

Cloudy and warm with winds light and variable. High today of 85 and a low of 70. Expected rain throughout the day.

South African president resigns; accused of information cover-ups

United Press International
CAPE TOWN, South Africa — South African President John Vorster resigned Monday after an investigating commission said he actively conspired with other officials in trying to cover up the country's explosive information scandal.

The resignation was announced as Parliament received a report by a government commission of inquiry that accused Vorster of covering up serious illegal activities in the Information Ministry for more than 12 months while he was prime minister.

The Information Ministry scandal revolved around the unauthorized spending of millions of tax dollars by senior information officials to try to bolster South Africa's image at home and abroad.

The commission, headed by Judge Rudolph Erasmus, submitted the 72-page report to Parliament after several copies were leaked to local and foreign newspapers and agencies.

Prime Minister P.W. Botha said Senate President Marais Viljoen would stand in as temporary federal president until someone else could be elected to the office. Viljoen is a former Cabinet minister who once served as information secretary of the ruling National Party.

In stepping down, Vorster ended a 26-year political career — 13 of them as prime minister — in disgrace.

The investigating commission found that Vorster, who steadfastly denied knowing about irregularities in the information department until September 1978, had been given the facts the previous year and concealed his knowledge from his Cabinet and the public.

By not revealing what he knew, the commissioners found, "he was not only doing the members of his Cabinet an injustice but was in fact participating in action which in itself was a serious irregular-

ity: the covering-up of gross irregularities."

Former Information Minister Connie Mulder, who engineered the information projects in question, said Vorster was aware of the operations. Vorster denied it.

The commission reached the conclusion that Vorster "knew everything about the basic financial arrangements for the department's funds. He was consulted about the secret funds as well as the projects themselves."

The Erasmus commission report noted that Vorster, 63, had reproached information minister Mulder this year for keeping quiet when the parliamentary opposition and newspapers charged his Cabinet colleagues with being implicated in the irregularities.

"In essence, however, a similar reproach can be addressed to Mr. Vorster," the commission found. "For more than a year Mr. Vorster, together with Dr. Mulder, kept his knowledge of irregularities in the administration of the country from his Cabinet colleagues."

The commissioners found Vorster's behavior "unacceptable" for failing to stop the wrongdoings or to share his knowledge with his Cabinet. "Why did he not reveal the facts?" the report asked.

The commissioners did not directly answer its own question, but quoted the evidence of a lawyer, Rit van Rooyen, who said that in a discussion with Vorster he asked if there was not an element of blackmail in the prime minister's failure to act.

Van Rooyen said he had heard that former Information Department Secretary Eschel Rhoodie, now in hiding abroad, had threatened to bring down the Vorster government if action was taken against him.

Van Rooyen told the commissioners:

"Mr. Vorster's answer to me was: 'One thousand percent. He held the political lives of my ministers in the hollow of his hand.'"

The report noted: "Even this piece of evidence given by Van Rooyen later proved to be true."

Prime minister Botha called an urgent Cabinet meeting to discuss the report and its implications.

In announcing the resignation, the prime minister wished Vorster well, noting that he had been in poor health and

under a great deal of strain due to the scandal.

The scandal stemmed from the secret use of millions of dollars to promote at home and abroad the government policies of racial separation by a now defunct information Department while it was commanded by Mulder, the former race relations minister.

Other funds were used to create the Johannesburg English-language Citizen newspaper and subsidize the news magazine To The Point.

Iran vetoes Cutler; blasts U.S. meddling

United Press International
WASHINGTON — In a sign of a deeper chill in relations with Iran, the Tehran government has asked the United States to withdraw the name of ambassador-designate Walter Cutler, the State Department announced Monday.

Department spokesman Hodding Carter said the United States has no intention of withdrawing Ambassador Cutler from the assignment.

Cutler, the former U.S. ambassador to Zaire, has already been confirmed by the Senate as envoy to Tehran. But the Iranian government asked two weeks ago that his arrival be delayed after the Senate passed a resolution condemning the summary trials and executions in Iran.

