

Governor defends literacy tests on air

Associated Press

AUSTIN — Gov. Mark White's campaign committee paid to send Texas television stations his defense of the teacher literacy test, the president of Communications Carrier Inc. said Tuesday.

Company president Saleem Tawil said the "raw feed" was sent to 25 stations, which received it at no charge for use on Monday news programs.

He would not disclose how much of White's campaign would pay for the satellite transmission of the 30-minute footage, taped during the governor's Monday tour of a Motorola Inc. semiconductor plant.

White was accompanied on the tour by 22 Austin high school students and officials from the Texas Elementary Principals and Supervisors Association and the Texas Federation of Teachers.

As more than 200,000 teachers were taking the basic skills test, White said at Motorola, "Today, every teacher in Texas is taking a test as an important step in laying the educational groundwork for a new Texas economy."

He called the test part of an effort to improve the public education system — an overall effort resulting in higher teacher salaries, more state funds for poorer school districts and

emphasis on academic performance.

The governor held a news conference before taking the tour, and Tawil said the conference and portions of the tour were taped by his company's crew, which then beamed it to the 25 stations.

Communications Carrier Inc. served as a conduit and the stations taking the feed could use the footage any way they saw fit, Tawil said.

"It's unedited," he said. "That's the key thing. When you edit, you lose credibility."

Dan Rogers, manager of public relations and marketing services for Motorola's Austin semiconductor section, said White's staff requested the tour last week.

Motorola officials knew about the satellite arrangements and also knew the visit would have political overtones, but the company felt it was well worth it, he said.

"That's pretty political at this time," Rogers said of White's comments on education issues. "But it's important to us. We feel high tech is an important future for the state of Texas. We do need education in Texas."

Asked Monday who would pay for the satellite time, White said, "I am."

Ann Arnold, White's press secretary, later said that meant the bill would be paid from the governor's campaign funds.

In Advance CS Council to meet, discuss location of branch library

The College Station City Council will discuss where the city's branch library should be put in its workshop meeting today at 5 p.m.

The council's regular meeting will be held Thursday at 7 p.m.

The library committee has recommended the facility be located in the Southwood Valley Athletic Park.

Other proposed sites include Bee Creek Park and the College Station Community Center. Currently, \$194,000 is budgeted for the operation of the branch library.

The council also will designate March as "Professional Social Work Month."

In Thursday's meeting, the council will hold a public hearing on the proposed use of the sharing funds.

The council also will consider two amendments to the existing zoning ordinances establishing zoning districts. The Planning and Zoning Committee recommended creating a community planned unit development, which will encourage efficiency of commercial sites.

The committee's recommendation would provide the establishment of a commercial Northgate zone. Northgate contains unique and historic significance, the committee

U.S. oil imports put OPEC 'back in the saddle'

Associated Press

ABILENE — Americans face a declining standard of living in the future because the country is becoming more reliant on imported oil, an oil company spokesman and former television newsman says.

Robert Goralski, director of communications for Gulf Oil Co., and a former NBC-TV correspondent, said the oil price situation has the

Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries "back in the saddle again."

Goralski on Monday warned the 53rd annual meeting of the West Central Texas Oil and Gas Association last year's balance of payments reached a record deficit of \$125 billion.

The purchase of foreign oil accounted for \$55 billion, or 44 percent of the deficit, he said.

In another speech Monday, Goralski told an Abilene civic club lower oil prices and dependency on foreign oil eventually could hurt consumers as much as oilmen.

Low pump prices mean higher consumption and waste and greater levels of imports in the future, he said.

By 1995, he predicted, the nation will be importing about 60 percent of its oil.

Oil is already the single greatest balance-of-payments problem, Goralski said, accounting for more of the trade deficit than cars and far more than shoes or textiles.

America is in the same shape with its oil supply Japan and Germany were on the eve of World War II, he said.

"Japan and Germany went to war for lack of oil," Goralski said. Japan's attack on Pearl Harbor

was merely to protect its left flank while its military machine went after the oil fields of the East Indies, Goralski said.

Nazi Germany attacked the Soviet Union with a goal of seizing the Caucasian oil fields, he said.

American oil fueled Allied victory in both World Wars and was again

the major source of supply for American and United Nations fighting in Korea, he said.

But in the war in Vietnam, supplied the great bulk of the war effort, he said.

Iran is a source no longer available, he said.

