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Texas A&M
The Battalion

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Congress splits on rebel aid

Associated Press
WASHINGTON — The Democratic-controlled House on Tuesday night rejected 248-180 President Reagan's proposal for \$14 million in direct military aid to Contra insurgents seeking to overthrow the leftist government of Nicaragua. The same resolution was approved 53-46 by the Republican-led Senate only a few hours earlier.

Combined, the two votes set up a continuing debate over whether to allow Reagan to provide non-lethal assistance to the rebels.

In both houses, Reagan won some additional support with a last-minute pledge to reopen direct negotiations between the United States and the Sandinista government, a key issue in Democratic opposition to Reagan's policy toward Central America.

Reagan also promised not to use the money for military aid until the end of the current fiscal year on Sept. 30.

The House vote was the first of three on aid to the Contras, and the two remaining alternatives were expected to be much closer when votes are taken Wednesday.

One choice sponsored by House Democrats would require that the \$14 million be spent through the United Nations or the International Red Cross for Nicaraguan refugees and to enforce any peace negotiated by the countries in Central America.



From the Redwood Forest Photo by WAYNE L. GRABEIN

This cross-section of a redwood tree's trunk from California has been donated to the horticulture department and is being prepared for exhibit in the Horticulture Forestry Sciences Building. A polyurethane finish will cover the wood's surface once Virgil Hartsfield, an employee with the physical plant, sands down the coat of sealer. The redwood slice is a few hundred years old weighs about 1,500 pounds and measures 7½ feet in diameter, says Dr. Ed Soltes of the Forest Science Department.

Senate gives tentative OK to tuition bill

Associated Press
AUSTIN — The Senate on Tuesday tentatively approved 18-11 a tuition bill that opponents claim would end for many the American dream of a college education.

Supporters reminded the Senate that there has not been a tuition increase at state-supported colleges in Texas since 1957, and Texas ranks at the bottom among the states in tuition.

They could not muster enough votes, however, to win final approval Tuesday.

Lt. Gov. Bill Hobby, who was booed by a crowd of students at the Capitol early this month after he proposed the tuition increase, said the Senate would send the measure back to the House on Wednesday.

House sponsor Wilhelmina Delco, D-Austin, said she would ask her colleagues to accept Senate changes.

"It's not the best of all possible worlds," Delco said. "But I frankly feel that given the fiscal crisis, that's the best we can do."

The Senate tuition bill would raise an estimated \$279 million, or \$79 million more than the proposal approved by the House. The money is being counted on to balance the two-year state budget pending in the Legislature.

The Senate bill would triple tuition in September for Texans, to \$12 per semester hour. A student carrying a normal course load of 15 hours would pay \$180 a semester.

Out-of-state students also would pay three times as much, or \$120 per semester hour.

The following year, tuition would go up to \$16 per semester hour for residents but would remain at \$120 for non-residents, a decrease of \$60 in the second year from the House bill.

Sen. Gonzalo Barrientos, D-Austin, said the higher tuition would put the dream of a college education "beyond the reach of a lot of people." Others voiced similar objections.

Tuition for resident medical and dental students would go up from \$400 a year to \$800 in the fall and to \$1,219 the next year. Veterinary students would pay \$600 and \$800 respectively. Non-residents would pay four times as much.

These figures were much higher but were reduced by an amendment by Sen. Chet Brooks, D-Pasadena, which was approved 20-10. Bill sponsor Grant Jones, D-Abilene, estimated the amendment trimmed \$8 million out of the bill.

Law student tuition would rise from \$4 a semester hour to \$24 this fall and to \$36 the following year. Two amendments to lower law tuition failed by 21-9 votes.

Barrientos also lost, 18-12, on an amendment to grant resident tuition to anyone who marries a Texan. Jones noted that any non-resident who has an academic scholarship, no matter how small, can qualify for resident tuition.

The bill also provides increases in subsequent years despite an effort to cut them off after two years. Junior college tuition, which is set by the school's governing board, would not be affected.

Sen. Oscar Mauzy, D-Dallas, suggested the two-year cutoff, describing the tuition proposal as "a tax on education." He said the 1987 Legislature could act on future tuition after getting a report from a special committee on higher education. His amendment failed 19-11.

Barrientos pleaded unsuccessfully with the Senate not to approve the bill, saying, "Not this much, not this quick. We're going to hurt our folks."

Sen. Craig Washington, D-Houston, said of the proposed increases in non-resident tuition, "We're building a wall around our state with respect to foreign students."

