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Hobby speech kicks off A&M symposium

By Olivier Uyttebrouck
Staff Writer

Lt. Gov. Bill Hobby visited Texas A&M Wednesday, criticized the performance of himself and his fellow legislators in the recent special sessions, spoke out against cuts in higher education and referred to budget cuts and sales tax increases as "band-aid" measures.

Hobby's comments came during a discussion kicking off a two-day symposium, "Shaping the New Economy of Texas." Hobby presented a public perspective on the need for university research.

Peter O'Donnell, who has served on a number of state and federal committees on education — including Gov. Mark White's Select Committee on Higher Education — presented a private perspective on the same topic.

Hobby said that of the \$512 million in budget cuts authorized by the Legislature, \$189 million — about 30 percent — came

out of higher education. "These cuts were far too deep and our universities will suffer," he said. Hobby cited a recent survey of 22 Texas state universities that found that 217 faculty members had resigned this year as of July and that another 225 prospects had declined positions at Texas universities.

"We are in a fierce battle with other states for high-technology industries and some of these states have incorporated Texas' plight into their recruiting strategies," Hobby said. "We are in a constant race for the cutting edge in new technologies that will create entire industries."

The Legislature's strategy in recent years has been to speed the transfer of new ideas and techniques to the private sector and to create a profit motive for university researchers, he said.

The Texas Science and Technology Council was created in 1984 with the intention of developing an "intellectual property policy" to ensure that a researcher benefits

from the fruits of his own work, Hobby said.

He said that last year the Legislature created a \$35 million Texas Advanced Technology Research program to encourage research in the state and that Gov. Mark White soon would announce an initiative that will encourage private funding of high-tech research.

"But all of these efforts to speed technology transfer are moot if we don't have the technology," Hobby said, "and the Legislature's actions during these special sessions have done considerable harm to one of the essential ingredients in technology development — our state universities."

"This session was devoted to damage control. The next session must be devoted to damage repair."

O'Donnell said Texas will not be able to rely on oil in the future even if it wants to.

He presented graphs showing that oil and gas production in Texas peaked in 1972 and has declined sharply since then

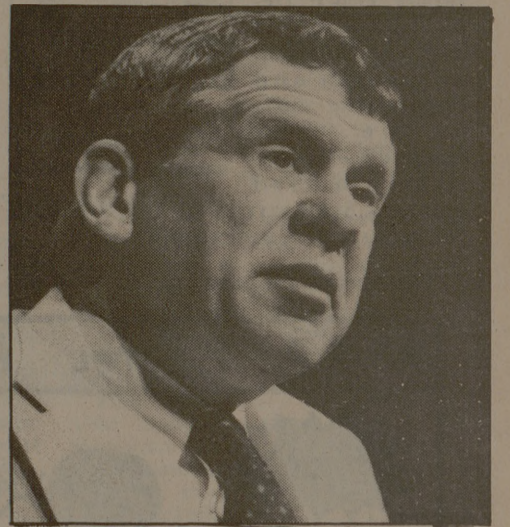
despite a three-fold increase in the number of new wells drilled since 1972.

The declines in Texas oil production have been obscured by the rapid increases in the price of oil and gas since 1972, O'Donnell said. Oil prices have climbed by over 700 percent and gas prices by over 1,200 percent since that year, he said.

And while Texas can expect little help from the oil industry in the years to come, the growth in the state's population between now and 1990 will create a need for 1.5 million new jobs, he said.

The most promising growth industries emanate from university research, O'Donnell said. Because Texas always has been able to rely on the oil industry in the past, it has neglected higher education and has not pushed actively for federal research money, he said.

The federal government funded 64 percent of all university research in 1984, with military research and development accounting for most federal money, he said.



