

# The Battalion

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## Carter plots plan for tax reductions

WASHINGTON — President Carter, declaring the economy sound despite serious problems, is calling for renewed efforts to cut unemployment, inflation and the trade deficit.

As one approach, he asked Congress for a \$25 billion tax cut.

Republicans and Democrats — with a few exceptions — quickly embraced the idea of a tax cut and said Carter's \$25 billion figure was close to their own target.

His comments indicated Congress would approve it, and quickly.

Carter's first State of the Union address delivered to a joint session of Congress Friday night — contained no surprises in major new programs. But the president repeatedly, though mildly, applauded the nearly one hour that he spoke.

There was some grumbling that the speech lacked specifics, even on the key

proposal to cut taxes, and the normal amount of barbs from the out-of-power GOP.

"I made the same kind of speech in 1964 and I got the hell beat out of me," said Sen. Barry Goldwater, R-Ariz.

Speaking to members of Congress, the Supreme Court, the diplomatic corps and the Cabinet as well as invited guests who braved a snowstorm to crowd into the House chamber, Carter said "our main task at home this year, with energy a central element, is the nation's economy."

"We must continue the recovery and further cut unemployment and inflation," he said.

The president said, "We reached all of our economic goals for 1977," but he added, "We must do even better in the future."

"We still have serious problems in which all of us must work together," he

said. "Our trade deficit is too large, inflation is still too high and too many Americans still do not have a job."

Of the \$25 billion in tax cuts, \$17 billion will go to individuals, Carter said. He added that 96 percent of American taxpayers will have to pay less to the government. Another \$6 billion will go to business and \$2 billion in excise tax reductions.

He said, "Our tax proposals will increase opportunity everywhere in this nation, but additional jobs for the disadvantaged deserve special attention."

Carter said he would ask for a "substantial increase" in funds for public jobs for youth, a doubling of public service employment and a new program designed to encourage the private sector to hire more young and disadvantaged people.

Rejecting any type of controls, Carter said he would seek to curb inflation by asking government, business, labor and other groups to join in a voluntary program to hold wage and price increase below the average increases of the past two years.

In an ad lib, which drew the longest and loudest applause of the night, he said he saw "my fellow farmers standing in the snow" on the way to Capitol Hill and added it was "incumbent on us to monitor very carefully the farm situation."

Farmers have been demonstrating in Washington for two days for higher crop prices.

He was also loudly applauded — although mostly by Democrats — when he called for ratification of the Panama Canal treaties to "demonstrate our good faith to the world, discourage the spread of hostile ideologies in this hemisphere and directly contribute to the economic well-being and security of the United States."

Carter said his budget will be "lean and tight," but that the deficit would be only slightly less than this year.

But he added, "With careful planning, efficient management and proper restraint on spending, we can move rapidly toward a balanced budget — and we will."

Carter also said "the first and prime concern" of the administration's foreign policy will be the security of the country.

"Security is based on our national will and security is based on the strength of our armed forces," Carter added. "We have the will, and militarily, we are very strong."

The second major goal, Carter said, was promoting harmony in areas of the world where major differences among nations — such as the Middle East — threaten international peace and cited as the third goal: world economic growth and stability.

## Limits desired in Park probe

SEOUL, South Korea — The U.S. Justice Department has promised South Korea that it will try to persuade Congress not to subpoena former Washington lobbyist Tongsun Park, according to an agreement released today.

The U.S.-South Korean agreement, signed Jan. 10 but made public today, said the Americans also pledged to limit their questions on Park's ties with the Korean CIA and other Seoul government organizations.

Park, the key figure in the Capitol Hill influence-buying scandal, was questioned for the seventh day today. He told reporters at the outset of the interrogation he was exhausted and asked them, "Please be kind to me."

The Justice Department signed the agreement with the South Koreans to win Park's cooperation in its investigation of the influence-buying scandal.

The 15-article accord said relevant transcripts of Park's interrogation would be forwarded to congressional committees to discourage them from seeking direct testimony from the 42-year-old millionaire rice merchant.

