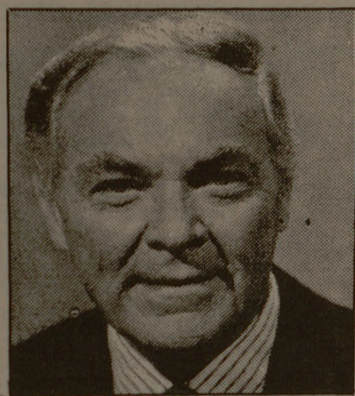


State and Local

Haig praises GOP's efforts at Barton fundraiser in CS

By Sondra Pickard
Senior Staff Writer



Alexander Haig

Former Secretary of State Alexander Haig praised the Republican Party on Thursday for bringing the country out of the "great malaise" of the late '70s, and said he hopes the GOP will continue stimulating what he described as the "renaissance of the American spirit."

Haig paid a visit to College Station as the special guest of 6th District Rep. Joe Barton at a fundraising dinner at the Hilton. Although about 250 of his backers made it to the campaign kick-off, Barton could not attend because of obligations in Washington D.C. But he did briefly speak to his guests by phone from the capital.

Haig described Barton as "an emerging young star" in the House of Representatives. But he said Barton has a tough job ahead of him in his race against Democrat Pete Geren.

Haig talked of "the year of the sixth-year itch," a recurring tradition in which, he said, the incumbent party does poorly during the mid-term of a second-term presidency. He described it as a legacy from the

past which the GOP has been unable to avoid. Describing the multi-faceted problems America experienced during former President Jimmy Carter's term, Haig used Carter's own words in saying the country during that time was in a "great malaise."

"America was viewed as a helpless giant and a source of contempt by those who didn't share the same values," Haig said.

He said it was important, in continuing the "Reagan revolution"

to "turn the page on that grim period in our history and once again embrace traditional American values."

"All these problems can better be solved under the Republican Party with a Republican philosophy that has adopted and catalyzed this renaissance of the American spirit which we enjoy today," he said.

Although he said he felt strange conducting a campaign by phone, Barton said he couldn't attend the dinner because of the drug bill being debated in Congress. The bill, which Barton supported, was described by the incumbent congressman as the toughest drug bill ever. It was approved in the House of Representatives earlier in the day.

Under the bill, Barton said authorized military personnel, for the first time, will be able to assist customs and drug enforcement officials in stopping drug smugglers.

Also, the bill provides for the death penalty to be administered to those involved in the drug trade who knowingly murder federal agents.



Photo by Greg Bailey

Checkup

David Phillips, a member of the Texas A&M Emergency Care Team, helps in the equipment check and cleaning of one of the ambulances at the A.P. Beutel Health Center Wednesday.

Woman, 19, charged with kidnapping baby

TEMPLE (AP) — A 19-year-old woman who neighbors said had recently lost a baby of her own was charged Thursday with kidnapping a newborn baby from a hospital, police said.

The baby boy, who was taken eight hours after his birth on Wednesday, was returned to his parents unharmed six hours after he disappeared.

Valerie Elaine Dach was arraigned on kidnapping charges and remained in jail Thursday.

Bond was set at \$100,000, said Deputy Police Chief Stephen Klempa.

Klempa said police did not plan to file kidnapping charges against her common-law husband who was arrested with her. But he said the man could face other charges because police recovered a stolen vehicle from him.

Dach is accused of taking Jeremy Scott Bobo, born at 4:50 a.m. Wednesday, from a viewing room at the hospital nursery.

Senate OKs March primary bill

Plan aims to give Texas strong voice in national politics

AUSTIN (AP) — The Senate on Thursday approved a bill that would establish a binding presidential primary in Texas in March to strengthen the state's voice in national politics.

Texas would join 11 other Southern states in holding a primary on the second Tuesday in March in presidential years, starting in 1988.

The Senate bill met with virtually no opposition and was sent to the House on vote.

The new bill moves all primary elections from the first Saturday in May to the second Tuesday in March in even-numbered years, and Lt. Gov. Bill Hobby said, "I would much

prefer to have a split primary — have a general state primary in August or September or something like that."

"But this does improve the position of the state in the presidential election process. The state now virtually has no voice in the presidential selection process."

Bill co-sponsor Chet Edwards, D-Duncanville, said: "I think it's time that Texas, the third most populous state in this country, played a key role in setting the national agenda, the agenda on issues such as energy, agriculture, national defense, issues that are going to be absolutely crucial to the future of our republic . . .

Let Texas be the big fish in the big pond. Let Texas voices be heard in the selection of the most important position in this country."

Gov. Mark White said he did not "have any plans at this time" to open the special legislative session to the presidential primary proposal.

"The 1988 presidential campaign is now going forward," Edwards said. "We need to get these candidates to Texas early before they get committed to the Northeast and other states."

In other action Thursday, the Senate:

- Blocked a bill that would authorize the governor and 10-member

Legislative Budget Board to make changes in the state appropriations bill between legislative sessions if the governor felt there was a crisis.

A shift of one vote in the 14-8 roll call would have allowed the Senate to debate the proposal, which would implement a constitutional amendment approved by the voters in November 1985.

- Approved a bill that would authorize a one-time transfer of a total of \$5,427,105 from three highway funds to general revenue.

- Approved a bill allowing the use of "Benefit Funds" at state mental hospitals for patients' "personal needs," such as haircuts.

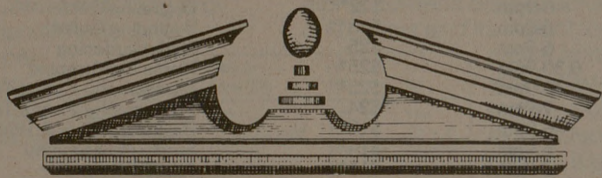
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