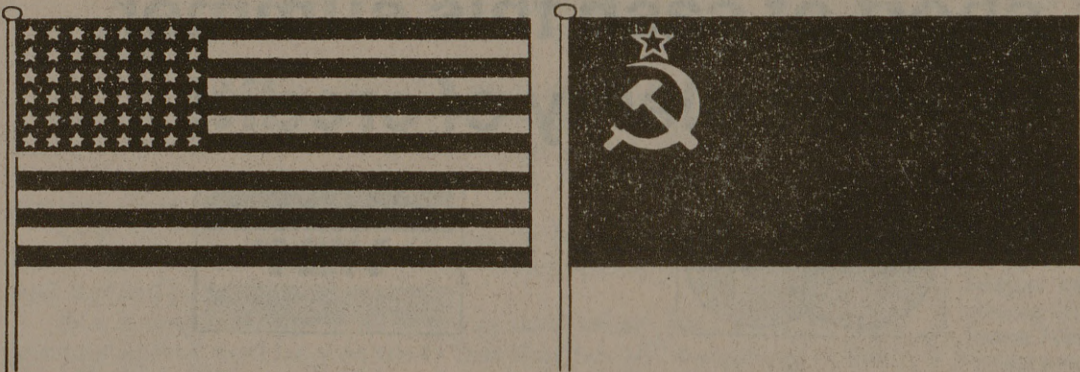


★ **MSC Wiley Lecture Series**

"U.S.—SOVIET RELATIONS: THE QUEST FOR INTERNATIONAL SECURITY"



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MODERATED BY
MR. EDWIN NEWMAN

APRIL 4, 1985

8:00 P.M.

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Space

Russians planning assertive exploration

Associated Press

SPACE CENTER —The Soviet Union plans an aggressive program of planetary exploration — including lofting balloons into the atmosphere of Venus and intercepting Halley's Comet, a NASA expert said Tuesday.

Mike Duke, a lunar and planetary scientist at the Johnson Space Center, said the Soviets are devoting a great deal of attention and effort to exploring the inner planets in the solar system using unmanned probes.

Duke talked with a group of Soviet scientists who attended a conference on lunar and planetary studies at the Johnson Space Center last month.

He said some of the projects planned by the Soviets are:

- A 1988 mission to Phobos, a

moon orbiting the planet Mars.

- A 1986 two-stage craft that would explore both the planet Venus and the comet Halley.

- A 1989 lunar orbiter that would circle the moon's poles.

Duke said the Phobos mission would put a spacecraft within a few hundred feet of the surface of the martian moon, which has a low gravity field. The craft, in effect, would become another moon of Mars, orbiting very close to Phobos.

Once in place, the craft would hit the moon's surface with laser beams. An instrument on the craft will analyze the laser light bounced off Phobos to determine the soil composition.

A Soviet craft in polar orbit of the Earth's moon will produce a map and gather composition data in areas

not studied during America's Apollo program, Duke said.

He added that the Venus mission will include a two-staged craft that will have a launch time to rendezvous with Halley's comet in June 1986.

He said the craft first will be sent to the vicinity of Venus. A stage of the craft will separate and drop toward the planet's surface. As it descends, instrumented balloons will be deployed and allowed to float in the thick Venusian atmosphere gathering chemical data.

A second stage of the spacecraft will continue on toward a rendezvous with Halley's Comet, a famous comet that returns to Earth view every 76 years.

Duke said the Soviets planned to gather data on Halley's composition.

House OKs \$96.1 million package to encourage Navy port in Texas

Associated Press

AUSTIN — In an effort to put the state's money where its mouth is, the Texas House on Tuesday tentatively approved a \$96.1 million package of enticements to lure a battleship homeport to the Texas coast.

"The other states have made promises, but they don't have legislative background to support those promises," said sponsor Ashley Smith, R-Houston.

The U.S. Navy is expected to announce next month its pick for the city that will serve as homeport to the USS Wisconsin and its support fleet. The base will mean a \$100 million construction project and \$60 million annual payroll.

Galveston and Corpus Christi are still in the running, as are cities in Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama and Florida.

