

Poll finds inflation, crime fears

America gloomy over future

WASHINGTON — Deeply worried about inflation, Americans feel they are worse off today than they were five years ago and they believe things are likely to go downhill in the next five years, according to an opinion poll released by the Labor Department Saturday.

In a national survey on unemployment, government and the American people, Roper Organization interviewers asked a cross section of 2,009 Americans 18 years and over how they felt about the United States—past, present and future.

Using a scale of from one to 10, those surveyed ranked the United States at 5.8 five years ago, at only 5.4 today and at 5.3 for the future. The survey said Americans in

previous polls have been gloomy about their lives since 1971, but they always seemed to maintain hope for the future.

"What is new, however, and alarming is the finding that unlike all previous measures, the public feels things are not going to get any better in the future," the survey said.

"On the whole, the public appears to be in a somber frame of mind," the survey concluded. "The fact that the public does not foresee a recovery in the next five years can be read as an indication of both pessimism and growing realism in expectations."

It said heightened fears of a potential decline in standard of living coupled with increased concern

over inflation suggested economic health has a more direct impact on daily life than any other aspect at this time.

In an accompanying statement, Labor Secretary Ray Marshall said the survey echoed recent polls in indicating "the American public's concerns are closely related to economic matters."

"As it has been for the last four years, control of inflation is the major hope of Americans and continuing inflation is a major fear," he said.

Thirty percent listed war as one of their greatest fears for the nation but the figure was down from the 37 percent reported in a similar survey two years ago.

Other fears were inflation, 26 percent, the same as in 1976; inadequate standard of living, 15 percent; unemployment, 13 percent; and lack of law and order, 12 percent.

In identifying problems facing the nation, 61 percent of those polled listed inflation and the high cost of living, 46 percent listed crime and lawlessness, 38 percent listed the tax burden on the working American, 29 percent listed rising costs of hospital and health care, and 27 percent listed unemployment.

Interviews were done by the Roper Organization between June 16 and June 24, right after passage of tax-cutting Proposition 13 by California voters.



It must be a popular song

William "Binky" Carr tickles the keys of the piano in the Memorial Student Center lounge as Sherry Bailey and Paula Murphy look on.

Battalion photo by Ed...

Consol studies bilingual project

By STEVE LEE
Battalion Reporter

The opening days of the 1978-79 school year at all A&M Consolidated campuses were "very smooth," according to Superintendent Fred Hopson.

Hopson made the report to the Board of Education of the A&M Consolidated Independent School District at a scheduled meeting Monday evening in the Special Services building.

"The opening of school this year was the smoothest that I have ever been involved with," said Hopson. "The community has responded very well."

Enrollment figures presented at the meeting showed a school district total of 3,507 students, an increase of 178 students over last year. This 5 percent increase is the same rate of growth that the district has shown over the last two years, the figures show.

Hopson also addressed the board on special language programs for children of "limited English speaking ability (LESA)." Students in this category are those whose primary language spoken at home is one other than English.

During the summer, the State Board of Education had adopted new policies requiring a bilingual program if any LESA children are identified, regardless of number.

Previously, school districts were required to provide the program if at least 20 students in one grade level, grades kindergarten through three, were identified.

In addition, full bilingual programs are to be provided for grades kindergarten through five, with "English development programs" implemented in grades six through twelve.

Pending further information from the Texas Education Agency, the board will delay any action in the bilingual program.

Board member Rodney C. Hill reported that with a 5 percent

growth rate in the elementary schools the enrollment will increase to a projected 568 over the "optimum" by the school year. The optimum for schools is set at 600 students, a figure that is already surpassed.

With these projections suggested the possibility of a bond issue in the spring and preliminary "schematics" for chitects.

In other business, the Budget for 1977-78 was along with recommendations and fees and the development Center audit.

BISD tax rate rolled back

By ROY BRAGG
Battalion reporter

The Bryan School Board voted unanimously last night to accept the findings of the Board of Equalization and rolled back the tax rate 8.5 cents from last year's \$1.41 per \$100 assessed market value. The assessment ratio will continue to be 80 percent of the actual market value.

