

THE BATTALION

Vol. 72 No. 141
10 Pages

Tuesday, April 24, 1979
College Station, Texas

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

Ponderous and cardboard jaws

Going on the theory that his patrons aren't particular about the quality of his wares, a Canadian funeral director is doing something about the high cost of dying. His customers can now be buried in

cardboard coffins, which he says reduce the average cost of a funeral from \$1,500 to \$850. The idea, he says, won't be buried and forgotten. See page 3.

Oil co. 'kickbacks' worrying Carter

United Press International
WASHINGTON — President Carter Monday accused Congress of preparing to "hoodwink the American people" by passing a windfall profits tax with multibillion-dollar kickbacks to the oil companies.

It was one of the strongest attacks against Congress to date by Carter, who has proposed allowing oil companies to raise prices sharply — while making sure windfall profits wind up in exploration for petroleum sources.

He said that instead of outright opposition to the proposal, Congress intends to pass a tax "designed primarily to provide loopholes so the oil companies will get another \$4 or \$5 billion in unearned profits on top of the \$6 billion they would get under decontrol with an honest windfall profits tax."

Carter's remarks were prepared for early afternoon delivery to the annual meeting of the National Academy of Sciences.

"They will try to pass this charade off on the American people as a 'plow back' provision," he said.

"But it isn't a 'plow back'; it is a 'plow under' and a 'kick back,' and what is going to be plowed under is the Energy Security Fund with its aid to research and the poor. And what is going to be kicked back to the oil companies is the money that would be used to finance those necessary programs."

Carter said that the Energy Security Fund, which he proposed to set up with windfall profits from decontrol of oil, "faces a difficult passage through the Congress." "But we are making progress because the public supports our proposals," he said. "Many of those who only a few weeks ago

were dedicated to killing outright the windfall profits tax have now given up on that fight.

"But the battle is far from over. Their new strategy seems to be to try to hoodwink the American people by passing a windfall profits tax that is in fact a charade."

He urged the scientific community to support his battle "to pass an honest windfall profits tax to finance a real Energy Security Fund for our nation."

He said the fund will "provide relief to those least able to pay for more costly energy, and large sums to go to finance projects that are important to our energy future — including a regional petroleum reserve, better mass transit, coal and oil shale development and new incentives for solar techniques."

O'Neill's Ireland trip infuriates British

United Press International
SHANNON, Ireland — House Speaker Thomas "Tip" O'Neill Monday flew home expressing hopes for peace in Northern Ireland but leaving British lawmakers and newspapers fuming over his calling the province London's "political football."

British newspapers and legislators lumped O'Neill into an Irish-American "gang of four": himself, Sen. Edward Kennedy, New York Gov. Hugh Carey and Sen. Daniel Moynihan.

Both Kennedy and O'Neill are Massachusetts lawmakers while both Carey and Moynihan are New Yorkers.

The Massachusetts Democrat, ending a controversial five-day visit to the Irish Republic and Northern Ireland, said in a statement before his departure for the United States:

"We leave with great fondness for the people of Ireland and a fervent desire that a political solution can be found to end the violence in the north. We hope that at last peace will come to their lovely land."

"The journey through Northern Ireland gave my colleagues and me an opportunity to talk to political leaders from all sides and gain first hand impressions of the dimensions of the problem."

Irish Minister for Foreign Affairs Michael O'Kennedy said after O'Neill's departure: "Mr. O'Neill's visit was helpful. But there can be no Camp David-type conference about Ireland. The main responsibility rests with the British and Irish governments."

An Irish politician played down the idea of Camp David style summit by President Carter to bring peace to the province. The summit idea had been talked about in the British and Irish press.

Britain's politicians said the four should mind their own business and brush up on the facts of the troubled British province.

Dr. Garrett Fitzgerald, the leader of Ireland's opposition Fine Gael party, defended O'Neill in a lengthy letter to the Irish Times, The Daily Telegraph and The Guardian newspapers. He called the attacks on O'Neill by British politicians "indefensible even in the heat of an election

campaign" and urged them to apologize to the U.S. speaker.

He said O'Neill "in a moving speech of nobility and compassion" had condemned the IRA and called on Americans to withhold aid to the outlawed organization.

Ireland's Foreign Affairs minister O'Kennedy also defended O'Neill in an interview with the Irish Times, saying the government believed O'Neill's speech was "accurately reflecting the views of President Carter."

"He is very close to the President. With his weighty experience in politics, it is unlikely that he would say anything out of line," O'Kennedy said.

The Financial Times conceded O'Neill's remarks in Ireland "achieved what all the IRA bombs have failed to do: he got British political leaders to talk about Northern Ireland."

Conservative opposition leader Margaret Thatcher, who will be prime minister if she wins the current general election, said, "Events (in Northern Ireland) are too deeply tragic for any of us to do that."

