

State

Returned hostages offer Groundhog Phil sees shadow Monday thanks for Texas prayers

United Press International
DALLAS — The support of the American people throughout their 44-day ordeal was a great source of strength not only to the 52 American hostages, but also to their families, Navy Lt. Cmdr. Robert Engelmann and well-wishers in a ceremony on the steps of City Hall.

In thanking his "fellow Texans," Engelmann said although he and Marine Sgt. Johnny McKeel Jr. were only two of the former hostages, he spoke for all 52 in "giving thanks to Texas and the people of Dallas-Fort Worth for their thoughts and prayers during our ordeal in Iran."

"We will be forever in your debt," he said. Engelmann smiled for most of Monday's 20-minute ceremony,

marked by patriotism and prayer. Near-freezing temperatures and a crisp northerly wind kept the crowd smaller than expected at about 250.

The two were presented proclamations from their home counties. McKeel, looking haggard and suffering from a sore throat, had lost his voice.

Dallas Mayor Robert Folsom expressed McKeel's appreciation for the ceremony.

Both men were in uniform and McKeel was accompanied by his mother, Wynona, of Balch Springs. Engelmann, whose family has shunned publicity, was alone.

Barry Craft of the Dallas Civic Opera led the crowd in the Star Spangled Banner. The skirt of the

officials' platform was yellow, a huge yellow ribbon hung on the City Hall and Dallas policemen escorting the two ex-hostages wore yellow armbands.

Engelmann, of Hurst, was presented a plaque from the Tarrant County Commissioners Court for his courage. Commissioner Lynn Gregory, in reading the proclamation, noted while Engelmann was held prisoner by a "hostile government for 44 days, in violation of international law, his love and allegiance remained true."

Monday was proclaimed a day of rejoicing and thanksgiving in Dallas County in honor of McKeel. The proclamation read by Dallas County Judge Garry Weber referred to the "cruel and unusual punishment" the 52 hostages endured. Weber said the entire nation was held hostage during the ordeal and all Americans now feel a sense of relief.

Monday's ceremony also represented the "welcome we never got to give those returning from Vietnam," Folsom told the shivering crowd which was partially surrounded by flag bearers from various organizations. McKeel was honored by his hometown in a parade Saturday. Engelmann, who did not return home until Saturday, participated in the ticker tape parade for the hostages Friday in New York.

Armadillo, hogs split on vote

United Press International
HOUSTON — Since groundhogs are not native to Texas, the Hermann Park Zoo Monday observed the traditional Groundhog Day weather-predicting ceremony with a panel of two prairie dogs and an armadillo.

"We had a split decision," curator John Donoho of the children's zoo said. "The two prairie dogs were Sophie and Nikki. Sophie said winter was over, agreeing with the armadillo, Desdemona."

"Nikki said it's absolutely gonna be a terrible six weeks more. She would not come out (of her burrow), would stick her nose out, but that was it."

The temperature was in the 40s and the sun was shining when Donoho took his poll.

"I'm inclined to go with the armadillo," Donoho said. "The armadillo is a little more dependent on the weather than the prairie dog. It doesn't have a coat. If the weather isn't warm, it can't survive."

Asked why his panel split, Donoho said, "I don't know. That's just the animal business, I guess."

United Press International
PUNXSUTAWNEY, Pa. — Punxsutawney Phil saw his shadow today, and legend says that means we're in for six more weeks of winter. But, he's hedging a bit.

The groundhog climbed out of his hole at Gobblers Knob in Punxsutawney at 7:28 a.m., an appearance delayed somewhat by rain and snow.

Phil, wearing a yellow ribbon in honor of the freed American hostages, hedged his forecast a bit, predicting the rest of winter would be mild.

"That was because Phil couldn't quite make up his mind," Punxsutawney Groundhog Club president Charles Erhard said.

Erhard, himself, seemed a bit confused over how — or why — Phil was able to see his shadow.

On the one hand, he swore that in the midst of the rain and snow the sun popped out for about 30 seconds — long enough to prod Phil from his burrow. Others at the scene say they didn't see any sunshine and Erhard then suggested it may have been television lights.

About 150 people showed up to watch Phil make his forecast for the 94th time.

As in the past, the eyes of America were on Phil today, waiting for the critter to poke his furry nose from the burrow and tell us just how much longer winter will last.

Phil, the most famous resident of his west-central Pennsylvania hamlet, had another task at hand today.

The long-time Numero Uno of Groundhogs again had to ward off challengers to his throne as a host of little hogsters, such as Buckeye Chuck of Ohio, made their own forecasts and tried to deflate Phil's claim to fame.

In the past couple of years, members of the Groundhog Club, a booster group of sorts, have scoffed at the late-comers and defended their rodent against skeptics.

Erhard said other animal prognosticators, such as Buckeye Chuck, Wisconsin's Sun Prairie Dog and Oklahoma's Grizzly Bear, are "just Johnny-come-lately imposters."

The key to the whole Phil affair, his supporters insist is past performance.

Phil is "never, never wrong," said Erhard.

It's just a matter of figuring out what he's saying.

Republican defeated for state court gets nomination for appeals court

United Press International
AUSTIN — Republican Will Garwood, who only three months ago lost a bid for election to a full term on the Texas Supreme Court, now is in line for appointment to the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals.

