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America faces greatest crisis, Clements says

By RICHARD OLIVER
Staff Writer

The United States faces a greater crisis today than in late December of 1941 after the Pearl Harbor attack, Gov. Bill Clements said Thursday.

Clements, addressing approximately 400 persons attending the 22nd annual County Judge and Commissioners Conference at the Ramada Inn, said the Russian presence in the Persian Gulf region is potentially the worst threat the United States has ever faced.

"Russia can do more damage to the U.S. than both Germany and Japan could do in World War II," he said in a 40-minute talk. "We in the U.S. face a crisis that is more serious than this country faced in World War II."

"Fifty-two percent of our oil comes from overseas. It will cost us an \$83 billion deficit in our trade balance this year. This is a root cause of inflation. It is vulnerable ... it is our logistical line of supply. It is our jugular vein, and it's threatened by Russia."

The Russian invasion of Afghanistan, said Clements, has made SALT II a dead issue.

"We are in a crisis, don't let anyone tell you differently," he said. "It is imperative we get our house in order. This is a difficult period for this nation. It shouldn't be swept under the rug."

"SALT II, however, is not in the best interest of the U.S. It's as dead as a door-nail, and that's exactly where it should be."

Clements also attacked President Carter's new energy program, calling it a "lack of energy program."

Clements said the new program calling for a reduction of the nation's speed limits from 55 mph to 50 mph is ridiculous, and added he feels the president is not confronting the real problem.

"I am opposed to this (reduction of speed

limit)," he said. "I'm having a bad enough time getting people to slow down from 70 to 55 mph."

The governor also attacked a plan to reduce the work-week from five to four days.

"The president is also talking of instigating a four-day work-week to conserve energy," he said. "The people would all stay home in their cars. I just cannot, cannot believe this. We should be working six days instead of five. He's (the president) going in the wrong direction."

Clements also said he's going to ask the next Legislature to pass a law giving the Department of Public Safety the right to wiretap drug dealers to aid prosecutions.

"I'm not asking this for the police departments or the sheriff's departments," he said, "just for the DPS, and only for drug cases. I want you to see the magnitude of this problem. There is a \$3 billion-per-year drug business in Texas alone."

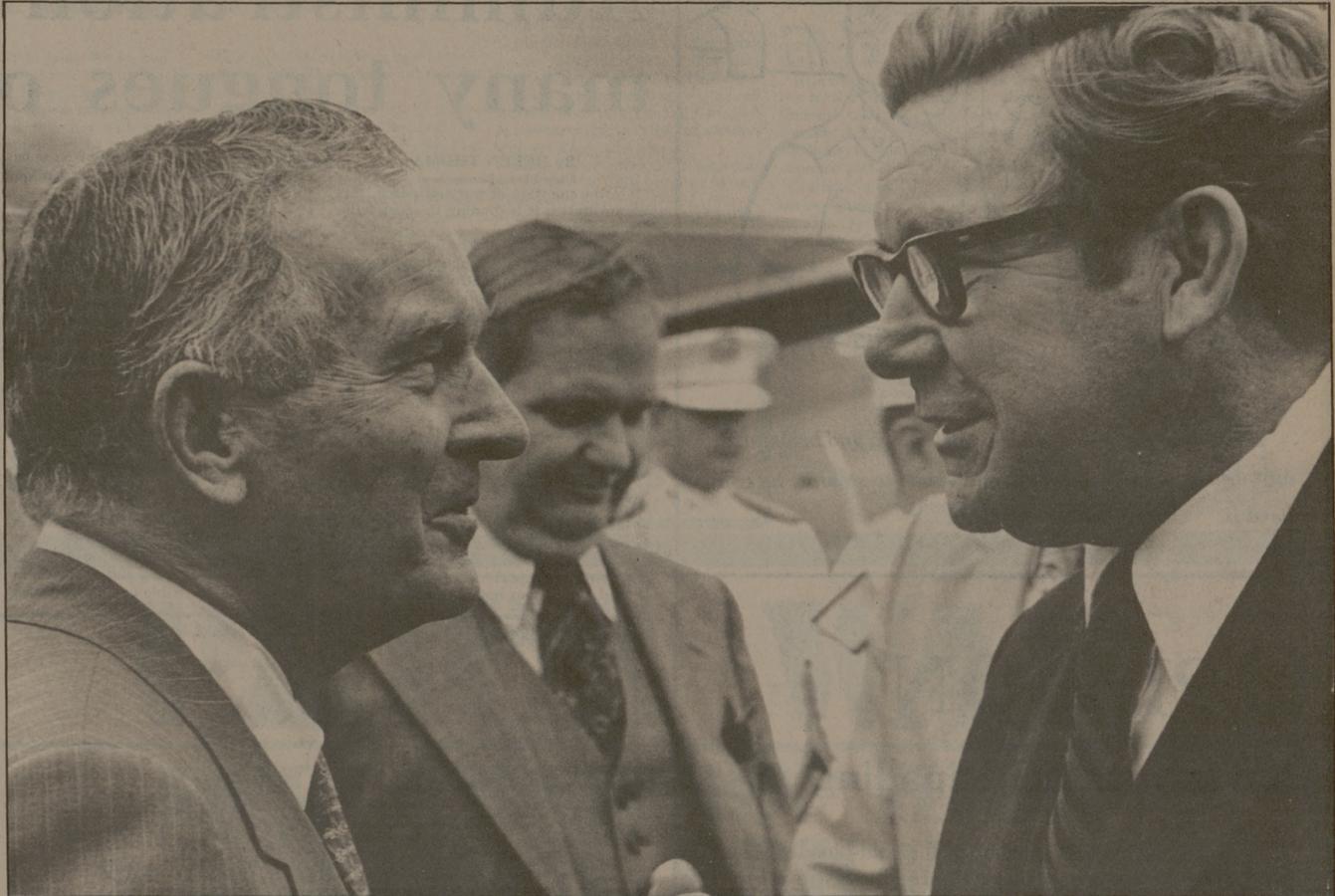
"If we in Texas are serious about doing something about drug traffic, we need to have wiretaps. Some bleeding hearts are calling this an invasion of privacy; they're right, it is. It's an invasion of the privacy of the drug dealer, and I want to see this man locked up."

