

Texas A&M The Battalion

Serving the University community

78 No. 49 USPS 0453110 10 pages

College Station, Texas

Tuesday, November 8, 1983

Capitol blast forewarned

United Press International
WASHINGTON — An explosion rocked the Senate side of the Capitol Monday night minutes after a call to the Washington Post warned a bomb in the building would explode because of U.S. military action in Grenada and Lebanon, Capitol Police said.

No one was injured in the blast. Congress was not in session at the time of the explosion, about 11 p.m., and there are generally few people in the Capitol at night.

FBI officials who took charge of the case declined immediate comment.

In a call to the Post at 10:55 p.m., a recorded voice claiming to represent the Armed Resistance Unit of the Capitol had been bombed in support of all nations' struggles against U.S. military aggression. The caller said the action was in response to U.S. actions in Grenada and Lebanon.

A Post reporter immediately called Capitol Police and was told, "Something has just gone off. I have to go."

The explosion went off in a main second-floor corridor near Senate Democratic leader Robert Byrd's office, about 30 feet from the Senate chamber.

The Senate had been scheduled to work very late on the defense appropriations bill Monday, but because of progress made during the day, the session ended at 7:02 p.m.

Rep. Austin Murphy, D-Pa., who was working in the House side of the Capitol when the explosion went off, said he arrived to find a door blown off and some damaged woodwork and furniture — damage he said would be consistent with the effects of "two to five sticks of dynamite." He did not see any fire.

"When I came through the rotunda of the Capitol, I could smell the distinct smell of explosive powder," he

said. "There was still some haze on the Senate side."

"The damage was considerable, but it's repairable," said Murphy. "I was worried there might be a statue broken, some of them are really priceless" but there was not.

Murphy said he believed the explosion occurred in the corridor outside the Mansfield room, which is named after former Sen. Mike Mansfield and is often used for receptions and Republican caucus meetings.

Police quickly sealed off the entire Capitol and, with the help of dogs, searched the building for evidence of any bombs. About 15 fire trucks and at least four ambulances rushed to the scene.

The explosion came several weeks after security in the Capitol was beefed up because a man was found in the House gallery with explosives strapped to his waist. He was arrested, and the explosives never went off.

Local elections conducted today

by Elaine Engstrom
Battalion Staff

plan to centralize Brazos County Precincts is one item on today's election ballot. Eleven proposed constitutional amendments also are on the ballot in state elections.

The last item on the ballot is a plan to centralize the county roads system by hiring a county engineer to oversee maintenance and handle the budget for the roads. Currently, each county commissioner handles part of county roads and each commissioner has a separate budget and operates independently.

The local League of Women Voters began a petition this summer to get the issue on today's ballot, said the precinct 20 election judge Granty that Kartzweiler.

Polls opened at 7 a.m. and will stay open until 7 tonight. The on-campus polling place is Precinct 20 in room 4 of the Memorial Student Center. Registered students to vote who live south of campus may vote on-campus.

Those registered students who live north of campus must vote Precinct 35. The polling place for precinct 35 is the College Station Municipal Building on Church Street, one block east of Wellborn.

Other polling places for voters living near Texas A&M University include:

- Precinct 8 at South Knoll Elementary School on Southwest Parkway between Langford and Lawyer Streets.
- Precinct 9 in the College Station Community Center on 1300 Jersey Street.
- Precinct 10 at the College Station Police Station on Texas Avenue.
- Precinct 12 at Sul Ross Elementary School on Villa Maria and Park-

way Terrace.

