

State

Sun Belt coalition formed to fight Frost Belt

United Press International
HOT SPRINGS, Ark. — Two representatives and a former representative announced the formation of the Sun Belt Research Coalition to counteract what they led the dominance of northern states in Congress.

Anthony, D-Ark., and Charles Wilson, D-Tex., and former Rep. John Buchanan, R-Ala., announced the formation of the group Monday at a state Chamber of Commerce and Associated Industries of Arkansas meeting in Hot Springs.

The three men said the idea behind the coalition is to dispel erroneous public perceptions of the South created by members of the Northeast-Midwest coalition. Such misperceptions have enabled the coalitions from other areas to tilt federal fund-distribution formulas in their favor, they said.

The Sun Belt Council is made up of representatives from each of the 16 Sun Belt states, including Texas.

"For years, the Midwest and northeastern states have gotten a disproportionate share of the national income," Anthony said. "There's been a drain of federal dollars into the Frost Belt states." Wilson said northern congressmen "are operating under the myth that we in the Sun Belt are rich and prosperous and only the North and East are suffering economic hardship and need federal aid."

Anthony said an example of northern domination of Congress was the recent revision of federal policy on granting government contracts.

"It used to be that contracts would have to be based strictly on merit and price," he said. "Now, with the new amendment, the level of unemployment in a region can be taken into consideration. So even if an Arkansas company is the lowest bidder, a company in Detroit can get the contract if the unemployment rate there is higher. This leaves a lot of room for political maneuvering."

Another example of the congressional tilt toward the North is the block grant system of federal funding implemented by President Reagan, the congressman said. Since the block grants would distribute funds according to population more than per capita income, Anthony said, the more populous northern states could receive more federal aid than the South, even though the average income level in the Sun Belt is below the national average.

Anthony, Wilson and Buchanan said the research coalition will be a private entity separate from the Congressional Sun Belt Council, of which Buchanan is executive di-

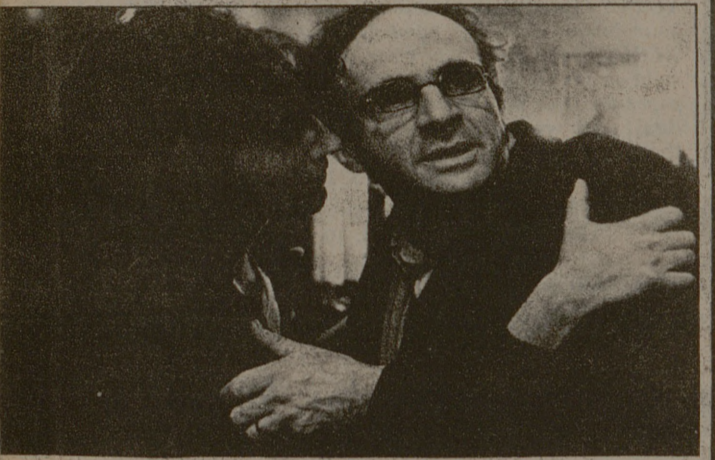
rector. However, members of the council will be automatically considered members of the coalition, they said.

The new coalition plans to seek contributions from corporations and individuals. Wilson said the funds would be a matter of public record.

Buchanan said the coalition hopes to raise about \$600,000 for its first year of operation. Members of the council are from Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, New Mexico, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas and Virginia.

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Motions to dismiss perjury charge filed

United Press International
AUSTIN — Attorneys representing Rep. Mike Martin, R-Longview, on charges of aggravated perjury have filed pre-trial motions requesting that the charges be dismissed because of technical faults in his indictment.

Martin is accused of lying to a Travis County Grand Jury when he said that he did not plan and stage his own shooting July 31 in an Austin trailer park.

Police said that Martin and his cousin, Charles Goff, staged the shooting to gain publicity and further Martin's chances of winning a Senate seat.

Martin originally said the shooting was the work of a satanic cult and later blamed the incident on "Gregg County politics."

In his motion to dismiss Martin's indictment, attorney Ken-

neth Houp Jr. said the oath given to Martin before he testified was defective because it was administered by former Assistant District Attorney Allen Hill.

Houp said the oath could be given by Hill only with the designation of the grand jury foreman. Since the foreman did not specifically grant the designation, Martin's testimony was unlawfully gathered, the motion said.

In a separate motion to suppress Martin's grand jury testimony, Houp argued that although Martin requested a lawyer during his testimony, the questioning continued — a violation of his constitutional rights.

The motion also contends that any offense committed by Martin resulted from entrapment by the state.

Bill Williams, the assistant dis-

trict attorney prosecuting Martin, said the entrapment allegation is intriguing and said a similar defense was used by former state Supreme Court Justice Don Yarbrough. Yarbrough was eventually convicted of perjury.


Motions filed by Martin's lawyers also say the indictment is defective because it does not specifically state that Martin knew of the official nature of the proceedings.

Rulings on the pre-trial motions in the case were set for Nov. 5, but both sides have agreed to a delay because Frank Maloney, Martin's principal attorney, is involved in another case in federal court.

District Judge Mace Thurman is expected to rule on Martin's motions when a new date is set for the pre-trial hearing.

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Father, son team charged in CBN embezzlement

United Press International
NORFOLK — A former employee of the Christian Broadcasting Network and his son are charged with embezzling at least

\$100,000 from the network. The federal grand jury indictment Monday charged George Allen Morgan with looting CBN of contributions by setting up trust

accounts in Dallas in the names of CBN's contributions department and individual donors.

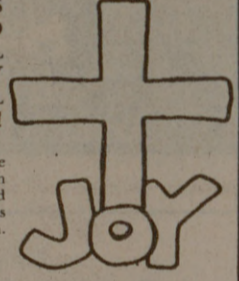
The indictment said Morgan, who listed himself as the only person who could draw on the accounts, deposited \$99,658 in three accounts between Aug. 17 and Sept. 16, 1977.

The indictment said Morgan set up the accounts without the knowledge of his superiors.

His son, Billy Allen Morgan, was accused of opening three checking accounts in a Fort Worth suburb in the name of Common Sense Investments. The indictment alleged that his father then drew checks on the Dallas accounts for deposit in the Common Sense accounts.

The two are also charged with selling donated CBN real estate to the son's wife for less than its assessed value.

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