Delco said the bill had "safeguards" for students, including a provision that would allow schools to use 20 percent of the money set aside for need-based grants to be used for emergency loans. Jones estimated that \$20 million gained from tuition would be set aside for grants and loans.

Low oil prices causing Texans to make sacrifices

Editor's Note: This is the first article in a two-part series about the oil industry and how it relates to the state's economic conditions.

By KEVIN INDA and TRENT LEOPOLD
Staff Writers

Pete Wilson's budget and Texas' budget have one thing in common

— they have both been cut to the bone since crude oil prices and production plummeted.

"Since I've been fired from Texaco, my family's lifestyle has changed a little," Wilson says. "We don't get to go down to the beach for a relaxing weekend any more."

"We had to sell our beach house to make payments on our house here (in Port Arthur). You could say our budget has been cut to the bone."

Texas' budget also is being cut to the bone.

Since the first gusher erupted at Spindletop in 1901, the oil and gas industry has played a leading role in the state's economy. But economic experts say that leading role now is history.

"It's really rare in this country that a state is as closely tied to an industry as Texas is tied to the oil and gas industry," says Dale Craymer, the state's manager of revenue estimation.

Texas now produces more oil than any other state. A third of the oil produced in the United States comes from Texas and 27 percent of

the nation's oil-related jobs are in Texas.

The state also produces about 5 percent of the total world oil supply. Texas Comptroller Bob Bullock says that today the oil and gas business is a \$37 million enterprise employing more than 400,000 Texans who get oil and gas out of the ground and into numerous companies which support and supply the industry.

Craymer said 28 percent of the state's tax revenues come exclusively from the oil and gas industry. Bullock says that that dependence isn't necessarily good.

The state has experienced a 33 percent drop in sales tax revenues

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Texas being hit hard by '85 twister season

By CARMEN MOLINA
Reporter

Tornado season has started. Monday night four tornadoes were sighted around Waco. Also Monday, the National Weather Service issued a tornado watch in 77 counties in the state.

In Olney, a small frame house "exploded" Sunday when it was hit by a tornado. The bodies of an 88-year-old man, his 85-year-old wife and their 64-year-old son were found nearby.

The months of April, May and June are active months for tornadoes and hurricanes.

Hurricanes normally do not reach the Bryan-College Station area, but off-shoots such as torna-

does have caused extensive damage.

Tornadoes, also called "twisters" or "cyclones," are the product of violent thunderstorms and can be identified by their large rotating wind funnels. These thunderstorms are classified as tornadoes only after the funnel has touched ground.

According to reports obtained from the state climatologist, tornadoes are the most violent in semi-arid regions and cause more destruction per unit area than any other natural phenomenon.

Each year Texas has an average of 129 tornadoes, most of

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Consul: Apartheid gone in South Africa

By KIRSTEN DIETZ
Staff Writer

Apartheid may have been a South African practice a decade ago, but it no longer exists in South Africa today, said a vice-consul of South African information Tuesday night at an MSC Political Forum program.

Cornel Van Rooyen, who is based in Houston, told about 70 people, "It (apartheid) no longer exists in the hearts and minds of South Africans."

Apartheid is a system of legal separation of races.

Van Rooyen said, "For most Americans, the name of South Africa is synonymous with the word apartheid."

He later said, "We are the first to admit there's been discrimination. No one is immune to discrimination and everyone has faced discrimination in society."

But Van Rooyen said the country is in the midst of a "dramatic change," with blacks gaining many rights. When the present situation is compared with the situation of a few years ago, the change is clear, he said.

Van Rooyen pointed out several examples of gains recently given blacks:

- The number of black schools increased from 105 to 550 between 1970 and 1980;
- Blacks can now join trade unions or establish their own;
- Resettlement of black communities has been discontinued;
- Mixed marriages are now permitted;
- Most public facilities are integrated;



Cornel Van Rooyen

Van Rooyen also discussed the importance of South Africa to the United States in economic development, industrial stimulus and transportation.

Economically, he said, South Africa represented more than \$4 billion of U.S. trade in 1984. Over 6,000 U.S. firms, including 350 major corporations, invest in the South African economy, he said.

In industry, he said, the United States is "relying dangerously" on South Africa to supply almost 50 percent of 25 out of 35 minerals vital to U.S. industry.

South Africa also is important geographically to the United States, as more than 20,000 ships travel around the Cape of Good Hope each year, he said.

Van Rooyen was appointed to his current position in December 1980. He joined the Information Service of South Africa in 1978, and has served on the European and British desks and interior division of the department.