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South Africa's Botha offers no new reforms

Associated Press
DURBAN, South Africa — President P.W. Botha rejected the one man, one vote principle for South Africa on Thursday, and told his party he would not lead the country on a road to abdication and suicide.

Botha said equal voting rights for all racial groups, including the 24 million blacks who have no vote at all, "would lead to domination of one over the others, and it would lead to chaos."
"I am not prepared to lead white

South Africans and other minority groups on a road to abdication and suicide," he said. "Destroy white South Africa and our influence and this country will drift into faction strife, chaos and poverty."

He indicated no impending change in the "pass laws" that restrict where blacks can live and work.

Botha addressed the convention of his ruling National Party, which has been in office since 1948 and devised the apartheid system of race discrimination that reserves the best of everything for South Africa's 5 million whites.

There had been speculation that the much-heralded speech, which was televised internationally, would announce reforms in response to the year of riot and boycott.

On "influx control," which restricts rural blacks from migrating to white cities where the jobs are, Botha said: "I can only say that the present system is outdated and too costly," and that a government commission will complete a report on possible changes soon.

Blacks say the most hated aspect of influx control is the pass laws re-

quiring them to secure permission to work and live near white areas.

Botha said government funds would be allocated to improving underdeveloped black cities and towns, where black people live in shacks without plumbing, often a short distance from the private swimming pools of privileged whites.

The president stated anew that blacks living outside the 10 tribal homelands "are South African citizens and should be accommodated within political institutions within the boundaries of the Republic of

South Africa." He repeated that blacks should be allowed to own land in urban areas and not just lease it as is now the case.

But he hewed to the long-time policy of his party that nominally independent black homelands "represent a material part of the solution."

Another idea he rejected was the concept of a fourth chamber of Parliament for blacks. The white Parliament runs the country, but separate houses with limited powers were established last year for ethnic Indians

and people of mixed race, known here as "coloreds."

He said South Africa's future must be determined by negotiation among all its racial groups. There are 2.8 million coloreds in the country and 850,000 ethnic Indians.

The government will approach the future "by letting the people speak through their leaders," Botha said, and "by negotiation between all these leaders."

"We will not prescribe and we will not demand," he said. "We will give so that others can also give."

Administration stance on hiring goals assailed

Associated Press
WASHINGTON — Civil rights and labor groups Thursday sharply criticized a Reagan administration draft proposal to abolish requirements that businesses with government contracts set numerical goals for hiring women and minorities.

At a news briefing in Santa Barbara, Calif., White House spokesman Larry Speakes said the proposal had not yet been taken up by the Cabinet Policy on Domestic Policy, and "therefore, it has no standing whatsoever as administration policy."

The regulations affect up to 73,000 private firms that employ an estimated 35 million workers.

A draft version of the new order, obtained by The Associated Press from non-governmental sources, said that under its provisions, a government contractor would no longer be required "to utilize any numerical quota, goal or ratio" to remedy discrimination based on race, sex, religion or national origin.

It said that compliance with general equal employment opportunity objectives would be judged by a firm's "demonstrated nondiscriminatory treatment of its employees and potential employees, irrespective of the number of minorities and women recruited, trained, hired or promoted."

"It's an unconscionable proposal," said Ralph Neas, executive director of the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights. In Pittsburgh, the AFL-CIO's executive council, concluding a three-day policymaking meeting, said "such a move would represent a giant step backward in the fight against employment discrimination."

Virginia Lamp, a labor relations attorney for the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, said of the proposed revision: "We have not been actively seeking this kind of initiative, but we are pleased to see it taking place."

