

# 3-2 Austin, Houston mayors agree: annexation needed



Austin mayor Carole McClellan

By MICHELLE SCUDDER  
Battalion Staff  
Austin mayor Carole McClellan and Houston mayor Jim McCConn found themselves in agreement on several issues concerning big cities during a panel discussion at Texas A&M University Monday.

San Antonio mayor Lila Cockrell was also scheduled to discuss the issues in the presentation "The Future of Big Cities," but was unable to attend because of an unexpected development in her city. The program was presented by MSC Political Forum committee.

College Station city councilman Dr. Gary Halter, a professor of political science at Texas A&M, acted as moderator for the panel. Questions for the panel were taken from student surveys which indicated general areas of interest for discussion.

On the issue of preventing urban decay in cities, like the Eastern and Midwest cities have experienced, McClellan said she was in favor of full use of the municipal annexation act of 1963 and an economic program geared to the central city.

McCConn agreed with the Austin mayor on the use of annexation. "We will use the annexation method to keep us from falling into the valley that the Eastern and Midwest cities have fallen into," McCConn said.

The Houston mayor said that Houston will use federal and municipal funds, as well as the private sector to help solve the problem. "We have a long way to go towards revitalizing our inner city," McCConn said.

Both mayors agreed there is a need to bring retail trade that has moved to the suburban city, back into the central city.

"City government is the catalyst for making it happen," McClellan said.

The mayors also discussed the most effective method to finance mass transit locally. The city of Houston and its surrounding cities voted with a 58-42 margin to increase their sales tax by 1 percent to finance a metropolitan transit authority.

"This is the most equitable way possible to finance it, because you are only taxed for what you spend," McCConn said. "This is a fair tax to me and obviously to the majority of citizens of Harris County also."

The Austin mayor said that mass transit is a viable form of transportation in Austin and that they need to dedicate revenue for that purpose, and "get off of property taxes."

"We need to earmark funds specifically for mass transit," McClellan said.

On the issue of whether municipal employees should have the right to strike McClellan said, "I will say emphatically, no!" The Houston mayor said "I concur 100 percent; I wish I could think of a way to say no more violently in mixed company."

"Municipal employees would be jeopardizing the health, safety and public welfare of our citizens if they went on strike," McCConn said. "I wish Lila Cockrell were here to discuss this with us, because

she dealt very effectively with a sanitation strike in San Antonio," McClellan said.

The mayors discussed the feasibility of a civilian police review board. McCConn said he is opposed to it. "We have a review board in the citizens without actually sanctifying one," McCConn said.

McClellan said she concurred with McCConn in not favoring a civilian police review board. "Many cities have found this unsuccessful so they have quit using a civilian police review board," McClellan said. "They aren't as good as experts in the field."

On the issue of federal aid to cities McClellan said, "Carter's urban policy is rewarding cities who are mismanaging money; this is punitive to sunbelt cities who have sound fiscal policies."

The Austin mayor said Austin receives 2 percent of its budget from federal dollars. "We're sending money to the federal level but we're not getting back our share," McClellan said. "We need an effective lobby at the federal level."

The Houston mayor said he couldn't agree with McClellan more. "The awarding of federal funds has become a game," McCConn said. The Houston mayor said that if he was a student graduating from any university in the United States he would go to Washington to help the southern cities obtain federal funds, "because if

we're not there, the funds go to Northern and Northeast cities who have the lobbyists there."

The Houston mayor said that \$80 million will be awarded by the federal government this year. "The preponderance of it will go to the frostbelt cities," McCConn said.

The mayors agreed that if Texas were successful in obtaining the federal funds they would not become "federal aid junkies." Dependence would be avoided because both cities use the federal funds for capital improvement programs only, rather than building new programs on it.

The panel also discussed Proposition 13 and what affect it would have on their cities. Proposition 13 is a referendum that recently passed in California that will reduce real estate taxes to an amount estimated up to 67 percent.

