

Senator claims Texas needed another primary

United Press International
AUSTIN — A small group of liberal Democrats blocked efforts to conduct a Democratic presidential primary in Texas in 1980 in an effort to enhance the chances of Sen. Ted Kennedy, D-Mass., winning the party's presidential nomination, a Houston senator said Wednesday.

Sen. Jack Ogg, D-Houston, said the failure of the State Democratic Executive Committee to schedule a primary will hurt the party. Ogg sponsored unsuccessful legislation that would have established a Texas presidential primary in March of next year, separate from the May primary races for state and local offices.

"It's unbelievable that hot on the heels of Governor Clements' election, the SDEC has chosen to let the Republicans stand alone in the limelight next spring," Ogg said.

GOP leaders have said they plan to conduct a presidential primary next year even if Democrats do not.

SDEC leaders opposed a Democratic primary, but left open the possibility that a non-binding primary could be held if viable challengers to President Carter emerge.

Ogg said the SDEC was duped by the liberal faction he referred to as "Kennedyites."

"President Carter's supporters in the SDEC fell into their Venus flytrap, afraid

that the president's declining popularity would make a Texas primary embarrassing for him," Ogg said.

"But the Kennedyites' real motive was not to save the president from embarrassment, but to insure that the early primaries would be held on Ted Kennedy's home turf — New England."

He said the same faction worked during the 1979 Legislature to defeat his presidential primary bill, and applauded the tactics of the "killer bees," a dozen senators who hid out for five days to block a vote on the Ogg bill.

"If and when Senator Kennedy announces his candidacy, the voters of Texas should watch as the killer bees swarm to his cause. Already an aide to one of the killer bee senators who worked to defeat

the primary bill has announced his switch in allegiance from President Carter to Sen. Kennedy. He is organizing Kennedy support in Texas," Ogg said.

He said the SDEC's promise to hold a "beauty contest"-type primary if challengers to Carter emerge is meaningless and an effort to pacify the party's majority.

"The SDEC says it won't hold a primary unless candidates emerge. Who are they kidding? Don't they read the newspapers or listen to news reports? Before they met last week reports of Jerry Brown's imminent announcement were circulating. Anyone who doesn't think Senator Kennedy is a candidate is politically naive. There's a leak every day about his impending candidacy or a statement of support from one politician or another," Ogg said.

Ogg said polls show Texans favor a presidential primary, and the SDEC's reluctance to have one will hurt the party.

"We have always maintained a strong, traditional coalition of labor, farmers, suburbanites, minorities and young white collar workers," he said. "This small, liberal group now in control wants to narrow the party's focus. It is the same group which supported the fractious McGovern candidacy. And it is the same group which called for more party openness, only to abandon that cause once they gained control."

"This Kennedyite faction is taking the Democratic party of Texas back into the smoke-filled rooms of yesterday and leaving the voters outside where the Republicans are waiting with open arms."



A crane takes a rest

This crane, one of two being used in construction of the Academic & Agency Building on campus, stands at rest at the end of a long day of work.

Battalion photo by Lee Roy Leschper Jr.

Windshield cleaning to cost more

United Press International
WASHINGTON — New government regulations took effect Wednesday that require gasoline stations to charge separately for such services as checking tires and cleaning windshields.

Until Wednesday, stations could count the cost of such "courtesy" services in setting their pump prices for gasoline.

Although the new regulations require separate charges, many service station operators do not plan to charge extra for the services that have traditionally been free.

The rules state, "Retailers are no longer required to continue to provide customers, at no extra charge, with the same goods, services, premiums and credit terms."

"Retailers may offer separately and charge separately for goods and services previously included in their (gasoline) price."

The regulations are the target of a suit filed Friday in the District of Columbia by the Center for Auto Safety, a consumers group.

The Center for Auto Safety claims the Energy Department violated a requirement for 60 days' public notice, plus a 30-day grace period, before the rules took effect.

Ditlow said the change also discriminates against full-service stations because they will be reluctant to charge for services customers have come to expect, while "the high-volume, self-service stations will charge and get a higher profit margin."

