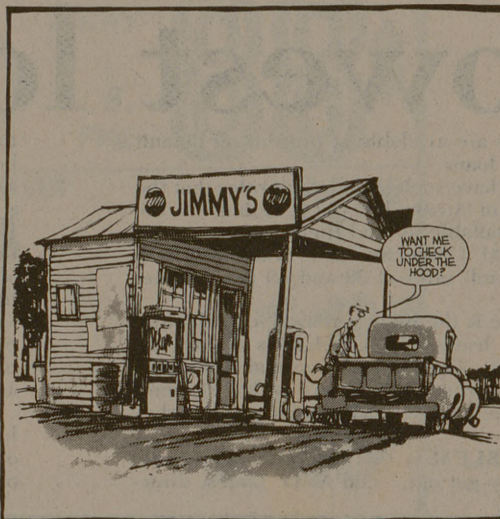
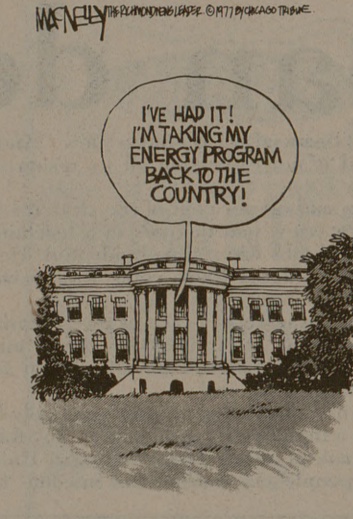
AMENDMENT THREE would allow a district court to deny bail to a person accused of a felony if he or she 1) was on bail for a prior felony indictment or 2) has been previously convicted of a felony and is accused of using a deadly weapon in the commission of a second felony. Under present law, the right of bail is guaranteed for all offenses except capital felonies when the proof is evident or to a person who has two previous felony convictions.

Arguments for claim the change would prevent career criminals who are arrested for one felony from taking advantage of the time between indictment and trial to commit one or more additional offenses while on bail. It would also eliminate the danger to the public when a person with a felony record is released on bail while accused of another felony.

Arguments against point out that the purpose of releasing a defendant on bail is to preserve the presumption of innocence while ensuring an appearance for trial. This amendment would allow incarceration of persons who have not been convicted or tried.

AMENDMENT FOUR would authorize tax relief to preserve certain cultural, historical, or natural history resources. Relief would be granted by one of two methods. First, the legislature could grant exemptions or relief on appropriate property. Second, the legislature could authorize a political subdivision to designate property which would receive relief or exemptions.

Arguments for say that property tax relief in certain circumstances would contribute significantly to preservation of the many cultural, historical, and natural his-



tory resources which Texas holds. The proposed amendment is permissive enough to allow the legislature to spell out the necessary administration, or to revoke it if necessary.

Arguments against point out that granting tax relief to certain historical and cultural properties would erode the tax base which many school districts and local governments depend upon for their revenue. The amendment might shift the burden of taxes to individuals who are not granted tax relief.

AMENDMENT FIVE authorizes the formation of associations authorized to collect certain refundable assessments from producers of poultry, livestock, and other raw agricultural or marine products. It also validates the 1967 law regarding the formation of such associations.

Arguments for claim the amendment would benefit all producers of a particular commodity who decide to establish a board and levy the assessment. A producer who is strongly opposed to the program or feels that they are receiving no benefit from the program could demand and receive a refund of all assessments paid.

Arguments against say the proposed program is only another quasi-government program supported by what amounts to a tax. As with all programs of this type, the cost is eventually borne by the consumer in higher prices.

AMENDMENT SIX would authorize state and national banks to exercise banking privileges by use of electronic devices or machines located at such places as may be provided by law. Banks could also share such devices or machines on a reasonable, non-discriminatory basis. Banks could be allowed to set up electronic fund transfer terminals at various remote locations. Such a terminal at a retail store, for example, would allow a customer to pay for merchandise by instantly transferring money

from a personal account to the store's account instead of paying with cash, check, or credit card.

Arguments for point out that electronic fund transfer terminals would give the consumer a convenient optional method of payment. The system would also speed up routine business and retail transactions and reduce paperwork and mailing costs.

Arguments against claim that the use of electronic fund transfers could result in the loss of privacy by making an individual's records accessible on computer data. In addition, mixing the two systems of instantaneous electronics and slower written checks would complicate the balancing of checkbooks.

AMENDMENT SEVEN would change the name of the State Judicial Qualifications Commission to the State Commission on Judicial Conduct. The membership of the commission would be changed to include four citizen members instead of three and to add one justice of the peace. The commission would also be granted the power to suspend a judge from office, with or without pay, pending final disposition of charges against the judge.

Arguments for say that discipline of judges by the commission and removal from office by the supreme court on recommendation of the commission is more economical and a better use of personnel than impeachment and other methods of removal. Although a method of disciplining judges does exist under present law, recent events have shown a need for additional powers to make this method quicker and more effective.

Arguments against point out that judges elected by the public and the will of the electorate would be undermined if the power to discipline and remove judges is expanded to the commission and the supreme court. The expansion is unwarranted because other methods for the removal of judges are provided by the constitution.