Lt. Gov. Bill Hobby

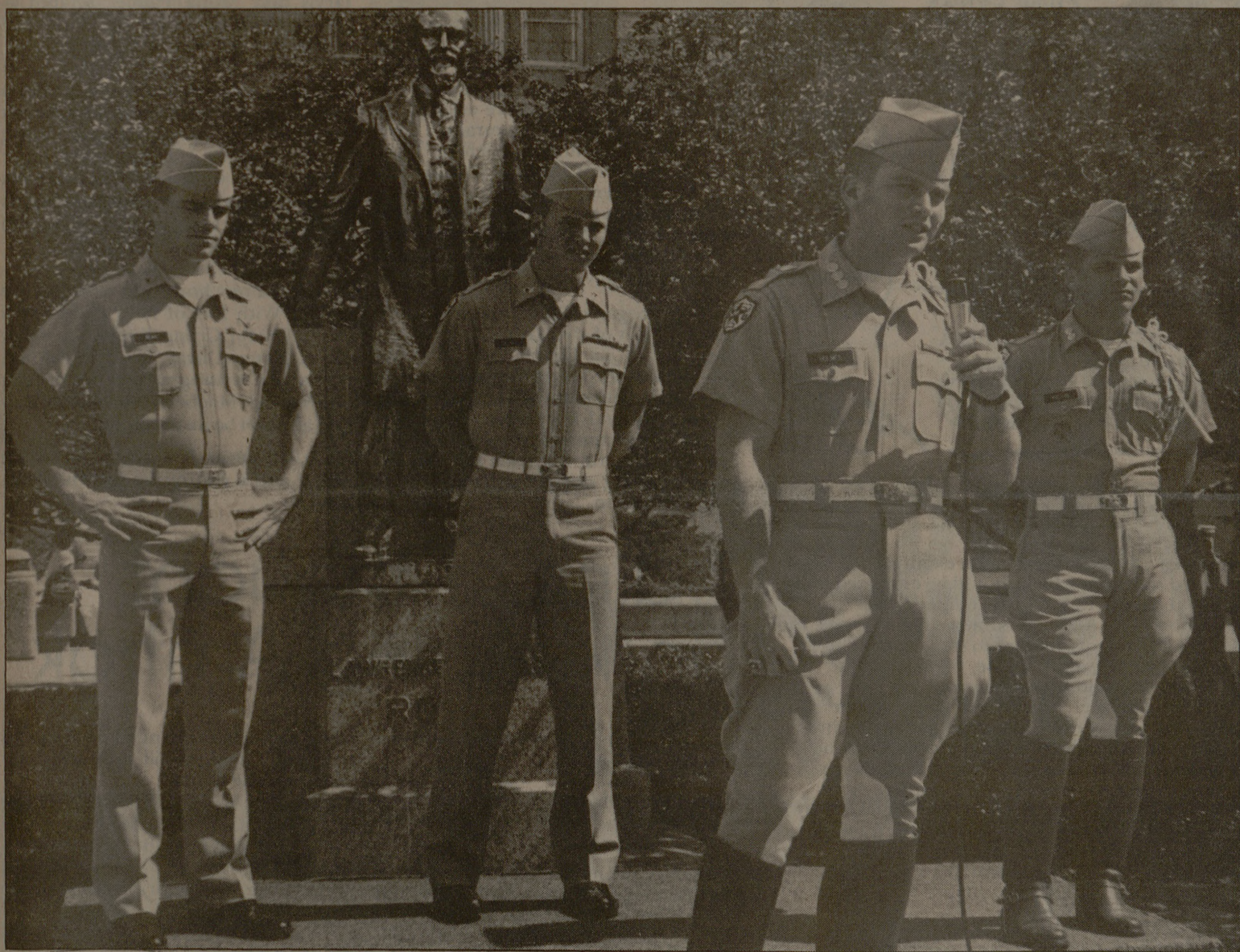


Photo by Anthony S. Casper

Howdy

Texas A&M yell leaders, from left, John Bean, Doug Beall, Marty Holmes and Troy Ireland talk to a crowd about the importance of

maintaining traditions at A&M Wednesday afternoon at Sully's Symposium. The symposium is held Wednesdays at 11:50 a.m.