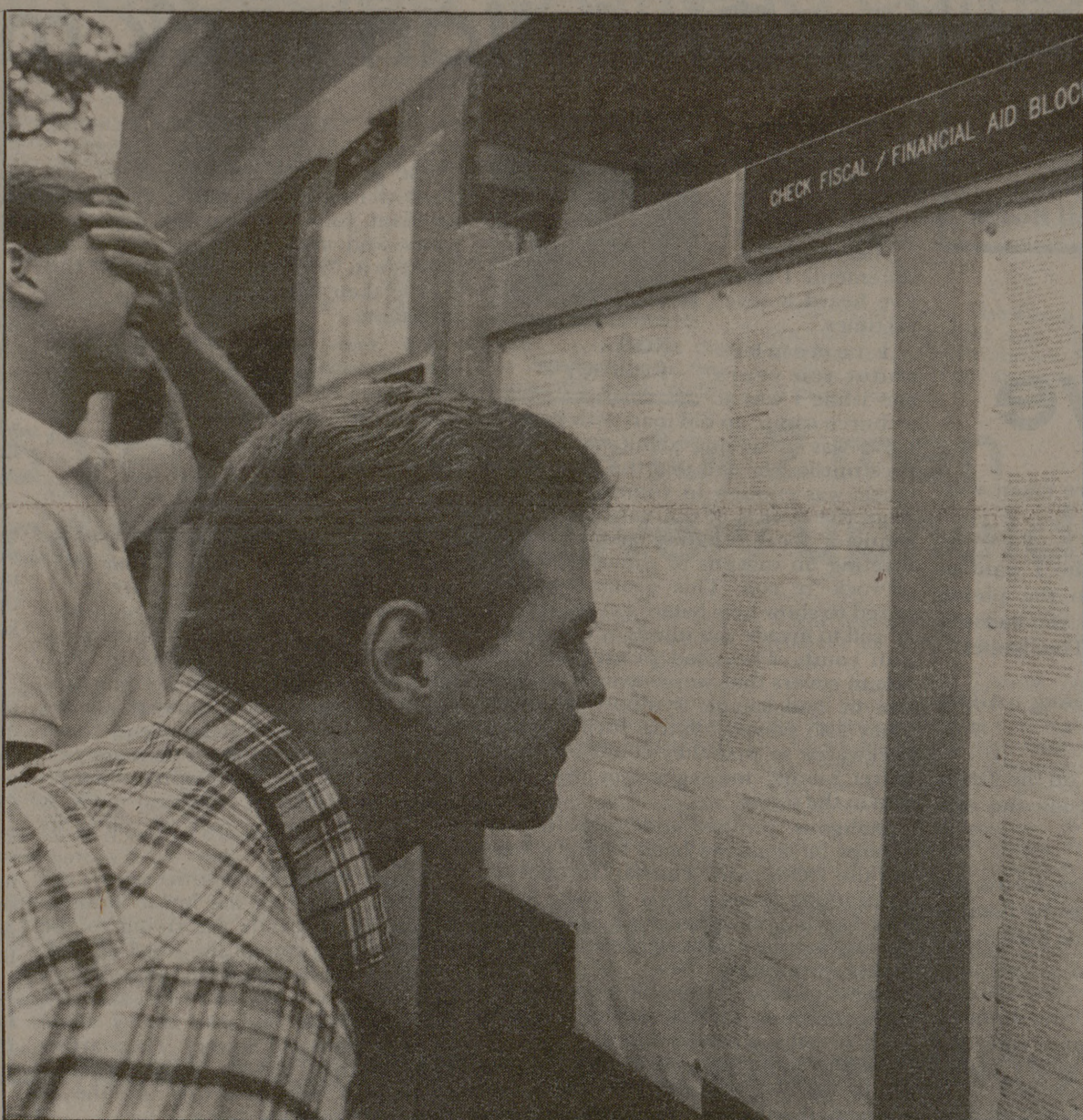


Photo by SCOTT SUTHERLAND

Check It Out

Brian Chubb is afraid to look at the graduation block list while roommate Tony Franklin reassures himself that he isn't blocked. Seniors had until 5 p.m. Thursday to check the list and clear their names for graduation ceremonies on Saturday. Chubb was relieved to find his name was not on the list either.

First bill introduced in 1981

Groups seek laws regulating VDTs

Editor's note: This is the second in a two-part series on possible health problems associated with the use of Video Display Terminals.

By **BRIAN PEARSON**
Staff Writer

Concern over possible harmful effects of Video Display Terminals has trickled into 23 state legislatures.

National groups — including The Newspaper Guild, the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, or NIOSH, and 9 to 5 (the National Association of Working Women) — have lobbied to get the legislatures to consider bills to regulate VDTs and their use.

The first VDT bill was introduced in 1981 by a 44-year-old cleaning lady in Maine who worked at a publishing company. She heard VDT operators complain of health problems, became interested in the VDT health issue and ran for a seat in the Maine House of Representatives in 1976. She won.

Edith Beaulieu, an employee of the Guignannett Publishing Co. in Portland, Maine, told The Battalion in a telephone interview that she was

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convinced that she had to jump on the VDT issue after reading a health report by NIOSH. The report blamed VDTs and the way they are used for causing eyestrain, eye fatigue, headaches, dizziness, nausea, body aches, miscarriages and cataracts.

Beaulieu said newsroom workers at Guignannett complained of VDT health problems identified in the NIOSH report. Guignannett publishes the Portland Press-Herald, Evening Express and Maine Sunday Telegram.

The NIOSH report said possible VDT health hazards were caused by radiation emitted from VDTs, glare from VDT screens, lack of comfort and mobility at the VDT work station

and stress caused by demanding employers.

The NIOSH report also suggested solutions to these problems. The report asked employers to install special equipment, such as adjustable chairs, detachable VDT keyboards, glare control knobs and tiltable screens. The report also asked employers to provide free eye exams and more rest breaks for VDT operators.

Similar requests were in Beaulieu's 1981 bill presented to the Maine Legislature.

Beaulieu said she introduced the bill to "educate legislators on the VDT issue" and force reluctant employers to meet NIOSH requests.

