

State and Local

Population's slow growth helps Texas

HOUSTON (AP) — A sluggish population growth will help the state come to grips with the population explosion it experienced during the early 1980s oil boom, a Texas economist said Thursday.

That bright spot in the state's troubled economy was offered by Jared F. Hazleton, president of the Texas Research League.

He said the oil prices will rise to \$18 a barrel by the end of the year, but he predicted the price will remain stagnant for two years.

"If you assume oil prices stabilize at \$18 a barrel, you get not disaster in Texas, but a fairly moderate growth. If you assume \$15 a barrel you get a real problem with the Texas economy continuing for a couple of years. If you assume prices lower than \$15 you will see a very significant recession," Hazleton said at a symposium on the outlook of Texas sponsored by the league.

For Texas to prosper as in the past, "the future of Texas rests in how successful we are in developing human resources," he said.

Along with stunted growth, the state is being affected by inflation, interest rates and the fallen value of the dollar, Hazleton said. These factors are side effects of dwindling oil prices, he said.

"This year, inflation is going to be as low as 1 percent," because the buying factors are not as strong as they were at the height of the oil boom, he said.

Hazleton said the lower value of the dollar is supposed to promote exports but hasn't. But he remains confident exports will pick up and strengthen the dollar.

He said many thought Texas was growing as a diversified state during the early '80s when it actually was becoming more dependent on oil.

Growth and income for the state was at its height at 14 percent during 1982. In the third quarter of 1984, the rate was 12 percent and has declined since then to less than 4 percent, he said.

CS Council hears requests for proposed budget funds

Craig Renfro
Staff Writer

The College Station finance department further discussed the city's proposed \$53.6 million operating budget for fiscal 1986-87 at the City Council meeting Thursday night.

The budget is scheduled for final approval June 6.

About \$35.6 million of the budget revenues will be derived from the city's utility fund and the city's general fund will contribute an additional \$11.8 million.

The rest of the budget will be derived from the debt service fund, the sanitation fund and the hotel-motel tax fund.

Assistant City Manager Van Van-Dever said 23 percent of the budget will go to city staff salaries. An addi-

tional 40 percent will be used for utility costs, he said.

The council heard three budget requests from local agencies that are seeking funding from the city's revenue sharing program.

The College Station Chamber of Commerce requested \$187,000, an \$87,000 increase over last year's request. Chamber Director Allen Hansen said the increase is needed to cover increased advertising expenses.

The Mental Health Mental Retardation Authority of Brazos Valley requested \$54,500, a \$19,000 increase over last year.

Dr. Ann Shively, agency director, said the increase is needed to up-

grade mental health programs, and to hire additional staff.

The Retired Senior Volunteer Program requested \$2,500. Director Jo Anne Powell said the goal of the program is to provide quality volunteer service to the community.

The council tabled an ordinance that would regulate the exploration, development, production and transportation of oil and gas within the city.

City attorney Cathy Locke said the ordinance, if approved, would loosen the restrictions for acquiring a drilling permit.

An ordinance prohibiting the retail sales of unpasteurized milk and milk products within the city was approved by the council.

Low-budget candidacy nets big win

SEVEN POINTS (AP) — A dance hall operator who didn't spend a cent on his "word of mouth" campaign rolled up more than 47 percent of the statewide Republican vote for land commissioner, but remains a mystery to many members of his party.

M.D. Anderson Jr., 36, surprised party officials as well as his two opponents by almost winning the Republican nomination outright.

State GOP Party Chairman George Strake said Wednesday, "I wish I could tell you more that I know about him, but I just don't know. I intend to find out."

Anderson's opponents claim he is capitalizing on the good name of the M.D. Anderson Hospital and Tumor Institute in Houston, and question his motives for using his initials on the ballot since he is known as Dudley in Seven Points, a town of about 650 people, 50 miles southeast of Dallas.

But Anderson said Thursday, "It's not unusual for people to run on their initials."

Anderson's campaign manager, Ronald Hinds of Dallas, contends the candidate's strong showing was due

to a "word of mouth" network of GOP contacts throughout the state, coupled with visits to Republican women's clubs.

Anderson, a former Seven Points City Council member who operates the Cedar Creek Plowboys Club with his wife, took 47.3 percent of the vote in Saturday's primary and will face Grady Yarbrough, a Tyler schoolteacher who won 27.2 percent, in a June 7 runoff.

Land Commissioner Garry Mauro, who now oversees the Veterans Land Board and Texas' public lands, said Thursday he is taking Anderson's candidacy seriously, and that's one reason he has already spent \$300,000 on his campaign this year.

"I have always said that running against any opponent doesn't worry me, but running against a famous hospital does," said Mauro, a Democrat.

"I have considered changing my name to Gary Indiana," he said jokingly.

According to campaign records filed with the secretary of state's

office in Austin, Anderson paid the \$3,000 filing fee but reported no campaign expenses. He also listed \$450 in contributions, including a \$100 loan from himself and \$100 from former Houston Mayor Louie Welch.

Strake said Wednesday the problem of candidates winning on the strength of their names is one of the political liabilities of a state with a far-flung electorate.

"Obviously, a lot went on names," said Strake, who would not endorse a candidate in the runoff.

But Thursday, Strake called the Associated Press to say he since had called several people about Anderson's candidacy and felt "a lot better about this fellow."

Anderson, who also works as a contractor, said he is qualified for the office of land commissioner because "I am a hardworking self-made businessman."

Anderson said he planned to use the same low-key strategy for the runoff and, if successful, for November's election.

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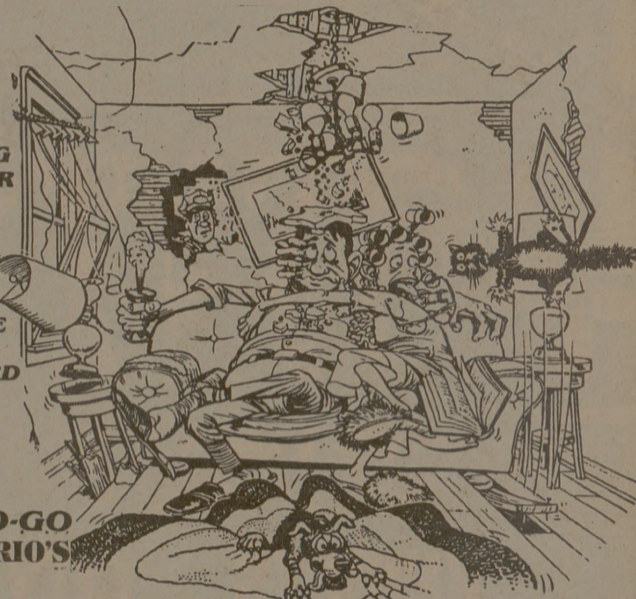
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