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Presidential candidate says country is in a mess

By MARCY BOYCE
Battalion Reporter

Rampant inflation, climbing unemployment, an unbalanced budget and a lack of energy policy are at the heart of America's frustrations, Benjamin Fernandez, 50 Republican presidential candidate, said Tuesday.

Fernandez, brought here by Committee Awareness of Mexican-American Culture, spoke at Rudder Tower at 8 p.m. "This country is in a mess," he said. "Inflation is down and patriotism is almost a joke."

And like any football team that finds itself in the middle of a losing season, he said America needs to "get back to the basics" and return to the fundamentals that made America so great.

Fernandez said these basics are the work ethic, freedom of choice, opportunity and the free enterprise system.

"The work ethic is responsible for the greatest productivity on earth and has given America the finest standard of living," he said.

But now the trend is toward a 35-hour work week. Sometimes, he said, it takes more than a 40-hour week, more than a 50-hour week, maybe even an 80-hour week to climb out of the "pits of poverty."

And it is freedom of choice which gives Americans the opportunity to create a better life for themselves, he said.

"Remember when we used to say, 'America, land of opportunity?' When was the last time you heard it?" Fernandez asked.

"I come to you as one of the best, if not the best, prepared candidates." — Benjamin Fernandez

323

New explosions rock grounded Gulf tanker

United Press International

GALVESTON — Faced with more oil explosions and increasing pollution off the Texas coast, marine firefighters today began working around the clock to extinguish the blaze that has been raging on the tanker Burmah Agate for seven days.

Three more explosions shook the grounded, burning tanker late Tuesday, rupturing at least three tanks and dumping more oil into the Gulf of Mexico.

Firefighting tugboats were forced to pull away from the volatile ship, but Coast Guard officer Richard Griggs said they returned last night to begin continual firefighting efforts.

The Coast Guard said, however, it might still be days before the fire aboard the 720-foot tanker was extinguished and the flow of oil toward resort beaches stopped.

"The application of foam this afternoon (Tuesday) was able to significantly reduce the amount of fire on board the ship but when they (two tugboats) ran out of foam and had to back off, the fire rekindled and now, for the present, it's worse than it was in the afternoon when they began putting foam on it," said Griggs. "There were three more explosions."

Griggs said at least six tanks aboard the ship were damaged, contributing to the flow of oil that fueled the fire and fouled more than 100 miles of beaches from Galveston Island southward.

Additional cleanup contract equipment was to arrive early today, including several thousand feet of oil containment boom and officials were hoping a cold front would continue to help push spilled oil from the 6.8-million-gallon capacity tanker away from the coast.

The inbound tanker collided before dawn last Thursday with the outbound freighter Mimosa near the mouth of Galveston Bay.

Two bodies were found on Galveston beaches Tuesday and Griggs said they were presumed to be crewmen from the tanker. Thirty-two persons were killed and 13 bodies have been recovered.

Weather and ocean current experts employed by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration said beaches from Galveston to Matagorda Bay had been hit by the oil. An intermittent stream of oil extended from the tanker for about 20 miles, Griggs said, and remained about 6-7 miles offshore.

NOAA consultant Larry Thebeau said winds and currents so far had kept oil from the wreck, grounded 6 miles south of Galveston, out of the mouth of environmentally sensitive Galveston Bay and the Houston Ship Channel.

He said that, based on past weather records, there is "only a 6 percent chance" of winds directly out of the south forcing oil into Galveston Bay. But the Coast Guard strung two short environmental defense booms near the bay entrance and prepared other protective measures all along the coast.

The exact amount on the beaches was undetermined, but there had been at least four impact areas covering a total of several miles of beach.

Griggs said there were no reports any wildlife had been affected by the spill, but he has requested that the public make any reports of oiled birds to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in Galveston.

Yet there is more opportunity in this country today than there has been in the past 200 years, he said. And business and the free enterprise system are at the core of this opportunity.

"We've got to stop kicking around the goose that lays the golden egg — big business," Fernandez said. "Profit is the greatest incentive that I know of."

Any American can create a small business, and if he works hard enough, Fernandez said, he is entitled to his reward, that profit.

He said America needs a president that understands the way this American system works. And Fernandez, who was born to Mexican immigrants in a boxcar, harvested sugar beets and worked his way through college, graduating with two degrees, said he feels he understands this system.

As an economist in a country plagued by faulty economic policies, he said, "I come to you as one of the best, if not the best, prepared candidates."

Fernandez was trained in finance, marketing and management by the General Electric Company after receiving degrees in both economics and business. In addition, he has served as a consulting economist in numerous public hearings.

"Inflation is an economic phenomenon," he said, "so we need an economist in the White House." If elected, Fernandez said he would make inflation his top priority.

Citing the federal government as the source of the problem, he said he would balance the federal budget to resolve it. First, Fernandez said he would reduce federal waste and inefficiency and second, he said he would veto any deficit-creating bill that landed on his desk.

