

# Texas A&M The Battalion

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## Reagan calls fall elections 'referendum'

**United Press International**  
RICHMOND, Va. — President Reagan Wednesday depicted the fall elections as a referendum on his policies, saying voters must choose between restoring the economy or embarking on another Democratic binge like the one which left us with today's pounding economic hangover.

"The choice that the American voters have this year is just as important as the one they had two years ago," Reagan said in remarks prepared for a Republican Party rally.

"It is a clear choice about the kind of nation we will be — whether we will continue our sure and steady course or put America back on track or whether we will slide backward into another economic binge like the one which left us with today's pounding economic hangover."

Reagan delivered one of his most ringing attacks to date on Democrats, blaming them for "decades of overindependence" which, he said, produced a bloated bureaucracy, excessive government regulation and double-digit inflation.

The attack came during a brief trip to Richmond that included a speech

to several thousand GOP supporters and a \$500-a-person reception for Rep. Paul Trible, the Republican nominee for the Senate.

In the Nov. 2 congressional elections, Reagan said, "the American people will be asked to reaffirm our difficult course toward national renewal. The vote of every citizen will matter and every ounce of individual commitment will count."

Reagan — who at a televised news conference Tuesday acknowledged unemployment may hit a post-Depression high of 10 percent — conceded the path to recovery would be "arduous and long," but admonished his critics:

"To those who are faint-hearted and unsure, I have this message: If you're afraid of the future, then stand aside. The people of this country are ready to move again."

The theme was the same Reagan has used in recent campaign appearances, but the sharpened tone marked a rise in the level of the rhetoric he has used in taking the offensive against Democratic charges his policies have prolonged the recession and led to some of the highest unemployment since the Depression.



Clowning with the cadets

Silas DeRoma (left), a biology major, gets Red Skelton's autograph on his cap Wednesday night in Duncan Hall. Skelton joined cadets at their Fish Dinner to get a taste of life in the Corps. He has been on campus this week,

touring the University and learning about campus life; he will perform Friday night in G. Rollie White Coliseum. DeRoma is a sophomore from Canyon County, Calif.

staff photo by Bill Schulz

## Breeder reactor gets Senate nod

**United Press International**  
WASHINGTON — The Senate voted 49-48 Wednesday to continue funding the controversial Clinch River breeder reactor, a project opponents charge is a "technological turkey" that will cost taxpayers \$9 billion.

The vote came on a rider to the continuing resolution for fiscal year 1983, which is needed to fund the federal government past midnight tonight. The unsuccessful amendment, by Sens. Gordon Humphrey, R-N.H., and Dale Bumpers, D-Ark., sought to eliminate funding for the Clinch River project.

Humphrey said the reactor was originally estimated to cost \$600 million, but "huge cost overruns" have raised the actual cost at nearly \$9 billion.

"It is an obsolete technology," Bumpers said, adding that when the reactor is completed in 1999 the technology will be 16 years out of date. "You'll have a technological turkey on our hands when it is completed."

"It's fine to have a pork barrel (project) on occasion. But this goes far beyond the bounds of reason."

Supporters, led by Senate Republican leader Howard Baker of Tennessee, noted \$1.3 billion already has been spent on the project, which is one-third completed. They argued that the nation needs the new technology for the next century.

"I think it would be foolhardy in the extreme to withdraw from this," Baker said.

The vote on the amendment was held open 12 minutes longer than usual, but opponents of the reactor could not rally enough support for their side.

Anti-breeder forces made their move in the Senate after failing last week to have the full House cast a separate, yes-or-no vote on whether to continue the project.

Last year, the Senate came within two votes — 46-48 — of terminating funding for the program.

## Mexico forces property sale

**United Press International**  
MEXICO CITY — The Mexican government Wednesday began a program to sell off billions of dollars worth of U.S. real estate purchased by its citizens during the oil boom years.

A decree published Tuesday in the federal registry and effective Wednesday sets up a government bank trust that is responsible for selling off foreign property held by Mexicans.

Budget Ministry legal adviser Jose Manuel Villagordoa in a television interview Tuesday said Mexican citizens can turn over deeds to their

foreign property and the government will sell the real estate on the foreign market.

The owners will receive the equivalent of the sale price in Mexican pesos, and the government will keep foreign exchange from the sales, Villagordoa told Mexico City's Channel 2 news.

He said the program, in which participation by Mexican property owners is voluntary, is aimed at ending a problem outlined by President Jose Lopez Portillo in his Sept. 1 state of the nation address.

The president lashed out at Mexicans who had been buying expensive

U.S. real estate, sapping the nation of needed funds. He estimated that property in the United States owned by Mexicans was worth \$25 billion.

The amount of property held in other foreign countries is believed to be relatively small. Lopez Portillo did not mention real estate in any other nation.

Officials have said the massive flight of capital into U.S. real estate mainly took place in 1980, 1981 and the early part of this year as Mexicans earned big salaries during the oil boom years.

When Villagordoa was asked what

would happen if a Mexican property owner did not accept the price obtained by government salesmen, he said that owner could instruct officials to stop the transaction.

But he warned that the Mexican property owner "could find himself in a difficult situation" if he balked at "taking advantage" of the government's program.

It was impossible to determine what reception the new program would have among Mexicans owning foreign property. Published reports have shown some government leaders are big holders of U.S. real estate.