Outgoing Labor Education Minister Shirley Williams said Irish-Americans

were buried in the past. "The Irish American community has very little idea of the truth of the position in the Republic of Ireland or in Northern Ireland," she said.

Lord Hailsham, a Conservative Party elder statesman, accused O'Neill of "trying to win a few Irish votes. We resent these people electioneering in their own country by speaking in ours."

The Daily Express called O'Neill "a log-rolling, Irish-American politician" allied with Kennedy, "his infernal colleague," and told him to go home.

Gov. Carey said in Sunday's New York Daily News that British policy was "an affront to the entire world community."

Conservative Party candidate Robert Ardley retorted: "It is the likes of Mr. Carey, Mr. O'Neill and Sen. Edward Kennedy who are the sole remaining allies of the IRA. Mr. Carey is a latter day political Al Capone."

The Daily Express said in 10 years of battling with "IRA criminals" in Britain, the total death toll is 1,903. "In the State of New York of which this man is governor, there were in 1978, in one year, 1,809 murders."

Mexican-American melody mixture

"Little Joe, Johnny, Rocky and La Familia," a Mexican-American dance band, gave a concert Monday night to a half-filled Rudder Auditorium. The group was sponsored by the MSC's Committee

for Awareness of Mexican-American Citizens (CAMAC). It played a variety of music from Mexican folk to Country and Western.

Battalion photo by Lyle Lovett

Bryan city employees to get 3.5 percent wage increase

By JUDIE PORTER
Battalion Staff

Bryan city employees have some good news and some bad news after Monday's city council meeting.

The good news is that the council adopted a resolution for a basic salary increase for all city employees.

The bad news is that it is only a 3.5 percent increase. So an employee making \$100 a week will only make \$3.50 more a week.

The salary increase will be given to all city employees excluding the City Manager. It will go into effect retroactive to April 1 for all salaried employees and April 1 for all who are paid hourly wages.

The resolution stated the increase was given to lift the morale and general welfare of city employees. Also, it is hoped the increase will help curb the high turnover rate in city jobs.

The increase was also granted to help offset the rise in the cost of living.

The salary increase will be funded by money already allotted for employee salaries in the current city budget. The budget for salaries is currently 7 percent below original estimates.

In other action, Colleen Jennings Batchelor requested the council enact an ordinance that would prohibit the selling of alcoholic beverages within 300 feet of a church, school or hospital.

Batchelor, the assistant system attorney

for the Office of Vice Chancellor for Legal Affairs at Texas A&M, said the reason for her request was the rumor of a Seven Eleven store to be built on the corner of Haswell and 29th.

Batchelor said she felt such an ordinance would protect the Bryan public from an unfair burden in the residential areas, especially the older sections of town.

Mayor Richard Smith advised the council to hold a public hearing on the matter to gain citizen's opinions before making a decision.

City Attorney Charles Bluntzer said no ordinance prohibiting the sale of alcoholic beverages within a certain distance exists in the present city code. But, he added, state law does give local governments power to enact such ordinances.

Batchelor said she would not like to see a time lapse in enacting the ordinance and requested an emergency ordinance be passed until a formal document could be agreed upon.

She said the residents in that area "feel it is a major commercial intrusion" upon them.

Fannin Elementary School is located near the proposed location for the business.

During the regular workshop session Monday afternoon, the council discussed starting a public awareness program explaining utility costs to the citizens of Bryan.

Mayor Smith suggested some type of

fliers be placed in monthly utility bills explaining fuel costs or adjustments, city costs for buying natural gas and other such subjects.

Smith also suggested asking the local news media to help inform the public.

Councilman Wayne Gibson said "Utilities are such a large concern today, we should have some way to put the information before the people."

The council also passed an ordinance allowing ambulances involved in patient transfer between Bryan and other cities to make such trips without a permit.

Consol releases tentative budget

By ROBIN THOMPSON
Battalion Reporter

The A&M Consolidated School Board released the first draft of its proposed 1979-1980 budget Monday night.

The tentative budget calls for total revenues of \$7,142,387 and total expenditures of \$7,031,465.

Olie C. Grauke, Assistant Superintendent of Finance, presented the budget. He said there was still a lot of unsettled ground concerning it.

Because of impending legislation concerning teacher's salaries, he said, "it must be revised, it must be updated."

He said he would know more about the revisions in May.

Consol releases tentative budget

The council also approved \$11,722 in improvements for the South Knoll Elementary playground, including a creative play area for pre-school children and a kindergarten play area.

School Board member Ann Jones said, "I would not have voted if I couldn't see it would be beneficial to the children. They need to learn to be creative."

The passing of the plans for improvement of the elementary school was greeted by applause from the audience.

The school district was granted allocation from the Texas Education Agency for five new full-time and four part-time vocational and technical instructors.