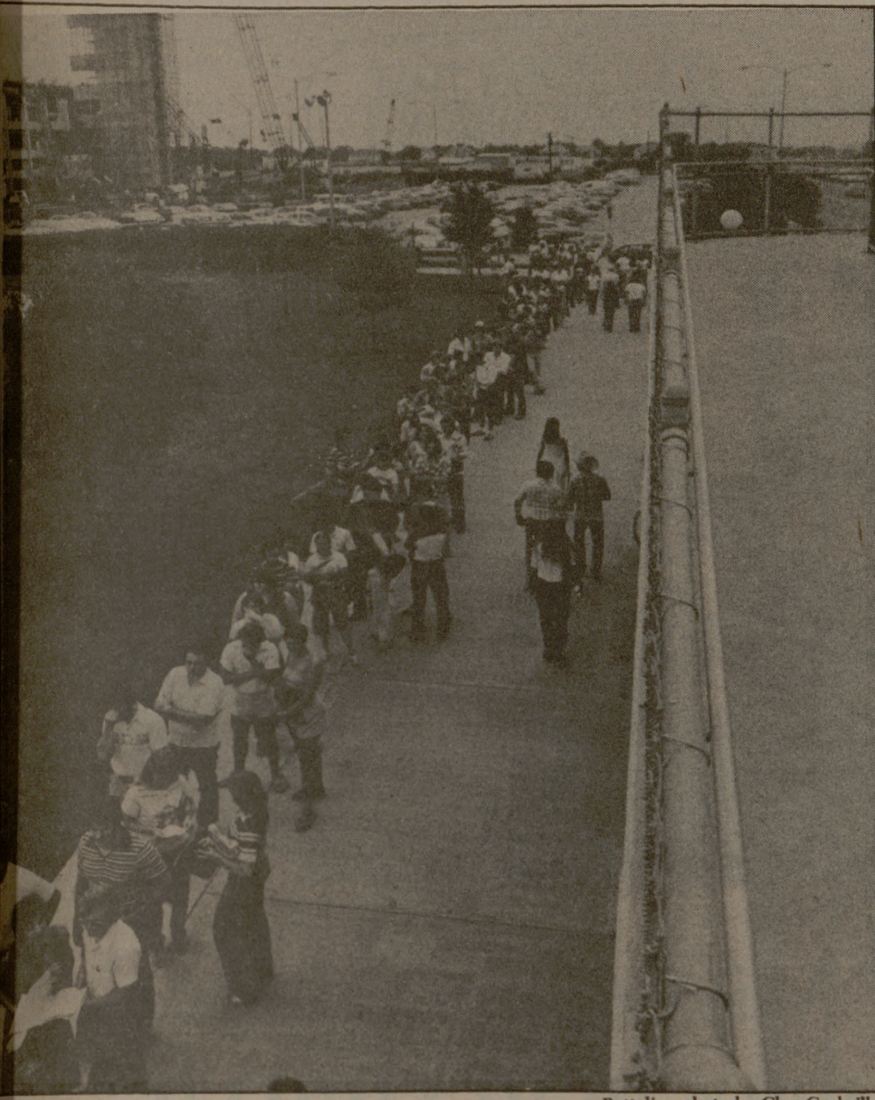
The State Department rejected the Iranian criticism, even when it was echoed by Foreign Minister Ibrahim Yazdi, who said that Iran would be prepared to break off relations with Washington if the United States continued to interfere in Iran's domestic relations.

Carter described Cutler "as one of the more able foreign service officers."

"If the Iranian request is a final decision, we anticipate a substantial delay in resolving the question of ambassadorial representation," Carter said.

"The action of the Iranian government is not helpful in helping restore a constructive relationship."

Until the question of the ambassador is resolved, the deputy chief of mission, Charles Naas, is acting U.S. ambassador.



Battalion photo by Clay Cockrill

Rumors turn into reality

Students found rumors to be true about the long lines for summer school registration as they waited outside DeWare Field House to begin registration Monday. When students were allowed in, the lines moved rapidly, however.

Service cutbacks and team fees to be requested by Intramurals

BY KEITH TAYLOR
Battalion Staff

There will be no more 1 a.m. racquetball games with your girlfriend at DeWare Field House, and a \$5 fee to enter your basketball team in the intramural games if a proposal requested by the Intramural Department is approved by the Board of Regents in August.

The Texas A&M University Intramurals Department is facing cutbacks in services due to the Student Government Finance Committee's denial of a requested 63.4 percent

increase in the intramural budget on April 4.

The student government allocates money taken from student service fees to the department to run the intramural sports program.

Dennis Corrington, director of intramurals, said Monday that the student government did not have enough money from student service fees to grant the increase.

The 1978-79 budget totaled \$285,420. The requested budget for the 1979-80 year was \$466,445, but the student government allocated

\$309,265 for the 79-80 year, an 8 percent increase over the previous year.

Corrington said the increase in the budget was necessary to compensate for increases in student body size and raises in the minimum wage.

The department also needed to increase the number of referees and clerical workers, and buy new equipment.

The intramurals department employs about 350 student workers. The workers include referees for sports, emergency medical technicians, I.D. checkers at DeWare Field House and office workers.

The minimum wage increased from \$2.50 an hour to \$2.90 in January, and will increase again in September to \$3.10 an hour.

The department does not plan to cut back on the number of student employees, he said.

Corrington and four full-time staff members receive 75 percent of their pay from the allocation from the student government. The other 25 percent comes from the Department of Health and Physical Education, he said. The full-time staffers teach 3 hours of physical education classes during a semester.

