

Reagan efforts knocked at Hispanic conference

United Press International
SAN ANTONIO—The kickoff of a nationwide Hispanic voter registration drive, described as a nonpartisan effort to sign up 1 million new voters, was fueled by criticism of President Reagan's "cosmetic" efforts to bolster his image with Hispanics.

New Mexico Gov. Toney Anaya's opening address Monday to launch the National Hispanic Voter Registration Campaign was dotted with criticism of Reagan's policies on minority issues.

Meanwhile, the chairman of the Democratic National Committee echoed complaints of Reagan's "insensitivity" to Hispanics at an unrelated national convention of state legislatures also meeting in San Antonio this week.

Vice President George Bush was expected to counter the Democrats' remarks in an address to the voter registration conference Tuesday.

Anaya said that despite Reagan's "cosmetic activities de-

signed to show he really likes Hispanics," his record was poor on Hispanic issues.

"The president will be judged by Hispanics on the impact of all his policies on Hispanics — the higher unemployment levels, the cuts in food stamps, the cuts in education funds, the backtracking on 30 years of civil rights progress," he said.

Anaya drew wild applause and a standing ovation when he said Hispanics and other minorities could sway the 1984 presidential election.

"The hands that historically have picked the lettuce in this country and the hands that historically have picked the cotton in this country are the hands that can pick the next president of this country," he said.

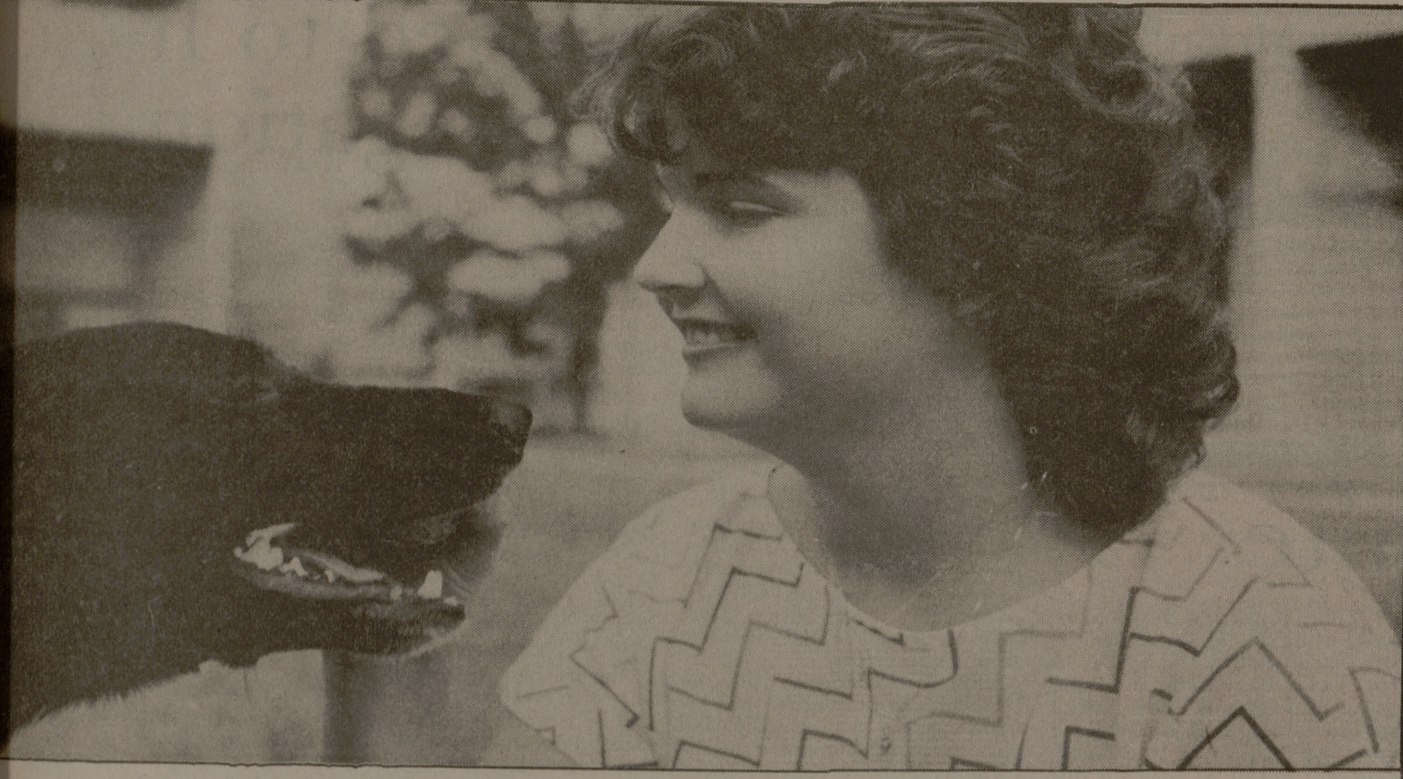
Democratic Party Chairman Charles Manett promised his party would provide funds and manpower to the voter registration drive, predicting three out of every four Hispanic voters would vote Democratic in 1984.

