

Texas A&M The Battalion

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Official: Reagan OK'd 'indirect' shipments

WASHINGTON (AP) — Robert McFarlane, President Reagan's former national security adviser, contradicted previous accounts from administration officials on Monday, saying under oath that the president approved an "indirect" shipment of arms to Iran in August 1985.

Foreign Affairs Committee — denied involvement in the transfer of Iranian arms sale profits to Nicaraguan rebels, saying he had "zero" knowledge of the "illegal" diversion of money.

As Shultz and McFarlane appeared separately before the committee, the Justice Department released the text of its application to a federal appellate court panel in Washington, seeking appointment of an independent counsel to probe possible criminal activity in the affair.

The request raised the possibility that the granting of immunity from prosecution may be necessary to get to the bottom of the affair.

It was not immediately clear when the three-member panel would act to name the counsel.

Marine Lt. Col. Oliver L. North, fired as a top National Security Council aide, and "other U.S. government officials" were mentioned as likely targets of the investigation.

McFarlane, who had testified last week in secret before Senate Intelli-

gence Committee, testified publicly Monday before the House panel, saying the president gave his authorization for the indirect shipment of "small levels of arms to Iran for the purpose of strengthening elements against terrorism."

McFarlane did not mention any other country by name, but Israel has been identified as having sent American arms to Iran during the summer of 1985.

Attorney General Edwin Meese III, who made a preliminary inquiry into the matter at Reagan's request,

said on Nov. 25, "Our information is that the president knew about it probably after the fact."

On Friday, White House spokesman Larry Speakes said he had "not found anyone who has a recollection of the president approving" the Israeli shipment in advance.

Asked about the transfer of profits from the arms sale to the Nicaraguan Contra rebels, McFarlane, who resigned as national security adviser in December 1985, said the president "did not know of and did not approve such actions."

When asked to speculate on who might have approved such action, McFarlane said, "I wasn't there, and it's out of place for me to speculate."

Shultz added a startling new wrinkle to the unraveling scandal as he revealed during his appearance that former White House officials and John Kelly, the U.S. ambassador to Lebanon, secretly discussed negotiations aimed at freeing Americans held hostage in Lebanon, without either party notifying the State Department of the consultations.

Wright selected House speaker by Democrats

WASHINGTON (AP) — House Democrats on Monday selected Jim Wright of Texas, their majority leader for the past decade, to become the chamber's 48th speaker.

Wright accepted the unanimous nomination of his party colleagues in a promise to quickly move a legislative agenda that will include — but not be dominated by — investigation of the Reagan administration's Iran arms sales.

Democrats "hope to demonstrate the American people . . . that we Democrats have our act together, and that we can govern," Wright said.

The speaker of the House holds a constitutional position, in line of succession to the presidency after the president. Wright's nomination requires ratification by the full House on Jan. 6, when the 100th Congress convenes.

Democrats will hold a 258-177 majority, and party allegiance in such a vote is nearly absolute.

Wright, 63, first elected to the House in 1954, will succeed retiring Rep. Thomas P. O'Neill Jr., D-Mass., who has held the speaker's post for the last 10 years.

The Democrats, in their open caucus, also unanimously chose Rep. Thomas Foley of Washington, currently the majority whip, to move up to majority leader. Rep. Roy Coelho of California was elected as whip in the only contested election.

House Republicans, meanwhile, elected their seasoned leadership chief of Minority Leader Robert H. Michel of Illinois and Minority Whip J. Bennett Johnston of Mississippi.

Wright said the House will move quickly to establish a special committee "to get all the facts of the Iranian misadventure on the table."

But Wright said Congress should allow the Iran fiasco "to preoccupy us, not to paralyze us, nor to distract us from the important work we have to do."

Wright promised speedy action in January to pass the clean-water legislation vetoed by President Reagan in the 99th Congress adjourned, and said a highway construction bill was also on his agenda.

He said achievable objectives for the new Congress included legislation to cut the trade and budget deficits, welfare reform and more aid for farmers.

Wright, known for his spicing his rhetoric with flashes of anger, told the Democrats they were going well by teaming him with the outgoing Foley.

"Sometimes I'm too prone to get from the hip," Wright said. "I make me pause before stepping in a gopher hole," he said.