Corrington also said he would not be able to purchase new equipment he had planned to.

Since the department did not receive the increase in funds, Corrington said he will take a proposal to the Board of Regents to allow an entry fee for team sports. The fee will be \$5 if the regents approve his proposal, he said.

Corrington said he expects 550 football teams to sign up in the fall. The proposal will also shorten the DeWare Field House operating hours from 4 p.m. until 2 a.m. to 4 p.m. until midnight, he said.

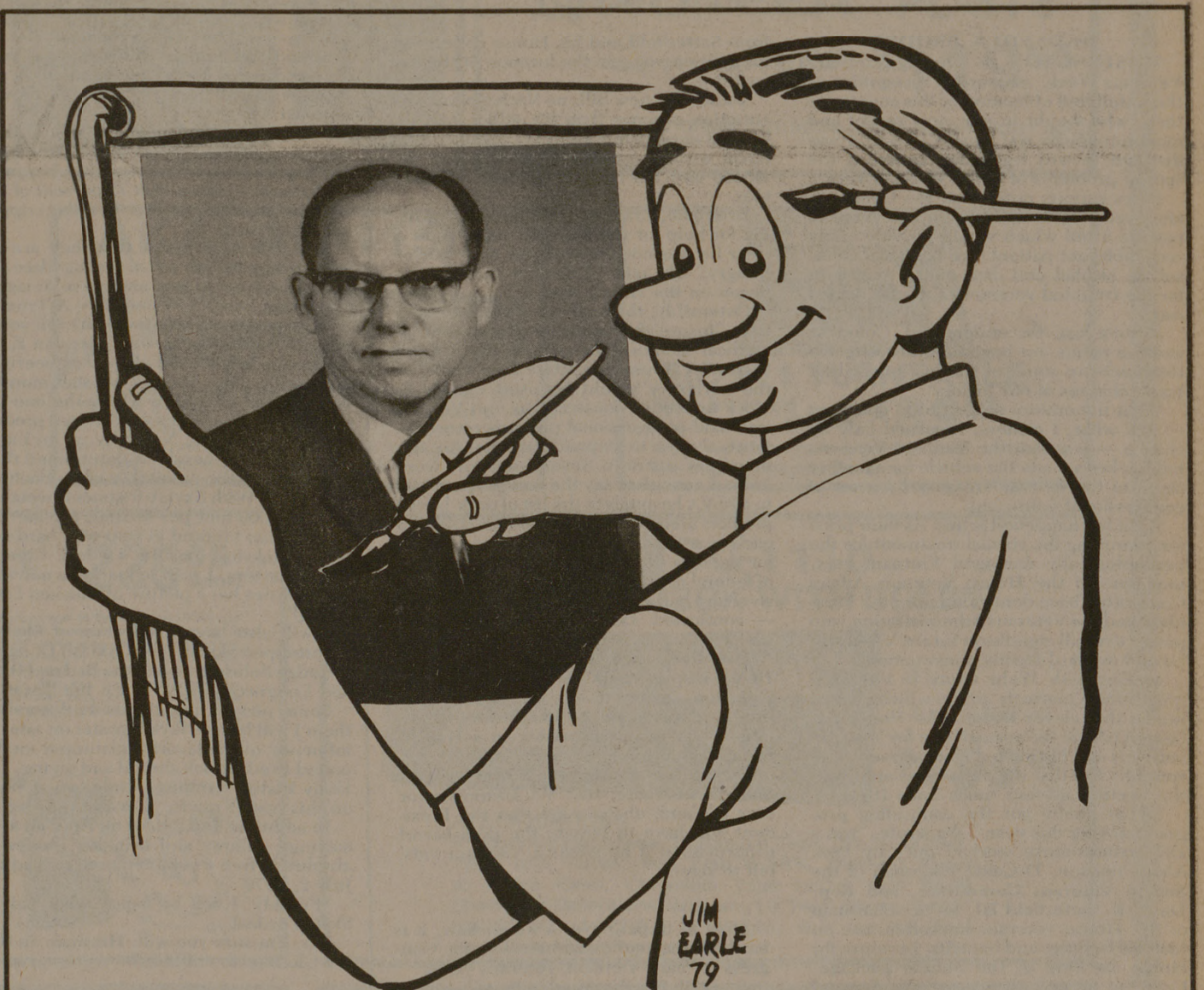
Referees will not receive pay during their training period, as they have in the past, Corrington said.

The department will also charge a 25 cent rental fee on racquetball racquets and 50 cents to rent a tennis racquet if the regents approve the proposal, he said. The present policy states that if the racquet is damaged, the student must pay for a replacement, but Corrington said this was too hard to enforce, and the new system would be more fair.

The original proposal would have charged a \$15 faculty/staff user fee and a \$5 fee for their spouses. Corrington said this part of the proposal was dropped.