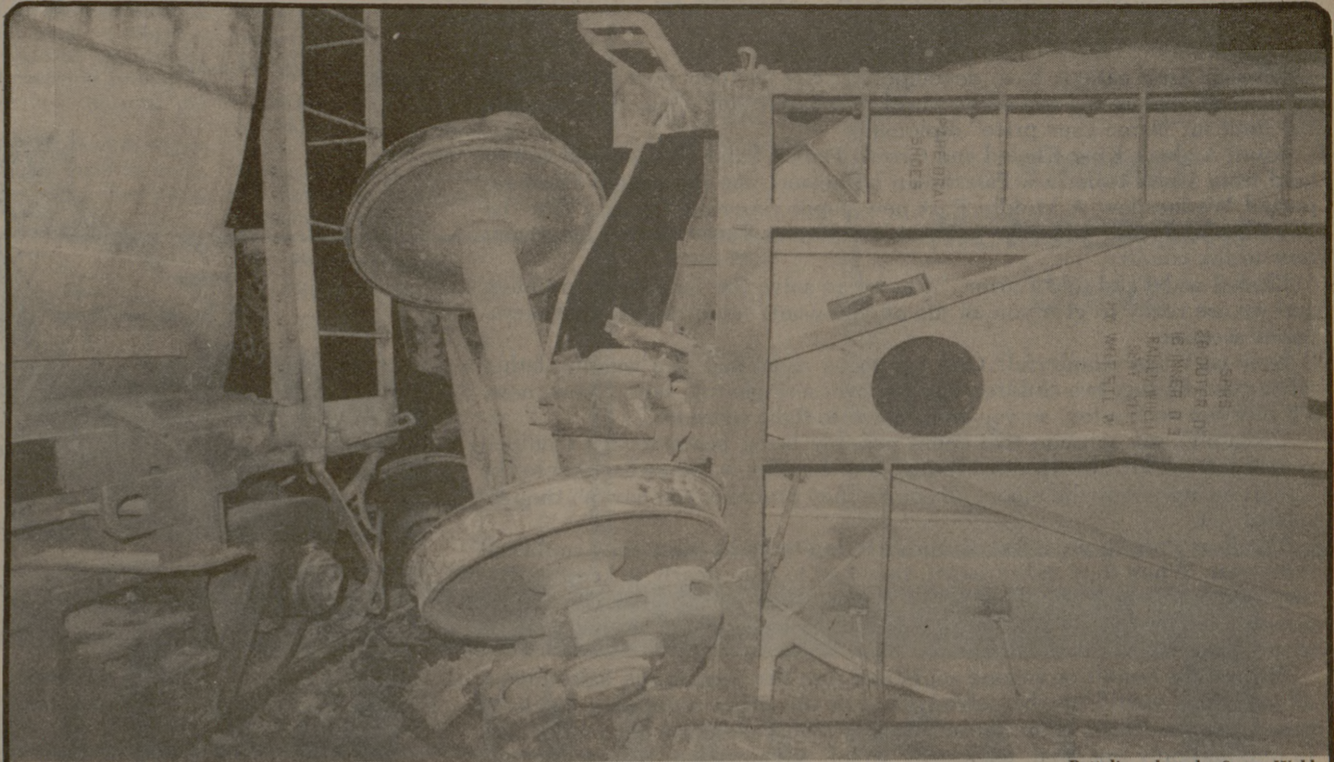
"The congressional committees will be urged to accept the transcripts in lieu of personal appearances by Mr. Park," the agreement said.

"In addition, the congressional committees will be asked by the U.S. Department of Justice not to subpoena Mr. Park when he visits the United States for trial testimony."

The agreement also said that "questioning shall not concern actions or statements of officials of the Republic of Korea government or of any third country, except any which may have occurred in the United States or in the presence of U.S. officials."

The pact — parts of which have been leaked in the past several days — already has come under fire in Washington.

Leon Jaworski, counsel to the House ethics committee, argued that the United States was "out-negotiated" by South Korea and that committee members threatened to serve a subpoena on Park upon his arrival in Washington in any case.



Battalion photo by Susan Webb

Last night the 57th car on the Missouri-Pacific Railroad line derailed at the intersection of Finfeather Dr. and Villa Maria. This picture was taken at 9:30 p.m.

## Powdered aluminum spills

### Train derails in Bryan

By GARY WELCH  
Battalion Staff

Five Missouri Pacific freight cars derailed in Bryan Thursday, spilling powdered aluminum along the track. Two of the cars left the track completely and turned on their sides, spilling powder from the top of each.

The 116-car train was traveling north about 5:30 p.m. when the 57th car left the track at the intersection of Villa Maria and Finfeather

roads. Witnesses said the train was moving about five or six mph when it seemed to slip off the track.

A Missouri Pacific inspector said there was no danger of the aluminum dust igniting or otherwise being harmful. Inspectors were at the site last night examining the wreckage for clues about the cause. They measured the track gauge for imperfections, but found none immediately.

All cars still on the track were

pulled away.

Southern Pacific Railroad owns the track and is responsible for clearing away the five derailed cars. Crews were expected to begin re-railing the five cars this morning with heavy cranes.

Original plans had called for a re-railing attempt last night, but it was abandoned. Heavy equipment has been summoned from Giddings, a Missouri Pacific spokesman said.

The engineer of the train was L. J. Adcock of Ft. Worth.

