

Gramm survives 'political revolution'



Rep. Phil Gramm

By BECKY SWANSON
Battalion Staff

Congressman Phil Gramm was one of the luckier Democrats Tuesday. Unlike many of his less conservative counterparts, the Sixth District representative is returning to Washington for another term in the midst of what he terms "a political revolution."

Gramm defeated David "Buster" Haskins, who ran on the Republican ticket but did little campaigning. In a telephone interview from Washington Wednesday, Gramm said he believed the election signaled a "massive philosophical shift" of the American people. "The American people finally decided that the country was in trouble and they voted for a change," he said.

Every major liberal up for re-election was defeated, Gramm said, but of the 35 most conservative Democrats in office, 34 were re-elected by large margins. "Conservative Democrats with broad political bases were not affected by this philosophical shift," he said, "because they were already where the American people wanted them to be."

Gramm said the four senior members of the House Commerce Committee he serves on were ousted in

Tuesday's election, leaving him as the senior Texan on the committee and one of the senior members. The Commerce Committee deals with health, energy, transportation, and communication issues. Gramm also serves on the House Energy and Power, Health and Environment and Veterans subcommittees.

Working to form a bi-partisan coalition to balance the federal budget was one of his major projects in the last session, Gramm said. This session he said he plans to expand the coalition and work on a plan to balance the budget during a two-year cycle by slowing down the growth of federal programs and cutting some programs.

Gramm said he could support the Reagan-Kemp-Roth tax cut bill which proposes a \$31 billion tax cut, if it is accompanied by a 50 percent spending cut. "Without those spending cuts, it would be very difficult for me to support it," Gramm said.

Other major legislation Gramm said he would like to see passed in the coming session includes stimulation of energy production, deregulation of the natural gas industry and eliminating Department of Energy em-

ployees whose job it was to regulate the oil industry. "We need to junk at least half of the Department of Energy and eliminate 7,000 employees whose job it was to regulate the oil industry," Gramm said. Since oil deregulation will be completed by September 1981, he said, those employees should be eliminated from the government payroll.

Another major project the Congress will undertake in 1981 is rewriting the Clean Air Act, Gramm said. Although he foresees no "wholesale gutting" of environmental laws, Gramm said he feels this will be a "real opportunity to look at the costs and benefits" of environmental regulations. Gramm said some regulations cost more to the consumer in the form of higher prices than they are worth in environmental benefits.

All groups involved in environmental issues will have an opportunity to present their views before Congress rewrites the bill, including industry and environmentalists, Gramm said.

The congressman said the new administration will place a higher priority on veterans programs. Gramm criticized President Carter, saying, "At times, President Carter has put a higher premium on social welfare

programs than veterans programs," opposing "at least a half a dozen well-needed veterans programs, but the Congress prevailed."

"President Carter vetoed pay raises for Veterans Administration doctors," he said, but the Congress did override the veto because the VA was having a hard time recruiting and retaining good doctors for VA hospitals because of competition with the private sector.

Gramm also said that the armed forces were having problems with recruiting and retention. When asked if there would be a pay raise for the military, Gramm answered, "I don't think there's any doubt about it — there will be."

He said an increase in pay and bonuses for highly skilled positions such as pilot and mechanic will help recruiting and retention efforts.

"If you have the best equipment in the world, it won't do you a bit of good if you don't have people who know how to operate it," he said.

Gramm said he hopes the Congress and the President can work together to get more accomplished in the next session.

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The Weather

Yesterday		Today	
High	80	High	85
Low	56	Low	59
Rain	0.00 inches	Chance of rain	0%

Reagan begins policy planning

LOS ANGELES — Ronald Reagan has had two days to reflect on his landslide election and, far from wanting a rest, is now "chomping at the bit" to begin his term as the 40th president.

The still-jubilant president-elect, showing no fatigue from his arduous year-long run for the White House, met reporters Thursday for the first time since his victory over President Carter and outlined some of his views, from negotiations with the Soviet Union to a role for running mate George Bush.

Some of his proposals will be shaped quickly into legislation because Reagan expects to be an activist president. He already is drafting a number of proposals and executive actions for submission as soon as he takes office.

