

Texas A&M The Battalion

Serving the University community

Vol. 76 No. 105 USPS 045360 30 Pages In 2 Sections

College Station, Texas

Friday, February 25, 1983



staff photo by John Makely

Gov. Mark White, left, and Texas A&M President Frank E. Vandiver chat Thursday after White's speech to a county officials' convention in College Station.

Governor discusses special fund, regents

by Robert McGlohon

Battalion Staff

Gov. Mark White expressed his approval here Thursday of a proposed \$75 million constitutional amendment to establish a capital improvement fund for state colleges not covered by the Permanent University Fund.

"I'm very proud that it's being done," White said of the proposed amendment. Although he supported the original \$125 million proposal, White said the Legislature was correct in cutting the amount.

"They (the legislators) are anticipating a tight budget," he said. "And I think they're right."

White was at the College Station Ramada Inn to speak to the 25th annual County Judges and Commissioners Conference.

The original proposal called for \$125 million and had an escalator clause tied to inflation. In approving the amendment Tuesday, the Legislature cut \$50 million from the annual endowment and eliminated the escalator.

Bonds backed by the Permanent University Fund now are used by the main campuses within the Texas A&M and University of Texas systems for financing construction,

maintenance and repairs. Legislators approved provisions in the amendment that will open the fund to the 25 schools within the two systems. They also approved a provision that will set aside \$60 million for Prairie View A&M University over the next 10 years.

Texas A&M President Frank E. Vandiver and Texas A&M System Chancellor Arthur G. Hansen sat at the head table during White's speech to county officials and White was lavish in his praise of the University.

"(Texas A&M) University is a university of world class," White said. "And we're not going to see it diminish because of our failure to support it."

When asked at a press conference later if he thought the three newly appointed Texas A&M regents would be approved, White said he was sure that all three would receive "favorable treatment from the Senate."

The White appointees are Joe H. Reynolds and Dr. John B. Coleman, both former regents, and David G. Eller, Class of '59. They replace the lame-duck appointments of former Gov. Bill Clements — former House Speaker Bill Clayton, geologist Michel Halbouty and former Regent John R. Blocker. The three men were

rejected by the Senate in January along with 100 other lame-duck appointments made by Clements.

White also told the county officials that, as he promised during his campaign, he had appointed a housewife to the Public Utilities Commission.

After the resignations Tuesday of PUC members George Cowden and Tommie Gene Smith, White appointed Houston public relations executive Al Erwin and El Paso housewife Peggy Rosson to the commission.

White said that power companies are entitled to a fair rate of return, but not excessive profits. He added: "If they don't get (a fair rate of return), they can go to court to get it."

White also said that the PUC should abolish the fuel adjustment charge.

But that won't directly lower utility costs to homeowners and businesses, he said. But he said he hopes to see the lower fuel costs of utility companies passed on to consumers.

White said he asked both Erwin and Rosson to be honest and fair in their decisions and did not ask them to promise to do away with the fuel adjustment cost.

"But I hope they will," he said.

Soviet arrested in Italy

United Press International

ROME — A Soviet export-import specialist, arrested in Italy on espionage charges, faced questioning today about alleged involvement in an international spy ring.

The arrest Thursday of Viktor Konaiev, 38, deputy commercial director of an import-export company, brought the number of people suspected of belonging to a political and military espionage ring to three.

Konaiev, an employee of the Nafta Italia company that specializes in im-

ports and exports of petroleum products between the Soviet Union and Italy, was arrested at dawn at his home in Rome. He has been in Italy for about a year.

Domenico Sica, the Rome magistrate who heads the investigation of alleged Soviet espionage in Italy, issued an arrest warrant for Konaiev and planned to interrogate him today. On Feb. 14, police arrested Viktor Pronin, 46, deputy director of the Rome office of the Soviet airline Aeroflot and Azeglio Negrino, director of a northern Italian microfilm reproducing company.

ctor of a northern Italian microfilm reproducing company.

Negrino and Pronin were apprehended by the Italian secret services in Rome as Negrino gave Pronin microfilm and documents that allegedly included classified military data.

Italian news reports said that among the microfilm material were designs of the new Tornado military planes being built for NATO by a consortium of Italian, British and West German companies.

Condemned man provoked courtroom shot, friend says

United Press International

AMARILLO — A death row inmate, critically wounded by a federal marshal he tried to attack in court, was "getting the job done" by trying to force the officer to kill him, says the convict's closest friend.

Charles Rumbaugh, 25, was in critical but stable condition Thursday at Northwest Texas Hospital, where he underwent surgery Thursday to remove part of his left lung and the bullet lodged in it.

D.J. Day Stubben, who co-wrote Rumbaugh's life story, "Number 555

— Death Row," said Rumbaugh was conducting his own execution when he lunged at the marshal in the second day of his competency hearing.

He said Rumbaugh deeply resented the competency proceedings, called after he asked last year to be executed without further appeals. His parents asked the American Civil Liberties Union to intercede on the grounds that Rumbaugh is unable to decide what is best for himself.

