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Israeli defense minister resigns

United Press International
JERUSALEM — Ariel Sharon bowed to pressure and resigned today as defense minister because of his responsibility in the Beirut massacre but will remain in the Cabinet.

Cabinet ministers and senior Israeli officials said Sharon will hand over the post of defense minister to Prime Minister Menachem Begin Sunday but will remain in the Cabinet as a minister without portfolio for an unspecified length of time.

"He is only resigning as defense minister and not from the government," Likud party leader Ehud Olmert said after a meeting of Begin's Likud party executives — the major-

ity of whom recommended Sharon stay in the Cabinet.

Other officials said Sharon's job automatically will be assumed by Agranat.

Sharon's resignation came as a result of mounting pressure following the Cabinet's overwhelming adoption of the findings of the Beirut massacre commission and an outburst of civil violence.

No incidents of violence were reported in Israel today.

Sharon, 54, a national hero praised for reversing the tide of the 1973 Middle East war by leading Israeli forces across the Suez Canal into Egypt, leaves the defense ministry job

that he coveted amid a storm of controversy.

The Cabinet voted 16-1 to adopt the recommendations of the commission that investigated the Sept. 16-18 massacre at the Sabra and Chatila refugee camps by Lebanese Christian Phalange militiamen.

The defense minister stood alone in the Cabinet Thursday against accepting the commission's recommendation that he resign or be fired because he bore "personal responsibility" for events leading to the slaughter.

The defense minister made his decision to resign amid a tense atmosphere of violence, sparked by an unprecedented attack, apparently con-

fronting Jew against Jew, at an anti-Sharon rally Thursday in front of Begin's office.

A grenade explosion in a crowd of Peace Now protesters killed a para-trooper who fought in last June's Lebanon invasion and wounded nine other people, including the son of a Cabinet minister.

State-run Israel Radio said Begin's candidate to succeed Sharon would be Israeli Ambassador to the United States Moshe Arens, a decision lauded by most top government officials questioned. A close associate of Arens said the envoy is unhappy in his current job and wants to return to Israel.

LULAC seeks legislative funding for minority recruiting here

by Maureen Carmody

Battalion Staff
Members of the League of United Latin American Citizens plan to ask the Legislature to give Texas A&M money to use in recruiting minority faculty and students, the group's president said here Thursday.

"At this time we think the Legislature should appropriate not less than \$1 million for recruiting purposes," said Tony Bonilla, national president of LULAC, who met with University officials to discuss minority representation and the Permanent University Fund.

Bonilla said he thinks Texas A&M is recognized as one of the leading

universities in the nation, but if it wishes to continue that way it must allot more money for minorities. Texas A&M must commit itself to improving its minority representation, he said.

"I think it is time for Texas A&M to have a minority vice president at the very least," Bonilla said.

He said he would like to see Texas A&M increase the number of minority faculty members and students within a year.

LULAC will endorse the sharing of the Permanent University Fund with those universities not receiving a share of the fund, Bonilla said.

The PUF is composed of income

from oil produced on land set aside by the Legislature. The Texas A&M and University of Texas systems share the Available Fund, which consists of proceeds from the PUF. Texas A&M receives one-third of the Available Fund.

Bonilla also endorsed Democrat Dan Kubiak, who is running for congressional from the 6th Congressional District, and predicted that Kubiak will receive 90 to 95 percent of the Hispanic vote. The special election will be held Saturday.

"We are asking the Hispanic community to go out and vote on election day," he said. "While I personally support Dan Kubiak, the important thing

is to get out and vote."

Bonilla recently returned from Chicago where he met with Rev. Jesse Jackson and representatives of Operation PUSH, a national black organization. Bonilla and Jackson called a summit meeting between black and Hispanic leaders later this month.

Bonilla said the meeting will center around joint black and Hispanic enforcement of the voting rights act, voter participation and registration, and joint corporate research.

"We would like to think the hands that were once picking cotton and citrus fruit will now be picking presidents," he said.

Leader calls off trucker's strike in exchange for study of problems

United Press International
The head of the independent truckers organization called off a violent strike in exchange for promises from 35 congressmen to study truckers' problems — an agreement termed a "sellout" and a "farce" by steel haulers who vowed to stay off the roads for a 12th day today.

Mike Parkhurst, president of the Independent Truckers Association, said Thursday his group had "been able to accomplish, for the entire industry, more than we have ever been able to in the past."