Reagan also said he expects to name his Cabinet by the end of the month or early December.

Reagan, who at 69 will be the oldest first-term president, originally planned to rest for a while before plunging into his new job. But those plans lasted about 48 hours, aides said, and were junked because the Californian became eager to start in on the task before him.

"He's chomping at the bit," one aide said. Reagan, who had no public events scheduled for today, was to stay at his ranch near Santa Barbara much of next week, reading briefing papers and meeting with advisers.

After that he is expected to jet back and forth to Washington to consult with his transition team.

That team will be directed by Edwin Meese and William Casey, two trusted advisers who will play a large role in shaping the personality of Reagan's administration.

A foreign policy transition team also will begin working and will include three

Democrats: Sens. Henry Jackson of Washington and Richard Stone of Florida and Washington attorney Edward Bennett Williams.

Their inclusion is in keeping with Reagan's emphasis on having a bipartisan foreign policy that will, according to the next president, have a decidedly different approach to negotiating with the Soviet Union.

"I believe in linkage," Reagan told the reporters. The term means Reagan will not divorce such concerns as human rights and communist expansion from talks on arms reductions.

Officially, the Carter foreign policy saw no link between the SALT talks and Soviet aggression.

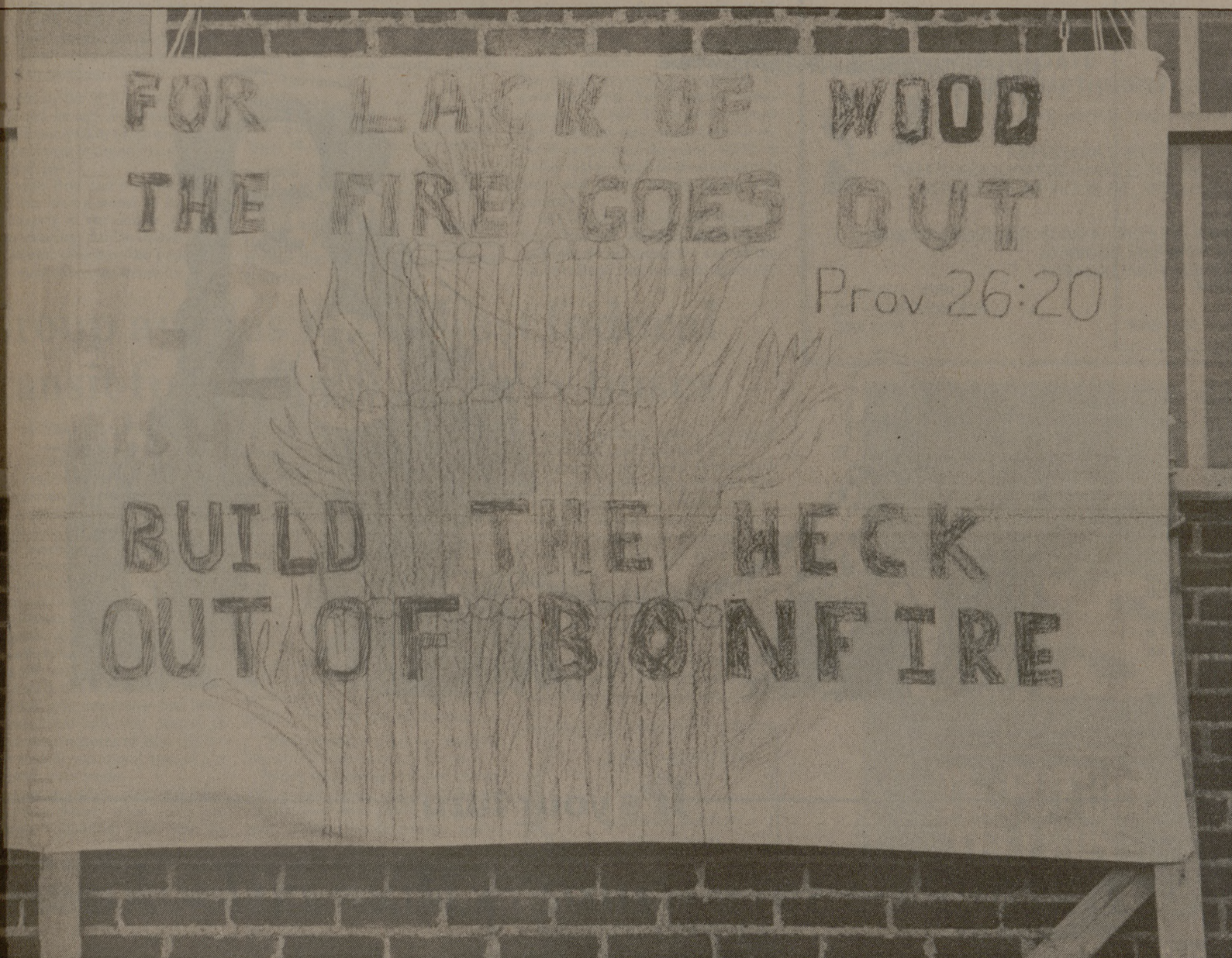
"I don't think you simply sit down at the table with the Soviet Union to discuss arms limitation without regard to other factors," Reagan said.

