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Farm credit bill near approval

United Press International

WASHINGTON — The House Monday moved toward approval of a major farm credit bill, including an economic emergency plan under which farmers facing bankruptcy could get \$4 billion in government-insured and guaranteed loans by the end of 1979.

Individual farmers could get loans up to \$400,000 under the program backed by the administration and most major farm organizations.

Administration officials have estimated that loans actually would average about \$100,000 apiece and would go to about 40,000 hard-pressed farmers.

Action on the credit bill came less than two weeks after the House defeated an emergency measure to aid farmers by raising crop supports and cutting acreage of grains and cotton.

Rep. Ed Jones, D-Tenn., said the loans authorized by the credit legislation would not carry subsidized interest rates and without doubt, this bill would aid thousands of family farmers at little cost.

"This bill is essential if we are to avoid losing an entire generation of family farms currently facing a squeeze because of low grain prices, Rep. Glenn English, D-Okla., added.

Democratic leaders beat down a proposal by Rep. Edward Madigan, R-Ill., to substitute what he called a "more modest" emergency plan for farmers on the verge of bankruptcy.

Madigan's substitute would have permitted the new loans only to pay operating costs and principal and interest installments due from farmers to banks and

other lenders through the end of 1979.

The House Agriculture Committee's version of the bill, which survived when the Madigan substitute was defeated, would also permit use of the new loans for principal and interest payments. But in addition, the surviving legislation would also permit use of the loans for total refinancing of farm debts for periods of up to 30 years.

Madigan told the House the credit program should be limited in its scope because the broader plan approved by the Agriculture Committee "is an empty promise." The \$4 billion ceiling provided in the law would cover only a few farmers and would leave most unsatisfied, he said.

English retorted that Madigan's proposal "would gut the opportunity for farmers to survive this current economic crisis."

In addition to the emergency credit section, aimed primarily at farmers in debt to banks and other nongovernment lenders, the major credit bill also includes provisions expanding credit offered through the Agriculture Department's Farmers Home Administration.

FmHA borrowers who are currently limited to mortgage loans of \$100,000 could get government-insured loans of up to \$200,000 and government-guaranteed loans up to \$300,000 under the bill. FmHA farm operating loans which are now limited to \$50,000 could go to \$100,000 on an insured basis and \$200,000 if made by private lenders on a government-guaranteed basis.



Battalion photo by Pat O'Malley

Doin' it to it

Randy Finch, a sophomore finance major from San Antonio, displays his acrobatic talents during Saturday's skateboard competition sponsored by the A&M Surf Club. Lee McGinnis, who is not a student at A&M, drove in from Dallas to compete in the competition and won.

May give insight to human evolution

Borneo Orangutans topic of study

By GAIL SMILA

They are solitary, arboreal, and the last of Asia's great apes; they are orangutans. In a speech given Monday at Rudder Auditorium, primatologist Birute Aldikas-Brindamour shared her experience in the jungles of Borneo studying the orangutan.

During the past six years, Brindamour and her photographer-husband Rod lived in Kalimantan Province in Central Indonesian Borneo to study and document the nature of the wild orangutan social structure and habitat.

Brindamour said the orangutan project was started by the late Dr. L.S.B. Leakey as part of his long-range plan to encourage in-depth studies of several species of great apes in their natural habitats.

Leakey launched the project with Jane Goodall's study of the chimpanzee in 1960, Dian Fossey's study of the mountain gorilla in 1967 and Brindamour's study of the orangutan in 1971.

Brindamour said the purpose of the study was to understand the orangutans' adaptation to the environment and social situation, which she believed would give

some insight to human evolution.

She said because the first primates were hunters and gatherers, scientists have turned to modern hunters and gatherers to understand the conditions which enabled evolution of homo sapiens. She said the only difference between man and ape is that man uses tools to make other tools.

Brindamour said she and her husband spent six years and over 10,000 hours of studying wild orangutans in humid, swampy Borneo. She witnessed their eating, nesting, and mating habits and believes the orangutans are intelligent creatures but fears extinction of the animals in 50 years.

Orangutans are declining in population because of land clearance by farmers, lumbermen, and poachers.

In 1974, Indonesia issued a coin with an orangutan printed on the face. The coin is valued at 5,000 rupiahs, (\$12), and has started a 24-nation effort to raise money for conservation, in cooperation with the World Wildlife Fund and the International Union for conservation of Nature and Natural Resources.

Besides studying wild orangutans,

Brindamour and her husband, in cooperation with the Indonesian government, seek out young captive orangutans, rehabilitate them to forest life, and return them to the wild.

"I learned as much, if not more, by being a surrogate mother to captive orangutans than I did by studying them in the wild," Brindamour said.