But critics outside the trucking industry accused Parkhurst of ending the violence-marred truckers strike to save face in the midst of failure, while industry opponents blasted him for stopping the strike just when it was doing some good.

"We are officially asking independent truckers and small-fleet owners

who have joined the shutdown to get back to work as soon as possible," Parkhurst said.

But Paul Dietsch, a representative of the Fraternal Association of Steel Haulers, responded, "We're advising everyone to stay on strike."

"A lot of truckers are very angry about Mr. Parkhurst because he sold the truckers out, because he ended the protest just about when we were on the verge of getting something," said William Kusley, spokesman for the Fraternal Order of National Truckers Organization Inc. in Indiana. "The majority of the major truckers want to stay down and we'll do what the truckers want."

Rumors of an end to the strike had been circulating for two days and truck traffic was reported returning to normal on the nation's highways.

Parkhurst lobbied Congress for special hearings to consider legislative

reforms to the 1982 Highway Revenue Act, which the truckers said imposed inequitable fuel taxes and highway-user fees on the industry.

But a letter from four congressmen — Reps. Peter Kostmayer, D-Pa., Ed Jenkins, D-Ga., Douglas Applegate, D-Ohio, and Carroll Campbell Jr., R-S.C. — did not say Congress would reopen hearings on the fuel tax bill.

Kostmayer aide John Seager said 35 of the 435 members of Congress had agreed to sign the letter, although Parkhurst said he expected 100 congressmen to do so.

Dietsch said the steel haulers association was not happy about the announced end to the strike.

"They've (Congress) studied us to death. Millions of dollars have been spent on it. They know what our problems are, and it's a farce to study them further."

ITA reaction was generally favor-

able, however.

Illinois ITA representative Craig Robertson said, "We don't think it (the tax bill) will be repealed in total. The fuel tax of 5 cents will stay, but other aspects of the bill will be amended."

Robertson said truckers' response was generally "mixed but overall favorable to the results" of negotiations.

Violence in the shutdown dropped dramatically Thursday. Kentucky officials called off National Guard air patrols over the state's highways and officials in the Ohio-Pennsylvania "combat zone" reported only a few shootings and rock throwings.

More than 650 shootings and almost 2,000 other acts of vandalism have been reported, with one driver killed, since the strike began Jan. 31. At least 97 people were injured.

