

# Tractorcade to D.C. under way

United Press International  
HEREFORD — Ignoring wintry weather, hundreds of Texas farmers climbed aboard their tractors Monday to join caravans at Abilene and Amarillo for an 1,800-mile "tractorcade" to the nation's capital, American Agriculture Movement spokesmen said.

Spokesman Mike McCathern at AAM's state headquarters in Hereford was jubilant, estimating 200 tractors and 500 supporters assembled on Interstates 40 and 20 after leaving Amarillo and Abilene.

"I think it's going real well," he said.

A Department of Public Safety dispatcher said 262 vehicles left Amarillo shortly after 9 a.m. Monday. McCathern said the caravan eased into the left-hand lane on Interstate 40 and allowed other vehicles to pass.

The farmers atop tractors traveling 18 to 20 mph out of Amarillo were en route to Sayre, Okla., 125 miles away, the first tractorcade rest stop. A rally was scheduled in Sayre about 7 p.m., organizers said.

To the south, at Abilene, about 50 tractors and 100 support vehicles formed a 4.5-mile long caravan on Interstate 20, the DPS said.

The Abilene group was scheduled to stop overnight in Weatherford, about 40 miles west of Fort Worth, spokeswoman Barbara Chambers said.

Ultimately, farmers hope to attract as many as 50,000 agricultural producers to Washington, D.C., for a Feb. 2 rendezvous.

Gerald McCathern, a veteran spokesman for the AAM and Mike

McCathern's father, accompanied the procession that departed Amarillo Monday and said thousands of farmers would demonstrate upon arriving in Washington.

"It may inconvenience some bureaucrats in Washington," the elder McCathern said, "but they have been inconveniencing us for 30 years."

Mike McCathern, who pointed to figures released recently by the Texas Crop and Livestock Reporting Service that indicate 4,000 Texas farms will be phased out this year,

says the nation's leaders must understand the farmer's dilemma.

"We've asked (the Congress) to implement the 1977 farm bill to its fullest which would be 90 percent parity loans to be paid back with interest," McCathern said.

McCathern said farmers need to have the power to borrow more money against their commodities, "until we can pass a new, and hopefully more favorable farm bill, in 1980. This will help slow down the exodus from the farm."

# Clements name He's G.W. Strake Jas hi state secretary gran

United Press International  
AUSTIN — Governor-elect Bill Clements announced Monday he has selected George W. Strake Jr., a wealthy Houston oil state chairman of Clements' campaign for governor, to be state secretary.

Strake, 43, will take office when Clements becomes governor in January. He will succeed Steve Oaks, who served as secretary of state during Gov. Dolph Briscoe's term.

Two Houston senators said Monday they were unsure whether they would support Strake's nomination, but predicted no confirmation of Clements' most significant appointee of his first GOP administration in 105 years.

Sen. Jack Ogg, a Democrat, said he believes Strake is a senatorial district, but said Clements did not contact him before announcing his selection of Strake. Governors ordinarily clear appointments with home town senators before they are announced.

Sen. Walter Mengden, one of four Republicans in the Senate, he isn't sure which district Strake lives in, but said Clements' nomination with him before announcing it.

Strake has never held public office before, but has been a Republican party politician. He worked in Jack Cox's unsuccessful gubernatorial campaign against then Democrat John B. Connally in 1976. He also worked for Sen. John G. Tower, R-Texas, and was a delegate to the 1976 Republican National Convention when the Texas delegation unanimously backed the presidential bid of Ronald Reagan.

Strake is an independent oil operator. He managed oil operations for the company owned by his father until 1969, and went into business for himself after his father died.

# Nugent, Clapp clear confirmation hurdle

United Press International  
AUSTIN — Railroad Commissioner Jim Nugent and Ken Clapp, a former top aide to Gov. Dolph Briscoe, Monday easily cleared the first steps in their bid for Senate confirmation to the positions handed them by Briscoe only days before he leaves office.

Nugent, appointed to the Railroad Commission Jan. 4 to succeed Jon Newton, told the Senate Nominations Committee he has sold stocks in oil and gas and transportation firms which could have presented a conflict of interest with his duties on the agency, which regulates the state's petroleum and transportation industries.

Newton resigned from the commission because of a potential conflict of interest brought about by the discovery of oil and gas on ranch land inherited by his wife, and there was speculation Nugent's holdings in oil and gas stocks could cause him similar conflicts.

Nugent said he still owns portions of two or three producing mineral interests, but those are being liquidated as rapidly as legal problems can be resolved.

"Insofar as I or my attorney can determine, I now own no stock in any company that has any conflict with regulation by the Railroad Commission," he said.

Sen. Roy Blake, D-Nacogdoches, commended Nugent for selling his petroleum and transportation stocks rather than placing them in a blind trust during his term on the regulatory agency. Blake expressed concern that blind trusts do not adequately erase the potential for conflicts of interest by commissioners who own stock in energy producing companies.

Clapp, a former administrative

assistant to Briscoe, was named by the governor to a position on the Texas Employment Commission.

Both he and Nugent were approved by the commission. They will vote on the full Senate confirmation.

# Ex-Moon aide gets Senate job

United Press International  
AUSTIN — Sen. Kelly Arnold, a former aide to Sen. William P. Bryant, as sergeant-at-law, will be named to the position of secretary of the Texas Labor Council.

