

Sparks fly in senatorial TV debate

By JAMES WALKER
Staff Writer

Sparks flew in both directions as Democrat Lloyd Doggett and Republican Phil Gramm exchanged allegations during last Friday's televised debate in College Station. KAMU-TV hosted the confrontation that lasted nearly an hour with the senatorial candidates covering topics ranging from budget deficits to prayer in public schools.

Doggett, a state Senator from Austin, initiated the assault saying he was "committed to those working their way up the ladder ... rather than those who are already at the top." He said Texas voters would choose between a "senator who works hard on behalf of the David's of our society ... or a person who is teamed up with the Goliath's of this world."

Doggett has compared his campaign to the biblical story of David against Goliath saying he will slay Gramm with "five smooth stones."

Gramm responded to charges citing his co-sponsorship of the Reagan economic program in the House. "We brought the inflation rate down from the highest level in American history to the lowest level in twenty years," as well as creating seven million jobs, Gramm said.

"That's more jobs in the private sector of the economy ... in three and a half years of the Reagan-Gramm program than all the government programs adopted since 1946 put together," he said.

Gramm also noted his sponsorship of two defense budgets that "helped us recruit and maintain some of the finest young men and women" in the military.

In response to the question of reducing the federal deficit, Doggett said he had never voted for a bill causing a deficit, as his opponent has, and would pursue a pay-as-you-go policy similar to what is being used in the state of Texas.

Gramm replied, "my opponent never talks about voting for a deficit because he never had that option because it's in the Constitution of Texas that he can't."

Doggett said he also wants to cut tax loopholes and government subsi-



Lloyd Doggett, left, and Phil Gramm, right, debate issues for the senate race as Ron Stone of KPRC in Houston mediates.

dies such as the one for tobacco farmers. Doggett said, "I don't think there is a simple short cut."

Gramm accused his opponent of advocating the Mondale tax plan to which Doggett said, "I don't agree with Mr. Mondale's tax plan and you know that Phil."

Gramm said he would not raise taxes on the working people of Texas. He said more money could be saved by increasing competitiveness in defense bidding, imposing tight purse strings on the federal government and implementing further provisions of the Gramm-Latta bill.

Doggett lashed out against Gramm's support for the other 50 percent of the proposals excluded from the Gramm-Latta bill. Doggett said, "the heart of that 50 percent is minimum social security benefits to some of the poorest of poor of our senior citizens."

He further criticized Gramm's

support of a federal sales tax on liquor, and the flat-tax rate, saying it would eliminate mortgage interest rate deductions.

Gramm corrected his opponent's understanding of the tax proposal saying "the flat-tax rate bill that I have co-authored in the House ... preserves the ability to deduct the interest rate on your mortgage."

"This is a case and point in which your trying to present a picture that is totally alien to my record," Gramm said.

In reference to being the target of campaign propaganda, Doggett said, "He is trying to give the impression that one person has family on their side, yet my family has been my strongest asset in the course of this campaign." His wife and daughter watched from a few feet away.

Responding to a question about gay rights, Doggett said, "I'm committed to the whole process of non-discrimination, whether it's ex-

pressed in the Equal Rights Amendment ... or whether it's with regard to a group that I don't share their perspective."

Later, Gramm accused his opponent of "pandering" support from gay activists. "My opponent went out and filled out a questionnaire, pledged to support their special interest legislation, ... and then he went out and denied it," Gramm said.

Doggett responded, "He has made this the only big issue in his campaign because there are more Gramm wrongs than gay rights."

On the school prayer issue, Doggett said he was committed to voluntary prayer in public schools and anywhere else but indicated he would not support a constitutional amendment for it.

In response Gramm said, "The bottom line is that my opponent voted against voluntary silent prayer in public schools."

Defense spending overshadowed discussion on weapons systems and military strategy at the debate. Referring to a thick set of personal notes, Doggett charged Gramm of allowing the purchase of spare parts at exorbitant prices and for refusing to support legislation to add an inspector general for coordinating budget audits in the Pentagon.

Gramm retorted, "It was the audit undertaking under my budget that turned up the waste."

After the debate both candidates answered questions from reporters.

Gramm said he considered himself the winner because "we got to the heart of the matter." He added, "You heard a lot of harsh rhetoric but you didn't hear it from me."

When asked who won, Doggett promptly replied, "We did ... I thought it was so much fun, I want to do it again."

Workshop aids researchers in money hunt

University News Service
A half-day workshop for entrepreneurs involved in research and development partnerships will be held Tuesday at Texas A&M.

Chief executive officers and officers of small businesses, directors of research, engineering faculty, independent investors and lenders are encouraged to attend the 1 p.m. workshop in 701 Rudder.

"The primary goal of the workshop is to educate individuals needing capital to conduct basic applied research," Sekera said. "R&D partnership is considered a practical and efficient vehicle bringing together scientific and monetary resources sufficient to bring new technologies to a warranting commercialization."

The cost is \$50 and late registrants should call (512) 453-6070.

MSC Council meets tonight

Recruiting faculty advisors to arrange financial planning, the Hours program, the International Students Association and OPAS activities are among the topics to be discussed at the Memorial Student Center Council meeting tonight, 7:30 in 216T MSC.

MSC Council President Pat Wood will give a report about the recruitment of faculty advisors for MSC committees. In the past, the council made a concerted effort to recruit faculty advisors, but in recent years the practice has not been effective. Wood plans to reinstate the practice.

Council members will receive a report about the registration for the MSC After Hours program.

Members also will receive a report from the joint MSC/Student Senate committee investigating long-range plans for financing MSC programs.

Ivo Lopez, president of the International Students Association, will give a report about the goals and objectives of ISA and how those goals will affect the MSC.

OPAS Chairman Tad Purinton will give a report to the council concerning OPAS activities outside the MSC OPAS season.

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