

Dwindling water causes concern

United Press International

SAN ANTONIO — Texas' booming population and economic growth is creating a competitive market for water supplies, and higher water prices will lead to cut backs in agriculture and other water-related industries, an economist said Monday.

Victor L. Arnold, director of the Bureau of Business Research at the University of Texas, said water is the most critical issue confronting the future of Texas.

Arnold said there was little danger that Texas will run out of water, but he said dwindling groundwater sources will lead to scarce supplies by the end of the century.

He said irrigated agriculture, including the cotton-based economy of the Texas High Plains, will feel the most effects of high-priced water.

"There will be a competitive market for groundwater," Arnold told a water resources symposium sponsored by UT and Texas A&M. "Irrigated agriculture may be the first one to bid out of the process."

Arnold, citing the rule of capture law, said the state's problem was not water scarcity so much as water policy.

The law, created in 1904, says that a railroad could pump massive amounts of water from its land without regard to the supplies of nearby land owners.

He said the law had led to an attitude of, "You better get all you can while you can."

However, Arnold argued that the opposite approach — state control of all underground water supplies — was not the answer. He said the best solution was in local cooperative agreements.

Arnold said the High Plains district has helped stem the growing decline of the Ogallala Aquifer, the giant pool that supplies water for cotton farmers in the Panhandle and West Texas.

But Arnold noted that of the 12 districts created by under the law, only six are engaged in significant programs and policies.

"The challenge is to manage in a cooperative environment," he said. "The more local cooperative ventures, the less chance of government stepping in."

Priest killed

Frogmen search for body; government agents held

United Press International

WARSAW, Poland — Frogmen searched a river of strong currents and whirlpools Monday in northern Poland for the body of a pro-Solidarity Roman Catholic priest apparently killed by government security agents.

A government statement broadcast on national radio said two of the three interior ministry security agents being held in the kidnapping of the Rev. Jerzy Popieluszko admitted dumping his body in a waterway in northern Poland.

Popieluszko was kidnapped Oct. 19 near Torun, a city on the Vistula River 125 miles northwest of Moscow.

According to the statement, one defendant in the case said Popieluszko's body was dumped in the river. Another defendant, according to the statement, said it was dropped into a reservoir near the city of Wloclawek.

Popieluszko was one of the most outspoken supporters of the banned Solidarity trade union. He used his St. Stanislaw Kostka church in Warsaw to deliver

monthly sermons praising Solidarity and lambasting the government's human rights policies.

Stanislaw Malkowski, a pro-Solidarity priest, said the church hierarchy already had begun the lengthy process to declare Popieluszko a "blessed," one step below sainthood.

Poles already are comparing Popieluszko to St. Stanislaw, a bishop murdered by a Polish king in the 11th century for defending human rights.

Solidarity union founder Lech Walesa told 15,000 worshippers

in a Gdansk church Sunday he believes the priest was kidnapped as part of a power struggle between Premier Wojciech Jaruzelski and hardline opponents within the communist government.

"It (the kidnapping) was intended to cause a lot of trouble for Prime Minister Wojciech Jaruzelski and every ordinary Pole," Walesa said.

Walesa cautioned Poles to remain calm for at least a week.

Preacher wants to cool Baptist controversy

United Press International

HOUSTON — A preacher seeking election to the Baptist General Convention of Texas is challenging leaders of his denomination to end the name-calling associated with a controversy over inerrancy of the Bible.

The Rev. Lester B. Collins Jr., pastor of one of Houston's largest and most conservative congregations, Tallowood Baptist Church,

told his congregation Sunday that name-calling over the doctrine of inerrancy (infallibility) and what is taught at Southern Baptist colleges and seminaries threatens to "destroy our credibility as Christians."

Abner V. McCall, chancellor of Baylor University in Waco, said he expects Collins to be nominated for first vice president of the Baptist General Convention of Texas, which meets in Dallas Tuesday through

Thursday.

McCall indicated the nomination of Collins is part of a strategy by moderates to put doctrinal fundamentalists, who are also loyal supporters of Baptist institutions such as Baylor, into state leadership positions.