Wright told reporters he was ready to raise a tax increase if necessary, and to speed the military buildup, to tackle

the chronic high budget deficits.

Wright proposed putting off future scheduled tax cuts for the wealthiest Americans under the income tax overhaul law approved last year.

The leadership race requiring a vote was for the job being vacated by Foley, majority whip, the third-highest House leadership post. The party whips and their deputies count votes and lobby members on behalf of the leaders.

Coelho, chairman of the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee, was rewarded for the work done for others' campaigns with a 167-78 victory over top challenger Charles Rangel, D-N.Y.

Rep. Bill Hefner, D-N.C., was a distant third, and his vote total was not announced.

Both Rangel and Hefner will remain deputy whips.

Both parties voted to stay with their current House party chairmen, both of whom are possible presidential candidates. Rep. Jack Kemp, R-N.Y., was unanimously approved as chairman of the House Republican Conference, and Rep. Richard Gephardt, D-Mo., won another term as chairman of the House Democratic Caucus.

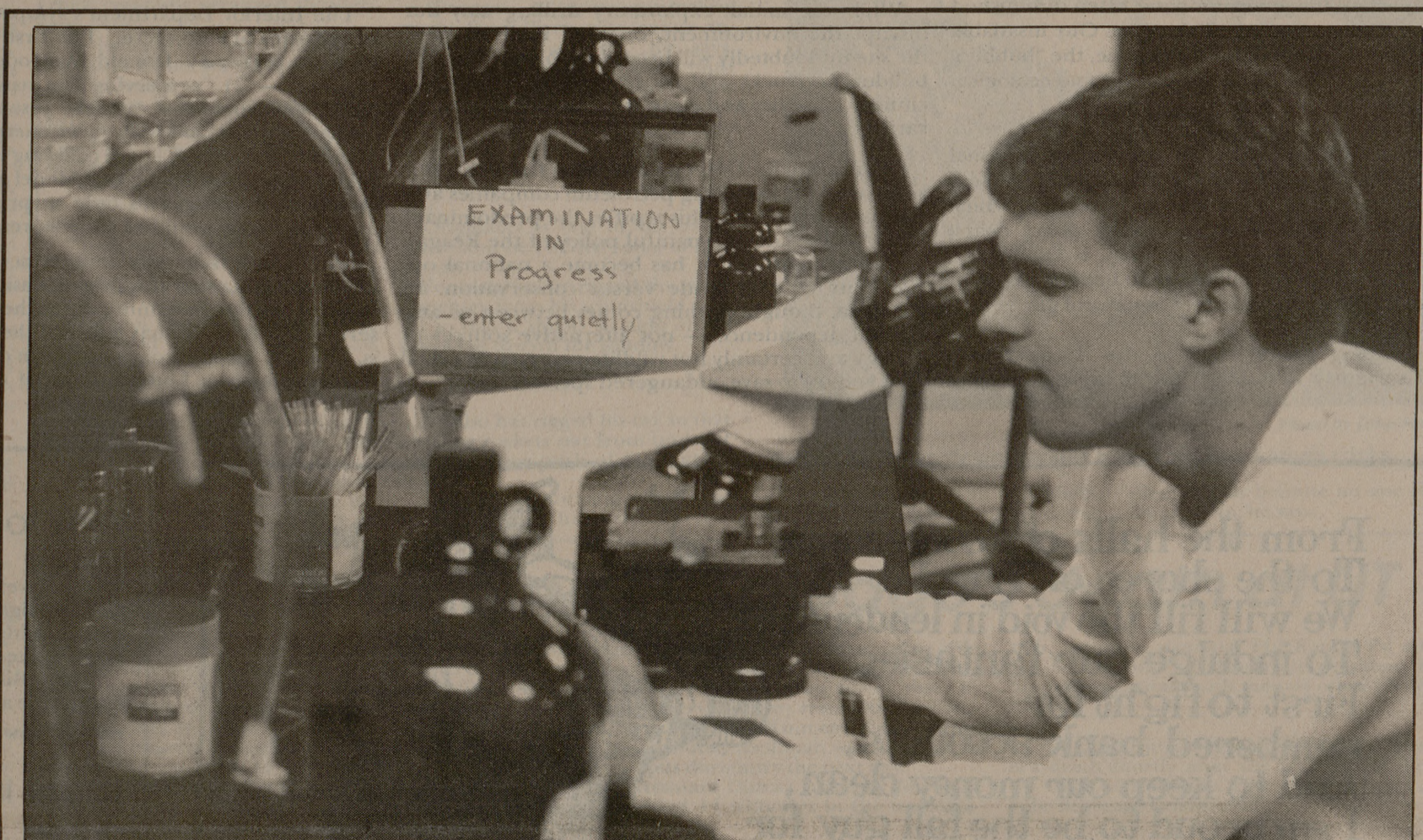


Photo by Shawn Edwards

Be Vewwy Vewwy Quiet...

Though most final exams are scheduled for next week, some students got an early start: Junior premed major Brent Steadman takes a pa-

riatology lab practical Saturday evening. He's looking at slides made from different dissections done during class.

School officials still on offensive despite decline in drug abuse

(AP) — Prodded by the president and an alarmed public, America's schools have launched an all-out offensive against drugs.

Hundreds of teachers, parents, students and school officials interviewed across the country agree that abuse of most drugs except cocaine seems to have eased from the epidemic levels of the 1970s.

But few take much comfort from that.

Educators are alarmed by the appearance of the cheaper, purer form of cocaine known as crack, by the steady drop in age of drug experimenters, and by the most commonly abused drug, alcohol.

"The evidence indicates that suppliers are providing less marijuana this fall," said Billy Walker, assistant principal at the 3,500-student Indianapolis North Central High. "But we believe that they may be setting the stage to try and bring crack into the market as a substitute."

A new federally financed survey of high school drug use is expected to be released Dec. 11. It will include, for the first time, national statistics on crack use among high school students.

Educators agree drug use in Texas schools worsening

DALLAS (AP) — Drug use in Texas' public schools is getting worse and infecting even the elementary grades, but mandatory drug tests aren't the way to attack the problem, some educators say.