As for some personal role in the Iranian hostage crisis, Reagan is adamant. "The president is still the president," he said. "We want to make it perfectly plain that we are not going to intrude and we are going to recognize the fact that this administration is still in office."

On other subjects:

— Reagan said he is committed to the conservative GOP platform. "It would be very cynical and callous of me now to suggest that I'm going to turn away from it," he said when asked if he intends to obey its call for an anti-abortion amendment to the Constitution. He said he believes those who voted for him "must have believed in the platform also."

— He said he would solicit advice from all his supporters, including the fundamentalist Moral Majority. "I'm not going to separate myself from the people who elected us."



Strong sentiments

Freshmen of Company H-2 express enthusiasm to work on the bonfire in this spirit banner quoting the Bible. The big push to work on the bonfire

begins this weekend due to the open weekend for football and the deadline to get the bonfire ready before the Texas game.

Staff photo by Pat O'Malley

Caperton ready to go after win

By USCHI MICHEL-HOWELL
Battalion Staff

Kent Caperton, Democratic Party victor Tuesday's general election, says he "is ready to go to work."

"This large margin of victory is very gratifying and I appreciate the support of the voters," Caperton, who won the District 5 late Senate seat, said.

"We anticipated to win, but didn't think we would win by such a wide margin."

The first part of work that Caperton will engage in will be the building of his staff. Caperton said he is considering Roger Miller, former assistant to the president at Texas A&M University, as his administrative aide.

"Education is high on my list," Caperton said. He wants to increase teacher salaries in primary and secondary education and boost the salaries of university personnel. Senior citizens and the passage of a generic drug bill are also important to him, he said.

Caperton received about two-thirds of the vote in Tuesday's election. Republican candidate N.A. McNeil refused any statement about the outcome.

"Until I have evidence from all the counties as to who won I will not make a statement," McNeil said Wednesday afternoon. "The only statement he did make was formal and without reference to the outcome of the race in Brazos County or the district. The American people have made a choice. I am glad to have made a contribution to the political process. It was a learning experience for me and I thank those who supported me."

Election causes no change in Iranian hostage crisis

United Press International

A spokesman for Iranian Premier Mohammad Ali Rajai said today the election of Ronald Reagan as president of the United States will not affect the issue of the American hostages.

The spokesman, quoted by Tehran radio in a broadcast monitored in Beirut, said: "American presidential elections concern America alone and do not interest Iran."

Asked whether Reagan's election would affect the issue of the hostages, the spokesman said: "The question of the hostages will take its normal course and will not be affected at all by the results of the American elections."

To win the most concessions from Washington, the Iranian fundamentalist Republican Party newspaper urged in an editorial last week that terms for the release of the captives be agreed on before the elections. Iran's parliament Sunday then approved four conditions, but no public response came from Washington.

