



Ratings: Congressmen in Texas support Reagan

Associated Press
 WASHINGTON — Texas members of Congress, both Democrats and Republicans, supported President Reagan more than the average congressman in 1985, according to ratings released this week by Congressional Quarterly.

CQ, a Washington publishing house that specializes in reference works about Capitol Hill, said it used a series of 1985 votes on which President Reagan had expressed a clear-cut position to come up with support percentages.

Texas House Republicans were well aboard the Reagan bandwagon, voting the way the president wanted 80 percent of the time. The average for all House Republicans was 67 percent.

Texas Democrats supported Reagan 31 percent of the time, compared to a 30 percent average for the rest of House Democrats.

Both Texas senators, Republican Phil Gramm and Democrat Lloyd Bentsen, were among the top 10 for their respective parties in support for Reagan. Gramm recorded an 87 percent support ratio while Bentsen's was 50 percent.

In another CQ voting analysis, Texas GOP members were shown to be considerably more partisan than their Republican colleagues, voting with the party 86 percent of the time, compared to the average 75 percent.

Texas Democrats were less partisan than their colleagues, voting the Democratic party line 74 percent of the time compared to the average 80 percent.

A separate attendance rating based on recorded floor votes

showed the Texans slightly below average.

Reps. Charles Stenholm, D-Stamford; Mike Andrews, D-Houston and Larry Combest, R-Lubbock, had the best voting attendance among the Texans with 99 percent, putting them among 43 House members with that rating. Four House Democrats had 100 percent.

Rep. Tom Loeffler, R-Hunt, who is running for Texas governor, had 76 percent, the lowest voting participation score among House Republicans.

In the Senate, Gramm was present for 98 percent of the votes, higher than the average for Senate Republicans of 94 percent. Bentsen had a 94 percent participation, but was slightly below the Democratic average of 95 percent.

Next to Sen. Chic Hecht, R-Nev., Gramm was the Senate's most partisan Republican, according to CQ. Gramm voted with his party 95 percent of the time.

Bentsen had a middle-ground party support rate — 54 percent.

Stenholm, a leader of conservative Democrats in the House, voted against his party 64 percent of the time, more than any other House Democrat except Buddy Roemer of Louisiana, and ranked highest among House Democrats in supporting Reagan.

Steve Bartlett, R-Dallas, was second on the GOP list with an 89 percent Reagan support rate. Loeffler was lowest among the Texas Republicans with 60 percent.

Mickey Leland, D-Houston, voted only 20 percent of the time for the Reagan position, the lowest among the Texans.

Dick Arney of Denton and Joe

Barton of Ennis were the most partisan of the Texas Republicans, scoring 94 percent.

Democrat Henry B. Gonzalez of San Antonio was the most partisan Democrat among the Texans, also with 94 percent.

Here is a list of Texas senators and congressmen, listed in order of district, and their percentage support for President Reagan, percentage support for their own party, and percentage participation in recorded votes, according to 1985 vote analyses by Congressional Quarterly.

Senate	
Bentsen	— 50; 54; 94.
Gramm	— 87; 95; 98.
House Democrats	
Chapman	— 42; 59; 91.
Wilson	— 40; 63; 74.
Ralph Hall	— 58; 45; 92.
Bryant	— 23; 89; 97.
Brooks	— 24; 87; 91.
Pickle	— 40; 82; 97.
Leath	— 52; 46; 95.
Wright	— 23; 81; 87.
de la Garza	— 34; 75; 89.
Coleman	— 31; 89; 98.
Stenholm	— 66; 35; 99.
Leland	— 20; 90; 94.
Gonzalez	— 21; 94; 95.
Bustamante	— 34; 85; 93.
Frost	— 26; 83; 93.
Andrews	— 39; 77; 99.
Ortiz	— 36; 76; 90.
House Republicans	
Bartlett	— 89; 93; 98.
Barton	— 85; 94; 94.
Archer	— 88; 80; 95.
Fields	— 74; 89; 95.
Boulter	— 78; 87; 95.
Sweeney	— 78; 79; 94.
Combest	— 75; 89; 99.
Loeffler	— 60; 70; 76.
DeLay	— 85; 87; 95.
Arney	— 88; 94; 98.

Over-abundant pollen sending sneezers to physicians

Associated Press
 SAN ANTONIO — Doctors and allergists in Central Texas are blaming the mild, dry winter weather for the abundance of pollen that has the people sniffing and sneezing from Austin to Houston.

Dr. Steven Findlay of the Allergy Center in Austin said the problem has gotten even worse in the next few weeks.

