

State/ Nation

Feminists resolve to thwart Reagan's bid for presidency

United Press International
SAN ANTONIO — The Republican Party's rejection of the Equal Rights Amendment warrants feminist picket lines at every future campaign appearance by Ronald Reagan or George Bush, National Organization for Women delegates decided Sunday.

Reagan's stance on feminist issues is "medieval," the 1,500 delegates declared.

The delegates to NOW's annual national conference gave a backhanded boost to President Carter's campaign and a setback to the independent effort of Illinois congressman John Anderson.

While NOW made no endorsement of a presidential candidate, delegates voted to withdraw an earlier stance opposing Carter's re-election effort. The delegates also officially put NOW's stamp of approval on the Democratic Party platform plank dealing with women's rights.

An effort by Catherine East, the Anderson campaign's director of women's issues, to include endorsement of the Anderson platform in the resolution was rejected.

The delegates approved a five-part resolution aimed at curtailing Reagan's bid for the presidency. The resolution stated NOW members would:

- "Actively oppose the election of Ronald Reagan as President, and work in every state to ensure that he does not receive 270 Electoral College votes.
- "Expose to the public Reagan's medieval stance on women's issues through national action in the form of pickets wherever Reagan and/or (Republican vice presidential candidate George) Bush appear anywhere in the United States.
- "Launch an unceasing campaign to turn out votes for our friends in Congress and in the state legislatures.
- "Endorse the Democratic platform as it pertains to women's rights.

Profits tempt moonshiners

Marijuana farming booms

United Press International
MUSKOGEE, Okla. — Farmers on the remote, hilly farms of eastern Oklahoma, Arkansas, Missouri, Tennessee and northeast Texas once raised corn to be brewed into moonshine. Today they are growing marijuana and turning it into cash.

The contemporary moonshiner is not necessarily an updated Snuffy Smith operating a one-man still and cussing the "revenooers." He more likely is a middle-aged farmer who, weary of watching his legitimate profits shrivel during the years, uses his heavy equipment to cultivate tons of marijuana and has his sons guard the crop with shotguns.

The tempting profits, as much as \$400,000 a ton, and the independent attitude of rural people in general make marijuana a booming business among farmers.

Walter Zablocki of the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration said, "We find most (of the marijuana farmers), especially along the Red River, in southeastern Oklahoma, Arkansas, East Texas, have a criminal background like liquor violations. A lot of them are old-timers who were into bootlegging and moonshining back in Prohibition.

"At \$100 to \$120 a pound (wholesale), you get a hell of a lot better price than soybeans. We're finding more large-scale, sophisticated operations all across the country. These aren't people scattering a few seeds and coming back later to harvest them."

Fred Means, chief enforcement officer of the Oklahoma Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs, said, "In terms of quantity and quality, the operations have improved in the last two to three years. These fields are intensely cultivated, fertilized, tended almost constantly. There are armed guards posted. It's like trying to sneak up on a moonshine still."

In addition to the profit, several factors make marijuana farming alluring to old-timers. The locals in places like northeast Texas and "Little Dixie," the southeast corner of Oklahoma, have reputations as being somewhat ornery and disdainful of the law to begin with. And compared to smuggling pot from Mexico, growing it on the south 40 is not that great a risk.

Means said the area's geography also is conducive to pot farming.

"It's remote, hilly," he said. "The people don't trust outsiders and don't like lawmen. The people there almost have a romantic attitude toward outlaws. That's where outlaws like the James brothers and Belle Starr and the Dalton gang hid out.

State and county authorities raided two farms in mid-September near Muskogee, the town immortalized in a country song by Merle Hag-


gard with the line, "We don't smoke marijuana in Muskogee."

But they do grow it in Muskogee. Officers found evidence a \$5 million crop had been recently harvested. Two brothers, both lifetime area residents, were arrested.

"Instead of planting corn this year, it looks like they decided to plant marijuana," assistant Muskogee County District Attorney John Walton said. "We're talking about literally tons on tons. This was high-grade stuff, a hybrid called sinsemilla. It would sell on the street for \$3,000 a pound."

In Tennessee, where summer heat burned the state's chief crops to a crisp, authorities in September swooped down on several rural pot fields, confiscating \$100 million in marijuana. Lawmen said the plots were screened by rows of corn or other crops and were spotted from the air.

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Effort to end transit strike fails

United Press International
DALLAS — A federal mediator met with striking Dallas Transit System workers but the effort failed to end a work stoppage that has crippled the city's only mass transit system.