## Briscoe adds investigator in probe of Migrant Office

AUSTIN — The same day Gov. Dolph Briscoe was explaining some of his decisions regarding his Office of Migrant Affairs, he announced he was hiring additional investigators to look into wrongdoing in the office.

Briscoe Thursday responded to criticism of his handling of the migrant affairs office by saying his actions were intended to help the poor in rural areas.

Briscoe acknowledged that he ordered the migrant affairs office to receive nearly 20 percent of all federal Manpower program money allotted to rural areas of Texas.

An employee of the Texas Department of Community Affairs, said "there is no way" the migrant population makes up one-fifth of the rural poor in Texas. That department administered almost all of the federal Manpower funds allocated to state government until 1976.

Also Thursday, in an unusual move, Briscoe announced he had hired former District Attorney Robert O. Smith and ex-FBI agent Fred Lee to assist in the investigation of the migrant affairs office and the Texas Department of Community Affairs.

District Attorney Ronald Earle said he asked Briscoe for help in the inquiry.

Briscoe noted neither Smith nor Lee had had any previous connection with the governor's office.

Briscoe called for the investigation after the head of the Governor's Office of Migrant Affairs and a top deputy were indicted by a Brownsville Grand Jury earlier this month on forgery charges. Five others

have been charged with theft in connection with grants obtained through GOMA and TDCA.

Smith was the prosecutor who won convictions of former House Speaker Gus F. Mutscher and two others for bribery conspiracy in the Sharpstown stock fraud scandal in 1972 and numerous other legislators and public officials on charges ranging from nepotism to official misconduct.

A spokesman said the special investigators will be paid on a contract through the governor's office.

"The investigation is now underway. We expect it to take some time, but with the high quality of this help from the governor's office and the attorney general's office, it will be thorough," said District Attorney Ronald Earle.

Lee, until Jan. 1, headed the FBI's Austin office as senior resident agent. He retired after 27 years with the federal agency.

Briscoe is in charge of allocating the federal funds to 119 of Texas' 254 counties, called the "balance of state" region.

"It was my responsibility under terms of the Comprehensive Employment Training Act to decide how the funds would be managed," Briscoe said. "I made the decision and I stand by it."



Snow is fun . . . and not so fun

At the top, Roy T. Guerra of Bryan puts sand on the icy sidewalks in front of the Chemistry Building to prevent students from slipping. Guerra works for the Texas A&M University System. At the bottom, Ellen Turner, a sophomore English major from Dallas, had to clear off the ice and snow from her car windows before she could get to class Thursday.

Battalion photos by Susan Webb



## Prairie View official dies in car wreck

A memorial service has been scheduled today at Prairie View in honor of Dr. George R. Ragland, 61-year-old vice president for academic affairs at Prairie View A&M University, who was killed Wednesday afternoon in a two-car collision near Cypress.

The memorial will be conducted at 10:30 a.m. in Hobart Taylor Hall. Classes will be suspended for the services.

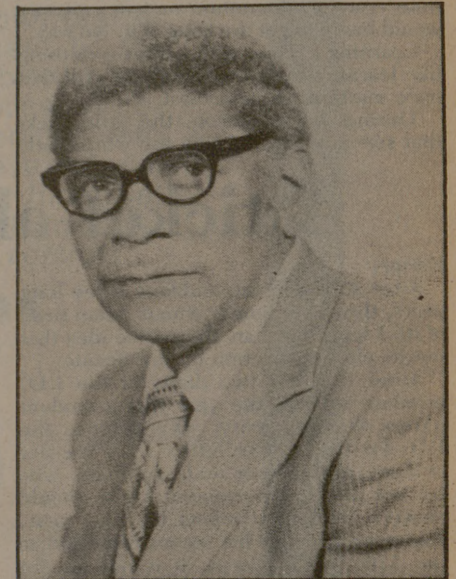
Services for Ragland are pending with Jones Funeral Home in Navasota, said officials.

Department of Public Safety investigators said Ragland, enroute to Houston, apparently lost control of his car on rain-slick U.S. 290 and careened into the path of a westbound pickup driven by George Chapman of Washington.

Chapman remained in a Houston hospital Thursday with critical injuries.

Both drivers were alone in their vehicles.

Ragland came to PVAM in 1955 as a professor of sociology after teaching at Texas College and Alabama A&M. He was subsequently made head of sociology at PVAM and held the posts of registrar and acting dean of the university before becoming the school's first vice president for academic affairs in 1975.



A native of Oklahoma City, he received his B.S. degree in 1938 from Langston (Okla.) University and his M.A. the following year from the University of Iowa, where he earned his Ph.D. in 1953.

KOSS ... KENWOOD ... SANSUI