

# Texas A&M The Battalion

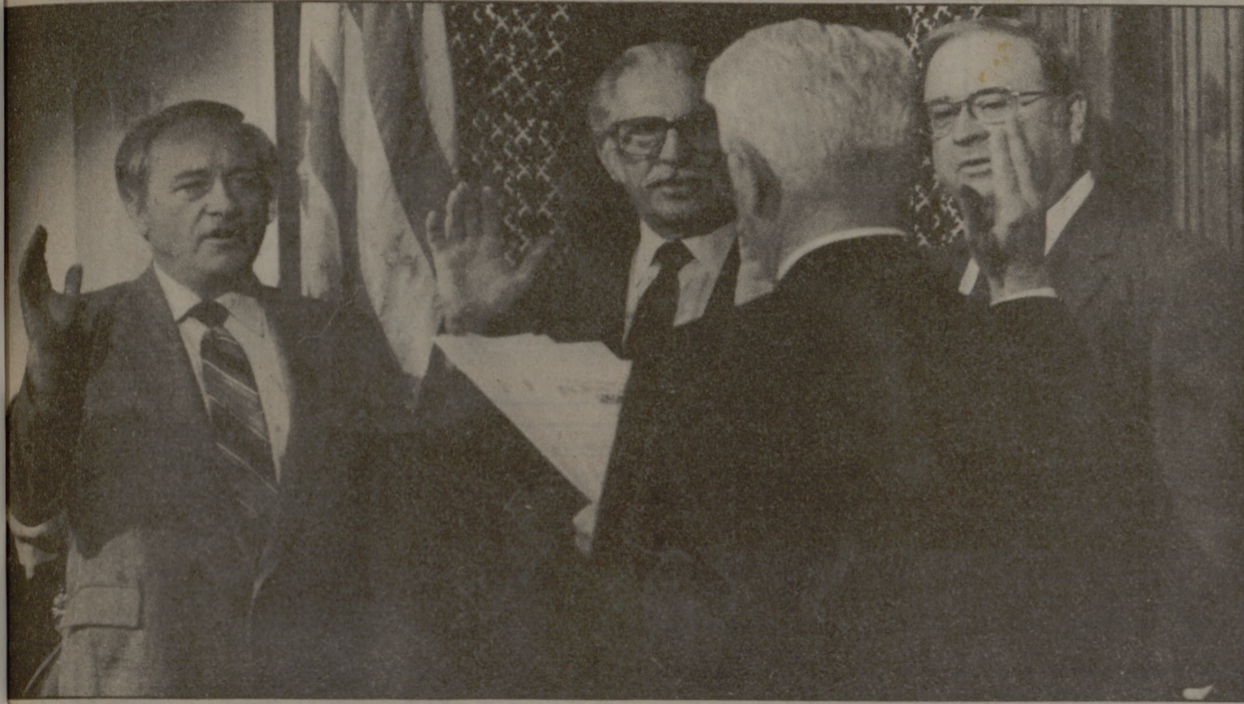
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## Regents sworn in, fate uncertain



staff photo by Diana Sultenfuss

Former House Speaker Bill Clayton of Springlake, left, John R. Blocker and Michel Halbouty, both of Houston, are sworn in as members of the Texas A&M Board of Regents. The ceremony was held Tuesday at the state capitol.

by Gary Barker and Denise Richter  
Battalion Staff

AUSTIN — Three appointees to the Texas A&M Board of Regents were sworn in for six-year terms Tuesday, but the state Senate still must decide on the fate of those and other lame-duck appointments made by Gov. Bill Clements.

Clements reappointed John R. Blocker of Houston to the nine-member board and named former House Speaker Bill Clayton of Springlake and Michel Halbouty of Houston to replace H.C. "Dulie" Bell of Austin and Dr. John Coleman of Houston.

However, appointments made by Clements since the Nov. 2 election are in limbo because of Gov.-elect Mark White's opposition.

White, who took office Tuesday, told a group of supporters Saturday that it would be fine if the Senate rejected the appointments.