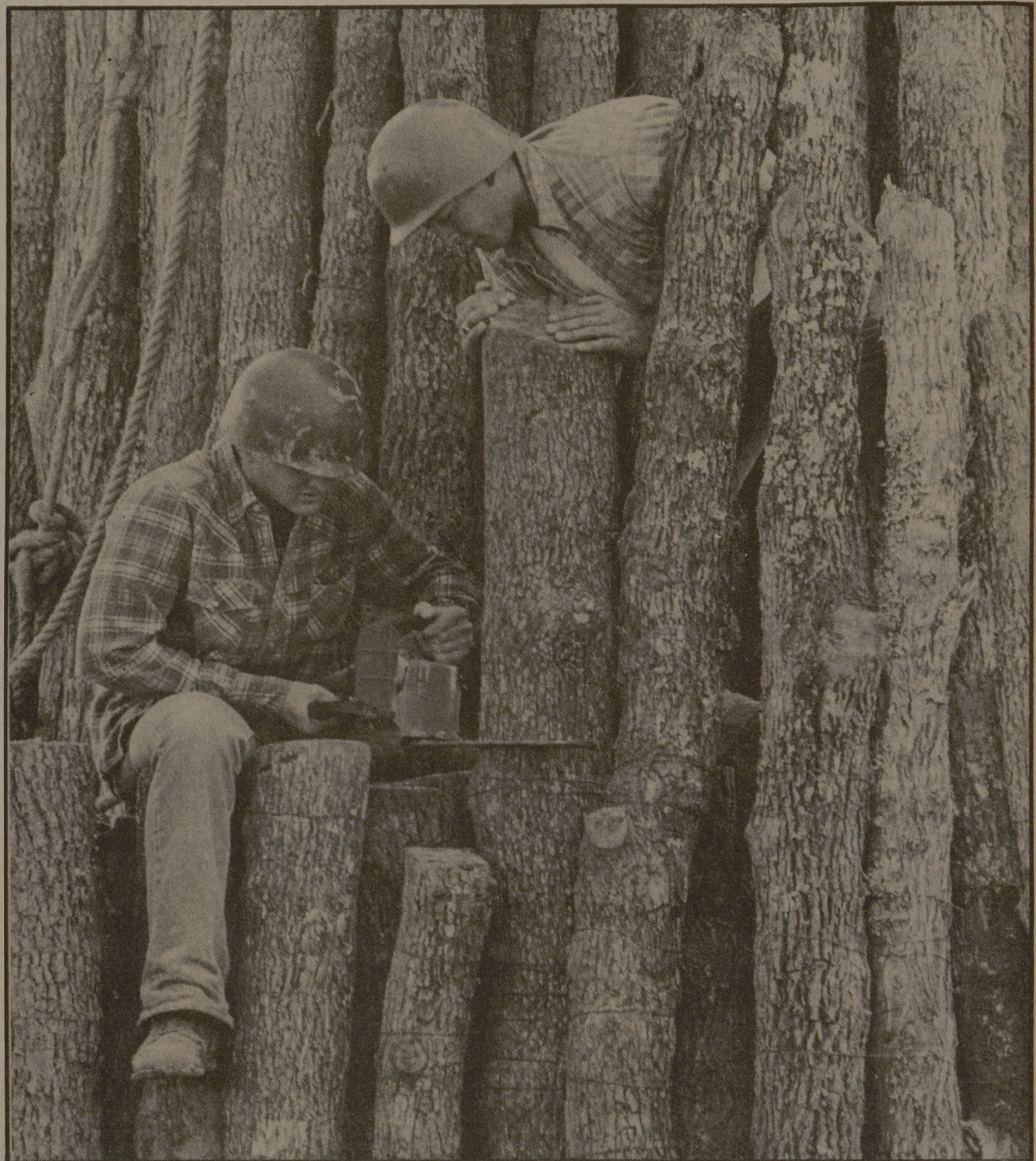
- Precinct 21 in the Hensel Park Special Building.
- Precinct 34 in the College Station Central Fire Station just off Texas Avenue.

The underlying theme of almost all the proposed constitutional amendments is government revenues, either state or local.

The proposed amendments, in the order they will appear on the ballot are:

- Amendment 1: Permits fewer justices of the peace and constable precincts in counties with populations of less than 30,000. Currently, every county, regardless of size, must have between four and eight precincts.
- Amendment 2: Changes the urban homestead exemption in a forced debt sale to a limitation based on size rather than value. Exempted homesteads which now may not exceed \$10,000 in value would be changed to one acre or less in size. "Urban homestead" includes business property in some cases.
- Amendment 3: Authorizes the Legislature to grant associations of agricultural producers the power to collect refundable assessments on their product sales.
- Amendment 4: Provides for temporary succession to the office of state senator or representative if an incumbent is unable to carry out his duties in the event of an enemy attack.

- Amendment 5: Allows use of the \$3 billion permanent school fund and its income to guarantee bonds issued by school districts.
- Amendment 6: Allows wages to be withheld to pay court-ordered child support. Current law prohibits withholding of any wages to pay any debts or bills.
- Amendment 7: Authorizes the Veterans' Land Board to issue \$800 million in bonds to purchase additional land for veterans and to provide home mortgage loans for veterans.
- Amendment 8: Allows local governments to exempt veterans' and fraternal organizations from paying property taxes. Currently, only public charities are exempted from property taxes.
- Amendment 9: Allows probate court judges to serve in other courts where there is a backlog of cases. A statewide assignment system would be provided by the Legislature.
- Amendment 10: Allows cities replacing or relocating sewer lines to enter into agreements with private property owners to connect the house to the main sewer line. Payment for the connection would extend over a five-year period.
- Amendment 11: Changes the Board of Pardons and Paroles from a constitutional agency to a statutory agency and eliminates the Governor's power to revoke paroles.



