

Bentsen airs views to local residents



U.S. Sen. Lloyd Bentsen

by Susan Dittman

Battalion Staff
Farmers and small businessmen are receiving the hardest blows during the current recession, U.S. Sen. Lloyd Bentsen told a group of local residents at a town meeting Saturday. Bentsen, a Democrat, is seeking re-election this year against Republican nominee U.S. Rep. Jim Collins. He fielded questions from citizens on subjects ranging from illegal alien policies to defense spending. "We are facing an interest rate-induced recession," Bentsen said. Small businesses, which em-

ploy over half the people in the United States, cannot absorb the high interest rates as large businesses can, he said, and as a result, more and more of them are having to close their doors. The situation of the farm economy "is the worst I've ever seen it," Bentsen said. "It's a point of trying to open up the foreign markets that are limited to us," he said. In a press conference before the meeting, he suggested that the United States should enter into long-term grain trade agreements with Russia. Bentsen said that when the Senate recently approved a

budget package which projected deficits of \$117 billion in 1983 and \$64 billion in 1985, he chose to vote for the defeated budget proposal which called for a \$103 billion deficit in 1983 and a balanced budget in 1985. He said he sees no solution to the problem of escalating medical costs although Congressional hearings have been held in attempts to find one. Bentsen said he supports additional aid for the handicapped because by helping them, they will become more self-supportive, thus saving taxpayers' money in the long run.

Reagan pledge to Taiwan for arms being blocked

United Press International
LUBBOCK — A Taiwan government official said President Reagan is a prisoner of his own State Department and is not being allowed to carry out campaign pledges that guaranteed defensive arms to the island republic, a newspaper reported. Dr. James C.Y. Soong, director general of the government information office of the Republic of China on Taiwan, also told Lubbock Avalanche-Journal editor Jay Harris in Houston that Vice President George Bush carried three "most disturbing" letters from the Reagan administration in a

recent "detour" to Peking during a Far East visit. "The United States not only violated its own law (the Taiwan Relations Act), but the Reagan administration has given the Communists veto authority over U.S. foreign policy," Soong said. The Taiwan Relations Act guarantees adequate defensive arms to Taiwan, but in January, the Reagan administration announced it would not sell Taiwan advanced fighter planes. "You have sacrificed your interests and your allies' interests," he said. "You actually haven't gotten anything in return, ex-

cept a bunch of anti-Soviet rhetoric. That's all you got." Soong, charging that "Mr. Reagan is not being allowed to be Mr. Reagan," said the president "is a prisoner of certain segments of his own State Department, (including) some holdovers from the Carter administration. "This is most regrettable," he said. "After all, he (Reagan) did pledge during his campaign, and later as president, to uphold the Taiwan Relations Act." Soong said Bush, in a recent trip to Peking, delivered three letters from the Reagan administration saying the United

States appreciated attempts by the Chinese Communists to unify Taiwan with the mainland. Peking claims Taiwan is a province of mainland China and has launched a "peaceful reunification" campaign to absorb the island. Taiwan, which became a bastion for Chinese Nationalists after the Communist takeover in 1949, has rebuffed reunification efforts. Soong said these letters left the impression that the Reagan administration felt Peking's peace overture was something to be seriously considered. "This amounts to accepting Peking's play," he said.

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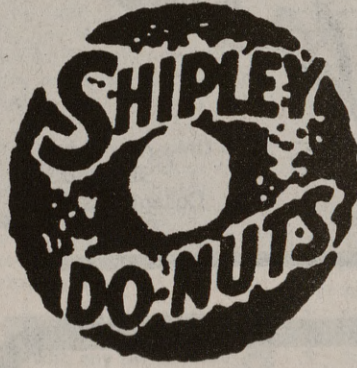
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