Socialized medicine is one such bill, he said. The federal government just does not have the required funds and Canada and

England are examples of its ineffectiveness, he said.

Deregulation of industry is also essential to resolving today's problems, Fernandez said. However, he said he would use deregulation as a means for political trade-offs.

Using the oil industry as an example, he said he would promise deregulation as soon as the oil companies made plans to sell the coal companies, of which they own 70 percent.

"They want something, but I would demand something in return," he said.

As a country which currently imports 48 percent of its oil, America desperately needs to develop an energy plan, Fernandez said.

"We are at the mercy of the OPEC cartel," he said.

Therefore, he said, America needs a president who can deal with Mexico, a country who has recently discovered great oil reserves.

Fernandez also stressed the importance of effective foreign policy in other countries as well. For example, he said he sent a telegram to Carter on Monday urging him to take a firm, hard stand in Iran and let the world know that the loss of American lives and property will no longer be tolerated.

Fernandez said his campaign strategy is "grassroots." Planning to enter all 36 primaries, he said he feels confident he will capture all the delegates in Puerto Rico and California. In addition, he said Massachusetts is looking good for him, as well as Texas. However here, he said, he is relying on crossovers of the 1.1 million Mexican-Americans from the Democratic party.

"I happen to think I'm the right man at the right time with the right background," he said.



Battalion photo by Becky Leake

Benjamin Fernandez, a presidential candidate for 1980, emphasizes a point in his campaign. Fernandez spoke to a crowd of about 40 people Tuesday night in Rudder Tower.

Iran students threaten to kill American hostages in embassy

United Press International
TEHRAN, Iran — The PLO Tuesday pledged to "use all possible means" to save dozens of Americans hostages threatened with death by armed Moslem students holding the U.S. Embassy and reports said Iran shut down its main oil export terminal.

President Carter, under political pressure to take military action in Tehran, met twice in Washington with his top security advisers as diplomatic efforts intensified to gain freedom for the 60 to 65 Americans, including 28 military personnel, under siege for the fourth day today.

The 400 militant students are demanding the extradition of deposed Shah Mohammed Reza Pahlavi, who is undergoing medical treatments in New York, and the State Department has refused.

The students carrying rifles and chanting "Carter must be killed either by a gun or by fists," said Tuesday they would kill their hostages at the slightest sign of military action by "the United States or its hated agents in Iran."

The unexpected diplomatic initiative authorized by Palestine Liberation Organization Chief Yasser Arafat came late Tuesday after U.N. Secretary General Kurt Waldheim met with foreign diplomats in attempting to seek a solution for the tense situation in the Iranian capital.

A PLO representative at the United Nations said Arafat instructed his Tehran office "to use all possible means to save the lives of the hostages," and said the PLO would send a delegation to Tehran today.

Arafat's relations with Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini are said to be very good, and U.N. sources said, given the Moslem fervor over the situation in Tehran, the PLO may have more influence than any diplomatic move.

Officials at the White House and the State Department said there was a report Tuesday night an oil tanker bound for the United States was halted and Iran's major oil export terminal was closed.

"This is not confirmed. But the report is, it is not loading," State Department spokesman David Nall said. The United States gets about 5 percent of its imported oil from Iran.

Earlier Tuesday, Prime Minister Mehdi Bazaragan and his Cabinet resigned, and Khomeini authorized the clergy-led Islamic Revolutionary Council to govern the country for the time being.

That move made diplomatic negotiations even more delicate.

Outgoing Middle East negotiator Robert Strauss said Tuesday in Washington he had received numerous calls from people urging the president to use force and "show his macho," but he added "the options are exceedingly limited at this point."

White House spokesman Jody Powell ruled out any military action and warned against "unwarranted speculation" in the press.

The State Department has flatly refused the protesters' demand the shah be extradited to face Islamic justice.

The death threats by the students in the U.S. Embassy were repeatedly broadcast by Iran's state radio, but not commented upon by the Islamic Revolutionary Council.

The revolutionary council also withheld immediate response to militant demands for a total break in diplomatic relations with the United States and for a suspension of oil supplies.

Election results

Macey, McConn face runoff for Houston mayor

United Press International

HOUSTON — Wealthy city councilman Louis Macey forced Mayor Jim McConn's reelection bid into a runoff Tuesday night. McConn said Macey had run a dirty campaign and predicted the runoff would be "open warfare."

With 319 of 389 precincts reporting, McConn had 68,491 votes to 50,469 for Macey and 38,358 for Castillo.

Macey denied he had run a dirty

campaign.

"We have been talking about Jim McConn's personality," he said at his campaign headquarters. "We've been talking about the way he's mishandled this city. Mayor McConn owes this city an apology. He needs to apologize to me or the voters."

"We're going to talk more about the issues and more about what needs to be done to solve the problems in this city. The mayor doesn't recognize the problems."

McConn, 52, a homebuilder who reduced a \$400,000 debt by more than half since his 1977 election, had predicted he would whip Macey, former U.S. Immigration Commissioner Leonel Castillo and six other candidates without a runoff.