White has said the appointments are a matter that should be left up to the Senate. However, Sen. Oscar Mauzy, D-Dallas, Sen. John Whitmire, D-Houston, Sen. Lloyd Doggett, D-Austin, have said they expect White to ask the Senate to return the appointments. Sen. Kent Caperton, D-Bryan, and Sen. Chet Brooks, D-Pasadena, have said that they think

the Senate will return the appointments upon White's request.

A majority of the 31 senators — 26 Democrats and five Republicans — are required to return the appointments.

Democratic senators were scheduled to meet with White and Lt. Gov. William Hobby on Tuesday to decide whether to reject Clements' appointments or to begin confirmation proceedings immediately.

Caperton said he thinks a majority of the senators favor sending all of Clements' appointments back to White for consideration.

"The policy consideration here is whether lame-duck governors have the right to make appointments," Caperton said in a telephone interview Monday. "It is not a question of rejecting individuals. It's my position that lame-duck appointments should not be allowed. The newly elected governor should have some control over the agencies, commissions and institutions of higher learning in the state."

"If Clements' appointments go through, they are answerable to him. It is important that this potential action is not construed as a rejection of any of Clements' appointments. For example, if the names are returned to White, I will urge White to appoint

John Blocker, who has been a fine regent."

During the 1981 legislative session, Caperton sponsored a bill that would have prevented lame-duck appointments, which Clements vetoed.

H.R. "Bum" Bright of Dallas, chairman of the Texas A&M Board of Regents, said: "A lot of people urged the Legislature to pass the bill (changing dates at which regent's terms expired) so that it would be effective for the next governor. In the form it was in, it would have been effective for Clements. He was subject to (lame-duck appointments) just like White. The bill should have been passed to be effective for the next governor's term."

Caperton said he and Sen. Lloyd Doggett, D-Austin, have submitted a similar bill to be considered during this session of the Legislature.

Clements has said that his Democratic predecessors traditionally made 11th-hour appointments before leaving office and insisted he is carrying out his legal responsibilities.

"I think any governor should be charged with the authority and responsibility of the office until the moment he leaves office," Clements said Tuesday during a press conference. "I've always felt that the Senate would see REGENTS, page 12

## Defense secretary proposes cuts of \$11.3 billion in military

WASHINGTON — Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger, appearing before the House on Tuesday, proposed Tuesday to cut military spending for the coming year by about \$8 billion.

Weinberger said the saving can be made because of reduced fuel costs and falling inflation.

Weinberger made the announcement at a surprise appearance before a routine Pentagon briefing. He said

budget authority for fiscal year 1984 can be cut by \$11.3 billion from the \$284.7 originally proposed in 1982.

But the actual savings, which would reduce the deficit, would be a real cut of about \$8 billion in spending authority during fiscal 1984, which begins Oct. 1.

"I have recommended to the president that we can reduce the proposed defense budget by \$11.3 billion in budget authority from the \$284.7 billion budget authority we originally

proposed in 1982," the secretary said, reading from a prepared statement.

"None of these reductions would adversely affect the major programs needed to regain our national security and to restore the balance by which we can effectively maintain peace and prevent aggression," he said.

"But I cannot recommend any further reductions beyond those discussed here in view of the threat we still face."

Most of the major weapons programs proposed by the administration

already have been approved by the Congress. They include building toward a 600-ship Navy, the B-1 bomber, the Navy's F-18 fighter-bomber and the Army's M-1 tank.

Only the MX missile and its proposed \$26 billion basing plan has not been resolved.

Even with the latest reduction, the proposed fiscal 1984 budget still will be \$31 billion more in actual spending than that recently approved by Congress for fiscal 1983.

## Fourth person to leave Reagan Cabinet; Schweiker to resign

WASHINGTON — Health and Human Services Secretary Richard Schweiker will leave the government's largest department next month and become the fourth person to quit the cabinet since President Reagan took office.

Schweiker, 56, will take a six-figure salary as president of the 572-member American Council of Life Insurance, a lobbying group based in Washington, administration sources

said Tuesday night. Schweiker, considered a political liberal until he joined forces with Reagan, leaves government after 22 years — two in the Cabinet, a dozen in the Senate and eight in the House.