Iran, voicing impatience over the delay in getting an answer to its demands — pledge of noninterference in Iran's affairs, unfreezing Iranian assets in U.S. banks, a move to return the late shah's wealth, and dropping all legal claims against Iran — said Tuesday it asked intermediary Algeria to press for a prompt reply.

Iran's Foreign Ministry stipulated the reply should be issued "through the mass media" — a demand promptly rejected in Washington.

"We are not going to be negotiating through the press," State Department spokesman John Trattner said.

Prime Minister Mohammad Ali Rajai, in an interview with Iranian TV and radio Tuesday, said a U.S. note arrived in Tehran before the official translation of the Majlis demands reached Washington.

"Mr. Carter has sent us a statement concerning some generalities but which did not address the issue of our conditions," Rajai said.

As the hostages moved into their second day of their second year of captivity, there was no certainty on when they would be released from their 368-day ordeal.

West Germany's ambassador in Tehran, Gerhard Ritzel, who met with Iranian Prime Minister Rajai Monday, said in an interview in the Berlin newspaper Der Abend that a release was "at least 10 days away."

Trattner at the State Department said the United States was studying the official list of conditions and reported they did not appear substantially different from the conditions publicly announced by the Iranian parliament Sunday.

Although the government Monday accepted "responsibility" for the hostages from the militants who have been their captors for the past year, Rajai said the Americans had not physically changed hands "because the necessary steps have not been taken."

Asked whether he thought the United States would give a positive reply to Iranian demands, Rajai said, "since they claim to be willing to resolve the issue, they are bound to give a positive reply."

He also said that because of the media build-up, which has brought almost 200 journalists to the U.S. military complex at Wiesbaden, the hostages will probably not come to Frankfurt and Wiesbaden.

A U.S. official in Frankfurt said: "We have said again and again that a plan to bring the hostages to West Germany is just one of many contingencies."

"We have never said that hospitalization in Wiesbaden was our only plan."

Grad student injured

A Texas A&M University graduate student is in stable condition after he avoided hitting a University truck on his motorcycle and struck a median at University Drive and Agronomy Road Thursday morning.

James Delony was taken to St. Joseph Hospital in Bryan and treated for cuts and bruises. Hospital officials said Delony required surgery on his left hand and stitches in his head and left elbow.

College Station police said Delony was riding east on University Drive when a University-owned pick-up truck driven by Thomas Marshall turned on to Agronomy Road. Delony swerved to the left, struck a median and was thrown from the motorcycle, police reports said.

College Station police have not issued a

citation pending completion of their investigation.

A College Station ambulance arrived less than 10 minutes after the accident and witnesses helped move the rider and motorcycle out of traffic, police said.

Delony, a 1973 graduate of Texas A&M University, is a captain in the U.S. Army and is studying civil engineering.

"When I hit the median I leaped about 20 feet in the air, at least that's what people that were there said," Delony said.

"I hit the concrete and I really don't remember much. A doctor from out of town happened to be there and he helped me. I feel like hell — just terrible — but I guess I was lucky."

Transition panel to include Clements

United Press International

AUSTIN — Gov. Bill Clements said he was "honored" to be part of president-elect Ronald Reagan's transition team.

Clements said Thursday he would confer as quickly as possible with Reagan about Clements' role as a member of the interim foreign and defense policy board of Reagan's transition team.

In a statement, Clements said: "I am honored to be included in this group, and obviously, I want to help any way I can to assure as smooth a transition as possible."

Clements said: "I have my duties and responsibilities as governor, of course, and I can give only a certain limited amount of time."

Clements said the foreign and defense policy board would function at the policy

level to provide overview of foreign and defensive matters.

The governor said Mike Deaver, transition team deputy director, contacted him Thursday to inform him Reagan wanted him to participate in the transition planning.

"I am awaiting a call from Gov. Reagan to provide the specific details," Clements said. "I am honored to be included in this group. Texas is fortunate to have three members (Sen. John Tower, Anne Armstrong and Clements) on the board. That bodes well for the lines of communication Texas will have in the future with the Reagan administration."

Clements is a former deputy secretary of defense.

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 BY CINDY GEE
 and 130 pounds — will compete in the male beauty contest. They will
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