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Clayton survives Brilab — seeks 4th term as speaker

United Press International
AUSTIN — For House Speaker Bill Clayton, 1980 began on a good note, turned sour in midstream, and finally ended triumphantly.
The only man to serve three terms as speaker, Clayton, long before this decade emerged, announced he would seek an unprecedented fourth term. He had more than 100 pledges from the 150-member House, needing but 76 for re-election.
Then came the federal government's Brilab case, in which the Springlake farmer was accused of accepting a \$5,000 bribe. Clayton

admitted receiving the money but vehemently denied it was a bribe.
Soon Rep. Gib Lewis, D-Fort Worth, announced he would be a candidate if Clayton had to step aside. The other candidate, Rep. John Bryant, D-Dallas and a Clayton adversary, had officially announced his intentions shortly before Brilab broke.
Lewis and Bryant spent the late spring and summer sparring over the speaker's race, with each claiming he had the 76 votes needed to win the election. But while the haggling was going on, Clayton and his team of attorneys won acquittal in late October in a federal trial in Houston.
Lewis dropped out of the race, and three days after the Nov. 3 general election Clayton made public a list containing 98 pledges.
And with the opening of the 67th Legislature on Jan. 13, Clayton looks invincible.
But John Bryant is not quite ready to give up the struggle.
He concedes he has only "a slim chance" to win election on Jan. 13, but he also stresses he has a responsibility to the 40 or 50 supporters he has. He stops short of saying whether he'll put his name up for nomination the opening day of the session and force the members to vote.
"As long as the people who are

supporting me want me to be a candidate, I will stay in," he said. "Someone has to stand up to what's fixing to happen — no one should serve four terms."
Clayton said he "imagines" Bryant will continue to be a candidate but said he was not concerned the Dallas legislator's candidacy would pose any potential disruption.
Bryant also said he does not plan to organize any anti-speaker coalition to lead opposition to Clayton throughout the session.
"I don't have any plans of any kind," he said. "I will continue to speak about issues of importance, but there isn't any set plan."
Bryant also insists he is a candidate because Clayton's power should be challenged, not because he wants to cut a deal with the speaker to gain some power in the House.
"I'm not interested in being chairman of any committee," he said.
Bryant, who said he will keep his options open regarding another speaker's race in 1983, said he thought his candidacy had accomplished something, if not victory.
"The way this system is set up, four terms is not good for public policy," he said. "That's why I became a candidate: To offer a challenge to the speaker's power."



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Switch can spell success Gospel goes to Nashville

United Press International
NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Another one bites the dust.
For ages, Nashville's country and pop crowd has regarded gospel singers with something approaching disdain — almost untouchables. Now gospel singers are recognizing that "crossing over" is not the same as violating one of the Ten Commandments.
The Oak Ridge Boys started out as a gospel group and proceeded to go nowhere as far as financial success is concerned. It took the group's members nearly a quarter-century, but finally they let their hair down, put on some snappy clothes and began singing pop-country. The result was immediate monetary reward.
Getting songs played on the radio — thus improving the cash flow — is an eye-opener in the music industry. The Oak Ridge Boys' success was not overlooked by The Rangers, the newest gospel group to bite the dust.
Brothers Terry, Wally and Jerry Gilmore have been on the road together nearly all their lives without attracting much attention.
One of the songs off their gospel album mysteriously began getting played by Chicago radio stations.
Because the song won them some new listeners,

the Rangers decided it was time to broaden their scope and hit the country music market, partly because they enjoyed being in the musical heart of Nashville.
They also liked singing country songs.
It wasn't a hasty decision. The members of the group took a year off from the road to visit the country music industry and rehearse a new show. They listened to material, met and talked with people in the business, and watched the best were taking place in the business before hitting the road again.
"We really weren't afraid of alienating our fans," says Jerry. "That's not something you do to make the switch."
"Country audiences don't normally go to music shows, but gospel listeners do, especially Jerry, who also raises registered coon dogs and the world champion coon dog, Bean Blossom, since 1976.
"We just wanted to expand our audience by changing all that much," says Wally, a self-proclaimed pool shark.
The Rangers were named "Ambassadors of Gospel" for their home state of Alabama, and performed in every prison in the state at the request of former Gov. George Wallace.

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WHERE THE BUFFALO ROAM

Duck held 'hostage'
United Press International
NEWPORT, Maine — Gerald Denicola says he'll be having roast goose instead of duck for Christmas dinner, which should be good news to the hostage he's been holding for nearly nine months.
Denicola captured neighbor Edward Schneller's duck April 22 and has refused to return it until Schneller comes up with 25-cents-a-day ransom for the bird's board.
"Nope, we're not giving it up," Denicola said Sunday. "I usually not much to eat."
Denicola said he nabbed the duck because it was trespassing on his vegetable garden, eating the plants and seedlings that were provided food for himself and seven children.

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