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Carter may send troops to Mideast

United Press International
GRAND TETON NATIONAL PARK, Wyo. — President Carter is considering offering to station American troops on the West Bank to break the Middle East negotiating stalemate, his spokesman said Wednesday.
Carter, sunburned and relaxed, wound up his 12-day vacation in Idaho and Wyoming apparently eager to tackle major problems awaiting him at the White House — among them his deadlocked energy package and U.S. options to propose at the Camp David summit on the Middle East that begins Sept. 5.
Press Secretary Jody Powell said when Israeli Prime Minister Menahem Begin and Egyptian President Anwar Sadat sit down at the presidential retreat next week, Carter may propose the American presence as one of the options to bring

about a settlement.

"That has always been a possibility," Powell said, "but it is still in the speculative stage."

Powell also predicted Carter would emerge victorious in a last-ditch attempt to rescue his energy package.

"I think we will win but it's going to be a tough fight," Powell told reporters.

Carter will be battling for Senate passage of the natural gas compromise, the crux of his energy program that faces opposition from both liberal Democrats and conservative Republicans, who would prefer a simple bill giving the president authority to allocate natural gas in times of a national emergency.

Carter invited a delegation from the National Governors Association, headed by Kentucky Gov. Julian Carroll, to meet with him at 10 a.m. Thursday to rally their

support for the compromise, which calls for eventual deregulation of natural gas prices.

"The enactment of a national energy plan is critical to every state, and I look forward to this opportunity to discuss pending energy legislation with some of the nation's governors," Carter said in the statement.

As for his vacation, Carter and his family clearly enjoyed the outdoor life. He went fishing nearly every day, took a three-day raft trip down the primitive Salmon River, sailed on Lake Jackson and attended a rodeo.

On the final full day of vacation, Carter went fishing again, took his family on a horseback ride along the Jackson Hole trail and hosted a reception for Wyoming Democratic politicians and early Carter supporters.

A&M director favors federal grants for aid

By ANDREA VALLS
Battalion Staff
The United States Senate recently voted to provide tax credits of up to \$250 per year to students to help offset the cost of college tuition and fees. But, a financial aid director at Texas A&M University is in favor of an alternative bill involving federal grants.

Although both programs are geared to relieve the financial burden of college students, there are some major differences between the two.

Under the Tuition Tax Relief Act of 1978, sponsored by Senator Bob Packwood of Oregon, the tax credit would be phased in by two steps, said Hugh O'Neill, staff assistant to Packwood.

Retrospective to Aug. 1, a student—or his parents if he is a dependent—would be entitled to a credit of one-half the cost of tuition and fees paid for full-time undergraduate college or post-secondary vocational schools.

For a student at Texas A&M, an average of \$150 could be deducted from tax forms.

Also, on Oct. 1, 1980, the maximum credit would rise to \$500, and would become available for half-time graduate students.

This tax credit act would cost approximately \$1.4 billion per year when fully effective, said O'Neill.

Robert M. Logan, director of financial aid at Texas A&M, spoke in favor of a bill supported by President Carter involving federal grants for students of middle income families.

Logan said the Middle Income Student

Assistance Program would provide 70 percent of the students at Texas A&M with eligibility for federal grants. At present, approximately 2,500 students are aided through grants. Under this bill, approved by the Senate two weeks ago, some 22,000 students would be eligible for grants at Texas A&M, said Logan.

Richard Jerue, assistant counsel for the Senate Subcommittee on Education, said the grant program is based on an income scale—the less income per family, the larger grant a student could receive. Jerue stressed that the tax credit bill does not provide aid for those families and students in the lower income range who are not required to file an income tax report.

Under the grant program, a student could get anywhere between \$250 and \$1,800 per semester, depending on his income range and financial need," Jerue said.

O'Neill, supporter of the tax credit program, said, "With this deduction on taxes, students and parents have the freedom of choice of where they can go to college because of the tax cuts."