"If President Reagan hopes to gain the attention of the Hispanic community, he is going to have to do a whole lot more than serve tacos and enchiladas to Queen Elizabeth," Manett said at a news conference during a convention of the National Conference of State Legislatures.

The voter registration campaign is aimed at increasing the number of Hispanic voters nationwide from 3.4 million to 4.4 million by November 1984.

Its sponsors — the Southwest and Midwest Voter Registration Education programs and the National Council of La Raza — said the drive would entail sending non-partisan, Spanish-speaking volunteers door to door in Hispanic communities to sign up unregistered voters.

They said special attention would be focused on states such as Texas, New York, California and Florida that have both large Hispanic populations and large numbers of electoral votes.



Practice makes perfect

photo by Leigh-Ellen Clark

Jeanna Byrd, a senior elementary education major from Houston, and Mollie, a black

labrador, rest after practicing for Mollie's dog obedience class. Mollie is one year old.

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Veterans convoy fizzles to one car

United Press International
MIDLAND — Down to just one car in what was supposed to be a 40-car convoy across the country to emphasize health problems for Vietnam veterans, an organizer said he will try to restart the caravan next week.

"I arrived in a one-car convoy in Midland," Al Reynolds, vice-president of the Austin-based Brotherhood of Vietnam Veterans and coordinator of the convoy, said Monday.

"In our enthusiasm in leaving Houston, we were all so caught in the emotion, I just didn't look further ahead," Reynolds said.

"We're going to reorganize. This time we're going to try to find out who will go how far." The group of about 150 Vietnam Veterans in 40 vehicles began the planned month-long cross-country convoy in Houston Saturday to generate public support behind pending legislation to provide medical care for veterans exposed to Agent

Orange during the Vietnam War.

Reynolds said sponsors planned to re-start the convoy this weekend from Midland.

"The bottom line is because of health problems and trying to hang on to their jobs, the Vietnam Veterans who were with us as far as Austin had to go back," Reynolds said.

An estimated 369,000 veterans nationwide who were exposed to the herbicide have sought medical help for liver problems, skin diseases and still births and mutagenic birth defects in their children. The veterans claim the Veterans Administration and the Reagan administration have been unresponsive to their requests for help in dealing with the problems. Reynolds said sponsors still hoped for the convoy to conclude with a rally on the steps of the nation's Capitol in mid- or late September.

Dallas research center planned

United Press International
DALLAS — Standard Oil Co. of Ohio, one of the nation's biggest oil companies, plans to locate a large "campus-like" research and development center in the Dallas area, officials say.

"It would be a campus-like laboratory complex," said Sohio spokesman Bryan Coughlin. "We are probably going to have more of a presence in Dallas than we have in the past."

Coughlin said the company, ranked 21st among the nation's top 500 corporations, already operates smaller research centers in the Cleveland and San Francisco areas.

"We are still known as a company with an Alaska base, and

we produce almost 600,000 barrels of crude a day out of Prudhoe Bay," he said. "But in the last six years we have acquired about five million net acres of leases in the lower 48 (states)."

"To my knowledge, we are one of the few major oil firms actively hiring exploratory people," he said.

The Texas research center, which will employ several hundred workers, will be located in the Dallas suburbs of Plano or Richardson, real estate agents indicated.

Sohio will be the fourth major oil company to establish a research center in the Dallas area, officials said.

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