But Macey, 43, who has investment and clothing manufacturing companies, with Castillo, who resigned his Washington post in late summer, captured about 52 percent of the light vote.

McConn, who raised about \$500,000 for his reelection bid, said he was prepared financially "and every other way" for a runoff.

"I intend to answer some of the insidious innuendo of Councilman Macey," McConn said. "He's gone pretty far and I intend to bring him to a halt. Jim McConn's been a good mayor. Jim McConn's a good man and I intend to prove that. We don't intend to go after anybody's character, although it probably is a possibility. I intend to disprove some of the allegations Councilman Macey made against us."

Castillo said the Macey-McConn feud "made the whole election process a sham."

"The name calling, slurring and insults add nothing to the election," Castillo said. "It's unfortunate we never got into a serious discussion of what we are going to do about our city."

McConn said he hoped to attract Castillo's supporters in the runoff but Castillo said he was not ready to make any endorsements. Rep. Ben Reyes, D-Houston, who won a seat on the expanded city council and who was one of the Mexican-American community's most influential leaders, said he expected to support McConn.

Two of three amendments approved by Texas voters

United Press International

TEXAS Tuesday approved two of three proposed amendments to the state's 103-year-old constitution, but rejected a proposal that would have allowed the Legislature to establish committees to oversee the rulemaking actions of state agencies during times the Legislature is not in session.

The amendments approved — which brought to 235 the number of changes made in the constitution since it was written in 1876 — authorize issuance of \$10 million in state bonds to guarantee repayment of loans made by commercial lending institutions for the purchase of small farms and ranches, and reorganize the system for licensing of notaries public.

Voting was light on the three-issue statewide ballot.

Clements had endorsed Propositions 1 and 3 — the notary public and farm loan guarantee amendments — which passed, and opposed No. 2, a proposal allowing the Legislature to delegate to a committee its power to review rules adopted by state agencies during times the Legislature is not in session, which failed.

Texas Election Bureau returns from 252 of the state's 254 counties, 239 complete, showed Proposition 1 concerning notaries public carrying 279,109 to 147,394; Proposition 2 dealing with legislative review of agency rules failing 199,710 to 218,619; and Proposition 3 involving farm loan guarantees carrying 229,566 to 193,700.

Dallas voters apparently approved all seven propositions in a \$54 million bond election, and voters in Fort Worth defeated a proposal to roll back property taxes and limit future tax increases.

Miller to host concert Thursday honoring Hubert's appointment

By ANGIE JONES
Battalion Reporter

Dr. and Mrs. Frank W.R. Hubert will be honored Thursday evening by a concert featuring student musical groups and an informal reception, both hosted by Texas A&M University President Jarvis E. Miller and his wife.

The concert and reception, both open to the public, are in honor of Hubert's appointment as chancellor of the Texas A&M University System in September. Hubert, 64, served as dean of the College of Education here for 10 years before his appointment.

"We are making this a community-wide event to give as many people as possible the opportunity to join in honoring Chancellor Hubert as he moves into this key position of leadership," Miller said, "and it gives us another opportunity to express appreciation for his long and distinguished service to the University."

The concert, in Rudder Auditorium, will begin at 7:30 p.m. with the reception set for 9 p.m. in Room 224 of the Memorial Student Center.

Five student musical groups will play at the concert: the Singing Cadets, under the direction of Robert Boone; the Century

Singers, directed by Nancy Theeman; the Texas A&M University Women's Chorus, directed by Patti Fleitas; the Reveliers, directed by Boone and Fleitas; and the Texas A&M University Symphonic Band under the direction of Maj. Joe McMullen.

Malon Southerland, assistant to the president, said Hubert requested that there be no official receiving line at the reception because he preferred to simply talk and meet with everyone informally.

The Dukes of Aggeland, a group from the Aggie Band directed by Lt. Col. Joe Haney, will perform at the reception.

14 law schools to participate in MBA-Law Day Saturday

By BECKY MATHEWS
Battalion Reporter

Fourteen universities, including all seven Texas law schools, will participate in the Memorial Student Center MBA-Law Day Saturday on the second floor of the MSC.

The program, which is expected to draw 125 to 150 students, will be divided into two sections. The sessions on law will be Saturday morning with Angus McSwain, dean of Baylor Law School, as the keynote

speaker. Sessions on MBA (Masters in Business Administration) will be in the afternoon featuring keynote speaker William Muse, dean of the Texas A&M University College of Business.

According to Philip Frink, chairman of the program, the main purpose of the program is to inform the student body of opportunities associated with obtaining MBA or law degrees.

In addition to the universities' representatives, graduates from Texas A&M who

have gone on to obtain MBA or law degrees will be discussing their experiences with students.

Registration for MSC MBA-Law Day is from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. in Room 221 of the MSC, and from 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. on the MSC first floor. Registration fees are \$1 for either session and \$1.50 for both sessions. Students may also pay \$3 for the informal barbecue, 12-1 p.m. in Room 201 of the MSC. Registration closes at 5 p.m. Thursday.