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Texas A&M The Battalion

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Jordan rejects Israeli leader's peace initiative

Associated Press

TEL AVIV, Israel — Prime Minister Shimon Peres said Tuesday he called for negotiations with Jordan because Israel must regain the initiative in the search for peace.

Peres' proposals on Monday appeared to offer anything new for the Arabs. The proposals were promptly rebuffed by Jordan and criticized at home by Israeli hawks.

The call for direct talks on ending the state of war and resolving the Palestinian problem came as Jordan was trying to improve relations with neighboring Syria, a hard-line state that has refused to talk peace until it achieves military parity with Israel.

A statement issued Monday, after Jordanian-Syrian talks in Riyadh under Saudi Arabian sponsorship, said Jordan rejected "all partial and unilateral settlements with Israel." A high-ranking official in Amman said this was King Hussein's response to the Peres speech.

Peres acknowledged there was only a "possibility" his peace feeler would be answered, but he cautioned against taking initial public reactions from Jordan and other Arab countries at face value.

"I wouldn't judge very much the reactions by the public declarations," he told a meeting of Jewish leaders in New York.

There was no immediate reaction from key Arab moderates, such as Egypt, or from the Palestine Liberation Organization. The silence

could indicate that Arab governments were awaiting more definitive statements from Jordan and the PLO, which agreed in February on a joint approach to Middle East peace.

PLO chairman Yasser Arafat told a news conference Monday in Kuwait, before the Peres speech, that he rejected earlier offers of negotiations with Jordan and self-rule for Palestinians in Israeli-occupied Arab territories.

"I am sure no Palestinian party will dare to take part in any negotiations without PLO approval," Arafat said. He claimed Peres was trying to "cover up his iron-fist policy" with peace proposals.

In his U.N. speech, Peres did not specifically rule out talks with the PLO, but he said Israel would not talk with those engaged in acts of terror.

Peres noted that the late President Anwar Sadat of Egypt, who signed a peace treaty with Israel in 1979, previously was its enemy.

"Sadat attacked us in a war, and we did not ask whether he had fought against us," he said. "From the moment he approached us for peace, we accepted him according to his current situation."

Rightists in Israel's year-old coalition government criticized the proposals, attacking the prime minister's conciliatory tone toward the PLO and his bending toward Jordan on an international peace conference.

Special envoy says U.S. deplores Israeli air raid

Associated Press

TUNIS, Tunisia — President Reagan's special envoy said Tuesday that the United States deplores the Israeli air raid on the PLO headquarters outside Tunis as it does "all acts of terrorism."

Deputy Secretary of State John C. Whitehead, ending a diplomatic fence-mending tour of the area after the Israeli raid and the Achille Lauro ship hijacking, said in a statement to reporters. "The bombing surprised and shocked Americans as much as it did Tunisians. We deplore it, as we deplore all acts of terrorism wherever they may occur."

He referred to the "tragic and unnecessary loss of innocent lives" in the Israeli attack Oct. 1 and said he repeated to officials of this U.S. ally in North Africa "that the United States was not involved in this in any way and had no knowledge of it."

There was no official reaction in Tel Aviv to Whitehead's remarks. But Israel Radio led its 5 p.m. news broadcast with the story, commenting that Whitehead's statement "in effect contradicts the original American declaration on the bombing."

In Washington, State Department spokeswoman Anita Stockman said late Tuesday, "We have spoken to

the deputy secretary (Whitehead), and he said he did not describe the Israeli raid as a terrorist act; he did not intend to imply that it was such an act; and his statement should not be read to suggest otherwise."

Shortly after the Israeli air strike, White House spokesman Larry Speakes called it a "legitimate" defense against terrorism.

The administration later said the raid "could not be condoned" because one act of violence inspires another and "a pattern of escalation is established."

The United States abstained Oct. 4 in the U.N. Security Council vote on a Tunisian resolution that called the air strike "armed aggression against Tunisian territory."

