

The Battalion

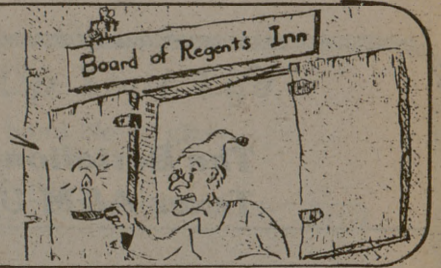
Vol. 71 No. 71
8 Pages

Monday, December 12, 1977
College Station, Texas

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

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Farmers meet with Mondale

United Press International
They snarled traffic, burned the Agriculture Secretary in effigy and hoisted placards that read, "No Deal, No Meal," but the most important part of a weekend of protests by the nation's farmers may be the water-soaked sheets of notes given to President Walter Mondale.

Leaders of the nationwide farm strike, scheduled to begin Wednesday, met Sunday night with Mondale at a fund-raising dinner for Sen. Floyd Haskell, D-Colo., at the Adams County, Colo., Fairground in Colorado.

Lonnie Arbuthnot, of Springfield, Colo., an organizer with the newly sprung American Agriculture movement, said Mondale "showed genuine concern and interest" for the farmers' demand for break-even crop prices.

"He said eight years of agricultural policy can't be reversed in a few short months, but he would personally guarantee to take our position and demands to the president of the United States."

"We had accidentally spilled water on some notes just telling what the farmers

strike this week will do," said Arbuthnot. Mondale was so concerned that as he was leaving he asked if he could gather up the water-soaked pieces of paper to take back with him and show the president.

"That, to me, sir, showed concern."

Strike leaders, who called a meeting today in a Denver hotel, say thousands of farmers will stop selling their crops Wednesday unless the government promises them 100 percent parity for their crops.

Tractors, some in convoys stretching for miles, bounced through the streets of at least 30 state capitals of farm states across the nation during the weekend as farmers promoted support for the strike.

Flags were draped across tractors, combines and battered pickup trucks. Hand-lettered placards said: "No Deal, No Meal," "Crime Doesn't Pay, Neither Does Farming," and "No Barley, No Beer."

At the White House, farmers in overalls and flannel shirts rejected an appeal to delay the strike. Tractors belched smoke near the Washington Monument and thousands of farmers milled about.

President Carter was at Camp David during the protest but Tommy Kersey, a farmer from Unadilla, Ga., said Carter will be met by disgruntled farmers no matter where he decides to spend the Christmas holidays.

Agriculture Secretary Bob Bergland said Sunday the administration will not give in to demands of the farmers. Bergland, who was burned in effigy in Oklahoma City Saturday, said he is still uncertain what effect the strike will have.

Texans back farm strike

United Press International
AUSTIN—Some Texas farmers, who say they are tired of being doormats, have promised to strike to support break-even prices.

The farmers, who say they will take part in the nationwide farm strike that is scheduled to begin Wednesday, gathered for a rally during the weekend.

More than 400 smoke-belching tractors, thundered through downtown Austin and interrupted busy Christmas shoppers who cheered and waved the "V for Victory" sign in support of their proposed strike.

The bright green and red tractors displayed signs saying "When we get ours, you'll get yours," and "If I don't make some greens, you don't get no beans."

One farmer rode a donkey bearing a sign claiming "On my ass, dragging my feet — thanks for 100 percent parity."

The farmers circled the Capitol and parked their machines on the grounds, filling the air with the sound of honking horns and the smell of burning diesel.

"You don't have to be a doormat any more and we don't intend to be a doormat any more," Oran Watson, a Tulia farmer, told the cheering crowd. "We don't want anyone to lose economic stability because of this — we just want to balance the situation."

Speakers on the Capitol steps included Agriculture Commissioner Reagan Brown, Rep. J.J. Pickle, D-Texas, and representatives of consumer groups. Each promised support of the farm movement.