"I'm for a reduction in taxes, but for a cut of 67 percent something would have to give," McCConn said. "I think Proposition 13 would have a disastrous affect on Houston."

The Austin mayor said she thinks the essential message behind Proposition 13 is that people are saying, "we don't want that many services." McClellan said it's a question of valid use of city dollars.

"We've cut back on requests from cultural and social agencies this year,"



Houston mayor Jim McCConn

McClellan said. McCConn said the first people to suffer if Proposition 13 was implemented in Houston, would be the people who have just begun to do well — the minorities, the people most dependent on government.

Fortunately, McCConn said, those minorities are "intelligent enough" to realize that they would be the most likely to suffer consequences of such legislation.

# THE BATTALION

Vol. 72 No. 33  
10 Pages

Tuesday, October 17, 1978  
College Station, Texas

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

## Animal house

Lions and tigers at Exotic Wildlife Unlimited may be sold; or they may not be. Anyway, the park is in trouble. For the roaring details see page 7.

## Texas Catholics like Pope John Paul II

United Press International

Polish Cardinal Karol Wojtyla was elected the first non-Italian Roman Catholic pope in 455 years Monday and chose the name John Paul II in honor of his predecessor who died 18 days ago.

He is the first pope ever from a Communist country and — at the age of 58 — one of the youngest pontiffs in modern times.

The news of Polish Cardinal Karol Wojtyla's selection as pope has been received favorably by Roman Catholic leaders across Texas and called strategic and logical because of the prelate's anti-communist stance.

Bishop Thomas Tschoepe of Dallas Monday said the new pope would "understand from first hand experience what it means to live in a communist country and perhaps deal with them (communists) better."

"He's really stood up to the communists," Tschoepe said of the Polish cardinal.

The Rev. James Gurzynski, whose White Deer parish includes a predominantly Polish congregation, was unabashedly excited.

"We could hardly get him off the ceiling," a church spokeswoman said. "Even a flat tire on his car didn't bother him."

Gurzynski, a Pole and occasional

traveler to Poland, said he was delighted at the selection.

"I didn't dream that they'd really choose a man from Poland," he said.

Upon reflection, however, Gurzynski said the choice seemed logical. Church leaders had feared the rise of communism in Italy for some time and the election of an ardently anti-communist pope might be strategic, he said.

The Rev. Peter Otto of Lubbock, who is Polish on his mother's side, said election of a non-Italian pope was not entirely surprising and could be beneficial to the church.

Otto, who as a student at a Polish seminary near Detroit heard then-Cardinal Wojtyla speak, said a cardinal from a church "under persecution" would be an especially devout and temperate pope.

The Rev. Joseph A. Fiorenza, chancellor of the Diocese of Galveston-Houston said it was significant the new pope chose the name of his predecessor, John Paul I, who died after a 34-day reign.

"It indicates he intends to carry through on the reforms of the Second Vatican Council," Fiorenza said.

Archbishop Francis J. Furey of San Antonio and Austin Monsignor Lonnie Reyes said the selection of a non-Italian pope underscored the universality of the church.

The 111 cardinals were locked up in the Vatican's Sistine Chapel for two days and it

took eight ballots to elect the first Polish prelate as the church's 264th pontiff.

John Paul II made his first appearance as pope on the central balcony of St. Peter's Basilica at 2:22 p.m. EDT and was greeted by cheers, applause and women waving handkerchiefs.

He clasped his hands in a prayerful gesture, then opened his arms to the crowd and smiled broadly.

His first words as pope in only slightly accented Italian were: "Praise Jesus Christ. Dear brothers and sisters, we are all still saddened after the death of the most loved Pope John Paul I. Now the reverend cardinals have named a new bishop of Rome." His words were greeted with applause from the crowd.

Wojtyla was archbishop of Krakow and has been noted for opposition to the Communist government in his native country.

Wojtyla's election, totally unexpected by Vatican experts and priests, stunned a crowd of nearly 300,000 people who rushed into St. Peter's Square fully expecting another Italian pontiff.