White House aides said former Rep. Margaret Heckler, a Massachusetts Republican, is the leading candidate to take over the \$276 billion Cabinet department whose programs touch nearly every American. They said it was possible her appointment

could be announced today. The White House personnel office has been scouting for a government position for Heckler, who is popular with activist women's groups.

If Heckler is nominated, she would be the second woman Reagan has chosen for his Cabinet. Just last week, he named aide Elizabeth Dole the new transportation secretary.

In a meeting with Reagan last Friday, Schweiker said he would depart in early February to take an "irresisti-

ble offer," officials said. Schweiker sent his letter of resignation Monday. It was to be formally announced today, officials said.

Schweiker has generally been a low-key Cabinet member and there were frequent reports he was not the prime policy-maker on social issues.

He also reportedly had been involved in some budget battles with the White House, but officials insisted that is not the reason he is leaving.

## Gramm's re-election bid supported, spokesman says

from staff and wire reports

Democrat-turned-Republican Phil Gramm began his campaign Monday for the seat he resigned in Congress last week and his campaign spokesman said here Tuesday that Gramm has overwhelming support.

Gramm, who served as a member of the House of Representatives, is running for re-election as a Republican in the 6th Congressional District, which includes Brazos County.

Larry Neal, Gramm's press secretary, said Gramm has an excellent chance of regaining his post in the special election Feb. 12.

Gramm drew the wrath of the Democratic party when he openly supported and campaigned for President Ronald Reagan's economic policies. In turn, they voted not to reappoint Gramm to the House Budget Committee. Last week, Gramm announced he would resign from Congress as a Democrat and run for re-election as a Republican.

"Response has been heavily in favor of Gramm," Neal said from Gramm's headquarters in Bryan.

More than 2,000 letters of support were sent to Gramm's Washington office last week, Neal said. Although exact counts have not been taken, calls and letters received since then are running 100-to-1 in favor of Gramm, he said.

A Republican pollster agreed that Gramm has a good chance of regaining his post, and said Gramm has a "better than even" chance of winning



Ex U.S. Rep. Phil Gramm

the special election.

"He wouldn't have done this unless the polls showed him with a better-than-even chance," Republican pollster V. Lance Terrance of Houston said.

Terrance said a 1978 poll of the 6th District, which stretches from southern Dallas to the northern fringes of metropolitan Houston with mostly rural areas in between, showed that the district contained 32 percent hard-core supporters for each party, 22 percent independents and 15 percent "weak" Democrats.

Gramm, a former Texas A&M economist, has delivered his pitch mainly to conservatives, who Terrance said

make up 72 percent of the district's registered voters.

Polls indicate nine out of 10 voters recognize Gramm's name, Terrance said.

Media samplings of voters in the Dallas area last week indicated that a substantial number of voters perceive Gramm as a martyr who was punished by the party for following his constituents' wishes, and they are willing to overlook his party change.

Although Gramm seems to have considerable support, he is planning an extensive campaign, Neal said. Gramm has started a walking tour of his district to gain support.

Gramm said he hopes his constituents will help him as he has helped them in the past in Washington.

"In 1980 and again last year, I asked for and received a strong mandate to gain control of federal spending, to stop inflation and to reduce the size and power of federal government," Gramm said. "Now I'm asking the people of the district to stand up for me at home the same way I stood up for them in Washington."

Gramm began his campaign tour in Burleson, south of Fort Worth, and will visit cities throughout the district, ending his tour early next week.

Gramm will stop in Bryan-College Station on Saturday.

As Gramm geared up to regain his Congressional post in the special election, Democrats met last weekend in Dallas to plot their campaign strategy see Gramm, page 12

## PLO leader says U.S. credibility poor in Mideast

WASHINGTON — U.S. special envoy Philip Habib flew to Israel Tuesday on a new round of shuttle diplomacy, but Palestine Liberation Organization leader Yasser Arafat said the United States can no longer be trusted to mediate peace in the Middle East.