"When I put in the bill, I was

doing it on purpose to shake up the establishment, and I never expected it to pass," she said. "The manufacturers (of VDTs) came out screaming against it because they were totally paranoid about the issue of even beginning to contemplate regulations in this area."

Beaulieu's bill, which made national headlines, served as a launching point for a nationwide attempt by labor groups, such as the Guild and 9 to 5, to force state legislatures to take action.

Within four years, the national groups had slowly carried the issue to legislatures in California, Massachusetts, Minnesota, New York, Colorado, Connecticut, Hawaii, Florida, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Maryland, Missouri, New Hampshire, New Jersey, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Washington, West Virginia and Wisconsin.

None of the bills passed. The only VDT bill that came close to passing was one that made it through the Oregon House and Sen-

Danny strikes coast packing 90 mph winds

Associated Press

NEW IBERIA, La. — Hurricane Danny churned across Louisiana's marshy coast Thursday, spinning off tornadoes, causing flash floods, and keeping tens of thousands of people from their homes and offshore jobs.

Danny hit shore Thursday morning, with wind gusts of more than 90 mph. Gov. Edwin Edwards declared a state of emergency in 13 parishes. National Guardsmen were put on alert statewide, but only three dozen were called out to help with evacuations and other tasks.

More than 20,000 people lost power, and indications were that the most serious damage was inflicted by winds behind the storm's center.

By midafternoon, the highest winds were 75 mph in squalls along the coast, the National Weather Service said.

An estimated 65 people were stranded near Weeks Island on a bridge over the Intracoastal Canal, apparently the only place high enough to be above the water, St. Mary Parish officials said.

One person was hospitalized in stable condition after a mobile home at Kaplan was tossed and rolled about 60 yards.

A flood watch was issued for the entire state, and forecasters warned that the hurricane could dump 10 inches of rain on some areas. Many roads in the marshes near the coast were reported blocked by floodwater.

All of south Louisiana was under a tornado watch. Two twisters hit at Grand Isle before dawn, and two more tornadoes were spotted at midday, one in St. Bernard Parish and one south of West Hackberry, offi-

cials said. No damage was reported.

At 2 p.m. CDT, the center of the hurricane was about 40 miles east-southeast of Lake Charles.

The hurricane was weakening and moving toward the north-northwest at 10 to 15 mph, the weather service said. But gale warnings continued during the afternoon from the mouth of the Mississippi River to Pensacola, Fla.

Six damage assessment teams were to start work at daylight Friday, Tom Creaghan, state director of emergency operations, said in Baton Rouge.

"We have experienced pockets of damage — mostly from wind. We won't know the full extent until we actually get out in the field," he said.

About 20,000 customers were without electricity for a couple of hours in New Orleans; at noon about 2,000 customers of Gulf States Utilities were out in the Baton Rouge area; sections of Crowley lost power; and at Kaplan, transformers were reported on emergency radios to be "blowing like popcorn."

Flood waters buckled a kerosene storage tank at the Berwick Oil Co. in Intracoastal City in Vermilion Parish, said Hamilton Mixon, of the state police.

The tank was leaking and officials called the state emergency operations center because of fears the kerosene would get into area homes, Mixon said.

"They're calling this a class one hurricane, minimal hurricane, and that's just exactly what it is," said Vermilion Parish Sheriff Ray Lemaire. "A minimal hurricane, knocking power out, a real headache."

Variations in AIDS virus hurting vaccine efforts

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The virus suspected of causing AIDS has so many variations in its genetic structure that developing a preventive vaccine against the disease may prove very difficult, if it can be done at all, researchers said Thursday.

Scientists at the National Cancer Institute said they looked at the suspect virus found in 18 patients with AIDS or at high risk of getting the disease, and that each isolated virus showed a different variation in its genetic structure.

The findings, to be published today in the journal Science, mean that it could be difficult to find a common site on the viruses that can be targeted for preventive and therapeutic measures, they said.

To develop a vaccine, researchers say they need to find a common protein region, preserved in all variations of the virus, that triggers an immunologic response.

If the body has been previously primed to produce antibodies to this area, such as through vaccination

with the protein produced by the targeted region, then it may be possible for people to resist the virus when they come in contact with it.

Drs. Flossie Wong-Staal, Robert C. Gallo, Mikulas Popovic and colleagues at the institute also said there was no distinct viral pattern found in patients with actual acquired disease immunity syndrome as opposed to those with a similar immunity disorder called AIDS-related complex or those who were viral carriers.

Gallo, a co-discoverer of the suspect virus called HTLV-III, said that although viral diversity is affecting development of a vaccine, it should not have a great effect on efforts to develop chemical agents to contain the disease or attack the virus in the cells of infected patients.

The studies, conducted with Philip Markham of Litton Bionetics Inc., and Robert Redfield of the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research, also found that only two of the 18 patients showed evidence of actual infection by more than one viral variant.