

state

# Dallas policeman's killer appeals to Supreme Court

WASHINGTON — Randall Dale Adams, convicted and sentenced to death in Texas for killing a police officer, took his case to the Supreme Court and challenged a statute allowing exclusion of certain prospective jurors in his case.

On Monday a lawyer for Adams urged the high court to overturn his death sentence on grounds potential jurors were not allowed on the jury in violation of guidelines established in 1968 by the Supreme Court.

Attorney Melvyn Carson Bruder said the statute broadens the circumstances under which a prospective juror may be excluded. It allows the striking of citizens unable to swear their deliberations will not be affected by the death penalty.

"I don't think any self-searching person will say anything but, 'Of course, this will affect my deliberations,'" Bruder said.

Bruder told the high court that prospective jurors were excluded from Adams' trial based on their response to taking the oath.

Adams was convicted and sentenced to die for the murder of a police officer in Dallas on Nov. 28, 1976.

While all those disqualified were unable to swear that they would not be affected in their deliberations, those prospective jurors all stated they would not automatically vote against the death penalty regardless of the evidence in the case.

In its 1968 ruling known as the Witherspoon doctrine, the Supreme Court said jurors troubled by the death penalty may be excluded if it

established they would automatically vote against it.

The NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Inc., which represents condemned prisoners, estimates a ruling in the case would affect about half of the 52 death cases upheld by the Texas courts.

In other action Monday, the Supreme Court agreed to consider whether a Texas man may be sued for an alleged conspiracy even though a named co-conspirator was a state judge immune from suit for his official actions.

## Texans seen for Reagan

United Press International  
AUSTIN — Gov. Bill Clements said Tuesday former California Gov. Ronald Reagan has strong support in Texas and has an excellent chance of beating President Carter in the state.

Clements, however, would not speculate on what impact former Gov. John Connally would have if he chose to endorse Reagan. Connally,

who dropped out of the GOP presidential primary race two weeks ago, was to appear with Reagan in Longview Tuesday.

Still Clements said he would not comment until Connally officially endorsed Reagan.

"Let's wait until he does it," he told reporters at an informal news conference outside his office.

# President of junior college says fund increase needed

AUSTIN — The Legislature for the past six years has failed to keep pace with inflation in the funding of junior colleges, and as a result the colleges are heading for serious financial problems, the president of Midland College said Tuesday.

"We have lost ground in real dollars in the last three sessions of the Legislature," Al G. Langford told a special House subcommittee on

junior college funding.

"The Legislature gives us an inflation factor of 5.1 percent, when the inflation rate is 13.3 percent, so you can see we're losing ground fast."

Langford is among three junior college presidents on the special committee which will study the cur-

rent formula for distributing state aid to junior colleges, and recommend changes to the 1981 Legislature.

Langford suggested the state continue using its present funding formula, but increase the inflation factor to keep pace with the actual rate of inflation.

Langford also complained that pay for junior college teachers is falling behind that of other educators, and noted Gov. Bill Clements has said he will recommend a 3.4 percent pay increase in January for state employees, including senior college and university instructors.

## Sailor adrift three weeks

GALVESTON — A tanker en route to a Houston refinery picked up a sailor who had been adrift in a boat in the Gulf of Mexico for 23 days, the Coast Guard said Tuesday, describing the survivor as "fairly good shape."

A Coast Guard spokesman said Kenneth Enoe, 30, of Jamaica, was picked up for lost after he disappeared on the Marvina on March 2.

Enoe was seen Monday drifting in the Gulf 200 miles southwest of New Orleans by the crew of the tanker We Navigator, a U.S. flag vessel.

Coast Guard spokesman Joe Gibbons said Enoe had drifted 90 miles southwest of where he abandoned ship. The search for Enoe was suspended March 7.

## Trial judge biased, legislator charges

AUSTIN — The chairman of the Mexican-American Legislative Caucus demanded Tuesday that Judge Woodrow Seals disqualify himself from a Houston suit concerning free public education for illegal aliens on grounds he is prejudiced against Mexican-Americans.

Rep. Paul Moreno, D-El Paso, said Seals had stated the Spanish language is not worthy of being taught in Texas schools, and that "nothing of worldwide importance has ever been written in Spanish."

Moreno said that remark is sufficient to disqualify Seals from the case.

"The chief function of a judge is

to administer justice. No judge with such a deep bias that has direct relevance to the case he is to hear should permit himself to sit," Moreno said in a printed statement.

He said Seals should have disqualified himself from hearing the case before the trial began, or at the time he discovered his bias.

"The judge's comments cast doubt on his integrity and the integrity of the process he is supervising. Furthermore, considering the importance of the Spanish language and Spanish speakers to the political and economic life of the state of Texas, the judge's comments are dangerously ignorant," Moreno said.

"If you're going to give senior college faculties and state employees a 3.4 percent pay increase in the middle of the biennium, why not give it to community college employees?" he said.

Rep. Jerry Donaldson, D-Gatesville, cautioned Langford and the other junior college officials not to be too optimistic about getting a funding increase from the 1981 Legislature, however. He said the Legislature will have to watch its spending carefully next year to avoid a tax increase.

"It would be easy enough to come up with a formula the junior colleges could live with," he said. "But we've got to look at it in terms of reality. There's not going to be any \$3 billion surplus when the Legislature convenes in January."



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