On the stand Thursday, Rumbaugh pulled out a crude pick-like

weapon made from a 6-inch piece of thick wire and walked toward U.S. Marshal Ray McLendon.

He raised the weapon and McLendon fired once from a distance of about 2 feet, striking Rumbaugh in the left chest.

Law officials said McLendon reacted properly because Rumbaugh appeared intent on stabbing him.

Rumbaugh was sentenced to death in 1976 for killing Amarillo jeweler Michael Fiorillo, 58, during a robbery in April 1975.

Survivors flee Indian violence; 3,582 dead

United Press International

GAUHATI, India — An estimated 3,582 survivors of India's worst violence in more than 35 years huddled at train stations today, trying to flee to Assam state that has killed more than 3,500 people, officials said.

Twenty-eight more bodies were found Thursday following ethnic clashes in the Raha and Bojajigaw areas and 300 huts were burned leaving another 15,000 villagers homeless in the Sootea area of northeastern Assam.

The death toll compiled from several official sources rose today to

3,582 in the worst outbreak of ethnic violence since India gained its independence in 1947.

The massacre was triggered Feb. 1 by elections, which unleashed long pent up hatred of immigrants from Bangladesh by tribal groups and native Assamese.

The native Assamese and tribals have claimed that some 4 million Bengalis have taken over their land and threatened their survival and should be deported.

The 25 days of rampaging violence mostly aimed at Bengali immigrants has triggered a mass exodus of 28,000

survivors to bordering states of Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya and West Bengal, officials said.

Some 50,000 homeless villagers were reported at train stations throughout the state, huddled together on platforms in hopes of getting a ride to West Bengal, said the Times of India newspaper, quoting official sources.

Thousands of army troops marched in Silaparthar, 1,050 miles northeast of New Delhi, in the wake of a massacre by anti-immigrant Assamese on Monday that left at least 52 people dead.

Lower oil prices may result in revenue losses for Texas

United Press International

AUSTIN — State Comptroller Bob Bullock says the state might have to tighten its belt some "if Arab oil prices continue to drop."

"Right now, that Arab price is about as stable as the sands of the Sahara," Bullock said Thursday. "Until the price does stabilize, we'll just have to keep watching."

"State government might have to tighten its belt some when the oil picture gets clearer."

Because so much of the state's revenue is tied to lease royalties from public lands, Texas stands to lose about \$40 million in revenue with each \$1 drop in the price of a barrel of oil.

Bullock said he would issue a revised revenue estimate March 8 and continue to revise money forecasts until oil prices begin to stabilize.

Gov. Mark White will present his executive budget to a joint session of the Legislature on March 9. He vowed that even if the declining oil prices caused severe revenue short-

falls, his pet budget projects — including a 24 percent pay raise for the state's teachers — would not be affected.

"We'll just tighten up in a whole host (of other areas)," he said.

Other alternatives to outright tax increases could make up for the decreased oil revenues, said White, who refused to specify what the alternatives might entail. White consistently has promised to fight efforts to raise taxes.

inside

Around Town.....	4
Classified.....	8
Local.....	3
National.....	9
Opinions.....	3
Police Beat.....	2
Sports.....	11
State.....	8
What's up.....	10

3,000 to graduate in May ceremonies

by Michelle Powe

Battalion Reporter

Nearly 3,000 Texas A&M students are expected to graduate in three commencement ceremonies in May.

About 950 degrees will be granted at each of the three ceremonies to be held in G. Rollie White Coliseum on May 6 and 7. The following is the schedule of graduation dates and times:

• 2 p.m. May 6 — master's and doctoral candidates and undergraduates in agriculture, geosciences and liberal arts.

• 7:30 p.m. May 6 — undergraduates in architecture and engineering.

• 9 a.m. May 7 — undergraduates in business, education, science, veterinary medicine and undergraduates at Texas A&M University at Galveston.

Don Gardner, a Texas A&M assistant registrar, said the deadline for paying degree fees has passed, but

seniors must bring their paid receipts to the Office of Admissions and Records in Heaton Hall to be eligible to participate in graduation.

Seniors also should receive a letter the second week of April that either clears them for graduation or informs them they are ineligible for graduation, he said. This letter also must be brought to Heaton Hall.

A "clear list" will be posted May 4. The deadline to be cleared for graduation is May 5 by 5 p.m. If a senior is blocked for academic reasons, Gardner said, the student should go to Heaton Hall to find out how to become eligible for graduation. If students are blocked for financial reasons, the list will indicate where students can go to clear their names for graduation.

He said after 5 p.m. May 5, anyone not cleared with Heaton Hall should plan to file for August graduation.



photo by David Johnson

An uphill battle

Kevin Smith, a junior political science major from Plano, fights a way under some barbed wire at the Navy/Marine ROTC stamina course near Easterwood Airport.

Smith, artillery band sergeant major, is one of about 40 Marine Corps-option juniors who practice regularly to prepare for summer training camp at Quantico, Va.