The old regulations compensated full-service stations for such courtesy services as windshield cleaning and tire, battery, oil and radiator checks by granting them a higher profit margin than self-service outlets.

The new regulations also give the nation's governors authority to increase the 15.4-cent profit per gallon by as much as 10 cents in big cities and other locations where overhead is unusually high.

THE BATTALION

Vol. 72 No. 179
8 Pages

Thursday, August 2, 1979
College Station, Texas

USPS 045 360
Phone 845-2611

Weather

Partly cloudy with a chance of thunder showers. Continued warm with a high of 93 and a low of 75. Winds will be southerly at 10-15 m.p.h. 30% chance of rain today. Outlook for Friday through Sunday will be partly cloudy with a chance of thunder showers, but no significant changes in temperature.

\$20 million apartment fire

Arson investigation ordered

United Press International
HOUSTON — Arson investigators Wednesday tried to reconstruct the cause of a seven-alarm, \$20 million apartment fire and at least 600 residents left homeless by the record-setting blaze started to rebuild their households.

The fire started about 3 p.m. Tuesday and 14 mph winds on the 90-degree day rapidly whipped it through one-third of 1,100-unit, wood-shingle-roofed Woodway Square before being controlled about 7 p.m.

There were few injuries because most residents were at work. But Frank W. Tyler, 20, suffered second-degree burns over 50 percent of his body trying to save his belongings. He remained hospitalized in serious condition.

Chief arson investigator Leonard Mikeska said several persons were questioned, including two unidentified carpenters who supposedly had a dispute with management and were on a roof where witnesses said the fire started.

"We have two carpenters who were unhappy with working conditions and pay," Mikeska said. "We have a witness who said they were in the area when the fire started. We don't know if that has anything to do with the fire."

Mikeska said investigators also were checking the possibility of an electrical short related to replacement of air-conditioning units — which residents said failed frequently — on the roofs.

Rep. Bill Archer, R-Texas, asked Gov. Bill Clements to seek federal disaster aid

for the displaced residents of the apartments, estimated by owner Paul Schuler & Associates of Seattle, Wash., to number at least 600.

The Red Cross, Salvation Army, two churches and numerous private citizens offered aid to the mostly young, middle class singles and couples, many of whom lacked insurance. One who asked not to be quoted by name was philosophical.

"I've always said I wanted to start a new life," she said. "Here's my chance."

Firefighters, who continued to watch the rubble as investigators and ex-residents sifted, doused spot fires that continued to smoulder in the ruins that one observer said were reminiscent of a World War II bombing scene.

"They've still got a few spot fires out there around the apartments," Fire Chief

V.E. Rogers said. "I have been here 24 years and it's the worst structural fire I've ever seen."

Rogers, who said "if it had happened at 3 a.m. we probably would have lost several lives," said the quick-burning wood shingles complicated the firefighting. He said it was the first seven-alarm fire in Houston history.

City Council, which Tuesday had tabled an ordinance tightening fire-proofing requirements for wood-shingle roofs, Wednesday unanimously approved the tighter rules for new multi-family dwellings with little debate.

Fifteen firefighters were overcome by smoke or heat exhaustion, but they were recovering Wednesday, Rogers said. Several residents suffered minor injuries trying to save their belongings.

Aggies help at fire

Seven Emergency Medical Technicians from the Texas A&M University Emergency Care Team helped the Houston Fire Department during the fire that destroyed the Woodway Square apartment complex Tuesday in Houston.

Houston fire officials said the fire was the largest in Houston since 1912.

Steve Barron, squad leader with the team, said the group called the ambulance division of the Houston Fire Department

Wednesday and they said they needed assistance. When the squad arrived in Houston they were the only EMT's on the scene, he said. Later EMT's from the Houston department arrived and the Texas A&M team assisted them, he said.

The squad carried trauma equipment, oxygen, and other emergency supplies to the fire.

The team treated about 20 injured people, he said.