Smith's bill, tentatively approved

on voice vote, included dedicated funds for highways, education, recreation, construction and criminal justice aide for the selected area. The money would be transferred from various existing state funds.

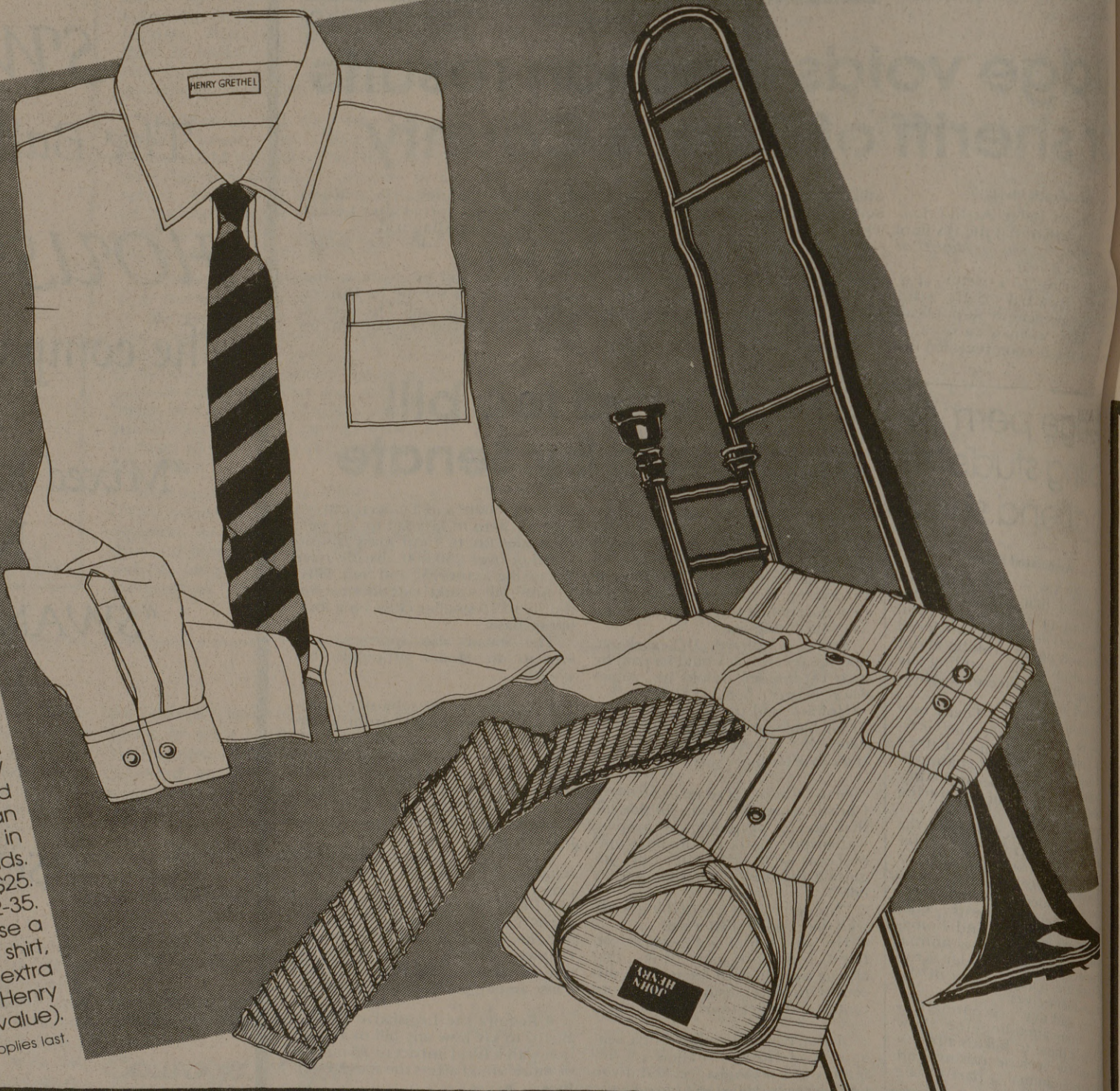
The measure also would grant sales tax exemptions for materials purchased to build the facility.

House members are expected to take a final vote on the bill today.

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