Whitehead said in the statement to reporters that he expressed Reagan's regret for the raid to Tunisian officials. He refused to answer questions after delivering the statement.

The special envoy also visited Rome and Cairo to ease tensions created when U.S. Navy jets forced an Egyptian airliner carrying the hijackers of the Italian cruise liner to land in Sicily, and by the dispute over Italy's release of a Palestinian guerrilla leader who also was on the plane.



Photo by GREG BAILEY

Ham it up

Members of the Texas A&M Singing Cadets ham it up during their rendition of "Dames" in a special concert for the Corps of Cadets Tuesday night in Rudder Auditorium. The performance was a

scaled-down version of the group's normal repertoire but included a variety of tunes.

Election '86

Senator Brown wants to be first Republican attorney general

By GENE ROBERTS

Reporter



J. E. "Buster" Brown

If State Senator J.E. "Buster" Brown wins his bid for attorney general in 1986, he will be the first Republican attorney general in the history of Texas.

Brown told Aggie GOP members Tuesday night that if elected he would defend the Constitution and laws of the state of Texas.

"The issue in 1986 is strong law and order and someone who will defend the state," Brown said.

"Experts said I couldn't beat a 20-year Democrat incumbent when I ran for senator, but I did," Brown said. "It won't be easy, but with the people on my side we can do the

same in 1986."

Brown said that Attorney General Jim Mattox has neglected his job by refusing to appeal cases. Two of those cases specifically involved Texas A&M — the Gay Student Services issue and the Zentgraf Consent Decree.

"Take either side on the issues, but the University asked the attorney general to defend it and he refused," Brown said. "That's like picking and choosing when he's attorney general."

Brown said he would like to improve on criminal justice because he believes citizens are tired of watching a system that favors criminals instead of the innocent.

Part of Brown's crack-down in-

cludes Proposition 11 which will be on the November 5 ballot. The proposition is designed to eliminate appeals based on technical discrepancies such as typographical errors on indictments in criminal cases.

"Whether or not the person is guilty or innocent has nothing to do with a misspelled word," he said.

Brown said Republican strength in Texas has been a growing trend for the last six years and could be an advantage in the coming election.

"The reason for the shift is plain and simple," he said. "The Republican Party stands for something important."

Brown said, "I've been rated as the most conservative member of the Senate, and I'm proud of it."

State judge upholds no pass, no play statute

Associated Press

HOUSTON — A state district judge who earlier declared the Texas no pass, no play rule unconstitutional on Tuesday upheld the controversial statute.

State District Judge Marsha Anthony, who last May ruled the law unconstitutional, refused to grant a temporary injunction that would have kept the state from enforcing it.

Under the rule, students must achieve a grade of 70 in all subjects at the end of each six weeks grading period or be declared ineligible for extracurricular activities for the following six weeks.

Anthony, a former teacher, ruled that the case would be tried on its merits Nov. 18 as a class action suit, affecting all elementary and secondary school students in the state's 1,100 school districts.

In her earlier decision, Anthony said the law was unconstitutional because it did not apply equally to all high school students. The Texas Supreme Court overruled her decision in August.

"We are pleased that the judge made this a class action suit because we will now have to try the case only once," Assistant Attorney General Kevin O'Hanlon said.

Houston attorney Anthony Shep-

pard, who also is appealing the case to the U.S. Supreme Court, filed the challenge Tuesday and sought the class action trial.

Patricia Patterson, who testified earlier that her daughter, Lori, 15, had become distraught with a failing grade in geometry, disagreed with the judge's ruling.

"What they are trying to do is wrong," Patterson said. "My child's extracurricular is just as important as French, math or English. She needs them all to grow into a mature adult."

Patterson said her daughter had three As, and a B and C in other subjects but the threat of not being able

to perform with the band could jeopardize all of her school work. The girl is a member of the Spring Westfield symphonic band.

"She may end up with all Fs because of this rule," Patterson said.