TDC expecting uphill struggle after funds cut

Caperton, Smith: State prison system in a bad position, facing more cuts

By Craig Renfro
Staff Writer

The Texas Department of Corrections faces an uphill battle against overcrowding following budget cuts of \$3.7 million, state Sen. Kent Caperton and state Rep. Richard Smith said Wednesday.

Caperton, D-Bryan, and Smith, R-Bryan, addressed the problems at the Texas Corrections Association Southeast Regional Conference at the College Station Hilton.

Smith said the state's criminal justice system is not in a good position and faces the possibility of more cuts when the Texas Legislature meets in January. He said that current revenues are insufficient to build more prisons.

"There is a growing element of frustration among people that we should lock them (prisoners) up and throw away the key," Smith said. "But the challenge is through the probation departments to come up with innovative ways to avoid building more jails."

Caperton said 38,500 inmates currently are housed in Texas prisons. The cost to house one prisoner is \$32 each day, he added.

During the recently completed special session the Sunset Commission, a group of legislators that reviews state agencies, passed a bill that would prohibit early release of inmates convicted of violent offenses, Caperton said.

In addition, the commission set

forth several proposals that have not yet passed.

The commission proposed that good-time credits would be reduced from a maximum of three days for each day served to a maximum of two days for each day served, Caperton said.

He said the commission also proposed a safeguard to ensure that prison crowding is not a problem by reducing parole eligibility for non-violent criminals from one-third of the prisoner's sentence to one-fourth of sentence length.

Caperton said those proposals will be seriously considered during the next regular legislative session in January.

While the public calls for longer sentences and more jails, the courts are jammed with pending cases, and the prisons are at 95 percent capacity, he said.

Caperton said this problem won't get any easier.

"We were fortunate in Texas because of a low tax burden and a budget surplus," Caperton said. "But now we don't have that luxury anymore and the problem is, 'Which agencies do we cut?'"

Indian news reports attack on Gandhi

NEW DELHI, India (AP) — An attempt was made on the life of Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi on Thursday as he left a shrine to the late Mohandas K. Gandhi, the United News of India reported.

There was no immediate official confirmation of the report.

The agency said a man shot at the prime minister from a tree, but that Gandhi was not wounded. It said two other people received minor injuries.

The assailant was arrested by police, UNI said.

Gandhi's mother, then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, was shot and killed by members of her personal bodyguard on Oct. 31, 1984.

S. Africa threatens to end purchases of grain from U.S.

WASHINGTON (AP) — The South African foreign minister warned two U.S. farm state senators his country would immediately end purchases of U.S. grain if the Senate overrides President Reagan's veto of economic sanctions against South Africa, Sen. Richard Lugar said Wednesday night.

Lugar, R-Ind., called the action by Foreign Minister Pik Botha "despicable" and an unacceptable intrusion into Senate business that amounts to "bribery and intimidation."

Lugar, who is chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, said the two senators — Edward Zorinsky, D-Neb., and Charles Grassley, R-Iowa, — were called to the telephone in the Senate Republican cloakroom by Sen. Jesse Helms, R-N.C., a strong opponent of the sanctions.

According to Lugar, Zorinsky said the South African foreign minister told him that "the moment that you override President Reagan's veto, South Africa will immediately ban U.S. grain imports."

Lugar said Botha also declared that South Africa would react to the override of the veto by barring from its ports U.S. grain shipments bound for the so-called frontline black Afri-

can nations, some of which are landlocked and all of which are largely dependent on South Africa for transportation facilities.

"I believe that all Americans, and especially American farmers, will condemn foreign bribery and intimidation to change the votes of the U.S. Senate," Lugar said.