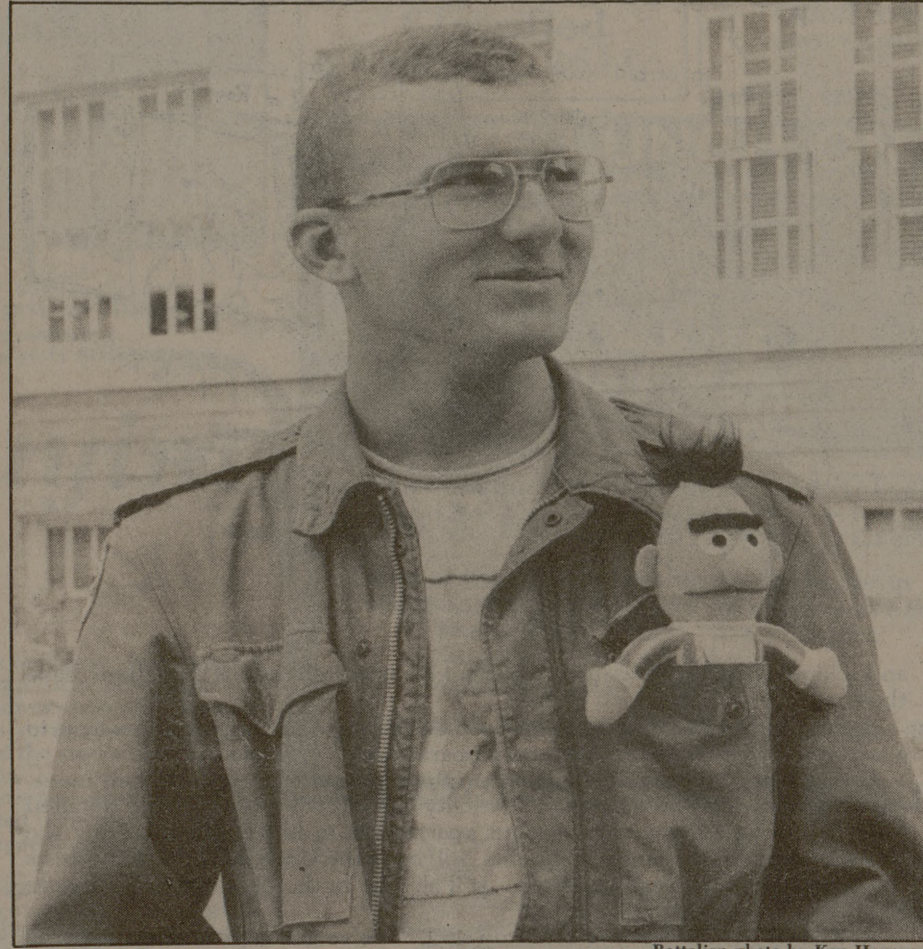
"If the administration doesn't see us, we're going to lock this place down," said David Samuelson Sr., a state leader in the American Agriculture movement. "We're going to have to use these kinds of things, as much as we hate to, but we will if we have to."

Brown blamed the U.S. Department of Agriculture for most of the farmers' trouble, claiming the federal agency is "more concerned with food fads, recipes and consumer radicals," than farmers' welfare.

"We're in a helluva shape in this country," said Brown, who urged the farmers to carry their message to consumers. "I'd like to see you make 200 percent parity."

Pickle said he is convinced Congress wants to help farmers, but said the agriculture market needs a new approach.

"I do know that what we are doing is not sufficient," he said. "The American farmer started this country and we must keep him strong."



Bert and Ernie?

Pat Hales, sophomore accounting major, poses with his pocket pal in front of the Physics Building. Hales says his sister gave him the doll because she thinks the two look alike.

Plane crashes, kills 13 aboard

United Press International
VALVERDE, Canary Islands - U.S. military personnel today opened an investigation into the crash of a low-flying Navy reconnaissance plane against a foggy mountainside in the Canary Islands.

Police in Valverde - the main town in the island of Hierro, one of the Spanish Canary Islands in the Atlantic Ocean - said they recovered 13 bodies from the wreckage. There were no survivors.

The four-engine turboprop Lockheed P-3 Orion, apparently on a training flight out of the U.S. Lajes military base in the Portuguese Azores Islands, smashed into a wooded slope Sunday and scattered debris for more than 2,000 feet.

"The bodies were so badly burned and mutilated and the plane so smashed that it was difficult to identify where the plane came from," said a police spokesman in Valverde. "But from the boots and the uniforms and a piece of burned paper that said 'Florida' we decided they were Americans."

U.S. officials had no immediate details on the cause of the crash, but the American Embassy in Madrid said military investigators from the Rota Navy Base in southern Spain were flying to Hierro today.

A Navy spokesman in Washington said the names of the victims would be held until relatives were notified.

The plane and crew were permanently based in Brunswick, Maine, but Rota had been their main overseas base, U.S. officials said.

The national news agency Cifra said the plane, which is built for submarine surveillance, was flying at an altitude of 1,200 feet over Hierro, which is the smallest island in the Canaries but has peaks reaching 4,200 feet.