Clements said he was approached by federal officials last week, and asked to consider the use of Todd Shipyard in Galveston as a regional dump site for nuclear wastes.

He said he disagreed with this idea, causing a burst of applause from the audience.

"I would fight this in every way possible, and in every means possible. I told them I'm all for nuclear power ... but I would fight the storage of any other state's nuclear wastes in Texas."

"The choice of Todd Shipyard in Galveston is stupid. It's as bad a location as anywhere I can imagine in Texas."



Gov. Bill Clements greets Texas Agriculture Secretary Reagan Brown at Easterwood Airport Thursday. Both Clements and Brown were in College Station to address the County Judge and Commissioners conference

being held at the College Station Ramada Inn. Clements spoke on the danger the United States faces due to Soviet aggression in Afghanistan.

Staff photo by Lee Roy Leschper Jr.

CS to computerize traffic lights

By DEBBIE NELSON
Campus Staff

A computer in College Station City Hall will control part of every Aggie's life—the amount of time spent waiting at traffic lights by next summer.

Work started in November on replacing traffic lights at 16 intersections around the outside of the Texas A&M University campus. When fully installed, the \$754,000 system will be connected to a computer in City Hall.

Timing of the lights can be pre-set for different parts of the day for light or heavy traffic patterns, Peggy Krohn, engineering technician for the Texas Department of Highways and Public Transportation said. The computer can easily be reprogrammed for busy traffic days like Aggie home football games, Krohn said.

Sampling detectors recording traffic patterns will eliminate periodical checks by the Highway Department.

Krohn said the decision to install the new system was made "because of the growing traffic volume — trying to physically cope with the problems."

There is some question about the traffic light at College Main and University Drive, near the post office. Krohn said University officials had talked of realigning the section approach (semi-circular drive) in front of the post office to make it a standard square intersection.

Daniel T. Whitt, assistant director of Facilities Planning and Construction, said the Board of Regents authorized a study of the intersection at its meeting last week.

Whitt said several alternatives will be studied in the "long-range study," but

there is "no high priority" for it.

Whitt said he expected results from the study no sooner than next spring.

Kronm said the highway department would be happy to reprogram the traffic light to accommodate this change.

Of the 16 intersections under construction, two will not be hooked up to the computer. One of these is in Bryan, at Texas and Rosemary; the other at Agronomy Road. Krohn said the two lights may later be hooked up to the computer, too.

Weather has held up construction. The 200-working-day contract should be completed this summer.