According to the Board of Equalization's report, there is approximately \$489 million worth of tangible property in Bryan, \$383 million of which is taxable under the current assessment ratio.

The board was formed to evaluate the revenue situation of the school district after the election of the district and city earlier this year.

The school board approved a hoc advisory committee for bilingual education program committee will serve as a liaison between the public and the school district.

The bilingual program is designed to aid students who are unable to perform at satisfactory classroom levels due to language differences. A series of tests is given to students who show a need for the program. Students receive the bilingual program based on the results.

Parental consent is required before any of the tests can be given. The board also heard a report on the acquisition of the old First and Trust property in downtown Bryan. The building is under renovation and will be used as a school district tax office. No was given for completion of work.

Nixon delay Thailand trip

UNITED PRESS INTERNATIONAL BANGKOK, Thailand — President Nixon has postponed a planned visit to Thailand, setting a new date for the Foreign Ministry spokesman today.

Nixon planned a stopover in Thailand on his way to and from Australia and Foreign Ministry officials were already at work on his return when a cable from Nixon on Monday postponing the trip, spokesman said.

He said the cable did not mention the Nixon visit was canceled completely but said it was postponed and no new date had been set.

The Thai government would have welcomed Nixon, the spokesman said and insisted the postponement was not caused by any action by Thai government.

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PUBLIC NOTICE SUMMARY OF PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS GENERAL ELECTION NOV. 7, 1978

"The Tax Relief Amendment" (H.J.R. 1)

H.J.R. 1 proposes an amendment to the Texas Constitution allowing the legislature to exempt intangible personal property, requiring the legislature to exempt certain household goods and personal effects, and allowing the legislature to exempt all or part of the personal property homestead from state and local property taxation.

The amendment requires the legislature to provide for the taxation of farm and ranch land on the basis of its productive capacity instead of its market value and allows the legislature to provide for the taxation of timber land on its productive capacity.

The amendment permits local governments to extend the present exemption of not less than \$3,000 of the residence homestead of persons 65 and older to include certain disabled persons.

The amendment grants an exemption from public school property taxes of \$5,000 of the market value of the residence homestead. It authorizes the legislature to grant an additional exemption from public school property taxes of an amount not to exceed \$10,000 of the market value of the residence homesteads of persons 65 years of age or older and certain disabled persons. If a person 65 years of age or older qualifies for this exemption, the total amount of public school taxes imposed on that person's homestead may not be increased.

The amendment prevents local governments from increasing property taxes unless the governing body provides public notice and conducts a public hearing. The amendment requires the legislature to provide by law for each property owner to receive notice of the revaluation of his property and the amount taxes will be increased.

The amendment limits appropriations from state tax revenue to an amount not to exceed Texas' estimated economic growth rate, with the legislature authorized to make exceptions for emergencies.

The amendment prohibits the statewide appraisal of real property for property tax purposes. Enforcement of uniform standards and procedures for appraisal of property for property tax purposes is required to originate in the taxing

authority where the property tax is imposed.

The wording of the proposed amendment as it will appear on the ballot is as follows:

"The constitutional amendment providing for tax relief for residential homesteads, elderly persons, disabled persons, and agricultural land; for personal property exemptions; for truth in taxation procedures, including citizen involvement; for a redefinition of the tax base; for limitations on state spending; and for property tax administration."

NUMBER ONE (S.J.R. 50)

S.J.R. 50 proposes an amendment to the Texas Constitution to delete the archaic reference to the "Deaf and Dumb Asylum."

The amendment would allow the State of Texas to purchase products and services done by handicapped individuals in nonprofit rehabilitation facilities without complying with bid requirements applicable to other state contracts. The amendment also would eliminate the formality of the approval of certain state contracts by the Governor, the Secretary of State and the Comptroller of Public Accounts.

The wording of the proposed amendment as it will appear on the ballot is as follows:

"The constitutional amendment deleting the archaic reference to the 'Deaf and Dumb Asylum,' allowing certain products and services of handicapped individuals to be used by agencies and departments of state government, requiring the procurement of other products and services required in the operation of state government to be made under bids awarded to the lowest responsible bidder, making all such procurement processes subject to laws enacted by the legislature, and eliminating the requirement that the Governor, the Secretary of State, and the Comptroller of Public Accounts of Texas be personally involved with such transactions."