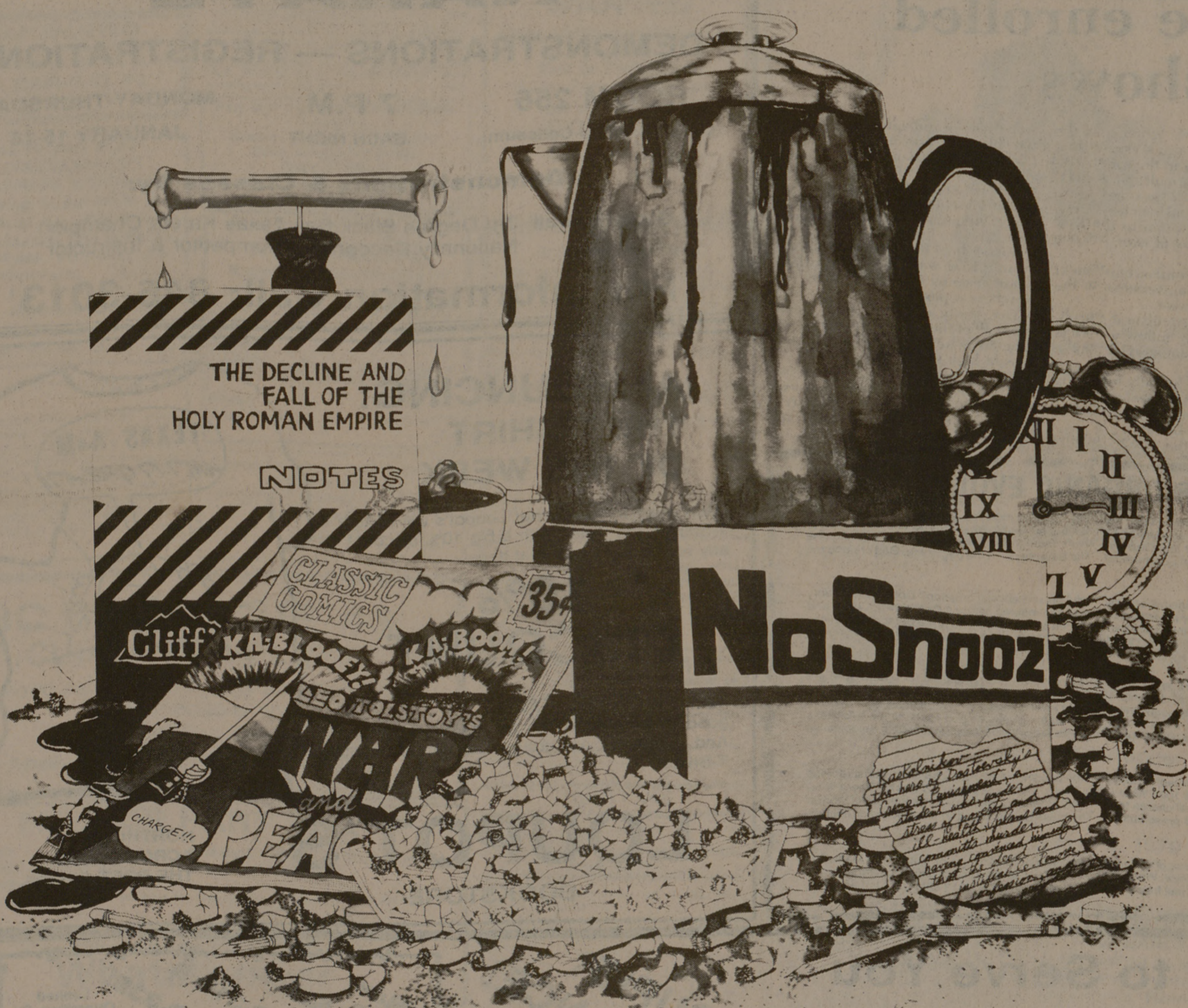
Marcel Hubbard, AFL-CIO president, said he had been appointed to the position last summer, but he will not take office until after the Senate's first week.

Mrs. Hubbard then said she had been named to the position.

Arnold, 27, currently is on the Budget Board, and was named to the position by Moore, the Democrat, in the Senate, who presided over the caucus.

Arnold said he will receive a \$20,000 a year job only if he is named to the position.

# COLLEGE SURVIVAL THERE'S GOT TO BE A BETTER WAY!



There is. One free Evelyn Wood Reading Dynamics lesson will prove it to you. Today take the free Reading Dynamics lesson and you can dramatically increase your reading speed in that one free lesson.

Why let the responsibilities that college demands deprive you of enjoying the college life? With Reading Dynamics you can handle both—

all the reading you're expected to do and know, plus still have time to do what you want to do.

Today you can increase your reading speed, dramatically at the free Reading Dynamics lesson. You've got nothing to lose but a lot of cramming and sleepless nights. Reading Dynamics. Now you know there is a better way. Take the free lesson and kiss your "No-Snooze" goodbye.

## SCHEDULE OF FREE LESSONS Aggieland Inn

January 16  
Tuesday

3:30 p.m./5:30 p.m./7:30 p.m.

January 17  
Wednesday

3:30 p.m./5:30 p.m./7:30 p.m.

**EVELYN WOOD READING DYNAMICS**

1978 Evelyn Wood Reading Dynamics, Inc.



FRENCH'S  
CARE-A-LOT SCHOOL

Introduces  
**INFANT CARE**

- \*Qualified staff
  - \*Strict child staff ratio
  - \*Full & half-day programs
  - \*New modern facility
- 900 University Oaks (off Hwy 30)  
693-1987 or 693-3011

We do offer kindergarten, day care, night care, school care.

Mary Piazza, director



Don't  
Get  
Behind

**STAY AHEAD  
WITH  
SPEED READING**

Classes start January 22

Business & Communication Services

CALL TODAY! **846-5794**