Proposed Bryan budget to increase taxes 13 cents

By LOUIE ARTHUR
Battalion Staff

If the proposed 1979-80 budget for the city of Bryan becomes a reality, it could mean a 13 cent increase in the ad valorem property tax.

In a special meeting of the city council Wednesday, City Manager Ernest Clark presented the proposed city budget for preliminary review by the members of the council.

The proposed budget, which Clark described as "conservative," will be discussed in several meetings for revision before it is finalized in September.

Clark outlined the budget which contained total funds available of \$7,606,059 and total expenditures of \$7,440,136, leaving the city of Bryan \$165,923 unappropriated for the year.

The new tax rate would be 75 cents per \$100 worth of property based on 80 percent of the assessed value. Thus, if you owned property assessed at a value of \$10,000, the taxes would be \$60. The same property would have been taxed \$49.60 last year.

The tax increase will result in \$396,604 additional revenue for the city. Requests from outside agencies use \$224,000 of this revenue in the proposed budget.

Clark said that some of this money could come from the hotel-motel tax (a four percent tax on hotels and motels charged in addition to the sales tax) and might cut out some of the proposed property tax increase.

The proposed budget also includes a salary increase for city employees. Salary increases would vary from eight percent to more than 20 percent for some employees.

Clark said that they are interested in a merit pay program, but there are no funds available. The salary hikes and the possibility of merit pay are an attempt to cut down on the high turnover rate of city workers.

The current turnover rate for city employees is currently about 30 percent and is expected to rise to 50 percent later in the year.

One of the largest expense increases was attributed to the cost of fuel for operating vehicles — an increase of \$100,000 due to soaring gasoline prices.

"We are trying to drastically reduce the use of city vehicles," Clark said. "We want to use smaller cars and get rid of the sedans. We're starting a conservation program but we're not sure of its impact yet."

Also included in the new budget is a request for two more police cars so that more maintenance work can be done on vehicles without seriously impairing police mobility. Clark said he feels this would

give the police cars a longer work life.

The proposed budget also provides for a pay increase for the fire department, Clark said, because the firemen's present salary is too low compared to other cities.

Councilman Henry Seale said that he and Mayor Richard Smith will meet "to try to raise the revenue side of the budget" in an attempt to lessen the proposed tax increase.

The council will meet again Aug. 13, Smith said, and urged council members to use this time to study the proposed budget.

Kyle Field completion rescheduled

In the spirit of the show business slogan, "the show must go on," Texas A&M University officials said the Oct. 13 football game with the University of Houston scheduled to be played in Kyle Field will "go on" even if the stadium is not finished.

Several Texas A&M officials met Wednesday afternoon with H.B. Zachry, contractor of the project, in a closed-door session to review the progress on Kyle Field.

Although a final decision has not been made, Howard Vestal, vice president for business affairs at Texas A&M, said after the session: "Based on what I know right now, we'll play."

The stadium will definitely not be completed by Oct. 13, Vestal said. The first home game of the season with Brigham Young University was scheduled to be played at Kyle Field Sept. 8, but had to be moved to Rice Stadium in Houston because of construction.

Some of the access ramps to the third deck will not be complete, and consequently about 5000 seats will be missing, he said.

