State officials cite flaws in Texas voting procedures

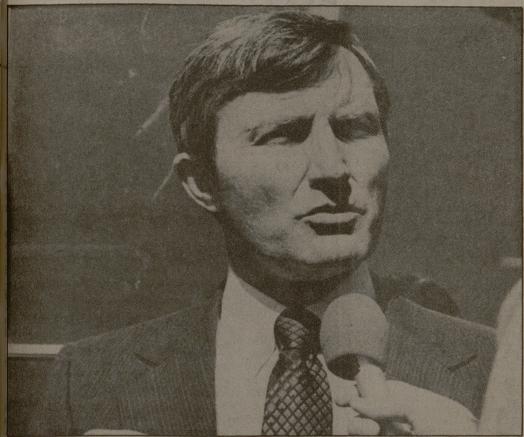


Photo by Steve Kennedy Texas Secretary of State George Strake was address the 9th Annual County and District in College Station Wednesday along with as- Clerks' Seminar.

By NANCY FLOECK

Battalion Reporter Inadequate Texas voting procedures should be corrected to pro- ity numbers. vide citizens with an efficient electoral system, two Texas officials told about 300 county clerks Wednesday morning.

County clerks and state officials are responsible for correcting them, said George Strake, secretary of state. And David Herdon, assistant secretary of state,

'We have a goal in common protecting the rights of each and every individual in the state of Strake said at the 9th annual County and District Clerks' Seminar

Speaking at the Ramada Inn in College Station, Strake said several areas of the electoral process in Texas are under attack for being

Herdon said the formula is designed to provide a flexible, objective guideline for allocating inefficient and delaying the voting machines among precincts.

Herdon agreed and said that social security numbers or driver license numbers on voter registration cards would help reduce registration duplications and frauds.

He said about 75 percent of voters voluntarily put their social

security numbers on their cards. Federal law prohibits requiring voters to record their social secur-

Driver license numbers or Department of Public Safety identifi-cation numbers could be used for the other 25 percent of voters, Herdon said.

"It would be a pretty simple means of catching duplicate registration," he said.

The allocation of voting machines in Texas precincts is also under attack, the two men said.

Sixteen counties, about 50 percent of the voting population, use these machines, Strake said. He said a formula for allocating the machines is being considered in the legislature

"It should do a lot to eliminate He said the accuracy of voter registration lists is a major factor in the state's electoral efficiency.

> Strake also said opposition to the punch-card voting system has grown since the November election, but two bills to ban them are being revised in the Texas legisla-

ture.
"I had nothing to do with any

legislation to ban that," he said. "I will not be a party to such a move." work together to devise long-The punch-cards are a financial burden to some precincts and must be carefully accounted for,

range solutions, not "simplistic, quick fixes" to voting problems.
"We must not allow ourselves to band-aid every little problem that but when used properly, Strake said, the system is highly effec-

surfaces," he said.

The clerks' co-operation and input is necessary to create the most perfect system man can construct, he said. Strake said it is important that state officials and county clerks



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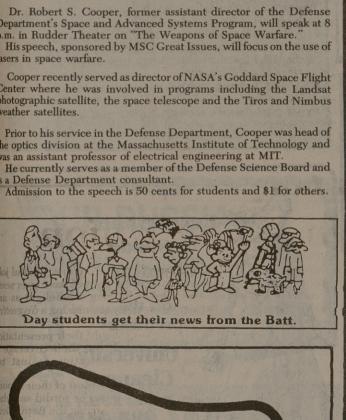
sistant Secretary of State David Herdon to

Department's Space and Advanced Systems Program, will speak at 8 p.m. in Rudder Theater on "The Weapons of Space Warfare. His speech, sponsored by MSC Great Issues, will focus on the use of

Center where he was involved in programs including the Landsat photographic satellite, the space telescope and the Tiros and Nimbus

Prior to his service in the Defense Department, Cooper was head of the optics division at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and was an assistant professor of electrical engineering at MIT.

a Defense Department consultant.







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