Some 700 bus drivers, mechanics and cleaners walked off their jobs Wednesday to protest what they regard as poor Dallas Transit System management, abusive supervisors, demeaning pay and working conditions, and new work policies regarding attendance and emergency service.

B.J. Simmons, president of the Amalgamated Transit Union Local 1388, said he and a group of striking workers met for two hours Saturday with Vincent Guy, a federal mediator based in Dallas.

Guy would not discuss the meeting in detail, but said he told the workers he could not become officially involved because the dispute did not involve federal matters.

Cliff Franklin, general manager of the Dallas Transit System, said "We see no reason for the federal mediation. We're always ready to discuss things with the union, but we see no need for federal involvement."

Franklin said weekend bus service was not hurt as severely as it was during the week, because far fewer citizens used the buses.

Bus service to the Dallas Cowboys-New York Giants game Sunday was scaled down considerably, transit officials said.

Simmons said, however, the Dal-

las Transit System would be found in violation of federal law if it conducted the sports service while neglecting regular routes.

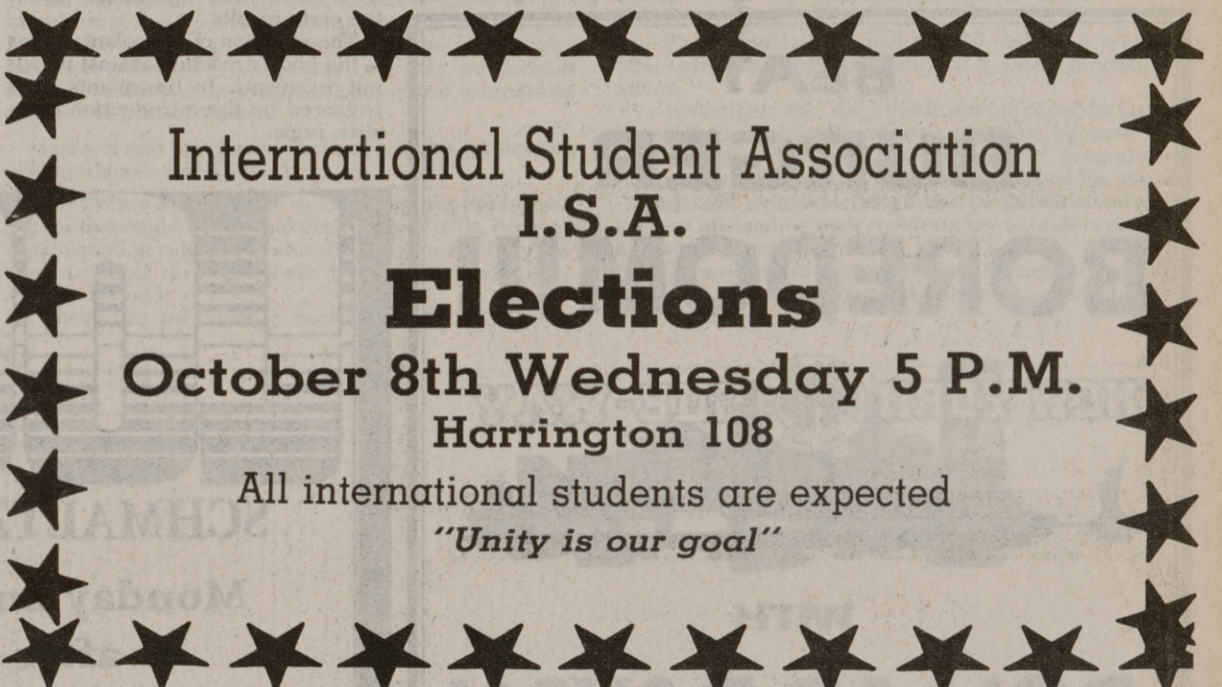
The transit system has threatened to fire any employee who misses five consecutive days of work — a policy which could affect all striking workers by Wednesday.

Dallas Transit System spokesman Jerry Johnson said: "We don't like to

call it firing. In effect, it's job abandonment." Union leaders have not been impressed with the mass firing threats, saying the strike effort gained strength daily.

Transit system figures on the number of drivers reporting for work bolstered the union's contention that the picket lines were being honored by an increasing number of workers.

An unprecedented mass meeting of members of the four Dallas municipal employee associations — the Dallas Police Association, the Dallas Professional Fire Fighters Association, the Dallas Public Employees Association and the Dallas Amalgamated Transit Union — will be held Tuesday to discuss ways other unionized city workers can help the bus drivers.



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