O'Neill said a major problem with the grant bill is the "mountains of paperwork the colleges and students would have to climb over."

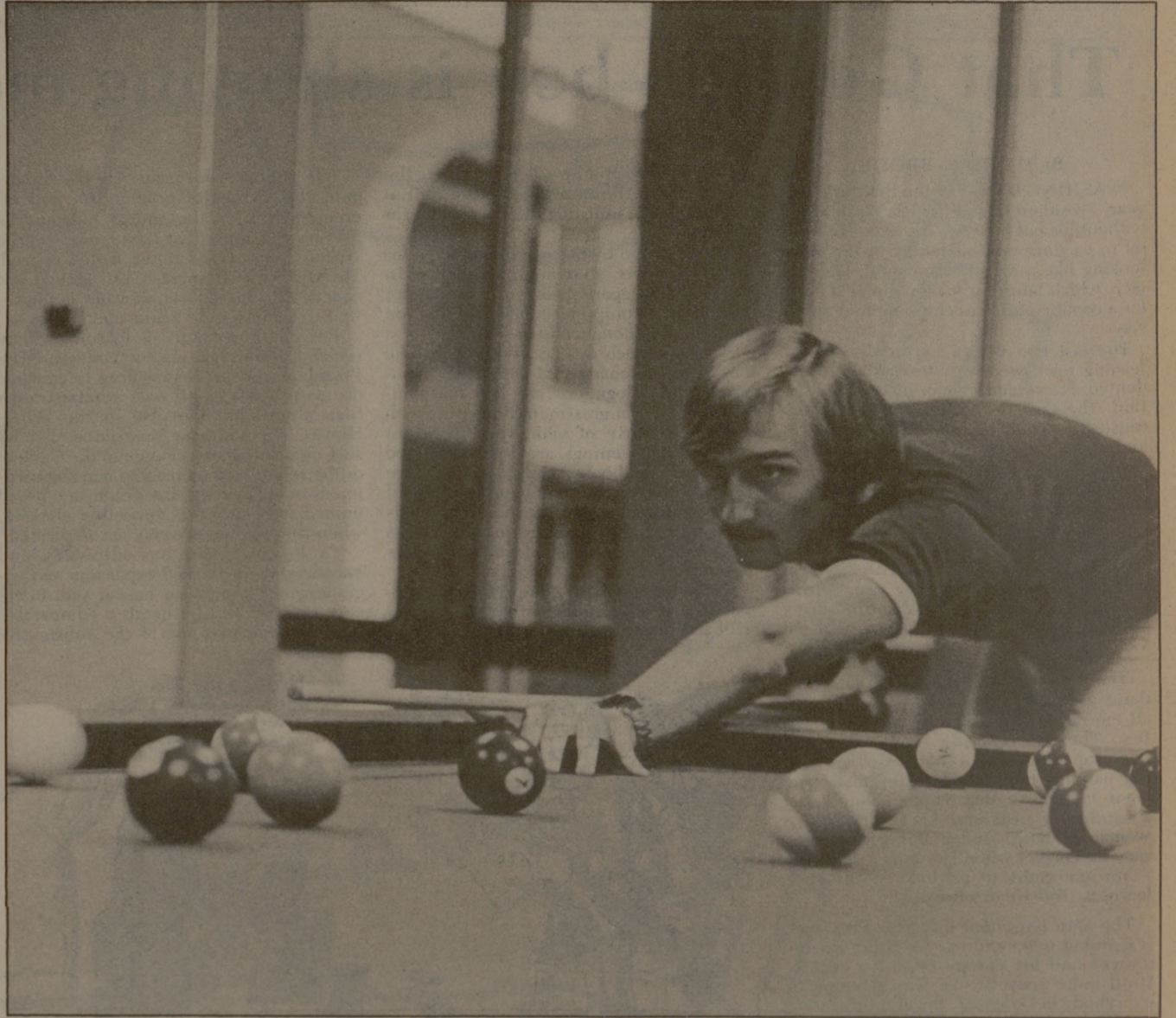
"To get that grant, you have to read seven pages of instructions, fill out four pages of forms, and then put in the application for the grant."