The rehabilitative program was designed for orangutans captured by foresters. Brindamour said she has received more than 50 captive orangutans and added that they are livelier, friendlier and

smarter than the wild orangutans.

She said the captives are taken to their natural surroundings, taught to build nests, and hunt food and eventually learn to live by themselves in the forest.

Brindamour said she believes that captive orangutans were not orangutans at all. Captivity does not allow for natural selection of mates.

Brindamour, Jane Goodall and Dian Fossey, will appear in a National Geographic television special entitled "Watching the Wild Apes." It will be aired tonight by the Public Broadcasting System.

Israeli minister flies to U.S., warns of no new proposals

United Press International

Egypt says Israel must be willing to make more concessions before peace talks resume, but Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan cautioned U.S. officials not to expect new Israeli proposals when he arrives in Washington later today.

Dayan, who was flying to Washington in an effort to iron out American-Israeli differences in advance of Prime Minister Menachem Begin's visit next Monday, was reportedly carrying Israeli suggestions for the wording of a declaration of principles to guide resumed peace talks with Egypt.

But in Cairo, where U.S. envoy Alfred

Atherton wound up a four-day visit, Foreign Minister Mohammed Kamel said there could be no new peace talks until Israel agreed to soften its negotiating position on such sticky issues as Palestinian self-determination and territorial concessions.

Atherton was flying back to Washington ahead of Dayan after apparently failing to secure any further concessions from Egypt despite "very serious and very detailed" discussions with President Anwar Sadat.

Atherton would not call his mission unsuccessful, but admitted Sadat had offered

him no new proposals to break the negotiating stalemate.

The U.S. negotiator said his visit had "certainly helped my government have a deeper and clearer understanding of the position of the Egyptian government, as we look for ways, new moves in the peace process."

But pressed by reporters to disclose something of what went on in his separate talks with Sadat and Kamel, Atherton said, "We always have exchanges of ideas on these visits, and very useful ones. But in terms of papers or proposals, no."

After a final two-hour session with

Atherton on Monday, Kamel told reporters Egypt was sticking by its demands that Israel give up its settlements in the Sinai and agree to discuss the creation of a Palestinian entity on the occupied West Bank.

Dayan went to pains over the weekend to stress that, like Atherton, he too was carrying no new proposals to his Washington talks.

But the newspaper Ha'aretz reported Dayan would be carrying Israeli suggestions on the wording of a declaration of principles sought by Egypt as a guide for the negotiations.

Court rules against Dallas school district

United Press International

DALLAS — Mayor Bob Folsom says he disagrees with a federal appeals court ruling that the city's school district must revise its desegregation plan and favors an appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court.

The 5th Circuit Court of Appeals in New Orleans, in a 13-page statement made public Monday, said the Dallas Independent School District must eliminate or justify the existence of predominantly one-race schools in its 2-year-old desegregation plan.

The ruling came on an appeal filed by the NAACP.

"I regret the 5th Circuit Court's decision to overturn the plan," Folsom said. "I strongly disagree with the ruling and I would hate to see Dallas have to go through the whole desegregation question again."

"I think the school district might have a better chance with the Supreme Court than the 5th Circuit Court," he said. "At least that has been the trend so far."

The appeals court ordered U.S. District Judge William Taylor to devise a new plan but set no deadline.

The current student assignment plan divides the school district into six subdistricts. Four of those subdistricts substantially reflect the racial makeup of the

school system as a whole, the court said.

"But the other two subdistricts each contain a predominant ethnic group.

"Seagoville, geographically isolated from the rest of DISD, has an approximately 82 percent Anglo enrollment," the court said.

"East Oak Cliff, bounded by the Trinity River bottom on one side and by Interstate 35 on the other, is approximately 98 percent black."

The 5th Circuit said only one of the DISD's six subdistricts was completely free of one-race schools.

The appeals court panel ordered the DISD to provide transportation for students who choose to transfer from a school in which their race is the majority to one in which their race is a minority.

"The school board, not the students or their parents, must assume the burden of transporting the students," the court said.

"On remand, the district court is directed to include the majority to minority transfer option in the transportation provision of the plan finally adopted."

The 5th Circuit agreed, however, with a ruling by the lower court regarding schools in the Highland Park section of Dallas. The three-judge appeals panel found no evidence of discrimination in Highland Park even though all 4,600 students in the area's six schools are white.

Son of Sam suspect ruled competent to stand trial

United Press International

NEW YORK — Son of Sam suspect David Berkowitz Monday was ruled competent to stand trial for the murder of Stacy Moskowitz, the last of six victims shot to death in a year-long series of slayings.

