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Party chairmen speak on schools, Grenada

by Brenda Bivona
Battalion Reporter

The Texas state party chairmen agree on two things: there is a problem in the Texas public education system and that the United States was correct in sending troops to Grenada.

Democratic Chairman Bob Slagle and Republican Chairman George Strake spoke to a group of about 200 at the MSC Political Forum meeting Wednesday night in Rudder Tower.

"The Democratic solution to combat the lack of competent teachers in Texas is to realize we are going to have to pay more for quality teachers," said Slagle.

Strake said the first step in improving the Texas public education system is to restructure the system by getting quality teachers through competency tests and then making more money available.

Both chairmen said the troops sent to Grenada should be complimented for their efforts. Strake added that the move might affect the freedom of this country and the Western Hemisphere for a long time to come.

The chairmen also answered questions geared to their own parties. Dur-



Dave Scott, Battalion staff

ing this time no rebuttals were allowed.

Slagle said he rejects the idea that the Democratic party relies on special interest groups.

"Today there are many so-called

special interest groups — even farmers and teachers," he said. "Ideas are generated by special interest groups. I am a father, attorney, and a church member. These are all special interest groups."

Strake, in response to the question directed at the Republican party, said the needs of minorities and women are much better served by two parties.

"There is a benefit in having competition," he said. "It is now to the black communities advantage to look at both parties."

Slagle, when asked about Phil Gramm's split from the democratic party, said that in no way indicates a possible split among the party itself.

"To be quite frank, I'm delighted Gramm let his feet follow where his head has been," he said.

Asked about the effect of Bill Clements loss in the governor's race, Strake said the Republican party still has a future in Texas.

"The Republican party represents a system where the individual is called on to do more for himself," he said. "Republicans stand for more responsibility and reliance of individuals. We have a unique system in which there are vast differences in the two parties."

Strake became the chairman of the Republican party of Texas in April, 1983 and Slagle has been the Texas Democratic party chairman since 1980.



Donn Friedman, Battalion photo

Hold your tongue

Aggie basketball player Michell Tatum shows regret after being called for an offensive foul Wednesday night. The Texas A&M women's basketball team defeated Lamar University 90-70 behind Lisa Langston's 31 points. Tatum and Mary Ann Swearingin chipped in 18 points each. For the complete game story see Sports page 14.

Reagan to sign rights panel bill

United Press International

WASHINGTON — President Reagan, citing his commitment to fighting discrimination while raising legal questions, signed compromise legislation Wednesday that reconstitutes the 26-year-old U.S. Commission on Civil Rights.

Reagan ended months of turmoil by signing a bill that enlarges the commission from six members to eight and divides the authority to appoint them between the president and Congress. The legislation also bans the firing of members for political reasons, allowing dismissals only for abuse or neglect of office.

Reagan promptly reappointed Clarence Pendleton as chairman and Linda Chavez as staff director, but left open the three other vacancies he is empowered to fill.

The anti-discrimination agency became mired in controversy after Reagan moved to replace five of its six members and actually fired three commissioners.

In a brief written statement, Reagan, who has had a constant tug-of-war with the commission and its supporters in Congress, said his action "is cause for confidence that the commission's best years are yet to come."

The commission technically went out of business at midnight Tuesday and the controversy over its membership and mission cast a cloud over its future until a compromise was struck between the White House and Congress.

Reagan said he was "pleased that the commission has been re-

created," but added the signing does not alleviate concerns within the administration that the new structure violates the constitutional principle of separation of powers.

The Justice Department, in a separate statement, said by dividing the power to appoint its eight members between the president and Congress, "the commission itself is not placed clearly within any of the three branches of government."

"Agencies which are inconsistent with the tripartite system of government established by the framers of our Constitution should not be created," the department said. "Equally unacceptable are proposals which impermissibly dilute the powers of the president to appoint and remove officers of the United States."

However, the department acknowledged the commission "is unique in form and function" and indicated the political maneuvering that went into its restructuring should not become a precedent.

Sen. Robert Dole, R-Kan., a key figure in negotiations on the bill, had warned a veto "would be a big setback" for the cause of civil rights and could damage relations between the White House and Capitol Hill.

One aspect of the controversy fizzled out Wednesday when a federal appeals court sidestepped a legal dispute over Reagan's power to fire three holdover Democrats on the commission — Mary Francis Berry of Washington, Blandina Ramirez of San Antonio, and Rabbi Murray Saltzman of Baltimore.

Sullivan, who had spent more time on death row than any present inmate, was killed by a two-minute surge of 2,500 volts of electricity after telling the 24 witnesses, "I hold malice to none. May God bless us all."

The burly 36-year-old college dropout, convicted of the 1973 execution-style murder of a motel clerk, never wavered in maintaining his innocence and his attorneys fought to the end to spare his life.

A final appeal to the 11th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals was turned down at 10:02 a.m. EST, the same moment Sullivan was strapped to the 59-year-old three-legged electric chair at the Florida State Prison.

Wearing a white shirt, blue pants, white socks and no shoes, Sullivan then read a two-page statement from a legal pad held by Prison Supt. Richard Dugger.

"I plead and encourage a con-

Looking forward to teaching

Dean of Liberal Arts resigns

by Steve Thomas
Battalion Staff

In his ninth and last year as a Texas A&M administrator, Dr. Keith L. Bryant Jr. is looking forward to getting back into teaching and research.

"That's what I want to do," says Bryant, the dean of the College of Liberal Arts. "Get back into teaching full time and doing research."

His resignation, effective Aug. 31, 1984, was accepted by President Frank E. Vandiver Nov. 22.

"I feel very good about those nine years, but I didn't get into academe to be an administrator," he said.