With the tuition tax cut, students would simply divide their tuition and fees by one-half and take it off their income tax," he said.

The Middle Income Students Assistance Program involving federal grants, has already been passed by the Senate and is waiting for a approval by President Carter.

The Tuition Tax Relief Act of 1978 now goes to a conference committee where differences between the Senate-passed version and a House-passed bill will be negotiated.

As for supporting one of the financial aid programs, Logan said, "As far as this University is concerned, this is not a matter we would get involved with. It's more a problem with the parents and the IRS."



Who says freshman don't study?

Freshman Keith Weinrich studies his pool shot and the blurred cue ball after class hours Wednesday in the Commons. With only three days of classes gone by, some students still have a little time to loll around. Weinrich and his Class of '82 buddies make

up the largest freshman class ever to enter Texas A&M University. Figures released Wednesday show that more than 30,500 students enrolled this fall.

Battalion photo by Liz Newlin

Gasoline shortage indication allegedly withheld from public

United Press International
WASHINGTON — A House subcommittee Wednesday said the Department of Energy has withheld from the public indications of a possible major gasoline shortage in the United States by 1980.

The charge was made by the investigations subcommittee of the House Commerce Committee, as part of a report concluding the department's case for lifting gasoline price controls is "unlearned, disingenuous, and unpersuasive."

The subcommittee released a 134-page report on the department's justification for decontrol.

Oil and its products were once under strict federal controls, which have gradually been lifted from some products such as heavy fuel oil, heating oil and some others. Gasoline is one of the few major oil products left under price controls.

Under a 1975 law, the Department of Energy must submit decontrol to Congress for approval. Either house can turn down the plan.

The decontrol plan for gasoline first was suggested in early 1977 by the Federal Energy Administration, which later withdrew the plan for further consideration. Federal energy officials compiled data supporting the plan, and the investigations subcommittee began an inquiry into the adequacy of the official justification for lifting the controls.

"Unless the Department of Energy can correct the defects in their published analysis, it is difficult to see how the House could accept a decontrol proposal," said Rep. John Moss, D-Calif., chairman of the subcommittee.

The subcommittee report said the department had withheld information from the public "that indicates a potential major gasoline shortage by 1980."

Internal documents in the agency forecast a potential shortage of 400,000 barrels a day, the subcommittee said.

"The failure of the department to discuss this potentially grave problem in their published assessments of the impact of de-

control raises serious questions as to the credibility of the department," it added.

A shortage of that magnitude would itself boost prices up to 40 cents a gallon if controls were lifted, the report said.

The subcommittee said the department contends gasoline retail prices were below legal ceilings, so decontrol would not boost prices.

But it argued that some of the department's own figures show unleaded

gasoline from full-service pumps selling within a fraction of the allowable price.

The department also contended decontrol would have no significant environmental effect.

The subcommittee report disputed that, saying it had found such a large price difference between leaded and unleaded gasoline that motorists had a strong incentive to switch to leaded gasoline "with the resulting adverse effect on the environment."

Teachers strike on first day back

United Press International

NEW ORLEANS — Instead of the shouts of students and clanging lockers, visitors walking into the dark, cavernous hall at three-story Warren Easton High School Wednesday were greeted by silence and a yellow and blue sign reading, "Welcome back to school."

Any way you looked at it, it was not a welcome back to school.

Outside, teachers wearing cardboard picket signs — and sometimes using them as umbrellas to ward off an intermittent downpour — talked quietly on a picket line about the first day of a strike by the United Teachers of New Orleans against city public schools.

Some students attended classes manned by substitutes. They sat quietly around the teachers in groups obviously smaller than the rooms were meant to handle.

Others hung out windows ignoring the substitutes. They chatted with reporters and waved to their regular teachers on the picket line.