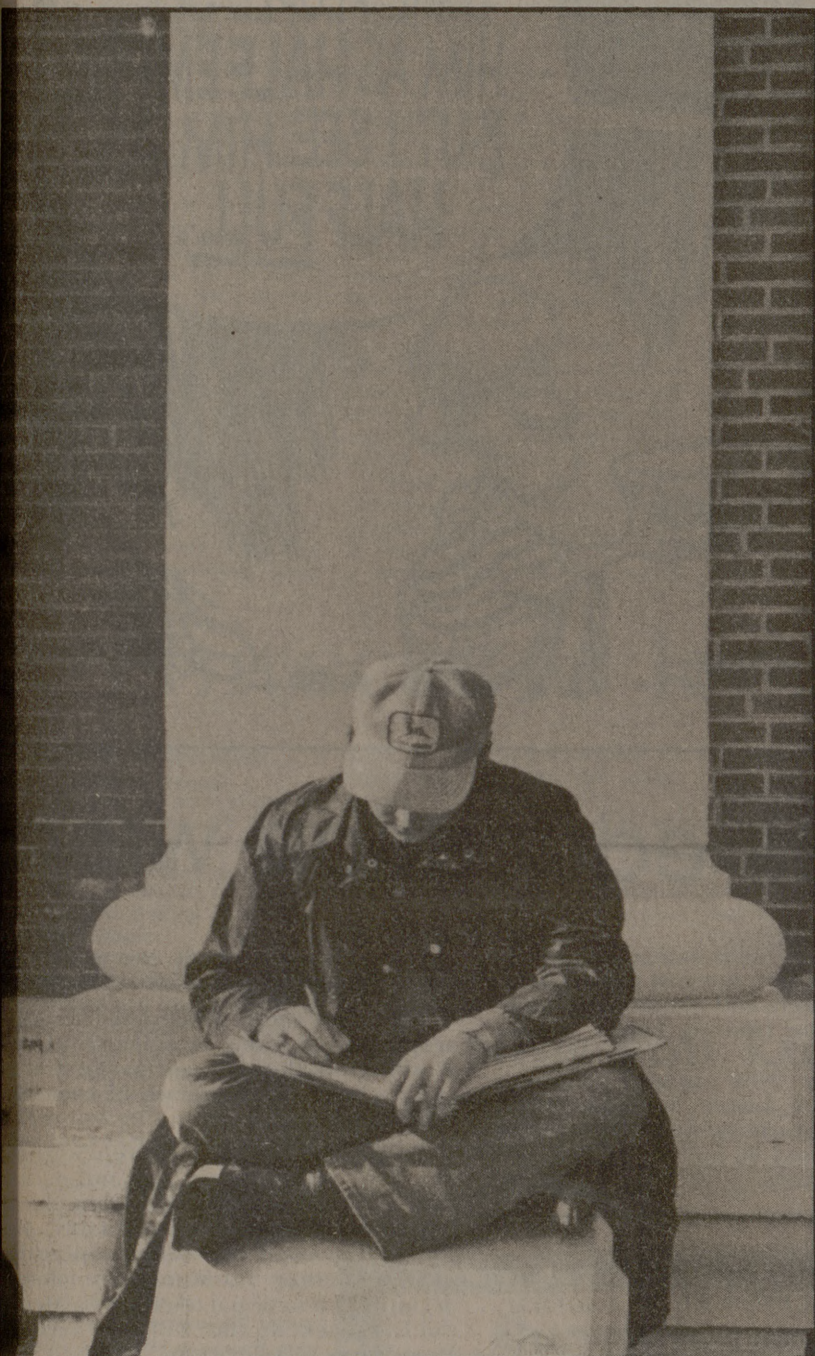


photo by Jane Hollingsworth

Making use of time

Danny Husak, a senior agronomy major from West, does his homework while waiting for Sbis to open for dinner.

Morin receives appeal of his death sentence

United Press International
CORPUS CHRISTI — Stephen Peter Morin, a drifter from Providence, R.I., will get an automatic appeal of his death penalty sentence for the murder of a 21-year-old hotel secretary.

The former cocaine addict, who said he had been converted to Christianity by one of his kidnap victims, already faced execution for the murder of another young woman in San Antonio.

Morin was sentenced Thursday by

the same jury that Wednesday night convicted him of the December 1981 kidnap-strangulation of Janna Bruce, 21, a secretary at a hotel in Corpus Christi.

Her body was found floating in a culvert at Padre Island. Authorities said she had been strangled with pantyhose.

Morin was sentenced to death last year in Beaumont for the murder of Carrie Marie Scott, 21, who was shot in an apparent robbery attempt outside a San Antonio restaurant.

correction

In Thursday's Battalion, an article on the Minority Merit Fellowships program did not list the requirements for application.

The fellowships are not available to graduate students already attending Texas A&M, nor are they available to students who are citizens of foreign countries. Only U.S. citizens or those seeking U.S. citizenship may apply.

The Battalion regrets the omission.

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forecast

Clear to partly cloudy today with the high near 62. Light north winds at about 8 mph. Mostly clear skies during the night and a low near 40. Clear to partly cloudy on Saturday with the high reaching 60.

Congressional candidates present views

by Pamela Haisler

Battalion Reporter
The national budget, defense spending and the Social Security system were the main topics when five of the 11 candidates running for the 6th Congressional District spoke Thursday night in Rudder Tower.

The panel discussion, which was sponsored by the MSC Political Forum, featured Democratic candidates Dr. Joe Agris, George Chamberlain, Bill Powers and former representative Dan Kubiak, as well as Libertarian candidate Martin Gibson. About 70 people were on hand to hear each of the candidates present his views.

Agris, a Houston plastic surgeon, said he was a statesman candidate — a man of principle who would help lead Americans out of the budget crisis by doing what he believes is right.

"Education is the key for the future," he said. "I believe (that by) providing for a solid education, we can look for a stable future."

Chamberlain, a member of the National Democratic Policy Committee and a nuclear engineer from Granbury, said the building of nuclear power plants would help America in its economic crisis by creating jobs. He also commented on national defense.

"I believe (that) first you have to correctly perceive a problem before you go about correcting it," he said. "It is dangerous for us not to have an extensive plan for our military defense."

Gibson, an attorney from Dun-

canville, said that as a Libertarian candidate he wants to eliminate budget problems by eliminating foreign aid, putting the problem of educational expenses on a local level and placing the burden of mass transit expenses on private publics.

Gibson also said there are two ways to solve the Social Security problem.

"We can take the English approach and allow the people on private pensions to pay less tax," he said, "or we can let all people under 40 get out of the Social Security system, sell excess federal lands and use the 1982 tax receipts to fund the deficit."