Top of the News

Campus

Midnight yell to be at Checkers

Texas A&M University's midnight yell practice, Friday Oct. 21, for the Rice game will not be held at Hermann Park this year in Houston. Instead, yell practice will be held at Checkers, a club on the corner of Woodway and Voss in Houston. Beginning at 7 p.m. Checkers will cater strictly to Texas A&M students' the club manager told Joe Reagan, head yell leader. Beer will be \$1.00 per pitcher. Take Interstate 10 east to the Voss exit, turn south on Voss to Woodway. Maps will be posted on campus and around the Bryan-College Station area.

Bus to transport football fans

Texas A&M University football followers with tickets to the Rice game in Houston Saturday can avoid fighting the traffic snarls and parking problems at Rice Stadium. A charter bus, sponsored by the Brazos County A&M Club, will leave Parking Lot 60 near Rudder Center at 2:45 p.m. and return immediately after the 7:30 p.m. game. Seats are available at \$9 per person. Seat reservations should be made at the Association of Former Students, 845-7514. The bus is expected to arrive at the stadium at 5 p.m., allowing ample time for eating at nearby establishments. A club charter also is planned to Fort Worth Nov. 19, for the TCU game, at \$13 per person. Reservations may be mailed to the club at Box 4, College Station, 77840.

State

Houston jury still undecided

The jury trying to decide if oil millionaire Ash Robinson was responsible for the death of his son-in-law deliberated more than seven hours Wednesday without reaching a verdict. The jury told State District Judge Arthur Leshar they disagreed on the testimony of an unnamed witness, but it was not repeated before they quit for the day. Leshar has not ordered the jury sequestered during deliberations and has told them they may deliberate during general working hours, which for the trial has been between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. Ten votes are needed to render a decision. The jury must also decide elements of false imprisonment, pain and suffering, and whether assault and battery occurred during the night of the shooting. If they agree Robinson was responsible, punitive and exemplary damages will be decided.

Executions with legal injections

Texas prison officials can execute condemned criminals with lethal injections of antifreeze or other painful substances under a new death penalty law, attorneys for two Fort Worth defendants complained Wednesday. Although legislators who pushed the new procedure for executing condemned criminals said drug injections would be more humane than electrocution, the attorneys complained that a specific drug should be used. Under the present statute the director of the Texas Department of Corrections can use antifreeze if he wants to. On questioning by appeals court judges, both attorneys acknowledged that a ruling striking down the drug injection law would leave their clients facing the electric chair. Howard Fender, assistant Tarrant County district attorney, said as long as the director of the Department of Corrections chooses a substance that will not cause suffering, will not cause lingering or disfiguring death, he has the leeway to choose for himself the precise method of execution.

Nation

Concorde lands at Kennedy

The supersonic Concorde landed at Kennedy International Airport today for the first time, ending a two-year legal and diplomatic battle by the British and French for test flights into New York's trans-Atlantic market. The jetliner touched down on runway 4-Left at JFK at 11:06 a.m. EDT. The plane emitted little more noise than any other aircraft that lands at Kennedy, except for a high-pitched whine, which could be heard as it began its landing at a speed of 160 m.p.h. Around the airport, hundreds of motorists pulled their cars off roadways and stood on the grassy knolls overlooking the landing field. Hundreds more stood on nearby rooftops. Some cheered as the plane came to earth. The British and French obtained landing rights for their supersonic transport Monday when the U.S. Supreme Court lifted a temporary stay on flights granted Oct. 7 by the court.

Drugs contributed to Elvis' death

Sources quoted by the Commercial Appeal say a combination of ten drugs may have caused superstar Elvis Presley's death Aug. 16. Sources said Vernon Presley, the singer's father, was told the late singer had ten drugs in his bloodstream when he died, which probably contributed to his death at his Graceland mansion. The sources told the Memphis paper the drugs were all within prescribed levels but the interaction of the drugs in Presley's body may have had an effect on the singer's enlarged heart. Vernon Presley said Tuesday he was concerned about public interpretation of the autopsy reports, particularly regarding drugs, because of a recently published book by three former Presley bodyguards which claimed the entertainer was a heavy drug user.

Weather

Partly cloudy and mild today and tomorrow with southeasterly winds 8-12 mph. High both days upper 80s. Low tonight mid-60s. 10 percent chance of isolated afternoon showers.

The Battalion

Opinions expressed in *The Battalion* are those of the editor or of the writer of the article and are not necessarily those of the University administration or the Board of Regents. The *Battalion* is a non-profit, self-supporting enterprise operated by students as a university and community newspaper. Editorial policy is determined by the editor.

LETTERS POLICY
Letters to the editor should not exceed 200 words and are subject to being cut to that length or less if longer. The editorial staff reserves the right to edit such letters and does not guarantee to publish any letter. Each letter must be signed, show the address of the writer and list a telephone number for verification.

Address correspondence to *Letters to the Editor*, *The Battalion*, Room 216, Reed McDonald Building, College Station, Texas 77843.

Reprinted nationally by National Educational Advertising Services, Inc., New York City, Chicago and Los Angeles.