Trees fat with pollen have not been exposed to much freezing weather and precipitation this winter, and that is "the worst combination of events we could have," Findlay said.

"The phone is ringing off the hook," Findlay said.

In San Antonio, Dr. William T. Kniker, an immunologist at the UT Health Science Center, said Monday, "This year is the worst season in

a long, long time. This might be the worst season."

The amount of the cedar pollen in San Antonio reached an all-time high Monday of 86,000 pollen grains per cubic meter — nearly eight times the previous record of 11,000 grains per cubic meter measured here, officials say.

"I've never seen anything like it," said Grant Smith, who keeps track of

pollen and molds in the air for local specialists.

San Antonio allergists reported waiting rooms bulging with patients for whom ordinary antihistamines could not provide relief.

"There are probably 50,000 to 60,000 people — this is a conservative estimate — who are being affected by what's happening today," Dr. Paul Ratner said.

"People are getting sinusitis (in-

fecting sinus passageways), they're getting fatigued, they're not able to work," he said. "It's an incredible situation. I don't remember it ever being like this."

"Cedar fever" season usually begins in mid-December and runs through March.

Austin allergist Lobdell Exline said pollen counts reaching 2,000 grains per liter of air have been recorded, and Findlay said the num-

bers are getting higher. A severe year for cedar pollen has counts of 6,000 to 7,000.

"Last year, it never did get above the hundreds," Exline said. But this year, trees "look like they're just bursting. A little breeze will cause a puff of pollen to come out. It looks like they're smoking."

Kniker said the pollen should be gone in about six weeks — at least until next year.

Love triangle case to stay in East Texas town

Associated Press
 LIVINGSTON — A judge ruled Tuesday to grant a defense motion to move to another city the trial of a former school principal accused of killing a football coach over affections of a school secretary.

State District Judge John Martin granted the request for Hurley Fontenot, whose attorneys claim cannot have a fair trial.

Martin earlier said it might be difficult to find an impartial jury in the East Texas town but rejected the motion after nearly two hours of testimony at a hearing Tuesday.

"I felt they could be fair and impartial," the judge said of prospective jurors.

Of the original 100 people summoned to the court last week for consideration as jurors, 68 remained. Martin said more extensive questionnaires would be distributed to those people and attorneys again would quiz them.

The selection of a jury likely would be completed in two or three days, he said.

Fontenot, 48, the former principal of Hull-Daisetta Woodson Junior

Peter Speer, an assistant district attorney handling the state's case, contended no prejudice existed.

"Every one of the jurors who said they could not set aside their opinion has been excluded. Mr. Fontenot can get a fair trial."

High School, is accused of killing Billy Mac Fleming, a coach and math teacher at the Liberty County school. Fleming was found shot to death in April.

Investigators allege Fleming was Fontenot's rival for the affections of Laura Nugent, 36, a teacher's aide and school secretary both men had dated and wanted to marry.

Fleming was last seen alive April 12. Ten days later, his body was found in a densely forested area southwest of Livingston in Polk County, about 50 miles away.

Fontenot, who is free on \$50,000 bond, has pleaded innocent to the murder charge, saying he was in Houston when the coach disappeared.

Fontenot's attorney, Dick DeGuerin, sought the change of venue, citing extensive pre-trial media coverage.

"There's a general public sentiment unfavorable to the defendant," he argued. "Clearly, we have seen it's almost universal. When there's an opinion, it's against Mr. Fontenot."

But Peter Speer, an assistant district attorney handling the state's case, contended no prejudice existed.

"Every one of the jurors who said they could not set aside their opinion has been excluded," he told the judge. "Mr. Fontenot can get a fair trial."

Neither attorney would comment on Martin's decision, citing a gag order the judge imposed on parties in the case.

DeGuerin called five witnesses to the stand, including three reporters who differed on the amount of pub-

licity they believed was generated by the case.

Scott Lawrence, a reporter with television station KFDM in Beaumont, described what he said was "overwhelming interest" in Polk County, but added that much of the news coverage is stating allegation as fact.

He also said some stories were slanted but didn't know if it was deliberate.

Most people he interviewed believed Fontenot was guilty, Lawrence said.

Cindy Horswell, a reporter with the Houston Chronicle, testified she did not question people about their thoughts on the case because such a random sampling could not be valid.

The third reporter, Greg Peak of the Polk County Enterprise, said only a few people would likely be prejudiced and that the trial wasn't the primary topic of conversation on everyone's mind.

Others testifying were Fontenot's brother, Walter, an attorney helping with the defense; and Joe Scott Evans, a lawyer from nearby Groveton.



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