Teachers complain insufficient time allotted to take test

Associated Press

AUSTIN — Educators who did not have sufficient time to complete the basic skills test might be allowed to take a make-up exam, a Texas Education Agency spokeswoman said Tuesday.

Spokeswoman Terri Anderson said, "The main problem we are hearing about is that some people did have their tests taken up before they finished."

There was no time limit on the 210,000 people who took the Texas Examination of Current Administrators and Teachers on Monday. The test was given in shifts at more than 850 sites across the state. Anderson said there were some problems on the late shift.

Educators must pass the exam by

June 30 to keep their state teaching certificates. A June 28 test is planned for those who failed Monday.

The Texas State Teachers Association, which sued to stop the test, collected complaints Tuesday from monitors it assigned to test sites. TSTA spokeswoman Annette Cootes said the complaints included insufficient time, confusing instructions, bad air conditioning and a test-caused car wreck.

Cootes said a Mission teacher said "she was so upset she didn't finish the test that she had a car accident on the way home."

The most common problem was time, she said.

"One recurring problem in almost every district is that they underestimated the amount of time it was

going to take," she said. "We don't think they took into consideration that these people's jobs were on the line."

State officials expected most test-takers to complete the exam in about two-and-a-half hours. Many took much longer.

In the North Forest school district near Houston, 20-25 teachers were told to write "quit under duress" when they were forced to hand in their exams before completion, according to TSTA.

Anderson said March 22 had been set as a tentative make-up test date for teachers or administrators who missed the test for health or any reasons. Teachers who did not complete the Monday test also might be allowed to re-take it that day, she said.

19th century exam for teachers discovered

Associated Press

FORT WORTH — If today's educators were bothered by the competency test, they should have seen the questions Fort Worth public school teachers were asked a century ago.

The Texas Examination of Current Administrators and Teachers given Monday consisted of multiple-choice questions designed to gauge proficiency in reading and writing.

Not so with the 19th Century test. That one ran the gamut of English, mathematics, history and the sciences.

David Dunnett, a librarian at the Central Library in Fort Worth, ran

across an exam given Fort Worth teachers in 1887-88.

The exams were given as a condition of employment when the schools were under the city government, according to Joe Sherrod, Fort Worth school district spokesman.

"My recollection in reading the minutes is that the exams were given over a period of many years," he said. "What the significance was I can't say, but presumably they were to test for competency to be a teacher."

Some sample questions include:

English:
1. Write sentences in which optics, mechanics and music shall be

the subject and the verb in some form of the present tense of the verb "to be."

Geography:
3. Why are the polar circles tropics placed 23.5 degrees from the poles and the equator?

Mathematics:
2. Hen's eggs vary so much in size that in an ordinary lot you select seven which will weigh a pound, by taking the largest, the largest are worth 15 cents, what are the smallest worth?

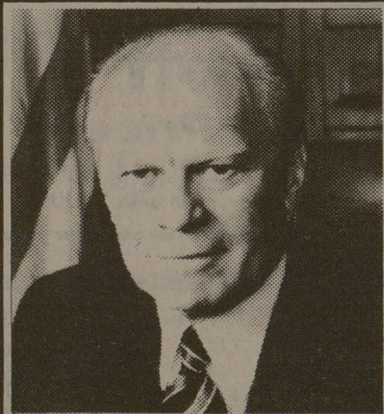
United States history:
1. Name five Union and Confederate victories during Civil War.



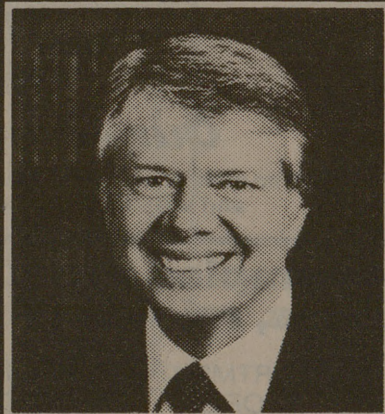
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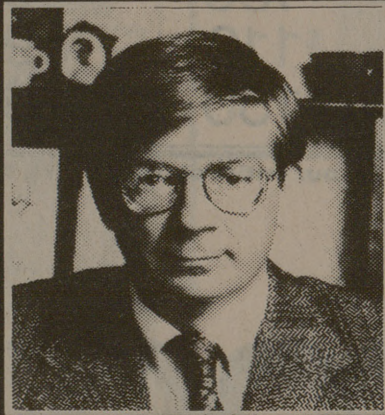
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