Faulk backs Caperton

By LAURA CORTEZ
City Staff

John Henry Faulk, noted folk humorist, said he is endorsing Kent Caperton for state senator, and will take an active role in the Bryan Democrat's campaign.

"As a citizen of the 5th Senatorial District who has been deeply interested in the well-being of the people of this district, I proudly endorse Judge Kent Caperton's candidacy for the Texas Senate, and I will not rest until he has been elected," Faulk said at a news conference Thursday.

The Madisonville resident said the general attitudes of the people in the district are not being properly reflected, but said he feels Caperton will do something about this.

"Kent Caperton will bring a fresh outlook to our government, and is dedicated to the people's interests — and I mean the people," Faulk said. "This man has qualities that seldom appear on the political horizon."

Faulk is the author of a book entitled, "Fear on Trial," about blacklisting during the McCarthy era. He was blacklisted in the 1950s and lost his job at CBS as a result. Faulk now appears weekly on the television show "Hee Haw."

Faulk referred to Caperton, a former Texas A&M University student body president, as a "very solid citizen who takes his duties of citizenship seriously."

He said he first learned of Caperton about three months ago when the Bryan municipal judge was still deciding whether to resign his post and run for the Senate.

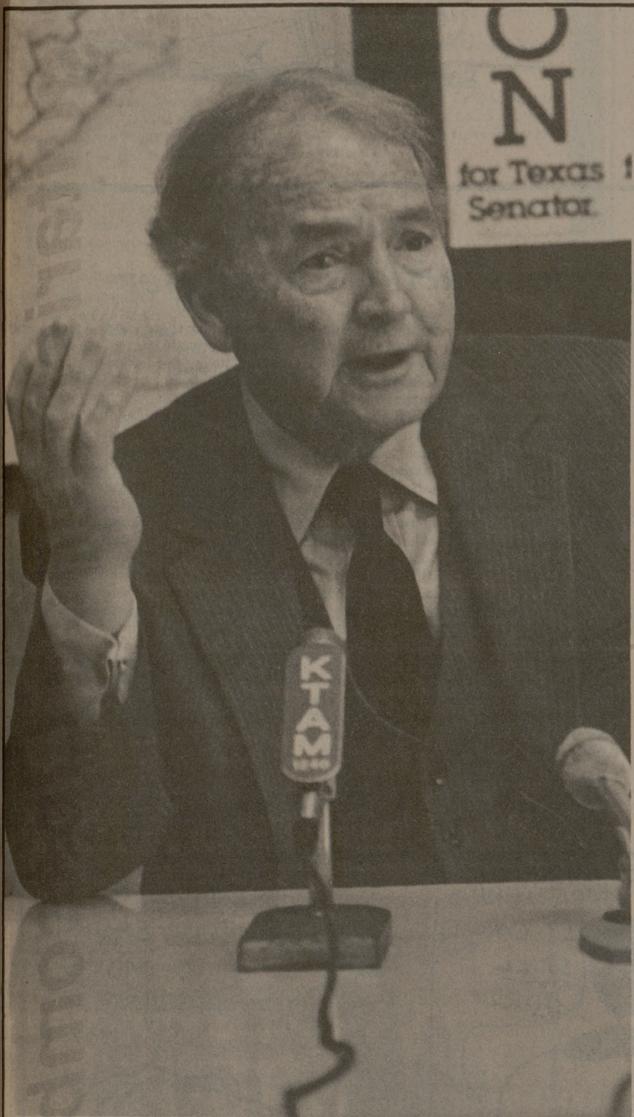
A group of Madison County residents approached Faulk and asked him, since he is a well-known figure, to call Caperton and ask him to run for office.

He said he did, and has supported Caperton ever since.

Caperton will run against Sen. Bill Moore and Dr. N.A. McNeil, both of Bryan, in the May 3 election.

Moore, a Democrat, has held the Senate seat for 31 years, and has been unchallenged for the past 14 years.

McNeil, a retired Texas A&M professor of genetics, recently resigned as Brazos County Republican Party chairman to run in the Senate race.



Texas folk humorist John Henry Faulk endorsed Kent Caperton in his bid for Texas senator. Caperton, a Bryan municipal judge, is running against incumbent Bill Moore and Dr. N.A. McNeil. All three candidates are from Bryan.