Police in Valverde said the first report of the disaster was from a resident who "thought a truck had fallen on the highway."

They said the plane was on a routine flight that was to take it out from Lajes and then back to that base, located in the north Atlantic Ocean west of Portugal.

The Canaries are located off the northern curve of the bulge of Africa.

Police said the weather over Hierro was overcast, rainy and foggy at the time of the crash. They said it was unusual for a plane to fly over the island, which has only a small landing strip.

Strike ends; employees start today

Ending an 11-day strike, Alenco chemical employees return to work today. An agreement between the company and the union local was reached Sunday afternoon.

"We'll be going back to work in the morning," said Rita Johnson, vice president of International Chemical Workers Union Local 780, Sunday.

Union representatives and the Alenco management reached the agreement at 4 p.m. Sunday, Johnson said. The terms include an immediate 40 percent increase in wages, plus another 30 percent in the next two years.

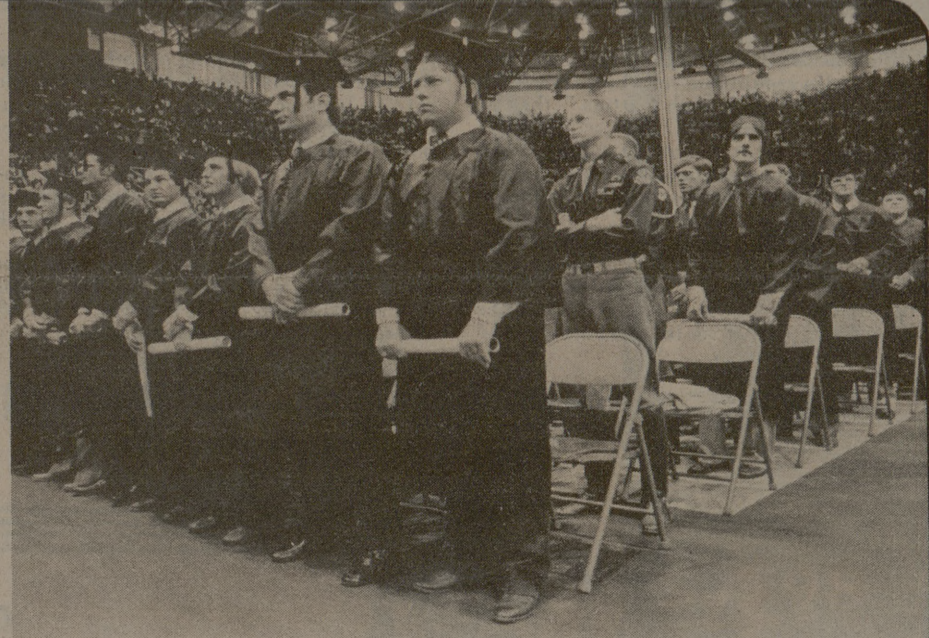
A division of Redman Building Products, Alenco is the second largest employer in Bryan-College Station, Texas & M University is first.

The union represents about 500 members working for the company. Union membership is not mandatory, and non-members have worked since the strike began, Dec. 1.

Johnson had said when the strike began that cost-of-living wage increases and inadequate working conditions were the main reasons for the walk-out.



University President Jarvis Miller prepares to hand out a diploma during graduation ceremonies in G. Rollie White coliseum.



Graduating seniors stand on the floor of G. Rollie White Coliseum after receiving their diplomas last weekend. A record 1,571 students were graduated in Friday's and Saturday's ceremonies.

A record 1,571 receive diplomas

Graduates urged to explore fields

Texas A&M University December graduates were warned about "ultra-environmentalists" and the hazards of government intervention Saturday.

Commencement speaker Paul F. Orefice, president of Dow Chemical U.S.A., addressed a record 1,571 graduates in G. Rollie White Coliseum. Ninety-eight students received doctoral degrees and 298

were given master's degrees.

Orefice spoke out against government intervention and regulation of business.

"The answer is not more government, but less government intervention," he said.

Orefice also warned that environmental extremists could harm the nation's standard of living. He urged for a more functional use of

natural resources, but said he was not for exploitation of the environment.

"Ultra-environmentalists are leading us down a path so costly and misguided that they indeed threaten our standard of living," he said.

Citing his own "American Dream" rise—from an Italian immigrant to president of one of the largest com-

panies in the United States—Orefice called the graduates to be leaders.