Sen. John Tower, R-Texas, said Monday he has asked President Reagan to nominate Garwood, 49, to a place on the appellate court based in New Orleans. The nomination would require confirmation by the

U.S. Senate.

Tower is recommending Garwood for a new seat on the court, which was expanded by the omnibus courts bill approved by Congress in 1978.

"Will Garwood is eminently qualified by scholarship, experience and integrity to serve in our nation's appellate judiciary. His overall philosophy reflects a superb knowledge and appreciation of the Constitution so vital to fair-minded judicial interpretation," Tower said in announcing his recommendation.

Garwood was appointed by Gov. Bill Clements to the state Supreme Court in October 1979, and drew strong support from a bipartisan group in his bid for election to a full term on the court.

He was narrowly defeated in the November election by Democrat C. L. Ray, however, and returned to law practice.

He previously worked as a law clerk for the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals under Judge John F. Brown in 1955, and is the son of former Texas Supreme Court Justice W. St. John Garwood.

Republican sources said Tower will announce later this week he is recommending the president to appoint Rep. James Nowlin, R-San Antonio, as federal district judge.

The district judge seat has been vacant since the retirement in May of Judge Jack Roberts. State District Judge Pete Lowry of Austin was nominated by President Carter to the court, but failed to win confirmation before Reagan took office.

Nowlin, 42, is among the senior Republicans in the Texas Legislature. He began his seventh term last month.

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He is also sponsor of a bill that would make it more difficult for those who quit or are fired for misconduct to collect unemployment benefits.

Cleanup crews battling huge spill

United Press International
HOUSTON — Contract oil spill cleanup crews battling one of the largest spills in the history of the Houston Ship Channel Monday chased a 4,000-barrel patch of oil-water emulsion down the western

side of Galveston Bay, hoping to catch it before it could pollute any environmentally sensitive areas.

Vacuum truck and barge crews continued cleanup in Barbour's Cut, a man-made inlet off the ship channel, and along beaches at Shore Acres, a Galveston Bay community where some of the estimated 20,000 barrels of oil spilled from a ship collision Jan. 27 stained the coastline.

"They're working like hell down at the Shore Acres area and over in Barbour's Cut area," Coast Guard spokesman Doug Bandos said. "But the floater is our biggest problem and we're just kind of watching that one with helicopter."

"We anticipate it going to Dollar Point (south of Shore Acres). They're gonna send equipment down there, try to boom it off and trap it, if it misses it's gonna go to the dike at Texas City."

"Mother Nature is not helping us," Bandos said. "The wind keeps blowing and it's changing direction. Every time we figure out which way it's going, the wind changes direction and blows it another way."

"I'm not an environmentalist, but as far as I know, it hasn't really hit any really sensitive areas. It missed Atkinson's Island (a bird feeding area due east of the collision site). It went right on by it."

Three-thousand barrels of oil

were recovered at Shore Acres in a 24-hour operation Sunday and early Monday. Recovery at Barbour's Cut, where the bulk of the spill fell after the vessel was moored, was stopped overnight but resumed Monday.

Bandos said cleanup crews, which have cost the ship owners \$100,000 a day since Wednesday, went to work shortly after the accident and "very conservatively, I would say we have 40 percent of the thing picked up."

However, Bandos said estimating how much oil remained to be recovered was difficult because the spilled oil had emulsified in the wind-chopped bay waters and created a mess greater than the volume of the original spill.

Bandos said that, although the bulk of the spill was trapped inside Barbour's Cut, early estimates of oil escaping into the bay — 10 percent or 2,000 barrels — were too low.

"I think there was more out there than everybody thought," Bandos said.

An estimated 20,000 barrels of crude oil was spilled after the 365-foot chemical carrier Lucor Wieliffe tore a 12-foot gash in the left rear quarter of the 809-foot oil tanker area due east of the collision site. It went right on by it.

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Three-thousand barrels of oil

Teacher subs may lose benefits

United Press International
AUSTIN — A union official said today substitute teachers who have reasonable assurance of being re-employed will lose the right to collect unemployment compensation if the Senate passes a bill that gained committee approval.

The Senate Committee on Economic Development approved the bill over the protests of the Texas Federation of Teachers and the Texas AFL-CIO.

"Teachers would be the only class of people we have excluded by law," said Joe D. Gunn, secretary-treasurer of the state AFL-CIO. "It is a class that is certainly already at the bottom of the totem pole and probably has to struggle already."

He pointed out that unemployment compensation is insurance and is not collected except in proportion to how much the teacher has paid into it.

The bill's sponsor, Sen. Roy Blake, D-Nacogdoches, argued that it would exclude only those who are not working by their own choice.

June Karp of the Texas Federation of Teachers said that many substitutes are waiting for full-time employment as teachers.

"It was not the intent (of the Legislature) to pay teachers or substitutes if they had reasonable assurance they would have work," Blake said.

He is also sponsor of a bill that would make it more difficult for those who quit or are fired for misconduct to collect unemployment benefits.

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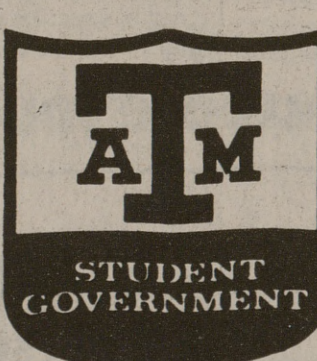
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