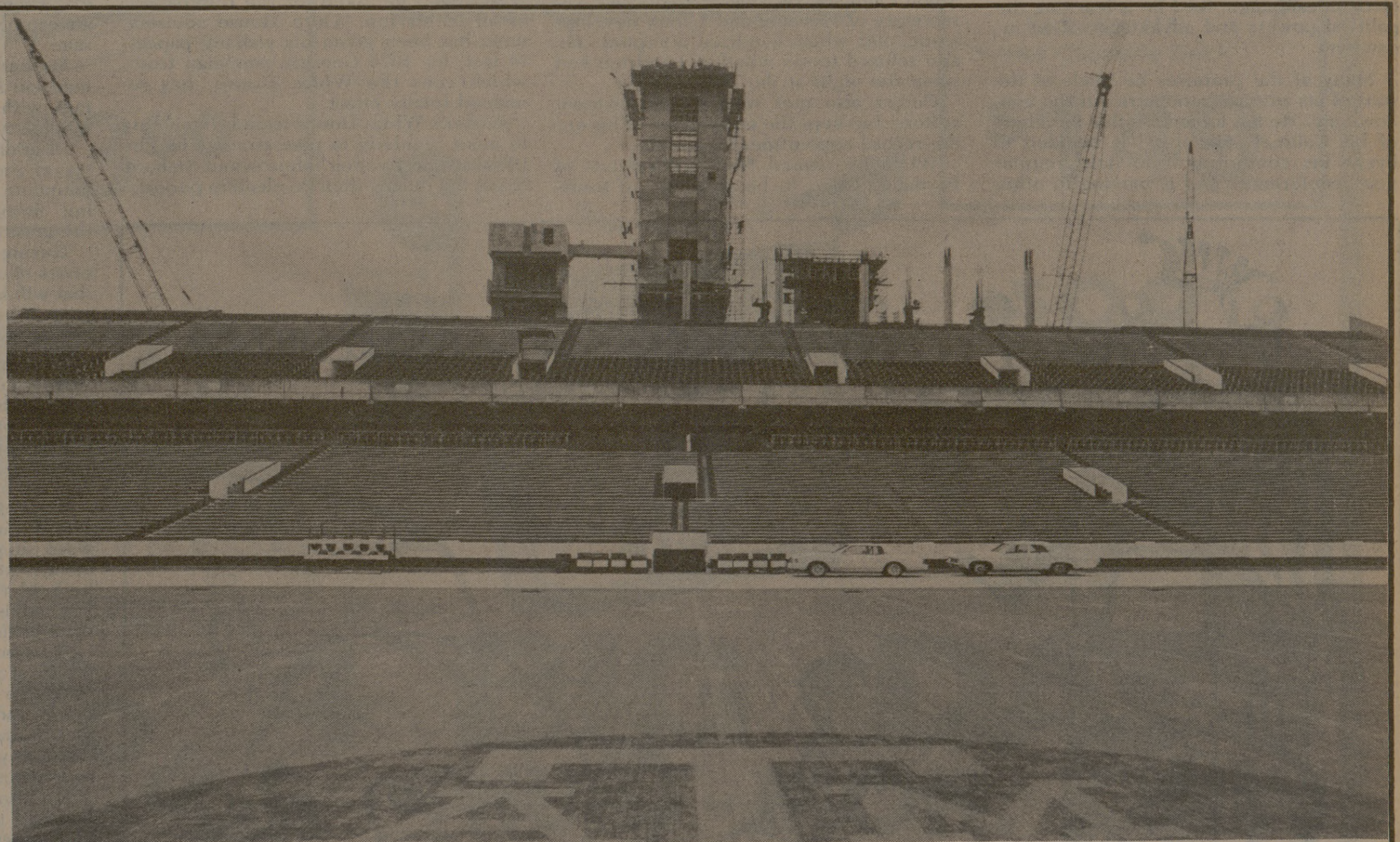
Construction equipment on the site will be fenced to keep people out of danger, he said.

There will also be corridors built to guide people to their seats and keep them out of uncompleted areas of the stadium.

Vestal said he anticipates that basic work, such as the stands, ramps and concession stands, will be finished by the Arkansas game November 17, but all construction on the stadium will not be finished completely until the first of 1980. Construction on the addition to G. Rollie White Coliseum will not be finished until July 1980.

Vestal blamed bad weather and unusually heavy rains for the delay in completion of the stadium.

"Mr. Zachry did the best job he could possibly do under the conditions," he said. "We are very pleased with him."



Battalion photo by Clay Cockrill

They say they will go

This is a view of the Kyle Field stadium under construction taken from the 50-yard line Wednesday afternoon. Officials speculate the game Oct. 13 with the University of Houston will be played here even though the stadium will not be completed.