



To draft or not to draft

staff photo by Bill Schulz

James Whitman, junior Forestry major from Alexandria Virginia, voices his opinion on the draft in an audience-participation debate hosted by MSC Forum. Ruby Daniels, a senior journalism major, and Frank Knickerbocker, a senior computing

science major, addressed the audience before the debate. Daniels gave a pro-draft address and Knickerbocker gave an anti-draft address. Audience opinion was split evenly during the debate which was held Tuesday night.

Election date OK'd for 6th district seat

United Press International
AUSTIN — A federal three-judge panel Tuesday refused to halt a scheduled Saturday election to fill the 6th District congressional seat vacated by Phil Gramm.

The judges on the panel — 5th U.S. Circuit Court of

Appeals Associate Justice Jerre Williams and U.S. District Judges H.F. Garcia and Fred Shannon of San Antonio — heard 90 minutes of testimony and deliberated less than 15 mi-

minutes before reaching their decision.

Garcia Monday deferred to the three-judge panel after hearing arguments on the suit last week.



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UT economist says oil price hike to aid Texas

United Press International
AUSTIN — Most of the rest of the world might suffer from increased international oil prices, but Texas' economic recovery efforts could be boosted by higher petroleum prices, a University of Texas economist told a House committee.

"A run-up in oil prices is not good for the world but it is good for Texas," Dr. Tom Plaut of the Bureau of Business Research has told members of the House Ways and Means Committee.

The committee interviewed economic specialists Monday in preparation for its consideration of any new tax proposals that might be filed in the 1983 legislative session.

Plaut said the state's efforts to recover from the recession hinged on oil prices, interest rates and Mexico's recovery from its economic crisis.

Both the Texas and U.S. economic recessions have bottomed out, and a moderate economic recovery is probable in 1983," Plaut said.

"Interest rates will be the main factor. If interest rates are allowed to go back up to 1982 levels, recovery will be aborted and another recession will occur."

He said the world oil glut and the subsequent decline of oil prices caused a 46 percent decline in the number of oil drilling rigs operating in Texas last year. The economist said that if the OPEC nations can secure higher, more stable oil prices, Texas' economic recovery could be stepped up.

He predicted Texans' personal income would rise 24.8 percent during the next two years, but said efforts to reduce the

state's unemployment rate from the current 8.2 percent to pre-recession 5.5 percent would be slow and painful.

Plaut said he doubted Mexico could recover sufficiently from its economic troubles to help the Texas economy swing back. Texas border towns have suffered huge increases in unemployment and decreases in retail sales because of the devaluation of the peso.

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