Staff photo by Lynn Blanco

Local Guard members fired after complaints

By DOUG GRAHAM
Special to the Battalion

Officers in Bryan's National Guard unit, C Company, first battalion of the 143rd Infantry, are claiming they have been either transferred, forced to resign, or relieved of command over an investigation into Guard corruption.

The corruption involves a platoon detachment of C company that is stationed in Cameron.

During the unit's two-week training midsummer at Fort Chaffee, Arkansas, many of the minority soldiers from Cameron signed sworn statements that the full-time armory technician, Sgt. John Lansford used the military 2 1/2 ton truck for hauling garbage from his personal place of business. Some statements said checks were sent to the armory instead of to the troops' homes, and that some were never received by the men in question.

Others wrote about men being fined in cash in amounts of up to \$50 for missing the weekend drills or not having haircuts.

1st Lt Pat Phillips, who was the Cameron commander until a transfer, said there was no record of any fines other than one \$25 fine in the records.

The guard has maintained that due to an ongoing investigation of Lansford, the records were not subject to the Texas Open Records law.

However, sources in the highest command levels of the Texas National Guard in Austin have said the investigation has been completed for some time.

Other charges have concerned fraudulent enlistments. One black member of the Cameron detachment, L.V. Miller, was found mentally incompetent by an Air Force military judge to stand trial. Miller said Lansford helped him pass the recruiting test.

"He said I didn't score high enough, but he'd help me anyway," Miller said.

Examination of medical records reveal a forgery of documents allowing a diabetic to enter the Guard.

Texas Adjutant General, Maj. Gen Willie Scott said that an investigation is under-

way and is being conducted by the Guard's Inspector General's office. The primary investigator is Col. O.B. Franks.

Franks' investigation has come under fire by Cpt. Bruce A. Olson, former C company commander. Olson claims Franks is racially biased.

The personnel removed from C Company include 1st Sgt. Richard Crawford, a special forces-trained Vietnam veteran; Cpt. Olson; his executive officer, 1st Lt Leslie Lyons, a Texas A&M University alumnus; 1st Lt. Phillips, and 2nd Lt. Doug Graham, both of whom also attended Texas A&M.

Cpt. Fermin Miranda, head technician for the first battalion, said Crawford was fired for inefficiency.

Crawford maintains he was fired for "pressing for an investigation into technician inconsistencies, and recruiting and hiring irregularities."

Cpt. Olson said the 36th Brigade commander, Col. James Herbert fired him for "supporting my 1st sergeant."

The first battalion commander, Lt. Col. Richard Perot, said that Olson, and Lyons, who had gone to the Governor's Office seeking an investigation of Col. Franks, were both being transferred from C company "as a matter of normal career progression."

"I've had my eye on them for a long time."

I regarded it as a promotion to ask them to join my staff," he said.

However, tape-recorded conversations reveal the reason Olson was fired by Col. Herbert was because Olson had attended a court hearing when Crawford attempted to get an injunction against being fired. Herbert termed Olson's action "disloyalty."

Lyons' visit to the Governor's Office was described by Herbert as "bordering on gross insubordination."

Lt. Phillips was transferred from C Company during the November '79 drill to what he described as a "nothing" job with the combat support company.

"It isn't the transfer that I question so much," said Phillips, "It's the timing."

Lt. Doug Graham was relieved of all duties during the next month for what Perot termed "a conflict of interest."

He said Graham's attempt to secure records through the Texas Open Records law was "out of place," and could not be tolerated.

Captain Bruce Olson, who commanded the paratroop unit until November, 1979, said he has been relieved of command for "supporting my first sergeant in pressing for investigation of technician irregularities."

He and Crawford are anticipating filing a joint civil action suit against the Guard in Houston civil court.

Plane falters on takeoff

No injuries were reported in a ground incident involving a Rio Airways plane at Easterwood Airport Thursday morning.

The right landing gear collapsed as the DeHavilland Twin Otter taxied prior to take-off, setting the plane down on the right side of the fuselage, Federal Aviation Administration investigator Travis Boren said.

Thirteen passengers were on board Rio Flight 316, headed for Dallas, when the accident occurred at about 11:30 a.m., Rio

president Mark Connell said. The passengers were put on other flights later in the day.

H.E. Raisor, aviation services manager at Texas A&M University, said the failure was caused by "metal fatigue in the landing gear." He explained this as being similar to when a piece of metal is bent in the same place several times, finally resulting in a break.

Boren estimated repairs to the 19-seat plane will cost \$15,000-18,000.