He said South Africa has turned to the American grain market and increased purchases of U.S. grain in the aftermath of sanctions imposed by Canada and Australia, which also are major grain exporters.

"We are being bribed because others have had moral courage and done what they should have done," Lugar said.

Lugar said he believes the White House lacks the votes needed to sustain the Reagan veto and said, "I feel confident the veto will be overridden."

The Senate, which was to vote on whether to override the veto Thursday afternoon, opened a four-hour debate on the issue as Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole, R-Kan., said senators might legitimately consider the possible adverse impact of sanctions on their states.

Helms said sanctions will "shoot the American farmer in the foot."

Law limiting malpractice awards in Texas ruled unconstitutional

DALLAS (AP) — A federal judge ruled that the Texas law limiting medical malpractice awards is unconstitutional.

Judge Jerry Buchmeyer ruled Tuesday that the 1977 Texas law limiting malpractice awards to \$500,000, violates parts of the state and U.S. Constitutions allowing injured people to recoup damages.

The 5th U.S. Circuit Court of

Appeals in New Orleans hasn't considered the appeal of two similar federal court rulings and the Texas Supreme Court hasn't handed down an opinion, said Rocky Wilcox, general counsel of the Texas Medical Association in Austin.

However, other attorneys said the Buchmeyer decision is not binding. Bryan Maedgen, a malpractice attorney at Strasburger & Price in

Dallas, said, "It's not by any means the final answer on the issue."

Buchmeyer's ruling came in the case of Dennis C. Waggoner, who sued Dr. Burney W. Gibson and Presbyterian Hospital of Dallas for damages to his son.

In his opinion, Buchmeyer wrote the Texas law unfairly discriminated against malpractice victims who suffered the worst damage.

Daniloff praises Reagan for concern

WASHINGTON (AP) — Nicholas Daniloff told President Reagan Wednesday that if it hadn't been for Reagan's "very deep and personal interest" in his case, he probably would have been kept in the Soviet Union for years.

Reporter Daniloff, spending his first full day in the United States, met briefly with Reagan at the White House before the two made a joint appearance in the Rose Garden. They were joined there by Nancy Reagan, who stood next to the reporter, and Daniloff's wife, Ruth, and Daniloff's children, Miranda, 23, and Caleb, 16.

Reagan defended the arrangement with the Soviets that led to Daniloff's freedom, saying: "I don't

think there's caving in at all." Daniloff had been arrested Aug. 30 by the KGB and charged with spying in the Soviet Union.

Asked whether U.S.-Soviet relations are back on track with Daniloff's release, the president said, "We'll find out in about 10 days." That was a reference to the planned meeting in Iceland Oct. 11-12 between Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev.

The meeting, described as preliminary discussions to a formal summit, was part of the deal ending in Daniloff's release.

Daniloff, 51, praised Reagan for his involvement in the case.

"This is a very complex situation and if it hadn't been for President

Reagan taking a very deep and personal interest in my case it would probably be some years before I could stand in front of you and say, 'Thank you, Mr. President,'" he said.

Earlier, Daniloff was given a warm welcome by co-workers in the lobby atrium at U.S. News & World Report.

He said he was pleased with the "mini-summit" between the superpower leaders in Iceland, and wanted to cover it.

Daniloff said he would thank Reagan and the American officials "who, I think, turned themselves inside out" to secure his freedom. He was arrested in Moscow Aug. 30 on

espionage charges, which the administration said were phony.

The principal lesson Daniloff said he learned from his experience was that the American system emphasizes the preciousness and the dignity of a single individual.

The journalist arrived in the United States Tuesday, a day after Washington and Moscow worked out a multi-part deal that included a Reagan-Gorbachev meeting in Iceland Oct. 11-12.

The arrangement also called for the release of accused spy Gennadiy Zakharov to the Soviets. Zakharov, a Soviet employee at the United Nations, flew back to Moscow after he pleaded no contest to espionage charges.