The department also has a \$16,000 reserve fund to use if needed, he said. The reserve fund comes from the sale of racquetballs and forfeit fines.

If the proposal is accepted, the new policies will take effect in the fall semester.



Slouch gigs 'em!

Quarter century of Aggie gibes

Could someone gig Aggies on a regular basis and make them like it?

A former pugilist has — through the cartoon character "Slouch."

The cartoon Aggie was known in the first 20 years of his quarter century of existence as "Cadet Slouch."

The cartoonist is Dr. James H. Earle, professor and head of Texas A&M's Department of Engineering Design Graphics. Through his pen, a nondescript youth who formerly appeared in military uniform has been marked for 25 years on a variety of issues and ideas. Most are Texas A&M-related.

One recent cartoon reveals a student with his graduation regalia: "I keep having the same dream," he says to Slouch. "A guy goes across the stage and gets a diploma and handshake, and I go across and get a handshake."

No Texas Aggie tradition is too sacrosanct, no cow too holy for Slouch's gentle gibes. In one panel

Slouch points to a plan for building the Aggie bonfire on its side: "I'll admit it's a hard concept to accept right off, but it will put an end to bonfires that topple."

Cadet Slouch first appeared in The Battalion Nov. 26, 1953. Earle's student year. It shows tipsy students out cold while guarding the statue of Lawrence Sullivan Ross from overzealous, paint-throwing gridiron opponents.

The pedestal contains only "Sully's" footprints.

Subjects of early Cadet Slouch observations included campus traffic violations, country-Western music dedications, dining hall food, class assignments, campus construction and other matters still a subject of student complaint 25 years later.

Slouch rarely gets heavily idealistic, and less frequently demonstrates or advocates.

"The best Slouch topics are issues most people deal with," Earle said.

"Slouch makes the average person feel he has a spokesman."

"I will tackle a serious situation occasionally. People may be getting too serious about something and it needs lightening up."

"I've always tried to be moderate because it's more fun to make comments than to alienate," remarked the Class of 1954 member with degrees in architecture and industrial education. He was a pole vaulter on the Aggie track team and an intramural boxing champion.

"It's been somewhat of a relief that I could say some things graphically that said in writing would have gotten me in trouble. A cartoonist can do it in a way people will accept good naturedly," Earle said.

"I average about four cartoons a week during the regular school year," Earle tabulated. "That comes to 3,600 to 25 years. That's a bunch of cartoons, or ideas."

New federal oil, coal programs announced

United Press International

WASHINGTON — Interior Secretary Cecil Andrus Monday announced new programs for developing energy resources on federal and offshore lands, including an end to a nine-year freeze on new coal leasing on lands in the West.

Andrus announced a new coal management program which will allow for the leasing of an estimated 1.5 billion tons of coal on federal lands beginning in 1981. Currently, more than 60 million tons of federal coal are mined annually as compared with total national coal production in 1977 of 691 million tons.

Leasing of most federally-owned coal stopped in 1971 as a result of a suit brought by the Natural Resources Defense Council against the Interior Department. The new program received the approval of a federal judge in settling the suit.

"I am taking three important steps as part of President Carter's energy policy to reduce the nation's dependency on foreign oil," said Andrus.

Andrus also said he has changed his mind and has decided to increase the number of offshore oil and gas lease sales from a schedule announced in March.

He also said he will change the government's "oil and gas lottery" which applies to some on-shore lands. Andrus said the lottery system, with a \$10 filing fee and a dollar per acre per year in rent, "encourages speculation, not development."

Andrus also said he will ask Congress to expand competitive oil and gas leasing on public lands in a manner similar to the way firms bid on offshore leases.

The government owns about 60 percent of the coal in the West, with development of an additional 20 percent dependent on the availability of federal coal.

The federal coal is concentrated in six western states — Colorado, Montana, New Mexico, North Dakota, Utah and Wyoming.

Andrus now said he will increase the number of sales, as well as the "quantity and quality" of the acreage leased to meet over 90 percent of the oil and gas production goals set by the Energy Department.

Registration fees payable today; late registration until Thursday

Battalion Staff Report

Long, but fast-moving, lines characterized summer school registration Monday which Associate Registrar Donald Carter said went "smooth as silk."

Carter said he had no problems or complaints concerning registration which was held from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m.

He estimated that at least 10,000 students had registered in the five hour period. The official number of students registered will not be known until late registration is finished.

Carter said the schedules of students who registered Monday will be available at 8 a.m. Tuesday in G. Rollie White Coliseum.

Fees must be paid before a student can receive a schedule. The fees may be paid from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. and 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.

Late registration begins at 8 a.m. Tuesday in the coliseum, and will continue until Thursday. There is a \$10 charge for late registration.

Registration of students who have not paid their fees by 5 p.m. Thursday will be cancelled.