

campus

Gramm: Oil reserves vital

By DINA KRUMNOW
Battalion Reporter

The most important problem facing Americans today is the need to increase the national oil reserves, Congressman Phil Gramm said.

During a speech to the Bryan Rotary Club Wednesday, Gramm said the oil reserves were intended to act as a buffer against the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries and spiraling market prices.

Creation of oil reserves was cut in the United States, but it will resume again soon, Gramm said.

President Carter received an ultimatum last week from Saudi Arabia, Gramm said, which said if the United States continued its efforts to rebuild the oil reserves, Saudi Arabia would cut oil production.

"Saudi Arabia said that by us purchasing oil for reserves, we were driving up oil prices. They said they were concerned about the prices," Gramm said. "While there are a lot of things suppliers are worried about, high prices are not one of them."

Gramm also said if foreign countries succeed in their efforts to dictate foreign policy, America is in trouble. However, he said, the United States does not have many options to try to avoid foreign control of oil policies, since the United States imports about 50 percent of its oil.

"We, on the (House) energy subcommittee, are trying to figure out what to do about this," Gramm said.

In an effort to avoid foreign control of oil, he said, the energy subcommittee has proposed a pay increase.

"I voted against it for two reasons. I didn't think the people in my district wanted me to have it, and I've only been in office nine months and I always expected to have a job for at least a year before ever thinking about a raise."

committee has helped get two federal energy bills passed.

The first bill is the synthetic fuel bill, which mandates U.S. production of 2 billion barrels of synthetic fuel by 1990. Gramm said this is very expensive but "we don't have any viable alternatives."

The other bill passed is the fast-track energy bill, which establishes an Energy Mobilization Board to help avoid future energy-related problems, he said.

The energy board would be able to cut through federal red tape in the event of an energy emergency.

Besides these energy problems, Gramm said the federal budget deficit should be a major concern of Americans, as it "clearly represents a step backwards."

"It's important that we try to stay as close to the target of balancing the budget as we can and look beyond what the economy is like on the first Tuesday in November to the 1980s and 90s and what they will hold in terms of real economic prospects," Gramm said.

These two decades, Gramm said, will be a crucial point in history since they will determine whether America will be the leader of the free world or even if there will be a free world.

Balancing the federal budget is hindered by rising taxes, Gramm said, as taxes are rising more rapidly than prices.

However, Gramm said he will not vote for a tax cut during the next congressional session. "The federal government," he said, "is taking 32 percent of every dollar and they must get it from someone."

Gramm said he did vote against the recent proposed congressional pay increase.

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Battalion photo by Lee Roy Leschper Jr.
Congressman Phil Gramm discusses America's oil situation with members of the Bryan Rotary Club.

'Happy Birthday, Wanda June,' starts run tonight

A play written by Kurt Vonnegut Jr. will open tonight at Texas A&M University's Rudder Forum.

Performances of the tragic comedy "Happy Birthday, Wanda June" will be 8 p.m. tonight through Saturday and again the next Thursday through Saturday. Tickets are \$2 for students, \$3 for the public and are available at the University Center Box Office or at the door.

Vonnegut is best known for his novel "Slaughter House Five."

The play, which opened on Broadway in 1970, follows Vonnegut's usual style, treating social issues comically but with an offbeat point of view.

3 Chinese chemists conduct catalyst research at A&M

Three of the 300 Chinese scientists in America are working on a catalyst program at Texas A&M University, said Texas A&M chemist Dr. Minoru Tsutsui who will be in charge of their research.

The scientists are Yang Ji-hua, research associate with the Institute of Applied Chemistry and research as-

sociate Chang Yong-ben and graduate student Chen Li-ban, both of the Chinese government's Academy of Chemistry.

The chemistry researchers will conduct basic research in catalysis, especially organolanthanides, a compound rare in the Western world but abundant in China.

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B'NAI B'RITH HILLEL FOUNDATION

CS-Austin flights may start soon

By DEBBIE NELSON
Battalion Reporter

Alamo Airlines is to begin two daily College Station to Austin flights within 60 days, a company official said Wednesday.

Alamo plans to purchase two new eight-passenger airplanes for the flights. James Wood, Alamo vice president, said the Federal Aviation Administration has approved the flights, and they will begin as soon as the method of ticket sales in Austin is settled.

There are presently no flights between Austin and College Station.

Rio Airlines, the other airline at Easterwood Airport, has no plans to start an Austin flight, sales representative Eddie Jinkins said Tuesday. He said that since Austin isn't a major hub of traffic in Texas, it isn't profitable for Rio Airlines to fly there.

Alamo ticket agent Carol Abbott said there could be as many as four flights per day. Two Austin flights could be worked in as stop-overs on existing College Station-to-San Antonio flights.

Abbott was unsure of the ticket price for the new flights, but said the San Antonio flights cost \$29 one-way and \$58 round trip.

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