Before leaving Washington, Habib said he was returning "on an urgent basis" in hopes of resolving a dispute that has held up talks between Israel and Lebanon on the removal of foreign troops from Lebanon.

Arafat ended three days of talks with Jordan's King Hussein in Amman before flying to Moscow to meet with Soviet leader Yuri Andropov to discuss "current international efforts to bring about peace in the Middle East."

Arafat said the United States could no longer be trusted as an objective mediator in the region.

"American credibility with me has been torn up in the massacres at Chatila and Sabra," he said, referring to the Beirut refugee camps where hundreds of Palestinian civilians were killed last September.

Meanwhile, fighting began in Lebanon for the first time since Israeli troops withdrew to present positions following their invasion of west Beirut.

Druze Moslem artillery shells crashed into Christian-held areas near the presidential palace, for the first time spreading 3-month-old sectarian battles into the suburbs of Beirut.

The Christian Phalangist Voice of Lebanon radio reported the Druze

shelling had killed four people and wounded 10 others, with shells raining down over a wide area.

In Tel Aviv, Prime Minister Menachem Begin's adviser on terrorism said Israel can expect another century of Arab "terror" despite the PLO evacuation from Beirut.

"The Israeli people have gone through 100 years of Zionism and terror," adviser Rafi Eitan said in an interview with Israel Radio. "I believe we still face 100 years of Zionism and, until the Israeli nation resides securely in its land, another 100 years of terror."

Only minutes before the interview, a small terrorist bomb exploded in the Old City of Jerusalem, injuring two Arab workers, police said.

The interview also coincided with a PLO statement from Paris claiming responsibility for a grenade attack on a Tel Aviv bus Saturday that injured 12 people.

Habib, who said his first stop will be Israel, left Monday following a White House meeting with President Reagan, Vice President George Bush, Secretary of State George Shultz and Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger, officials said.

Habib said his assignment is to emphasize "on an urgent basis" the U.S. belief that problems with the agenda of the negotiations can be solved.

Israel has insisted talks focus on future diplomatic relations between the two countries, but Lebanon maintains the talks must first lead to withdrawal of Israeli forces.

## Unequal retirement pay may be unfair

WASHINGTON — The administration urged the Supreme Court for the first time Tuesday to rule that it is discriminatory to use sex-based mortality tables to calculate unequal retirement payments for men and women.

The Justice Department said a lower court correctly ruled that an employee retirement pension based on widely used insurance annuity tables to pay women lower benefits violates the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

The tables are based on the theory that women, in general, live longer than men.

"Whether a woman contributes a greater amount of her compensation than a man for an equal benefit or contributes an equal amount for a lesser benefit, the use of sex-based actuarial tables in calculating periodic benefits results in the same discrimination," the government said.

The government filed its position in a case involving Long Island University Professor Diana Spirt, who

challenged the use of the benefit calculations used by the Teachers Insurance and Annuity Association and College Retirement Equities Fund.

A Supreme Court ruling on the issue could have widespread effect on how retirement benefits are paid to women.

More than 400,000 employees at approximately 2,800 colleges and universities participate in the TIAA-CREF system.

Under Spirt's pension plan, tenured faculty members contribute 5 percent of their yearly salary and the university contributes an equal sum. The contributions are forwarded to the insurance companies that use mortality tables classified by sex in calculating plan benefits.

The Supreme Court has not yet decided whether it will hear the case. The insurance companies have asked the high court to rule that the employment discrimination law does not apply to them because it interferes with their insurance business.

### Add/drops, registration begin today

Delayed registration and drop/adds begin today in Texas A&M's new Registration Center, the renovated Animal Husbandry Pavilion.

Delayed registration ends on Friday. Friday also is the last day to register or pay fees without a late charge.

Spring semester classes begin Monday.

Jan. 21 is the last day to enroll in the University for the spring semester and to add new courses. It also is the last day for students who registered during delayed registration to pay fees.

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### forecast

Continued clear skies today with highs in the upper 60s and low tonight in the mid-30s. Thursday's forecast calls for more of the same.