The last non-Italian elected pope was Hadrian VI, who died in 1523.

Wojtyla's choice of the name John Paul II was an indication he intends to pursue the policies of his smiling predecessor whose reign was cut so short by sudden death 18 days before.



Battalion photo by Lee Roy Leschper

## 'You do it like this!'

Joseph Donaldson is showing a model how to pose for his art class. They are working on drawing gestures. Donaldson, who has taught art here at Texas A&M University for 23 years, will soon be retiring. His story will be featured in Thursday's Focus section, the week's features and art supplement to the Battalion. Reviews of books and a listing of coming concerts and special events around the state also will be included.

## Free speech case refused by high court

United Press International

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court Monday refused to interfere with rulings that officials of Skokie, Ill., breached the Constitution in trying to outlaw Nazi demonstrations in the village — home of many Jewish survivors of World War II.

Lower courts have struck down three ordinances adopted by the village board last year to prevent a threatened rally, saying they violated the Nazis' rights to free speech.

The high court, over Justice William Brennan's dissent, Monday simply refused to hear the village board's appeal and let those decisions stand.

The court agreed, however, to get involved in the bitter dispute in Washington State over strong steps taken by a federal judge to regulate salmon fishing in Puget Sound so that Indians may get about half the annual harvest.

The justices will review this term conflicting rulings by U.S. District Judge George Boldt and by state courts. Boldt interpreted mid-1800 treaties as meaning tribal Indians are entitled to 50 percent of the salmon returning to traditional Indian fishing waters. The state courts firmly disagree.

The federal-state clash has created an emotional, and sometimes violent, situation in the \$40 million-a-year fishing industry.

In other actions today, the court: —Dismissed, for lack of jurisdiction, appeals from a special U.S. district court panel's rejection of provisions in Illinois' 1975 abortion law which was designed to discourage women from having abortions and doctors from performing them.

—Refused to help a United Methodist church evade being sued for damages in connection with the financial collapse of a corporation that ran church-sponsored nursing homes on the West Coast.

—Rejected an appeal by a Massachusetts political committee which, after paying to air its views on a ballot question, complained that radio stations seeking to comply with the Federal Communications Commission's "fairness doctrine" gave free time to an opposing group.

—Refused to involve itself in a damage suit on behalf of a deaf mute mother in Milo, Maine, who was sterilized after having a second child out of wedlock. She now can go ahead with the suit.

## Inmates appeal to ACLU because of news blackout

United Press International

HUNTSVILLE — Striking inmates at the Ellis Unit have skirted a Texas Department of Corrections news blackout by mailing the American Civil Liberties Union a list of their demands.

TDC officials Monday again refused to discuss the inmates' work stoppage and Director W.J. Estelle Jr. said no information would be released until the strike ends.

However, in Houston Monday, ACLU spokesman Gerald Birnberg released a letter signed "Ellis Unit Inmates" and said his organization was studying the legal aspects of the news blackout.

"We have a couple of lawyers reviewing the law and the facts and finding out what the news policy was before and since the blackout," Birnberg said. "As soon as we've done that, we'll present it to the board of directors of the ACLU and then proceed accordingly. That's the state we're in."

The prisoners' letter listed seven demands: amnesty for strikers, an end to use of ethnic slurs and prisoner beatings, better food, use of washcloths in showers, permission to wear longer hair and more mail distribution times.

A Dallas woman who tried to visit her son at the prison Saturday was told she could not see him because he had been hospitalized.

Mrs. D.D. Martin said prison officials refused to let her visit Edward Gene Martin, 33, on Saturday and told her "some guards were injured, too" in an incident last Tuesday at the Coffield Unit near Palestine.

"We asked (a guard) what for, and he said it could be for anything from getting eye glasses to getting his teeth fixed," she said.

"I want to know. My son could be dying," Mrs. Martin said.

