



staff photo John Ryan

Drumming up 'grass' roots support

Scott Miller, a representative of the Texas state branch of N.O.R.M.L., the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws, hands out information on the organization to passerbys in front of Rudder Fountain.

NATO ministers reject Soviet offer

United Press International
COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. — In a show of unity against the Soviet Union, NATO defense ministers unanimously turned down Soviet President Leonid Brezhnev's offer to freeze deployment of medium-range missiles aimed at Western Europe.

The 13 ministers, winding up a two-day meeting at the Broadmoor Hotel, reaffirmed their "strong support" Wednesday of the Reagan administration's offer to halt deployment of new missiles in Europe if the Soviets removed the SS-20s. But the Western leaders restated their decision to deploy 572 new missiles beginning next year.

The position of the NATO ministers was explained in a communique issued at the close of a conference of the Nuclear Planning Group.

NATO Secretary General Joseph Luns of Belgium said Denmark had reservations about the group's rejection of the Soviet proposal which was made March 16, but those reservations involved only a technical issue. "You can take it that it (the vote) was unanimous," Luns said. "There was no hint of putting in a veto."

He said Denmark had suggested the Soviet proposal be discussed at the foreign ministerial level.

In the communique, the NATO leaders said a freeze on SS-20 deployment would only

maintain the Soviet monopoly in longer-range, land-based, medium-range missiles.

It said existing SS-20s could remain in place, but NATO would be prohibited from deploying such missiles.

"It is well known that these Soviet missiles, given their range and the ease with which they can be relocated, are a threat to NATO wherever they are located," the communique said. "These proposals would, there-

NATO rejection of the Soviet proposal came as no surprise and followed a similar stance taken by the Reagan administration. The U.S. delegation had sought NATO's endorsement as a demonstration of unity.

U.S. Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger told a news conference the Soviet offer was no directed to achieving the zero option proposal made by the United States at the start of the arms reduction talks in Geneva, Nov. 30. Zero option is the code word for the offer not to deploy 572 Pershing II and cruise missiles.

He said a freeze of SS-20 missile deployment in European Russia would leave the Soviets free to manufacture all they want (of SS-20s) and deploy all they want east of the Urals.

Weinberger, who left after the meeting to begin a 10-day trip to Asia, called the gathering "a very successful meeting, a very unified meeting."

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fore, leave the Soviet Union free to continue its buildup east of the Urals, well within the range of NATO Europe."

The NATO ministers again called on the Soviet Union to match the United States' negotiating in good faith.

And they repeated their resolve, in the absence of such negotiations, to begin deploying 108 Pershing IIs and 464 cruise missiles in five European countries beginning in December 1983.

Highway court cases settled

United Press International
AUSTIN — Five highway construction contractors indicted on federal charges of bid-rigging on Texas highway department contracts have reached settlements in separate antitrust cases filed by the state.

Attorney General Mark White announced Wednesday that the five firms had reached agreed judgments totaling more than \$960,000.

White also had filed antitrust suits against eight Lubbock contractors. Wednesday he announced another antitrust suit, this one against the San Antonio firm of Schwabe Inc. and its secretary-treasurer.

"We either are negotiating or are evaluating the status of the remainder of the companies charged by the federal government with an eye to filing suit against them," White said.

White said the five firms that reached agreed judgments Wednesday were E.W. Hable & Sons Inc. of Tyler, C.H. Allison Paving Co. of San Antonio, Schwabe and Mikey's Paving Inc. of Shiner, and the Lubbock firms of Boswell and Crafton

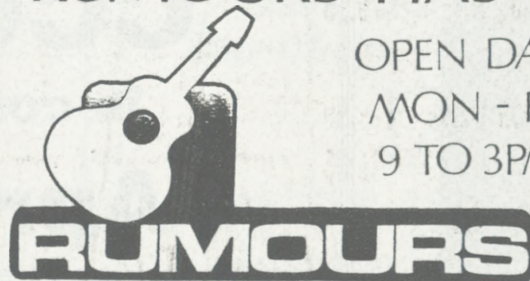
Inc. and Stafford Construction Inc. Officials did not disclose how much money the state may have lost because of charged bid-rigging.

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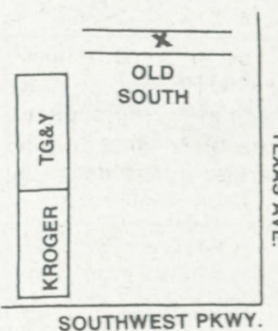


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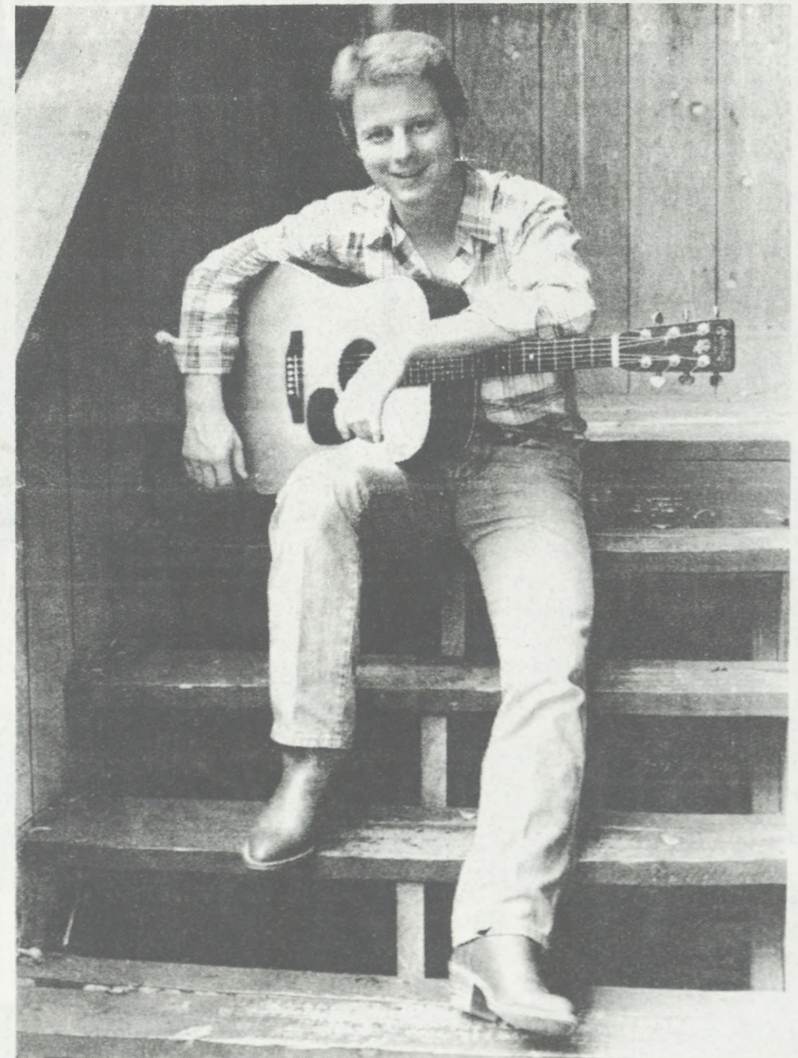
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