Carter convokes memorial for victims of Holocaust

United Press International
WASHINGTON — Battle-weary American troops marched into the Dachau concentration camp in April 1945 and looked with horror, shock and tears at the grim evidence of the Nazi holocaust.

Some 34 years later, President Carter Monday convened a somber ceremony of remembrance for the 6 million Jews and 5 million other people murdered in infamous Nazi death camps such as Dachau, Buchenwald, Auschwitz and Treblinka. "We must never forget these crimes against humanity," the president said three weeks ago in calling on the American people to observe today as International Holocaust Commemoration Day. The date chosen to observe the

Holocaust — the 27th of Nissan, 5739, on the Jewish calendar — marks the 1943 uprising of the Jews in the Warsaw ghetto.

In addition, Carter proclaimed Saturday and Sunday — the actual 34th anniversary of the American liberation of Dachau — as twin "days of remembrance" for the victims.

As part of nationwide observances, the president invited some 1,000 people, including congressmen, jurists, cabinet members and diplomats, to the Capitol Rotunda to remember "the terrible fruits of bigotry and hatred."

Under Constantino Brumidi's fresco of George Washington attended by Liberty, Victory and Fame, Carter led the Ameri-

can people in a ceremony called to ensure that "the world must never permit such events ever to occur again."

Besides Carter, the observances featured speeches by Vice President Walter Mondale and Holocaust chronicler Elie Wiesel as well as prayers by Christian and Jewish clergymen.

Hungarian-born Wiesel, the chairman of the President's Commission on the Holocaust, spent the war in Auschwitz and Buchenwald, where his parents and younger sister died.

In his book "Night," he describes the death of his father at Buchenwald: "There were no prayers at his grave. No candles were lit to his memory."

"I did not weep, and it pained me that I

could not weep," he wrote in his terrifying account of captivity. "But I had no more tears."

One of the most poignant moments of the ceremony was the appearance of the Atlanta Boy Choir — encircled by the rotunda's eight giant historical paintings — to sing songs based on the poems of children put to death by the Nazis.

One poem by Franta Bass, who died at Auschwitz in 1944 at the age of 14, compared a little boy to a flower growing in a fragrant rose garden:

"Ah, when that blossom comes to bloom,
Ah, the little boy,
Will be no more."

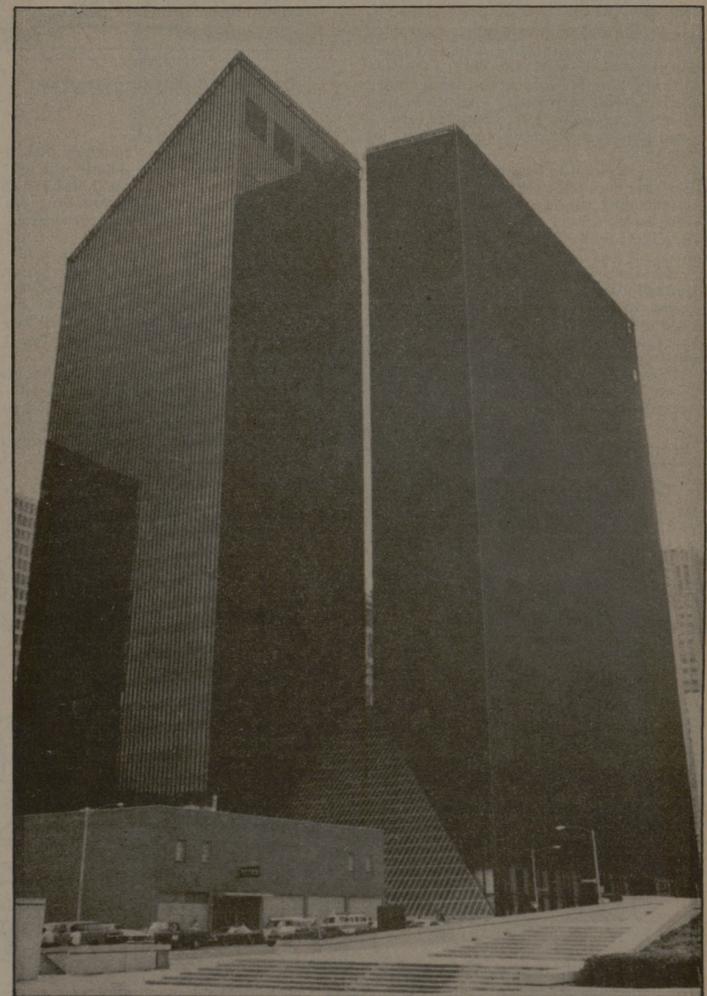


Photo courtesy of Tierra Grande

Foreign investment

Houston's Pennzoil Place, a multi-million dollar German investment, is just one such foreign purchase in the state. The Battalion will look into state and local foreign investments in Wednesday's and Thursday's issues.