Mrs. Martin said when the guard refused to say why her son was hospitalized,

she met with assistant warden Alan Mitchell and was told a fight began between guards and prisoners when the inmates decided not to return to their cells.

Mitchell refused to tell her if the guards injured her son.

The strike, which begins its 13th day today, initially was staged to demonstrate support for an inmate lawsuit on trial in a Houston federal court. The lawsuit claims prison living conditions are so bad they

constitute cruel and unusual punishment, prohibited by the Constitution.

Estelle imposed the news blackout last week and Taylor said all striking inmates would be punished.

At one point, striking inmates at the 15-unit prison system numbered more than 900 convicts — about 4 percent of the total prison population. It was not known how many prisoners remained on strike.

## Judge says strikes stop, or the trial may

United Press International

HOUSTON — Inmates demonstrating in support of a civil rights trial demanding improved conditions for convicts apparently have upset the federal judge hearing the case.

U.S. District Judge William Wayne Justice of Tyler Monday stopped short of saying he would delay the lengthy hearing unless the work stoppage at Texas prisons ended. But he made it clear he disapproved of the disruption and violence prevailing in units of the Texas Department of Corrections.

"The orderly process (of this hearing) could be impeded if the violence and disruption continue," Justice said from the bench.

Justice's remarks were apparently prompted by a comment made by state attorney Ed Idar Jr., who said TDC officials were concerned about the safety of guards and inmates at two units.

"We share your hope that inmates realize that we are trying to resolve (their issues in court)," Idar said.

TDC Director W.J. Estelle Jr. last week

ordered a news blackout on information about the work strike situation prevailing at several units.

The hearing before Justice moved into its third week Monday.

In opening testimony, Julian Greigo, 34, of Amarillo, serving an 80-year sentence for murder, said he had not been given proper medical care since a poisonous spider bit him on the left foot in his Retrieve Unit cell in 1967.

The lawsuit began as a note of complaint scrawled by an inmate several years ago and has been consolidated from eight separate lawsuits into one class action on behalf of the 25,000 inmates of the TDC.

The state has yet to present its side of the case.

## Car hits student on Wellborn

A Texas A&M University student is listed in satisfactory condition today at St. Joseph's Hospital after he was struck by a car Monday afternoon.

Police reports said George Givens Miller, 20, of 2410 Towle Park Rd, Snyder, Texas, was struck while crossing Wellborn Road, near the pedestrian overpass 5 p.m. Monday.

Police said the vehicle that struck him, a 1954 Chevrolet, was driven by James Edward Steen of 309 Holleman Dr. in College Station. Miller collided with the left front end of the car and was thrown clear, the reports said. He was injured and taken to St. Joseph's Hospital in Bryan.

Police have cited Miller with failure to yield right of way to a vehicle where a pedestrian bridge was provided.

## Congress finally OKs energy program

United Press International

WASHINGTON — President Carter must be credited with a victory for enactment by the 95th Congress of an energy program whose fate was in doubt for 18 months.

But the end result was so patched, compromised, rewritten and amended that few are sure just what he got.

Not long after the five-part energy program ran into its first wave of congressional resistance last year, Carter's description of it as the "moral equivalent of

war" had been converted in the capital's back rooms to the "moral equivalent of the Vietnam War."

Final passage came after a final 14-hour Senate filibuster Saturday and after the House, by a one-vote margin, adopted a rule Friday night allowing the five-point package to go through as a unit, preventing abandonment of the controversial natural gas pricing measure.

Components of the program include energy taxes, conservation, utility rate reform, industrial conversion from gas to

coal and deregulation of natural gas prices.

It wasn't an easy road to passage — Ashley called it "tortuous" — as Congress discarded the president's \$45 billion tax on crude oil, the \$20 billion tax on industrial use of oil and gas and \$50 billion in taxes on gasoline to discourage use.

Eventually, the estimated savings of 4.5 million barrels of oil a day by 1985 were scaled down to between 2 million and 2.5 million barrels.

Please see related story, page 8.