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White, officials criticize Reagan

United Press International
FORT STOCKTON — The baked brown West Texas terrain, yellowing mesquite trees and hungry cattle impressed state officials, who criticized President Reagan for turning his back on ranchers and farmers hurt by a stubborn drought.

"The devastation we saw today, the drought, brings all the statistics home," Texas agriculture commissioner Jim Hightower said Tuesday.

"There's no politics to this. We're talking about people who

are hurting in Texas."

Rep. Kent Hance, D-Texas, added: "This is quite a devastating sight to see."

Gov. Mark White, who led a tour of two of West Texas' 23 drought-stricken counties, said it was "shocking" that Reagan's administration has refused to approve feed subsidies for ranchers or release stockpiled grain to help them feed their livestock this winter.

"If we were out here just asking the president to make it rain, then that's one thing," he said. "But this is something the president can do with the snap of his fingers."

White said he would contact President Reagan directly and urged farmers and ranchers to mount a letter-writing campaign to the president.

"There are some things that can be done directly," he said. "We're here to try and bring this into focus and bring it to the attention of the president."

The three officials and a group of reporters made stops in two of the hardest hit counties, Upton and Pecos counties.

U.S. Agriculture Secretary John Block did not respond to White's invitation to join the tour.

Ranchers in the two counties told White that a drought loan program offered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture was useless because most ranchers could not qualify for the loans or did not want to borrow more money.

"The loan program won't do any good the way it's set up now," said Feller Hughs, who operates the Slash Hook Ranch near

McCamey. "You can beat their interest rates at the bank."

Upton County sheep rancher Shank Bloxom said what ranchers need most is access to enough feed to get their livestock through the winter.

White and Hightower have been unsuccessful in convincing Block to release some 17.5 million bushels of corn stockpiled in the Texas Panhandle since the grain embargo of 1980.

They claim much of the corn is unfit for human consumption and is costing the USDA some \$5 million a year in storage costs.

Cattlemen have been hit with rising feed costs since they have not been able to graze their livestock on parched ranges this summer. Most areas of West Texas have received less than two inches of rain in 1983 and the last significant rainfall in some areas dates back to July 1982.

Many ranchers have been forced to sell off most of their herds because of the lack of grass for their livestock.

Charlie Nebb, head of the Far West District Texas Agricultural Extension Service, said because of the large volume of cattle being brought to market, prices have dropped an average of \$30 a head.

Hance, an announced candidate to succeed retiring Sen. John Tower, R-Texas, said, "It's been very perplexing to me that the secretary (Block) has not moved on this," he told a group of about 50 ranchers.

"It's time to set politics aside and actually do something for people that have the need," said Hightower.

Mattox's woes nothing new

United Press International
AUSTIN — From his upbringing in a rough East Dallas neighborhood to his numerous bids for elective office, Texas Attorney General Jim Mattox has followed a path strewn with pitfalls that might have tempted others to retire.

Mattox is now accused of offering a bribe to a Houston law firm if it would back off an effort to question his sister, Janice Mattox, about a case involving Mobil Oil Corp.

A non-smoking, non-drinking Baptist who at one point considered becoming a minister, the 40-year-old Mattox is fond of noting the adversity he has overcome.

The years he spent working on loading docks and selling Bibles door-to-door to pay his way through Baylor University and Southern Methodist University law school.

The fact he has never lost in a bid for elective office, even though the campaigns were some of the most acrimonious in recent Texas history and that he carried a reputation as a rebel liberal in a conservative state.

His ability to overcome a highly-publicized arrest in Dallas's Lee Park in 1972 and successfully avoid the sting of the

FBI Abscam operation in 1981. Mattox now hopes the same charmed existence that brought him two terms in the Texas House, election three times to Congress and finally the post of attorney general can tug him free of what may be the biggest and most complex challenge he has faced.

Mattox's problems began in early June when published reports questioned whether he properly reported the source of \$125,000 in loans to his 1982 campaign.

Mattox claimed the loan came from personal funds, but the campaign loan closely paralleled a loan for the same amount that Mattox's brother and sister received from a Seattle bank.

A grand jury investigation was announced a short time later and the inquiry quickly grew when an attorney for the present firm of Fulbright & Jaworski publicly accused Mattox of threatening the firm's public bond business.

Attorney Tom McDade, who represented Mobil in a \$1.7 billion oil-lease case against the state, said Mattox threatened to financially harm the firm's bond business unless he dropped attempts to question Mattox's sister in connection with the Mobil case.

Briscoe won't run for Senate

United Press International
SAN ANTONIO — Former Gov. Dolph Briscoe, who earlier announced his interest in running for the U.S. Senate, said he could not enter the race because drought conditions on his ranch required his full attention.

"I have said today that conditions are such that it is impossible for me to leave our ranching business in the drought area and de-

vote full time to the campaign," Briscoe said Tuesday.

Briscoe was elected governor in 1972, but was defeated in an election bid in the 1978 Democratic primary by former Attorney General John Hill.

"At this time there's no way that I can leave the problems created by this extended drought," Briscoe said.

He insisted the only thing keeping him out of the race was dry conditions on his 440,000-acre ranch that spreads across south-west Texas.

"The polls were encouraging. Everything looked very good, and I was looking forward to a good opportunity," he said.

"The drought started last fall when it didn't rain," he said. "I thought we'd get rain by late spring, early summer... The time has passed and the drought has not."

"It makes it impossible for me to leave the ranching business."

Briscoe said if the drought broke, he would not automatically reenter the race for the seat vacated by retiring Republican John Tower.

"If that happens, we'd look at the situation then, but I don't see that happening," he said.

Rep. Kent Hance of Lubbock state Sen. Lloyd Doggett of Austin and former Rep. Bob Krueger of New Braunfels have announced their candidacies for the Democratic nomination to the Senate.

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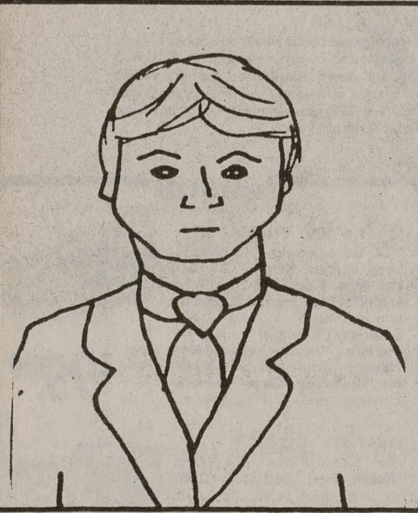


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Freshmen Sophomores

Sept. 12-16
19-23
26-30
Oct. 3-7 Pavillion
10-14 Pavillion

Juniors

Nov. 7-11
14-18
Nov. 28-Dec. 2
Dec. 5-9 Pavillion

Seniors, Grad, Vet, Med

Oct. 10-14
17-21
24-28
Oct. 31-Nov. 4 Pavillion

Photographs will be taken at the Yearbook Associates Office at 1700 S. Kyle behind Culpepper Plaza. Office hours are 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. During the weeks Oct. 3-7, Oct. 10-14, Oct. 31-Nov. 4, Dec. 5-9, photographs will be taken at the Pavillion on campus. For more information call Dena L. Brown at 845-2681.

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