

Cronkite attacks military reports

United Press International
DALLAS—In an attack on censorship and Reagan administration proposals about news reporting freedoms, veteran journalist Walter Cronkite found himself comparing El Salvador and Vietnam in the area of government reporting.

Cronkite spoke of U.S. military efforts to minimize the enemy's strength through biased reports and attacks on the news media during the Vietnam era, and warned participants at the National Association of Broadcasters' annual convention of a repeat.

"Today I very much fear we may be in for more of the same," the dean of American journalism said Wednesday. "I do not intend to liken El Salvador to Vietnam in any way, except in this: that official reports and explanations often are woefully unconvincing, transparently wrong, and often in conflict with reports from experienced and reli-

able American reporters on the scene."

Cronkite, a CBS news special correspondent after retiring as anchor for the CBS Evening News, received the NAB's Distinguished Service Award.

He expressed concern over recent remarks of Gen. William Westmoreland, who said uncensored news media caused the erosion of public support in Vietnam.

Westmoreland singled out television in a speech to a Colorado college by calling it "an instrument that can paralyze this country."

Cronkite said the censorship in the Vietnam War was conducted by Westmoreland's staff and caused the credibility gap that led to public dismay with the Vietnam war.

"The assertion that Lyndon Johnson might have been better informed if he had relied on The New York Times instead of his cables (from military officials) had more than a grain of truth to it," Cronkite said.

"It was at such points that the so-called credibility gap first appeared to widen. It shook the confidence of millions. It had a devastating impact on American society from which we are still trying to recover."

Cronkite criticized the Reagan administration for its proposal to alter the Freedom of Information Act, for considering an order to withhold massive amounts of historical information on foreign affairs and for suggesting that government information be copyrighted.

Cronkite also attacked the administration's order which allows intelligence agencies to infiltrate and spy on the media, to wiretap reporters and to monitor press mail and cable traffic.

Arriving just 30 minutes before his award, the veteran journalist said he had more trouble getting through a New York City blizzard to catch a plane than he had had in any other worldwide travels in the last year.

GOP makes last-ditch effort to block May 1 Texas primary

United Press International
WASHINGTON—The Texas Republican Party, in a last-minute effort to block the May 1 congressional primary, has again appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court to delay the election because of a conflict over Dallas County boundaries.

The U.S. Supreme Court last week ruled a three-judge federal panel in Austin was wrong in redrawing the congressional boundaries for Dallas County because the U.S. Justice Department had not objected to them.

However, the high court did not tell the panel how to rectify the problem. So the panel decided Monday to proceed with the election under the lines it had set up.

Some Republicans conceded the appeal would be rejected because of the closeness of the primary. However, there was no indication when the high court would issue a ruling.

"We are appealing to the Supreme Court on the basis that the district court willfully opposed the reversal of the Supreme Court in that they wanted to use the court-directed plan in lieu of the legislative-directed plan," GOP Chairman Chet Upham said.

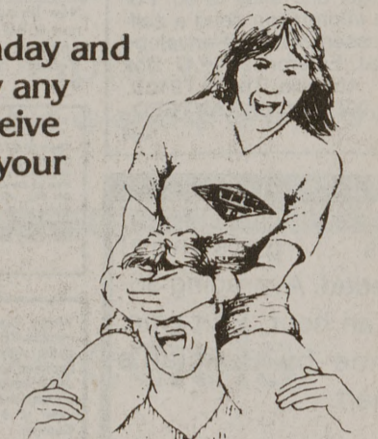
The appeal asks for a restoration of the Texas Legislature's four congressional districts in Dallas County and for a delay of the lower court's decision to hold a May 1 election.

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Braniff in tailspin, but boss's benefits still in the clouds

United Press International
DALLAS — Financially distressed Braniff International lured Howard Putnam to the airline's top post with a three-year contract worth \$750,000 plus bonuses and extra benefits, documents filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission show.

In addition to a base salary of \$250,000 a year, Putnam will receive "an appropriate annual bonus" to be decided by the company's board, a statement filed Wednesday with the SEC said. The statement was mailed to stockholders.

Putnam received a \$50,000 bonus last fall when he signed the employment contract after leaving successful Southwest Airlines, the statement said.

In addition to his salary, Putnam is provided with an automobile, country club membership, payment for personal income tax return preparation, up to \$5,000 a year for personal financial and investment counselors, and reimbursement of

health and hospital expenses not covered by Braniff's general insurance plan.

Putnam also has a \$750,000 life insurance policy paid for by Braniff. If he is disabled, the airline would pay him \$7,500 a month until he is 65.

If Putnam loses his job because of a takeover or merger, he would continue to receive his salary for 36 months.

M. Philip Guthrie, who made the move from Southwest to Braniff as a prerequisite to Putnam's joining the company, receives \$130,000 a year, plus bonuses and benefits similar to Putnam's. Guthrie is chief financial officer.

"Phil and I were comfortable at Southwest," Putnam recently told employees in Miami.

"When I was asked to take the position at Braniff, my first reaction was to say no. But I went to Braniff with certain conditions: one, that Phil make the move with me, and, two, that we get paid for our efforts. We are getting paid."

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