Bryant taught college history in Missouri and Wisconsin for 14 years before accepting the position of professor and head of the department of history here in 1976. Since then he has continued to teach and publish, but not as much as he would like.

"I have missed the opportunity to do both to the extent which I did as a faculty member without administrative obligations," he wrote in a Nov. 23

memorandum to the faculty of the College of Liberal Arts.

Bryant said he likes to work with people, and he uses individuals in his lectures to demonstrate points. He has continued teaching history 106 in addition to his duties as dean.

"Those are the three best hours of my week," he said, and it is the students that make his work enjoyable as much as his love of the subject.

"Aggies are fun to teach," he said. They have more of a sense of commitment to learning than students at other universities. Bryant said Texas A&M teachers should feel privileged that they have the opportunity to teach Aggies.

Bryant intends to take a four-month leave of absence next fall to finish his most recent book, a biography on the American artist William Merritt Chase. The people of history are most important, Bryant said — and that's the reason for his interest in biographical work.

"Keith is always relating history to what he's

GM's scholarship package

by Holly Powell
Battalion Staff

General Motors' recent endowment of \$250,000 to fund scholarships for minorities and women is the result of an agreement between the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission and GM. The endowment is part of a \$15 million package for endow-

ments and scholarships provided by General Motors.

According to a GM press release, the program should resolve a charge of discrimination by a former chairman of the EEOC against General Motors. The settlement will avoid the possibility of a long litigation over the charge.

The charge consisted of failure to hire and bias in training and promotion of blacks, Hispanics and other minorities, and women.

Texas A&M will receive \$50,000 annually for five years beginning with the 1984-85 school year. The money will go to minority and women scholarship recipients with preference

given to GM employees and their families.

The scholarships are intended to offer educational opportunities for students in need of financial assistance in order to reap benefits in the future for General Motors and its employees.

Sullivan executed despite Pope's pleas

United Press International

STARKE, Fla. — Despite an appeal for mercy from Pope John Paul II, convicted murderer Robert A. Sullivan was put to death in Florida's electric chair Wednesday. He died with a plea for an end to "this monster of capital punishment."

Sullivan, who had spent more time on death row than any present inmate, was killed by a two-minute surge of 2,500 volts of electricity after telling the 24 witnesses, "I hold malice to none. May God bless us all."

The burly 36-year-old college dropout, convicted of the 1973 execution-style murder of a motel clerk, never wavered in maintaining his innocence and his attorneys fought to the end to spare his life.

A final appeal to the 11th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals was turned down at 10:02 a.m. EST, the same moment Sullivan was strapped to the 59-year-old three-legged electric chair at the Florida State Prison.

Wearing a white shirt, blue pants, white socks and no shoes, Sullivan then read a two-page statement from a legal pad held by Prison Supt. Richard Dugger.

"I plead and encourage a con-

tinued effort to end this monster of capital punishment," he said.

The adopted son of a Harvard-educated physician also quoted from the 62nd Psalm and thanked the pope for his intervention on his behalf. "I send my love to my friends who are in reality my family," he said.

He urged capital punishment foes to continue the fight "because the cause is just."

Corrections officers then placed a steel mantle containing electrodes on his shaved head and a strap across his mouth.

Gov. Robert Graham in Tallahassee, who had an open telephone line with Dugger, was told at 10:02 a.m. that the Atlanta appeals court had denied a stay. Eight minutes later, Graham told Dugger, "There are no stays. God save us all."

Dugger signaled a hooded executioner who turned a handle at 10:11 a.m. to send current surging through the chair. A rubber flap had been lowered over Sullivan's face but his chest heaved and he twisted his hands, resting on the sides of the chair. One witness said he saw faint smoke coming from his right leg and head.

The current was turned off two minutes later and Sullivan was officially pronounced dead at 10:16 a.m. by Dr. Cahn Nugyun, the prison physician.

Prison officials said the execution "went very smoothly."

"I don't know that there is any humane way to kill a person," said spokesman Vernon Bradford. "I think it is the law and it has to be carried out and it went very smoothly."

The 280-pound Sullivan, a Catholic, asked that his body be cremated and the ashes spread near his father's grave in Nashua, N.H.

No family members were present at the prison. His 83-year-old mother, Stella Sullivan, reached by telephone alone at her Arlington, Mass., home, said: "I am not talking to anyone at all. There's no one else here and I don't want to make any comments."

Outside the prison under cool, clear skies, about a dozen protesters who had conducted an all-night vigil sang folk songs and hymns and carried signs reading "Death Row Must Go." Another dozen, however, backed the execution with signs saying "We Love the Victim."

Services held today

Memorial services for Jolie Mailhos will be today at St. Mary's Catholic Church. Father Leon Strider and Father Al Palermo will officiate at the 4:30 p.m. service.

Mailhos, who was an active member of Student Government, was killed along with her father, grandfather and brother in a plane accident Saturday. Mailhos was traveling to Louisiana after the Texas A&M-University of Texas football game.

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forecast

Partly cloudy with mild temperatures. High in the mid-60s.

Committee chairman suffers heart attack

United Press International

WASHINGTON — Rep. Clement Zablocki, D-Wis., chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, suffered a heart attack in his Capitol Hill office Wednesday and was hospitalized unconscious and in critical condition.

Doctors at Capitol Hill Hospital, where Zablocki was rushed by ambulance, said he was not breathing on his own.

Zablocki, 71, suffered two subsequent "episodes where the rhythm of

the heart was unsatisfactory," after he came to the hospital, said Dr. James Trane, medical director of the hospital. A hospital spokeswoman said Zablocki had suffered a "full cardiac arrest" in the emergency room, but heart rhythm was restored by doctors.

Trane said at a late afternoon briefing that Zablocki was still not breathing on his own and there was "essentially no change" in his condition, but heart rhythm, blood pressure and pulse were normal.