

Millions of Russians vote in Parliament elections

United Press International
 MOSCOW — Soviet leader Konstantin Chernenko and millions of ordinary citizens voted Sunday in uncontested national elections for the Supreme Soviet that serves as a symbol of public support for the Communist system.

Security was tight as the motorcade of black limousines carrying Chernenko and his wife Anna sped down boulevards

draped with red banners to the regional poll, where they cast their ballots for two delegates to the Supreme Soviet, or Parliament.

"How many of you have cast your ballot?" Chernenko asked the handful of foreign and Soviet reporters and security men at the All Union Agency of Authors' Rights, which was cordoned off while the 72-year old party general secretary voted.

About 50 bystanders applauded Chernenko, who was dressed in a dark woolen overcoat, and his wife, wearing a fur coat and hat, as they emerged from the building. Chernenko wished the crowd

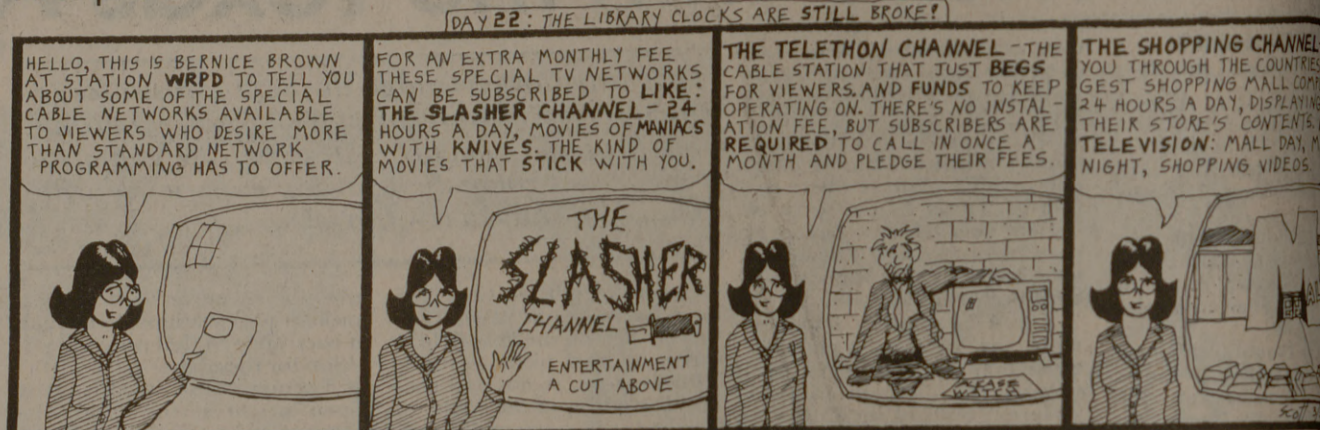
"happy holiday" as he got into his black Zil limousine.

By the end of the day, more than 99 percent of the adult population will cast their ballot, many by proxy.

Voters go to the polls once every five years to elect the 1,500-member Supreme Soviet, which is convened twice a year to give rubber stamp approval to laws and directives from the Communist Party's ruling 12-man Politburo.

Each ballot at regional polling stations contains the name of two unopposed candidates nominated with Party approval to five-year terms in the Supreme Soviet.

Warped



Senate race

Tower says Gramm probable GOP candidate

By ROBIN BLACK
 Staff Writer

At a fund raiser Sunday for the Brazos County Republican Party, U.S. Sen. John Tower said the probable GOP candidate for his Senate position is front-runner Phil Gramm.

Tower, second-ranking Republican in the Senate who is not running for re-election in 1984, said at a news conference before the \$50-a-plate dinner that an unbiased outsider's view obviously shows Gramm as the most probable Republican candidate for the Senate seat, taking into account his current lead in the race for the primary.

Tower, a senator for 23 years, has served on several key Senate committees and has participated in such landmark legislation as the War Powers Act.

He said the act is an inhibi-

tion on the president, and that the United States is the only country with such restrictions on its leader.

Tower went on to discuss other defense-related issues.

The withdrawal of the Marines from Lebanon has hurt American credibility in that part of the world, he said.

"Our influence in Lebanon has been adversely affected by the pullout," he said.

As a member of the Senate Budget Committee, he said President Reagan's proposed defense budget probably will not make it through Congress.

"I don't agree with that," he said. "I don't want to see it cut. The defense budget shouldn't be sized according to appropriations, but to the requirement according to the threat to the security of the U.S."



Sen. John Tower gives the "cut" signal at the end of a press conference held before the banquet given in his honor at the Brazos Center Sunday night.

Tower said he does not expect to be offered a cabinet position should Reagan be elected.

Graduation speakers chosen

By KARLA K. MARTIN
 Reporter

Three major political figures have been invited to speak at the May graduation ceremonies — Vice President George Bush, San Antonio Mayor Henry Cisneros and Texas Governor Mark White.

Bush and Cisneros have accepted the invitation, but White's appearance remains unconfirmed.

The commencement exercises will begin the afternoon of May 4, with Cisneros speaking to students graduating from the

colleges of Agriculture, Geosciences, and Liberal Arts.

The students graduating from the colleges of Architecture and Engineering will have their commencement exercises the evening of May 4, with White as the tentative guest speaker.

Saturday, May 5, Bush speak at the ceremonies of colleges of Business Administration, Education, Science and Veterinary Medicine.

Another nationally known figure, General P.X. Keating, commander of the United States Marines, will address senior Corps of Cadets members at their commissioning ceremonies on May 5.

Cisneros, the first speaker, is a 1968 graduate of Texas State University. He received his bachelor's degree in public administration and was commissioned in the army, where he rose to the rank of captain.

Cisneros was elected San Antonio city council member in 1975 and was elected mayor of San Antonio in 1981. He was re-elected in 1983.

The commencement speaker on May 5, Vice President George Bush, graduated Yale University in 1948 with a bachelor's degree in economics. In World War II, he served in the United States Marine Reserve and was decorated the Distinguished Flying Cross after being shot down over the Pacific.

Bush was elected to Congress in 1966, and was a United States ambassador to the United Kingdom in 1971. In 1973, he came chairman of the Republican National Committee.

He was elected vice president in 1980. Kelley, who will be the commissioning speaker, graduated from Villanova University in 1950 with a bachelor's degree in economics.

On July 1, 1983, Kelley assumed his present position as commander of the United States Marine Corps.

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