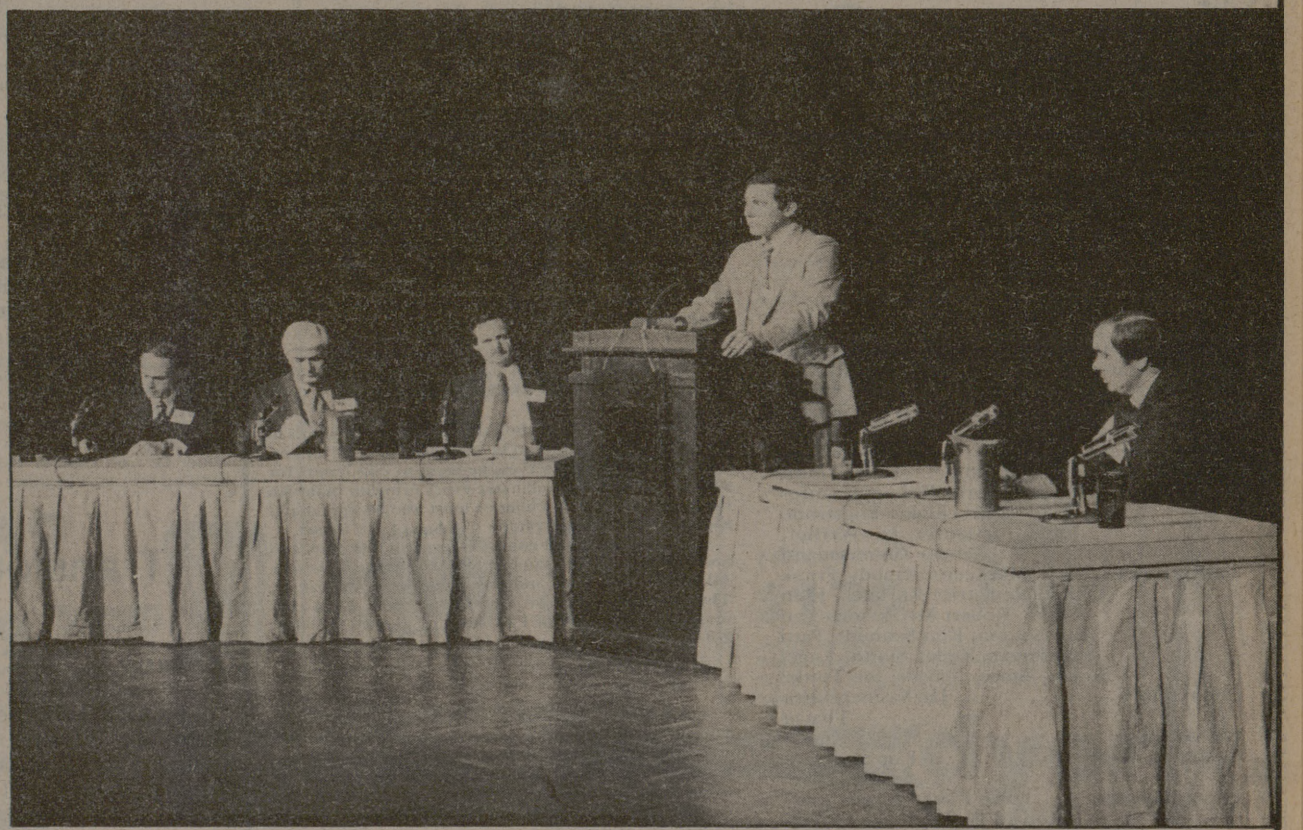
Dan Kubiak — considered to be the leading challenger against former 6th District Congressman Phil Gramm — said he has extensive experience in the Legislature and has worked with budget deficits and Social Security cut-backs.

He said he would eliminate the third year tax cut, plug the loopholes in the budget and remove the Social Security system from the budgetary process.

"I believe we need a separate system for Social Security, but there are no easy solutions," Kubiak said.

Powers, an independent businessman from Navasota, said he will work for a strong economy by balancing the budget and lowering the long-term interest rate.

"The fat and the fraud must be cut from our welfare programs and the fat, not muscle cut from our military," Powers said.



staff photo by Rob Johnston

George Chamberlain, Democratic candidate for the 6th Congressional District, presents his platform as candidates Dr. Joe Agris, Bill Pow-

ell, Martin Gibson and Dan Kubiak, listen. The panel discussion was sponsored by the MSC Political Forum.