The *Battalion* is published Monday through Friday from September through May except during exam and holiday periods and the summer when it is published on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

Mail subscriptions are \$16.75 per semester, \$33.25 per school year, \$35.00 per full year. Advertising rates furnished on request. Address: *The Battalion*, Reed McDonald Building, College Station, Texas 77843.

United Press International is credited with the use for reproduction of all news dispatches except rights of reproduction of all other matter herein. Second-Class postage paid at College Station, Texas.

MEMBER
Texas Press Association

Editor: Mary Alice
Managing Editor: Lev Roy
Sports Editor: ...
News Editors: ...
City Editor: ...
Campus Editor: ...
Copy Editor: ...
Reporters: ...
Photographer: ...
Cartoonist: ...

Student Publications Board: Bud C. ...
Joe Arradondo, Dr. Gary Hutter, Dr. John ...
Robert Harvey, Dr. Charles McCauliffe, ...
Phillips Rebel Rice, Director of Student ...
Donald C. Johnson, Production Coordinator ...
Sternman

Letters to the editor

At last — the truly 'untouchable' faction

Editor:
Amidst all the arguing and bickering over who is to be considered a "good Ag", it has come to my attention that someone has cut down every faction on the campus with but one exception. Thus, I feel obligated to take the initiative and ridicule this previously unharrassed group: Left-Handed People.

I am an open minded person; however, I cannot tolerate these disgusting radicals. They are not true Aggies. If we do nothing in regards to discouraging the attendance of these mutants at Texas A&M, there will no doubt be a growth in the Leftist movement here and the situation will be irreversible.

One time, I stumbled into a left-handed people party on accident. At first, these people seemed nice enough. Then they started pressuring me to change my hand priority and join their nasty clique. They even hinted at such kinky notions as becoming ambidextrous. I was enraged!

Don't these people realize that no real Aggie who cared about the honor of A&M would ever submit to becoming a two-percent left-hander? These people call themselves Aggies, but they are undermining the precious traditions that loyal Ags have been building for 100 years with their dominant right hands. The next thing you know, they'll want to further disgrace this institution and demand recognition. Well, all I have to say is that we don't need their kind here! If any of them want to extend their hand in friendship to me, I'm going to take it and point it toward Austin, where left-handed people and their demented kind belong.

—Byron the Good Aggie

Other side of coin

Editor:
This is in response to H. C. Hering's letter that appeared in the Tuesday, October 18th edition of the *Battalion*. In the first place, the library staff and the "Head Honchos" aren't responsible for the coin and bill changer. Had you been properly informed, you would realize that the change machine is not "permanently broken", either. Occasionally, it runs out of coins, or gets too full of bills. When this happens, during the day, go to the Copy Center in room 123 of the library and inform the staff. It will be attended to as soon as possible. The main desk, or circulation desk, does not have change. It is not their job to give out change. If the bill changer is out, you can get change during business hours (8 a.m. to 5 p.m.) in room 123, located on the first floor, in the corner behind the card catalog. At night, and on weekends, perhaps you should bring change with you, since you are planning to copy material. Please, Mr. Hering, don't criticize A&M's staff policies until you are a little better informed.

—C. Bradford '79

—Copy Center satellite receptionist

Thanks for Kay

Editor:
The love and respect generated by students attending Silver Taps can be overwhelming. Once again Silver Taps was a beautiful service. These expressions were a tremendous lift to those of us who loved Kay Cunningham '81.

Thank you Aggies.

—Kay's Friends

Lord have mercy

Dear Lord:
I know its been a long time since I've written, too. Probably longer than Lee Roy Leschper, Jr. (see Mon., Oct. 17 *Battalion*) I'm sorry, too. But you have to understand that a poor student like me can't afford today's airmail rates. Don't worry, though, I'll give at the collection. I never met Bing Crosby, either. I, too, have heard that he was a nice as hell (sorry) guy. My mother has a copy of "White Christmas" she plays every Christmas Eve. I've seen most of the "Road" pictures on the Late Show. (By the way, will you do a "Road to Nirvana" when Bob Hope and Dorothy Lamour croak? I mean, after all, you do have Cecil B. DeMile, don't you?) Anyway, there's no doubt Bing was a great guy. His orange juice wasn't bad either. But don't you think Mr. Leschper's taking the time to write a memo drawing your attention to Bing's sainthood was a little much? Perhaps L.R.L. has an inside track, I don't know. Please write soon, and send money.

—Arthur Pilgrim

Editor's note: We'll see who's the first to talk to him in person and find out.

More thanks

Editor:
Thank you for the publicity you have given to Mrs. Robinette's project for Austin State School residents. We hope that some of your student groups may want to become a part of that project and collect treats and/or funds to add to the large donation from College Station and Bryan.

Your combined efforts have helped bring much joy to many of our residents.

—Mrs. Alberta Elliott, CAVS

Coordinator
Volunteer Services

Slouch by Jim Earle



EARLE
OCT 20-77

"I'M NOT VERY WORRIED ABOUT RICE, BUT I THOUGHT I'D START EARLY GETTING READY FOR SMU!"