## Funding hangs on compromise

**United Press International**  
WASHINGTON — With the government due to run out of funds at midnight, Senate-House negotiators must reach a compromise on an interim money measure today that can quickly win the approval of Congress and President Reagan.

During a nonstop 13-hour session Wednesday, the Republican-led Senate rejected several controversial amendments to the money measure — called a "continuing resolution" — including a Democratic attempt to create a \$1 billion emergency jobs program, then approved the continuing resolution on a 72-26 vote.

The House passed a similar resolution Sept. 22.

But to avert a government shutdown Friday, the beginning of the fiscal year, a joint Senate-House confer-

ence committee still must resolve the differences between the two measures and submit the compromise to the House and Senate for final approval. Also, the president must sign it.

A stopgap measure is necessary because Congress has enacted only one of the 13 regular appropriations bills for the new fiscal year, yet it plans to begin a two-month recess Friday to campaign for the Nov. 2 congressional elections.

Both resolutions would fund the government until mid-December. Congress intends to return for a lame-duck session Nov. 29 to complete work on the necessary appropriations bills.

Just before final passage, the Senate voted, 60-37, to kill an amendment by Sen. Edward Kennedy, D-

Mass., to create a temporary \$1 billion emergency program to put 200,000 people to work repairing the nation's roads and bridges.

The tabling of the Kennedy amendment erased the last major obstacle to passage of the stopgap funding measure.

Minutes after final passage, the Senate joined the House in approving a \$46.8 billion appropriations bill for the Department of Housing and Urban Development, making it the first 1983 funding bill to pass Congress.

In the marathon session the Senate:

—Killed, 50-46, a rider by Sen. Ernest Hollings, D-S.C., to eliminate \$988 million in funds for building five MX missiles until it is decided where to put the weapons.

—Rejected, 51-47, an amendment by Sen. Howard Metzenbaum, D-Ohio, that would have kept several states from losing 13 weeks of federal unemployment benefits when eligibility requirements are tightened.

—Voted, 49-48, against a rider to eliminate federal funding for the Clinch River breeder nuclear reactor in Tennessee.

—Killed an amendment by Sen. Jesse Helms, R-N.C., that would have prevented labor unions from using compulsory dues of their members for political action committees.

The Senate moved slowly at first. At mid-afternoon, Republican leader Howard Baker held up several yellow sheets of legal-size paper listing dozens of amendments still to be brought up and told his colleagues: "This is a full year's work!"

## Woman assaulted near East Kyle

A Texas A&M University student was assaulted in Parking Annex 46 at 9:20 a.m. Wednesday, University Police said. Officials did not disclose the woman's name.

The woman was walking through the faculty parking lot by East Kyle when a white man in his 20s asked her for help because he was having car trouble, police said.

He then pulled out a switchblade and opened his door trying to pull her into the car, police said.

The woman kicked him and ran into G. Rollie White Coliseum and called the police. The woman was not injured, police said.

University Police are looking for a white male in his 20s, driving a late model white Mustang.

## Schmidt government still expected to fall

## West German party official resigns

**United Press International**  
BONN, West Germany — The general secretary of the Free Democratic Party resigned Wednesday to protest the party's decision to oust Chancellor Helmut Schmidt and replace him with Christian Democratic leader Helmut Kohl.

The resignation of Guenter Verheugen, who acted as the party's business manager, reflected the deep division in the small liberal party caused by the decision to desert Schmidt and form a new coalition with the Christian Democrats.

But the division was not expected to save Schmidt.

A no-confidence motion to end his eight-year rule was handed to members of the Bundestag, the lower

house of parliament to be voted on Friday. It was almost certain to pass.

"This is a difficult time for the country and we must do our duty," Kohl, 52, said Tuesday.

Verheugen, who became general secretary in November 1978, said in a letter to party leader Hans-Dietrich Genscher he could not remain in office after the decision to support Kohl taken by the Free Democratic members of parliament Tuesday.

A majority of parliament members of the Free Democrat Party, which split Schmidt's coalition when they withdrew Sept. 17, agreed in a secret ballot to support Kohl in his "constructive vote of no confidence."

The ballot came after eight hours of heated discussion that reflected the

deep split within the Free Democrat Party over its desertion of Schmidt.

The motion was handed to Bundestag Speaker Richard Stuecklen Tuesday for distribution Wednesday to all 497 members of parliament can consider it 48 hours before the vote takes place Friday, as required by the constitution.

"The Bundestag expresses its lack of confidence in Federal Chancellor Helmut Schmidt and elects as his successor the member of parliament Dr. Helmut Kohl as Federal Chancellor of the Federal Republic of West Germany," it said.

"The federal president is requested to dismiss Federal Chancellor Helmut Schmidt."

Schmidt was expected to appeal to parliament not to withdraw its support, but his plea was thought unlikely to sway enough of the 53 members of the small but pivotal Free Democrat Party in his favor.

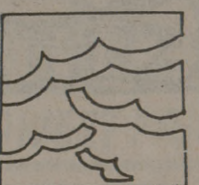
The Free Democrat vote was 34 in favor of supporting Kohl and 18 against, with two abstentions. It was enough for Kohl, who needed a minimum of 23 votes to gain a majority in parliament, and said he would proceed with Friday's vote.

Free Democrat Leader Hans-Dietrich Genscher, who faced stiff opposition in his party over his decision to support Kohl, said the opposition leader could count on the Free Democrat votes on Friday.

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### forecast



Today's Forecast: High in the low 90s, low in the mid 70s. Partly cloudy skies.