

State

Clements announces re-election bid goals

United Press International
AUSTIN — Gov. Bill Clements, the first Republican in more than a century to govern Texas, Monday began his campaign for a second term by promising to continue what he termed a business-like approach to state government that has produced greater efficiency and a reduction of 25,000 state employees during his first term.

"The job of governor of the state of Texas requires a manager who is serious about our future — a job that can no longer be filled with career politicians," Clements said in an obvious reference to the line of Democratic politicians waiting to challenge him.

Clements, who spent parts of Monday and Sunday in the San Antonio-College Station area, said he plans to repeat this announcement at major cities throughout the state during the next three

days. He made it clear his fight to abolish the state property tax — which is not being collected at the present — will be a major issue in his re-election bid.

Clements said he will "fight like a cornered bear" to abolish prospects of the \$450 million annual tax for Texas property owners.

He said he received a message from voters in 1978 that they wanted state government to be run in a business-like way.

"You want accountability, good management and direction, with attention to goals and results instead of politics and bureaucracy as usual," he said. "You wanted incorruptible state government, run in a businesslike manner, for the benefit of all Texans."

"I still hear your message and this business-like approach to government has been my program and is my plan for the future. We have instilled business discipline into state government, though it often causes some bureaucrats discomfort."

Clements said he has stopped the growth of state government "dead in its tracks."

In his first campaign, he had set goals of a reduction of 25,000 in

the number of state employees and \$1 billion in tax relief.

He said those remain his goals, and claimed abolishing the state property tax would account for half the tax relief, and said he will propose a new state water plan to the 1983 Legislature that he also considers a tax relief step.

But Clements made it clear he is not overly concerned about the level of taxes in Texas.

"I don't think our tax situation in Texas is onerous," he said. "My polls show the people in Texas are not suffering a tax burden per se."

Clements, who spent \$7 million to win the governor's job in 1978, sidestepped questions about the budget for his re-election campaign, saying he will spend whatever amount is required to be competitive.

There has been speculation the Clements campaign budget could be as high as \$9.5 million, but Clements referred to that as a "not very educated guess."



Up, Up, and Away?

Staff photo by Colin Valentine

Actually, these girls are very down to earth. Stephanie Bilby, left, a junior marketing major from Bellaire, was promoting the next MSC Great Issues debate, the Moral

Majority vs. the American Civil Liberties Union, to Barbara Thorwegen, a junior geology major from Houston. The debate will be held tonight in Rudder Theater at 8:00.

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Union leaders asked for White House talks

United Press International
NEW YORK — President Reagan has invited top union leaders to a White House meeting in December, ending a long communications break between the two groups, AFL-CIO officials confirmed Monday.

However, at least one executive council member, William Winningsinger, Machinists Union president, said he would not meet with Reagan.

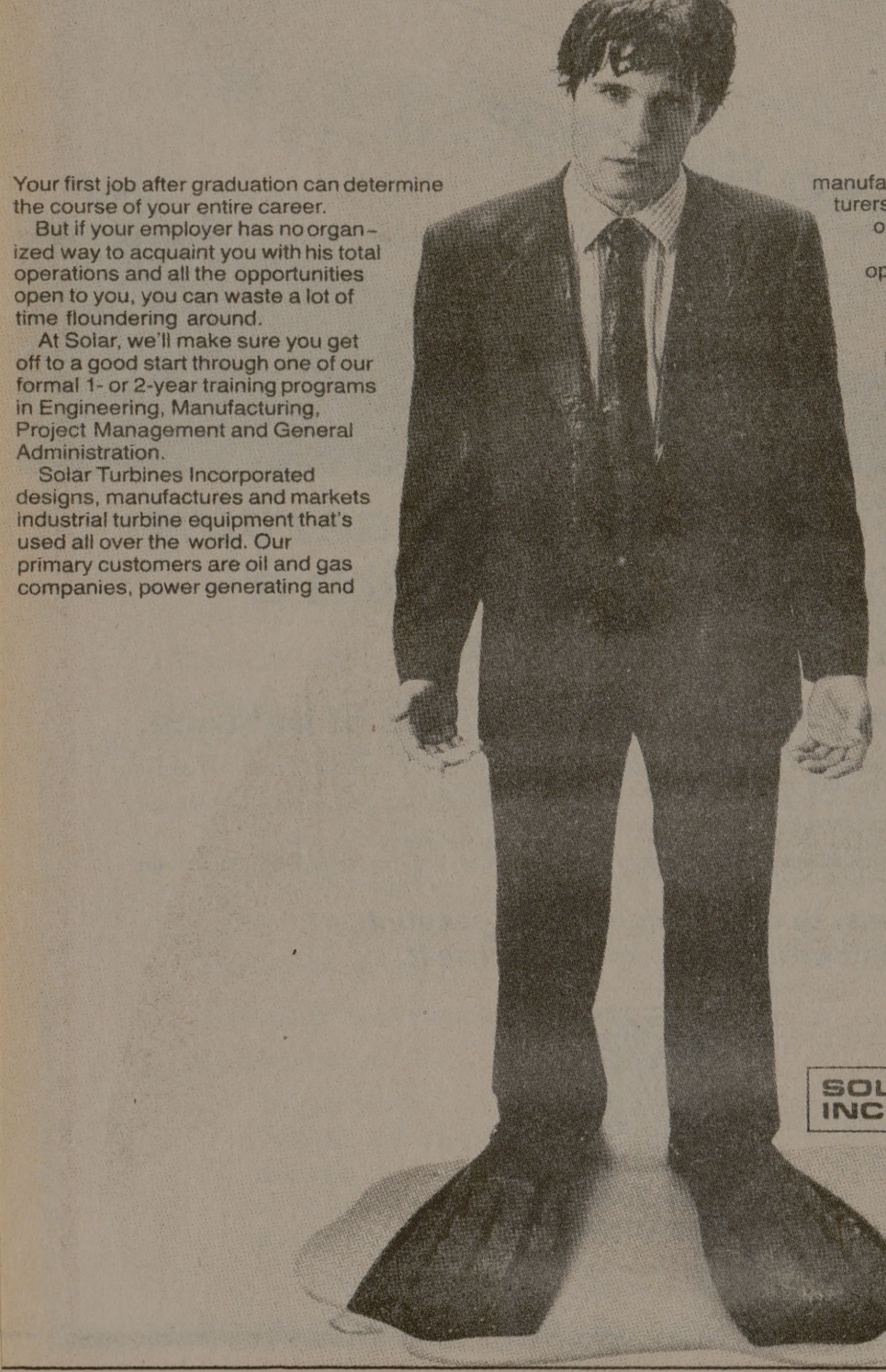
Sen. Edward Kennedy, D-Mass., will head the list of speakers along with House Speaker Thomas P. O'Neill.

The invitation came as the 15 million-member labor federation opened its biennial convention. AFL-CIO President Lane Kirkland is expected to lash out at administration economic and social policies in a keynote address at the convention.

Leaders of 102 unions, representing 15 million rank-and-file workers, will be emphasizing anti-administration rhetoric.

Unabashed, although still the minority in the halls of Congress and at the White House, organized labor senses a political upheaval among rank-and-file workers unhappy over the unemployment rate and high interest rates.

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