NUMBER TWO (S.J.R. 55)

S.J.R. 55 proposes an amendment to the Texas Constitution to permit local governments to issue bonds for the reconstruction or acquisition of facilities (land, equipment and improvements) designed to develop employment opportunities. These

bonds would be payable solely from the revenue from the sale or lease of these facilities. The building or acquisition of such facilities must be determined by the local government to be necessary to develop employment opportunities.

The wording of the proposed amendment as it will appear on the ballot is as follows:

"The constitutional amendment to provide that the legislature may permit political subdivisions to issue revenue bonds to develop employment opportunities for its citizens."

NUMBER THREE (S.J.R. 44)

S.J.R. 44 proposes an amendment to the Texas Constitution which would allow the legislature to authorize cities and towns to issue tax increment bonds to finance the redevelopment of blighted areas. The bonds are to be paid solely from revenue from municipal tax increments. Payment cannot be made from the revenue of municipal taxes, utilities, or other services.

The wording of the proposed amendment as it will appear on the ballot is as follows:

"The constitutional amendment to give the legislature the power to authorize cities and towns to issue bonds to finance the redevelopment of blighted areas and prohibiting any city or town from granting its money or lending its credit for such purposes."

NUMBER FOUR (S.J.R. 53)

S.J.R. 53 proposes an amendment to the Texas Constitution to allow the legislature to exempt from taxation solar or wind-powered energy devices.

The wording of the proposed amendment as it will appear on the ballot is as follows:

"The constitutional amendment authorizing the legislature to exempt from taxation solar and wind-powered energy devices."

NUMBER FIVE (H.J.R. 37)

H.J.R. 37 proposes an amendment to the Texas Constitution to grant exclusive jurisdiction to justices of the peace in civil cases where the amount in controversy does not exceed \$200, except where the legislature gives exclusive jurisdiction to another court.

The amendment grants justices of the peace concurrent jurisdiction with county courts where the amount in controversy is between \$200 and \$500, except where the legislature gives the county court exclusive jurisdiction. The amendment also grants justices of the

peace concurrent jurisdiction with both county and district courts where the amount in controversy is between \$500 and \$1,000, except where the legislature gives the county or district court exclusive jurisdiction.

The wording of the proposed amendment as it will appear on the ballot is as follows:

"The constitutional amendment to extend the jurisdiction of justices of the peace in civil cases."

NUMBER SIX (S.J.R. 45)

S.J.R. 45 proposes an amendment to the Texas Constitution to allow the legislature to expand the number of judges on any court of civil appeals. Presently courts of civil appeals are limited to a chief justice and two associate justices. The amendment would allow the courts to sit in sections, with the concurrence of a majority of the judges sitting in the section necessary to decide a case.

The wording of the proposed amendment as it will appear on the ballot is as follows:

"The constitutional amendment permitting the legislature to increase the number of justices on a court of civil appeals, permitting a court of civil appeals to sit in sections, and requiring a concurrence of a majority of justices to decide a case."

NUMBER SEVEN (S.J.R. 48)

S.J.R. 48 proposes an amendment to the Texas Constitution eliminating the State Building Commission and the State Building Fund. The authority of the State Building Commission has been transferred by law to the State Board of Control.

The wording of the proposed amendment as it will appear on the ballot is as follows:

"The constitutional amendment to repeal the constitutional authority for the State Building Commission and the State Building Fund."

NUMBER EIGHT (H.J.R. 42)

H.J.R. 42 proposes an amendment to the Texas Constitution allowing certain political subdivisions or districts in the state that can presently issue bonds or otherwise lend their credit to engage in fire-fighting activities and to issue bonds or otherwise lend their credit for fire-fighting purposes.

The wording of the proposed amendment as it will appear on the ballot is as follows:

"The constitutional amendments authorizing certain districts to engage in fire-fighting activities and to issue bonds or otherwise lend their credit for fire-fighting purposes."