

State and Local

Energy secretary rejects White's bid for oil import fee

WASHINGTON (AP) — Energy Secretary John Herrington on Sunday rejected a call from Texas Gov. Mark White for increasing the tax on imported oil to protect the domestic petroleum industry against plunging oil prices.

"An import fee does not make sense for several reasons," Herrington said. "I don't care what you call it, oil import fee, tax, the president is not for it. . . . (It's) a dead letter."

The energy secretary also denied allegations by White and others that Vice President George Bush, who met with Saudi Arabian officials in Riyadh on Saturday and Sunday, urged them to curb oil exports to bolster petroleum prices.

"This trip is not based on oil," Herrington said. "He has a lot of economic and energy issues, and national security issues to discuss . . . with the four countries." Bush is visiting Saudi Arabia, Oman, North Yemen and Bahrain.

Herrington and White appeared on the NBC-TV interview program "Meet the Press."

Treasury Secretary James A. Baker III has also said that President Reagan has decided against doubling or tripling the 50-cent-a-barrel excise tax on imported oil and using the revenues to buy oil for the nation's Strategic Petroleum Reserve.

White, a Democrat, urged the Reagan administration to "impose a variable tariff (on imported oil) that would make certain that you would not shut down wells that are stripper wells, the low producers, and therefore we would not be throwing away already discovered oil" in the United States.

"We need to have the price of oil at a level that will induce people to go in and invest in new oil discoveries and oil wells, and then we will have plenty," White said, proposing a minimum price of \$15 per barrel to keep the low-volume producers in business.

"We have to be more concerned about our national security," White said.

"They are destroying an oil industry that we need for our national security," he said.

Ringer elected mayor, captures 55% of vote

By Craig Renfro
Staff Writer

In Saturday's elections, one Texas A&M professor was elected mayor of College Station, and another professor lost his bid for re-election to the council.

Larry Ringer, a statistics professor, defeated Lynn McIlhane and reclaimed a seat on the city council as mayor.

Ringer gathered 1,639 or 55 percent of the votes to McIlhane's 1,336 votes, 44 percent of the electorate.

Ringer said his first concerns will be working on the city's budget and appointing members to the city's board and advisory committees. Ringer said he plans to talk with the city manager and council members to outline the city's needs and see what direction the city should take.

Ringer served as a College Station City Council member from 1976 through 1983. He currently serves as a member of the A&M Faculty Senate and as president of the College Station Library Committee.

During the week before the election letters were sent through Ringer's advertising agency, criticizing McIlhane's record. Ringer said he had nothing to do with the letters.

"People know me and my record, and what I stand for," Ringer said.

"And a lot of people know my style, and they know that's not my style."

McIlhane said the letters had nothing to do with her defeat because Ringer's campaign was like that from the beginning.

"It was hard to compete with the lies," McIlhane said. "I wanted to run a positive campaign, but privately my opponent didn't."

"I'm not sure if there aren't some questions that they (Ringer's campaign) owe the citizens some answers to."

In the race for Place 2, incumbent Robert C. Runnels, an A&M meteorology professor, lost his re-election bid. He became the first incumbent councilman to be defeated since 1982, when John Dozier lost to McIlhane.

Sara G. Jones defeated Runnels by a 58 percent to 41 percent margin. Jones, a newcomer to city politics, works for a local law firm.

Place 4 incumbent Pat Boughton, who has served on the council since 1978, ran unopposed.

Dick Haddox defeated David Brochu in the Place 6 race by a 62 percent to 37 percent margin. Haddox, who serves on the board of directors for Anco Insurance, is also a newcomer to the council.

As a result of the Bryan City Council elections, there will be a new

face and an old face on the council and a runoff election.

The Place 2 battle was overwhelmingly won by Randy Sims. Sims garnered 77 percent of the vote, while opponents Lena Thomas and John Powell gathered 12 percent and 9 percent respectively.

C.P. Vass and Larry Catlin will be in a runoff election for Place 4. A runoff is necessary when a candidate does not gather at least 50 percent of the vote.

Catlin had 49 percent of the vote, Vass had 32 percent and newcomer Mike Kennedy had 17 percent.

In the Place 6 election incumbent John Mobley narrowly defeated Daniel Bragg with 51 percent of the vote to Bragg's 48 percent.

In the College Station School Board elections Donald Carter defeated Ronnie Fox for Place 5 by a 57 percent to 42 percent margin.

Deanna Wormuth ran unopposed for Place 3, as did Larry Linder for Place 4.

In the Bryan school board elections Travis Nelson defeated Hillary Jessup and E.N. Rutherford to gain the Place 1 position.

In the race for Place 2, incumbent Kay Hamilton handily defeated Karen Sarkissian and Marty Peterson. Howard Cargill easily beat L.G. Crum for Place 3.

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