Bonfire Work Continues *John Makely, Battalion staff*
 Cutting off the tops of uneven logs, Jeff Wagon, an Agriculture Economics student from Richardson and Ian Carnegie, an E. T. major from Spring, prepare the bonfire for more logs. Push begins next Monday and help is always needed.

Returned students visit with president

United Press International
WASHINGTON — President Reagan told hundreds of cheering, flag-waving students just back from Grenada Monday that he shares their anger at skeptics who "belittled the danger you were in" and questioned the U.S.-led invasion.

Reagan scored the news media and critics in Congress during a full-dress welcome home ceremony on the White House South Lawn for the students, whose safety he cited as one of

the reasons for the Oct. 25 invasion. To enthusiastic cheers, Reagan said skeptics who questioned his justification for the action knew little of the potential dangers in Grenada.

"It's very easy for some snug know-it-all in a plush, protected quarter to say that you were in no danger," Reagan said. "I had wondered how many of them would have changed places with you."

The ceremony reunited most of the 550 St. George's University medical

students evacuated from Grenada with 40 members of the U.S. invasion force, and several of them said the invasion made them proud to be Americans.

Jeff Geller, a student from Woodridge, N.Y., said his unsympathetic view of the military changed because of the invasion. To Reagan and the others present, he said, "We owe each and every one of you a debt we can never repay."

Voters decide on Proposition 4: Appointing legislators after attack

by Karen Wallace
Battalion Staff

One of the proposed constitutional amendments to be voted on Tuesday is Proposition 4, which specifies the selection of an interim successor for state legislators killed or injured during an enemy attack.

State Sen. Kent Caperton said the proponents of the proposition say it is necessary to be prepared in the case of a catastrophe caused by enemy attack. Opponents say the proposition is not necessary at this

point in time, he said.

"I'm not absolutely convinced it is necessary," Caperton said.

"The proponents say it's necessary because we need to make some kind of contingent preparations in the area in the event of a catastrophe. I voted on it so the people would have the opportunity to decide."

The emergency successors would be chosen from former state senators or representatives living in the district where the legislators had be-

come unavailable.

The lieutenant governor and Speaker of the House would choose successors from a list of seven names submitted by the executive director of the Employees Retirement System.

The amendment also would allow the governor to suspend certain constitutional requirements in the case of enemy attack.

For example, the governor would have the right to suspend the constitutional requirement that the legis-

lature hold session in Austin.

The governor would be able to say where the legislature would meet, and would give the governor the right to keep the time and place of the meeting a secret, Caperton said.

The proposed amendment would also allow the House and Senate to suspend constitutional rules governing the actions of the legislature for up to two years by concurring with a proclamation by the governor to that effect.

Proponents of the proposition say it is a necessity because state government lacks crucial powers to respond to enemy attack or threat of enemy attack. The authorities would need an orderly plan for bypassing the usual restrictions which could become a hindrance during an emergency.

Opponents to proposition say that in the event of a nuclear attack the government would most likely assume total control of governmental functions, making it unnecessary.

Voters to decide whether school fund ought to be used for bond guarantees

by Karen Wallace
Battalion Staff

Voters will get the chance Tuesday to decide whether Texas' Permanent School Fund will be used as a guarantee for construction bonds issued by local school districts.

Bryan School District Superintendent Dr. Wesley K. Summers said the proposal would save the taxpayers money.

"It would save the taxpayers mil-

lions of dollars over a period of years," Summers said.

The Permanent School Fund is a perpetual trust fund made up of income from public lands that are constitutionally set aside for the support of the state's public schools.

There is no state program to assist school districts with construction costs, which are usually financed through the sale of school

district bonds.

"This would enable the state's Permanent School Fund to guarantee the money spent on construction without using school funds," Summers said.

Summers said the proposition would allow school districts to build new buildings or make necessary repairs on old buildings without taking any money out of the school dis-

trict's funds.

"This is something that is not going to cost the taxpayers anything," Summers said.

Proponents of the proposition say a bond-guarantee program, by improving most school districts bond ratings, would lower the interest they must pay on bonds. Because of the population growth in Texas, many districts face increasing needs

for school construction.

Opponents of the proposition say that if the state is going to use the Permanent School Fund to guarantee school district bonds, it should also be prepared to spend part of the fund in the event of a default. Although defaults have been rare, the Texas economy is depressed in some areas and defaults may become more common.

inside

- Around town..... 8
- Classified..... 8
- Local..... 3
- National..... 5
- Opinions..... 2
- Sports..... 9
- State..... 4
- What's up..... 6

forecast

Warmer days and cooler nights. Partly cloudy with a high 77.