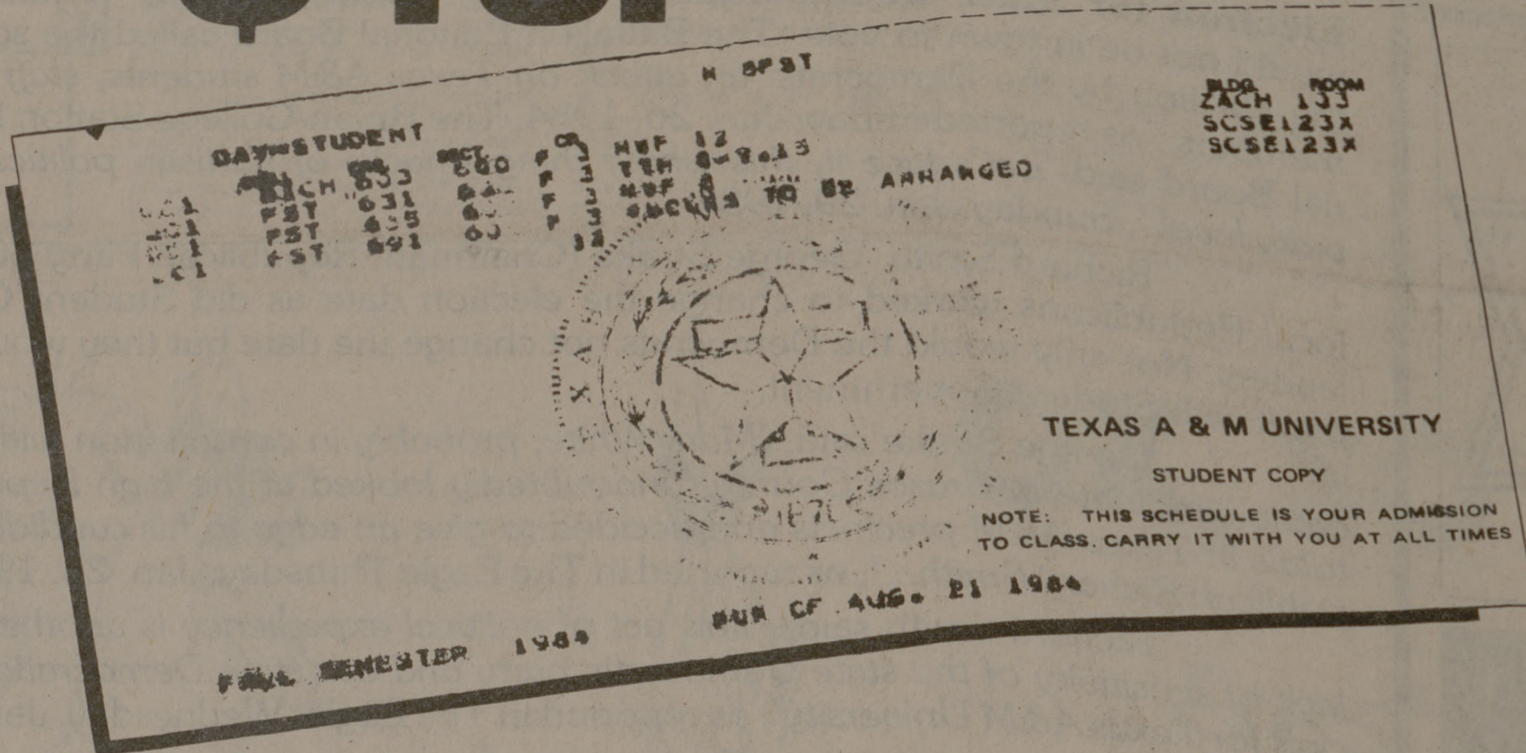
Baylor has been under fire by Baptist fundamentalists for employing a Mormon, Dr. Phillip Johnson, as a Spanish professor.

While acknowledging that he erred in hiring Johnson because is a Mormon, Collins said the professor should not be fired.

Baptist fundamentalists, who control the 14.2-million member Southern Baptist Convention, believe the doctrine of inerrancy of the Bible. Baptist moderates do not believe inerrancy but say the Bible is an inspired word of God.

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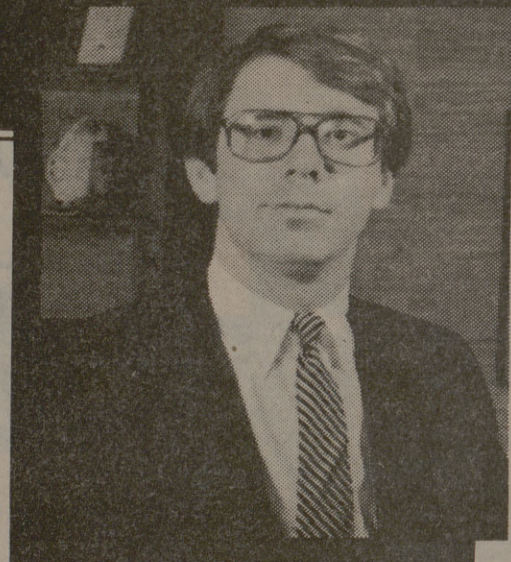
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