"There's no learning going on in there, none whatsoever," said Philmont Edwards Jr., one striking teacher. "They're all hanging out the windows."

"We don't know. As long as it takes," he said.

While one substitute taught students sitting quietly in their chairs, four 11th graders stood at the classroom window and talked about the strike.

"It's a shame that they went out, but they need the money," one said, paying no attention to the lesson. "The new teachers have it tough."

At Eleanor McMain Middle School, principal Allen Guma held a morning assembly with students before sending them off to class.

"We're talking about a very complicated issue," he said. "We're talking about dollars and cents. We're talking about a school district in a city that has refused for 200 years to pay the kinds of taxes that we need."

First Texas woman gets death penalty under law

United Press International

WHARTON, Tex. — Convicted of hiring an assassin to kill her father so she could collect insurance money, Mary Lou Anderson is the first woman to be sentenced to death under the state's new lethal injection law.

Miss Anderson, 35, of Lake Charles, La., sat calmly Tuesday night while the verdict — which also could make her the first woman to be executed in Texas — was read.

She was charged with hiring Feryl Granger, 29, of Lafayette, La., to kill her father and stepmother for the insurance money. However, she was being tried specifically for the Jan. 3 execution-style

shooting of Steve Anderson, 55, of Sugar Land.

She still faces a capital murder charge in the death of her stepmother and Granger is awaiting trial on identical charges.

Miss Anderson is the first woman sentenced to die in Texas since the 1977 legislative session threw out the use of the electric chair and instituted lethal injection in capital murder cases.

If her appeal, automatic in a death penalty case, is turned down she would join more than 100 men on Death Row. No woman has ever been executed in the state and previous female occupants of Death Row have had their sentences commuted.



Wheels

As Texas A&M's enrollment continues to grow, so does the traffic congestion. Too little space for too many cars has resulted in many students parking along the grassy areas by Kyle Field, and on bicycle paths along Jersey St.

Fall enrollment over 30,000

By LIZ NEWLIN
Battalion Campus Editor

Enrollment for the fall semester has exceeded 30,000, making this group of Aggies the largest ever.

Dr. J.M. Prescott, vice president for academic affairs, said enrollment stood at a little more than 30,500 Wednesday, after students who did not pay their bills were cut from the rolls.

About 630 students in that total are at Moody College in Galveston. The final, official enrollment will not be determined until the close of entry into classes Sept.

Edwin Cooper, dean of admissions and records, said the new freshman class also is a record-holder. About 5,200 "fish" are on campus, 300 more than expected, he said.

Last year's freshman class numbered 4,705.

He said the chemistry and biology de-

partments have had to "hustle" to cope with the unexpected increase. The English, math and history departments, among others, also have added sections to traditionally freshman classes, department heads say.

"That's a significant increase," Cooper said. Since most classes average about 30 students and most faculty members teach three classes, the addition of 300 students causes problems, he said.

"We underestimated the size of the freshman class," the dean said. The prediction is made about a year in advance, using the number of expected high school graduates. Cooper said Texas A&M usually attracts a little more than 3 percent of the high school graduates.

"It's not as precise as you'd like it to be," he said. Enrollment in all classifications increased, he said, but the freshman increase was not expected.

Prescott told new faculty members at a dinner Wednesday night that the 30,000 enrollment figure is a year ahead of university predictions.

Texas A&M's new five-year master plan projects stabilization of enrollment at the 33,000 level in 1983. The plan, approved in principle by regents this summer, predicts that enrollment will level-off through "natural selection" and that admission standards will remain the same.

Dean Cooper said Texas A&M is not in the position to raise admission standards and "doesn't want to do that."

Intense storm may form depression

United Press International
MIAMI — A disturbed area 400 miles south of Bermuda intensified this morning and the National Hurricane Center predicted it could develop into a tropical depression within 24 hours.

The center said the area of showers and clouds was moving toward the west at about 10 mph.