He advised them to explore their field opportunities and find jobs with which they can remain happy.

Gen. Donn A. Stary bestowed military commissions on 72 graduates. Stary is commander of the U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command at Fort Monroe, Va.

High-speed chase ends in 3-car crash

By JAMIE AITKEN
Battalion Staff
A high-speed chase involving a Temple patrol car, two College Station patrol cars and a Bryan patrol car ended in a three-car mishap near University Drive and College Avenue early Sunday morning.

No injuries were reported.

The incident began at about 1:30 a.m. when Bryan patrolman David Mohr attempted to stop 22-year-old Larry James Breeden after Breeden's car allegedly drove through a blinking red light at the intersection of Villa Maria Road and Texas Avenue in Bryan.

Mohr said Breeden refused to stop, instead turning onto Eagle Pass and again onto Broadmoor before heading south on 29th Street. While on Broadmoor, Mohr said Breeden turned into and hit the patrol car. Mohr said he was unsuccessful at forcing Breeden's vehicle off of Broadmoor before the two turned onto 29th Street.

College Station patrolmen Winford Pittman and Gary Norton (who was transporting a prisoner at the time) took up the chase at the intersection of University Drive and Tarrow in College Station after

Breeden swerved around Norton's car, which had been positioned across University Drive's westbound lane as a road block.

According to police reports, Breeden and the pursuing officers reached speeds exceeding 80 mph as they sped through the intersection of University Drive and Texas Avenue heading west on University Drive.

Driving along the median, Norton caught up to Breeden's vehicle and bumped it onto the north shoulder of University Drive where it uprooted a road sign.

Breeden's car then rolled into the eastbound lane of University Drive where it collided with an oncoming vehicle. Norton's car also swerved out of control, coming to a stop untouched in the eastbound lane.

Breeden was charged with driving while intoxicated and evading arrest by the Bryan Police Department, and eluding arrest by the College Station Police Department. He currently is free on \$473.50 bond, pending a Dec. 15 hearing.

Prisoners visit with families

Convict to challenge parole laws

United Press International
SAN DIEGO — One American, who was returned from a Mexican prison in the weekend's unprecedented convict swap, plans to challenge the right of the U.S. government to free him under parole supervision.

Jim Norton, 54, of Los Angeles, convicted of smuggling cocaine, said many of the 127 Americans repatriated with him would join in the challenge.

Norton, who completed four years of a seven-year sentence for the drug charge, said Sunday he signed a voluntary consent

to return to the United States, but was under pressure to do so.

"There's going to be a hell of a lot of people who are going to do it (challenge parole provisions)," he said. "You bet we were under pressure and you bet we were under coercion."

"I would have signed that I killed 50 people to get out of there, that's what I would have done. Any everybody else would have done the same thing."

The U.S. Parole Board scheduled hearings today for some of the American repatriated prisoners with hopes of turning

more of them free before Christmas.

The first of 44 prisoners eligible for immediate release were expected on the streets by Tuesday.

A busload of prisoners was due today from Tijuana, 20 miles south of San Diego, to join those who arrived by plane from Mexico City. Two more plane loads are due Friday and Saturday to complete the first phase of a prisoner exchange, which was four years in the making. Thirty-six Mexicans were serving time in U.S. jails were flown to Mexico City Friday.

The federal Metropolitan Correctional Center in San Diego, where the new pris-

oners are being held, was jammed Sunday with friends and relatives who were allowed a one-hour visit with the prisoners in spacious visiting rooms, which has no iron bars to separate visitors from inmates.

"All the prisoners were happy today with their visitors, but the ones just back from Mexico were the happiest," one prison official said.

The Bureau of Prisons said two-thirds of the returning men and women had been arrested at least once before in the United States and 25 percent of them had prior convictions.

He said his opponents "have lost everything. The biggest loser is Hafez Assad, who lost Egypt and lost me" as an ally.

But Assad said in Kuwait that Syria "will not change its anti-Sadat attitude even if it were exposed to Israeli aggression or if part of our territory were occupied," Assad said.

"We are strong enough to preserve our dignity and we will not kneel even if it costs us more sacrifices and more Syrian territory."

The harsh exchange between Egypt and Syria seemed to provide momentum for a separate settlement between Egypt and Israel, but Israeli Prime Minister Menahem Begin told a news conference he does not want to exclude other Arab countries from the peace-making process.

Attending the talks will be representatives from Egypt, Israel, the United Nations' Ensis Siilasvuo of Finland, who will preside over the sessions.