

Local / State

Reaganomics will be success, local CPA says

By DANIEL PUCKETT
Battalion Staff
Once the Reagan tax program takes full effect, it will revive the American economy, a former chamber of commerce president said Thursday night.

And in Brazos County, the program will contribute to the economic boom, Jim Ingram, former president of the Bryan-College Station Chamber of Commerce, said at the Aggieland Inn.

Speaking to about 35 members of the Chamber of Commerce, Ingram said the new tax law will bring a return of prosperity. He is a partner in the certified public accounting firm of Ingram, Wallis and Co.

The new law, the Economic Recovery Tax Act of 1981, will jolt the economy by encouraging the accumulation of capital in the private sector. And putting more money in private hands for investment will relieve the present mild recession, he said.

The recession, Ingram said, is due to businesses adjusting to high interest rates, and not to any defect in the Reagan economic program, in effect since Oct. 1, he said.

As it comes into effect over the next few years, Ingram said the new tax structure will encourage capital formation in the following ways:

- The lowering of all income

tax rates and the reduction in tax disadvantages for married couples will permit both couples and individuals to retain more of what they earn and to save more.

- The reduction in the maximum tax rate from 70 percent to 50 percent will encourage those in upper tax brackets to invest and earn more money.
- Changes in depreciation schedules will allow businesses to recover the cost of their purchases more quickly, thus putting more money at their disposal for investment.
- Drastic reductions in estate and gift taxes will permit more small businesses to remain intact after the death of their owners.

The effect of these changes, Ingram said, will be to strengthen private enterprise and allow it to expand rapidly.

"If the United States is to succeed economically, the private sector must generate additional capital," he said, adding that the Reagan tax program was the only way to do the job.

However, Ingram said, while the rest of the country may be in poor economic condition, Texas has a strong economy which is relatively immune to the present recession.

Warped



By Scott McCullar

Houston station challenges political ad rate regulation

United Press International
AUSTIN — A federal court will be asked to rule in January on a suit that could fatten the revenues of radio and television stations throughout Texas and almost double, in some instances, the already skyrocketing cost of political campaigns.

Television station KVUE, in what many consider a move on behalf of all Texas broadcasters, is challenging a provision in the Texas Election Code that requires radio and television stations to

charge lower rates for political advertising than it does for regular commercial ads.

KVUE refused to sell advertising concerning a nuclear referendum in November for political rates, choosing instead to challenge the constitutionality of the provision and charge commercial rates for the pro- and anti-nuclear ads.

The station has filed a suit in U.S. District Court in Austin, and contends the provision requiring stations to sell political advertising at reduced rates makes them, in effect, unwitting contributors to the political campaigns.

U.S. District Judge James Nowlin refused to issue an injunction

preventing prosecution of KVUE for violating the election code, noting the station would have no occasion to accept or reject political advertising before the case is heard on its merits Jan. 18.

"They (KVUE) have acknowledged they are essentially a stalking horse for the Texas Association of Broadcasters, and there is no question that if they prevail every radio and television station in the state will adopt the same policy," said Dave Helfert, a partner in a public relations firm that first encountered KVUE's new policy on issue-related political advertising.

Helfert said a 30-second political spot which cost \$180 during a bond election campaign in August suddenly cost \$375 in the nuclear

campaign after KVUE decided to charge commercial rates for ads.

Federal laws requiring broadcasters to charge lower rates for political advertising apply to elections involving candidates and then only in periods 45 days before primaries and 60 days before a general election, Helfert said.

But the state law on the subject makes no differentiation between elections involving candidates and those on issues, and requires the lower political rates to be charged any time advertisers wish to advertise.

That also is a point in the suit — that the state should regulate the broadcast industry

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Change of venue sure in Martin perjury case

United Press International
AUSTIN — State attorneys seeking to convict Rep. Mike Martin, R-Longview, on charges of aggravated perjury have dropped their official objection to moving the trial out of the capital, but say they still think Martin could receive a fair trial in Travis County.

Martin's attorney's requested a change in trial sites for the case

last week, citing intense publicity surrounding the case that they contended ruled out his chances of getting a fair trial in Austin.

The change of venue request was to be considered in a pretrial hearing set for Thursday.

Bill Willms, the assistant district attorney prosecuting the case, initially said the state would oppose the move. But Wednesday

he said he would let the change of venue be granted without opposition.

According to Willms, the state decided not to file "controversial affidavits" arguing that Martin could get a fair trial in Austin. Not filing the affidavits, the change of venue will be granted automatically, Willms said.

Martin is accused of lying in Travis County grand jury testimony when he planned and staged his own shooting July 31. Martin denied that charge during his perjury testimony and several days later was indicted for aggravated perjury.

According to police, the wounds Martin suffered in the attack outside his trailer were inflicted by his own gun. Charles Goff, Goff told police he and Martin staged the shooting to further Martin's political career.

Goff is one of several perjury subpoenaed to testify during pre-trial hearing.

Much of the publicity about the case has stemmed from Martin's explanations for the shooting. Initially, he blamed the attack on a satanic cult and later said he had political enemies were behind the incident.

Austin attorney Maloney, who is representing Martin, had subpoenaed 40 members of the Travis County media to testify at the pre-trial hearing.

In the subpoenas he asked them to bring in videotapes, recordings, printed stories, editorials, cartoons and letters to the editor concerning the Martin case.

Willms predicted that the change of venue would further delay Martin's trial date, which currently is set for Dec. 7.

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