The ruling was made by state Supreme Court Justice Joseph Corso, who set May 8 for the start of the 24-year-old former postal worker's trial.

Miss Moskowitz was the last victim of the so-called ".44-caliber killer," who killed six persons and wounded seven others in his nighttime attacks in quiet neighborhoods throughout the city.

Berkowitz has been confined in a psychiatric ward of Kings County Hospital since his arrest in August. He said previously he intends to plead guilty to the charges, but it was not immediately clear if Corso would accept the plea.

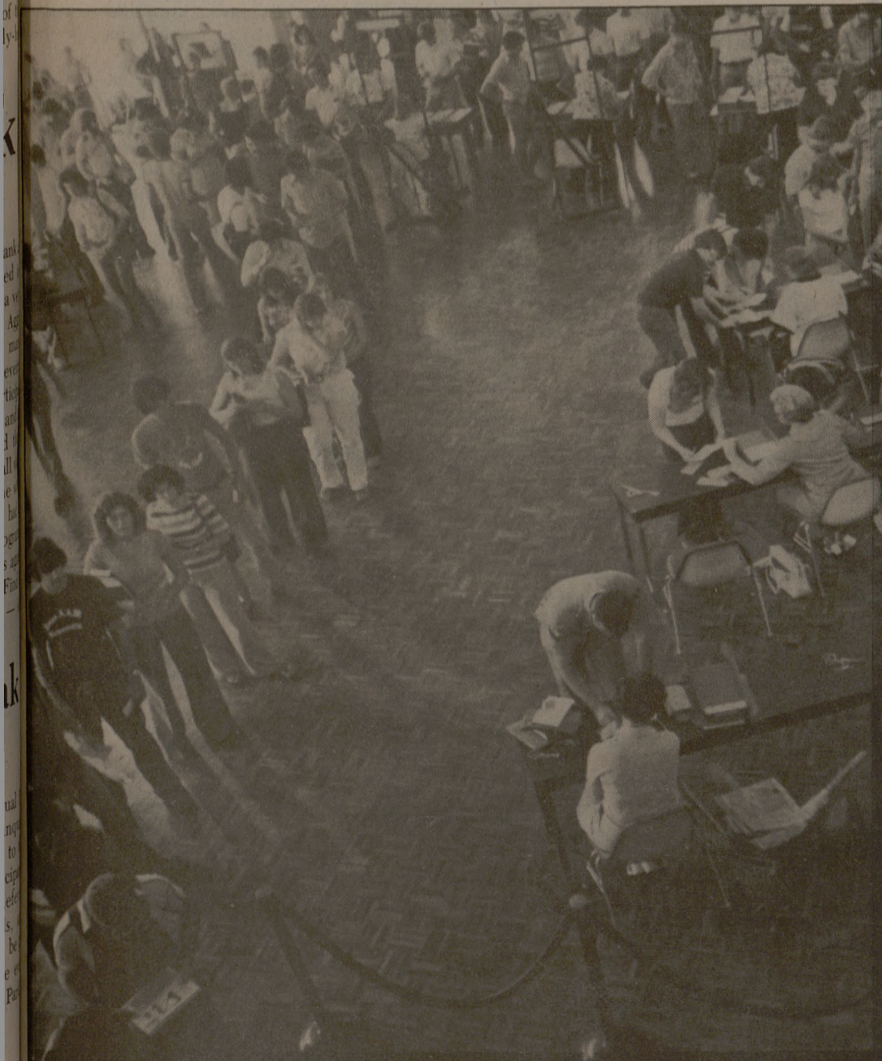
In his announcement, Corso said, "This court, having considered all of the testimony and exhibits, has reached the conclusion that the people has established that the defendant, David Berkowitz, does not lack the capacity to understand the proceedings against him or participate in his defense."

Corso said he had spoken with District Attorney Eugene Gold and had agreed to begin the trial May 8, a date which he said was "reasonable, in spite of the fact I would have preferred to start almost immediately."

The justice based his decision on four days of psychiatric testimony made during a series of closed hearings in a makeshift courtroom at Kings County Hospital where Berkowitz has been lodged since his arrest.

At that time, Berkowitz allegedly told police "Sam" was his 64-year-old neighbor Sam Carr, who lived 6,000 years and served as his homicidal commander by sending messages through his dog.

After disposition of the charges in the Moskowitz killing, Berkowitz must face other indictments.



Battalion photo by Liz Bailey

Here we go again

Pre-registration for fall semester began Monday and so did the long waiting lines. Pre-registration will continue through Friday afternoon. Class schedules are available at Heaton Hall (the old Exchange Store) and at Rudder Tower information center.