Sheppard said he thought the rule provided no margin for error.

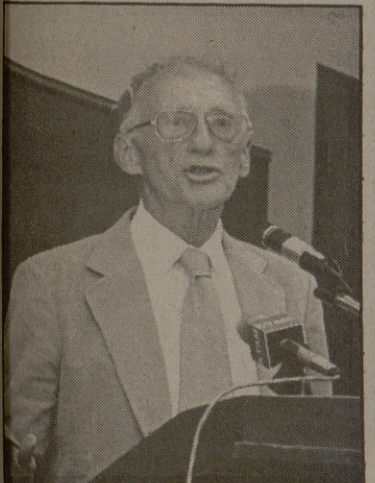
"My personal opinion is that if they are going to jerk students out of activities, it should be for a shorter period of time," Sheppard said. "And it should apply only to a small number of activities."

Sheppard said students involved in vocational courses, including after-school typing classes, also are affected by the rule.

Experts disagree over effects of water proposals

By JENS B. KOEPKE

Staff Writer



Ned Fritz

In a debate Tuesday night, an opponent of the Texas water plan said that a "sleeper clause" in Proposition 1 allows the Legislature unlimited water expenditures, while a proposition supporter contended that the water plan successfully balances environmental and economic water issues.

Ned Fritz, chairman of the Texas committee on natural resources, opposed the water package, while Steve Stagner, executive director of the Texas Water Alliance, supported it. The debate was sponsored by the Texas A&M Regional Studies Club, The Sierra Club and Greenpeace and was moderated by Dr. Wayne Jordan, director of the Texas Water Resource Institute.

Stagner said, "It (Water Bill) is an effort to give the state some tools with which it can help local entities finance projects and to put in place management and conservation mechanisms in the state water policy."

Fritz countered that the water plan was throwing money at the water problem. He showed the audience of about 150 people an oversized check for "all you want" made out to "the Texas Water Commission" for "water projects, needed or not" to emphasize his point. The "sleeper clause" in Proposition 1, Fritz said, allows the Legislature to create unlimited special appropriations for water assistance programs and constitutes a blank check to "water hustlers" (bond speculators).

Stagner argued that the Legislature has always had the constitu-

tional privilege to appropriate special water funds and used it in 1981, while Fritz said that the 1981 action should have been challenged as unconstitutional and that many attorneys say that the Legislature does not have this power. Fritz questioned why it would be necessary to have the "sleeper clause" if the state already had this power.

From an environmental and conservation standpoint, the bill is an improvement over present conditions, Stagner said. Water development boards are currently required only to consider the general ecological effects of a water project, he said, while the bill provides "discretion within a statutory definition."

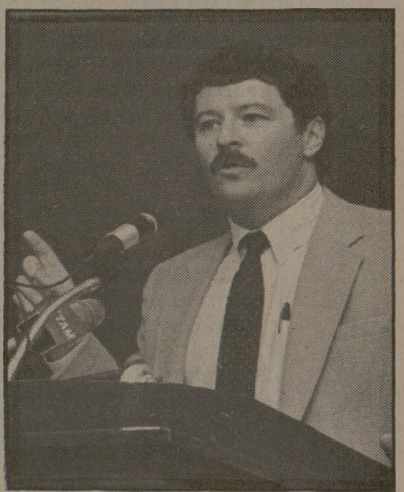
Fritz replied that common law, rather than statutory law, has provided some regulations as to what

environmental concerns a board must consider in reviewing a project. The water bill leaves too much up to the discretion of boards that are dominated by water development interests, he said, and would result in the needless destruction of rich farmland and valuable recreation acreage.

House Bill 2, the Texas Water Bill, is a comprehensive plan dealing with conservation, development, flood control and quality protection of the surface and underground state water resources. It will be financed by Propositions 1 and 2, which will be voted upon in the Nov. 5 election.

Proposition 1 would authorize the sale of an additional \$980 million in

See Water plan, page 10



Steve Stagner