No agency keeps statewide figures on drug use in the more than 5,000 public schools, but more than a dozen teachers, administrators and other officials interviewed agreed the problem is spreading.

"It's a nightmare," said Annette Cootes, information officer for the

Texas State Teachers Association. "They're now starting drugs younger and younger, as with glue-sniffing in elementary schools."

Alcohol is still the most-abused drug in Texas schools, marijuana is No. 2, and cocaine and crack are on the rise, said Jim Bradley, prevention department director of the Texas Commission on Alcohol and Drug Abuse.

"We don't have any hard statistics

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In districts large and small, the horror stories continue — of 10-year-old children caught drinking and using drugs, of youths out-earning their teachers by dealing drugs.

"Five years ago we had no cases in the elementary schools," said Edward Ortiz, superintendent of

schools in Santa Fe, N.M. "Now . . . the problem is filtering down to the elementary grades."

Stories like these, along with the cocaine-related death last summer of Len Bias, a basketball star at the University of Maryland; a 78-page Department of Education booklet,

"Schools Without Drugs"; and a recently televised call-to-arms against drug use by President and Nancy Reagan, have apparently aroused the public as never before about student drug use.

A Gallup poll released in August found, for the first time, that the public viewed drug use as the No. 1 problem facing schools.

But many of those interviewed questioned whether the anti-drug campaign was entirely on target.

Across the country, there was near unanimity that alcohol — rarely mentioned in the current anti-drug furor — is the student drug of choice.

"Alcohol is regarded as the gateway drug," said Betty Herron, Arkansas state coordinator of Nancy Reagan's National Federation of Parents for Drug-Free Youth. "My feeling is anyone into marijuana and cocaine has started with alcohol."

"I think the big hullabaloo to get tough on drugs is good," said student counselor William Cosgriff, in Springfield, Mass. "But I think it might take the focus off the real drug problem for us, which is alcohol abuse."

Zachry Co. entertained state officials

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — A construction company with millions in government contracts entertained public officials at a ranch between 1981 and March of this year, a newspaper reported Monday.

H.B. Zachry Co. of San Antonio, which faces criminal trial Dec. 15 in Dallas in connection with airport construction, entertained the guests at La Perla hunting complex in Zapata County, the *San Antonio Express-News* reported.

The company was founded in 1924 in Laredo by H.B. Zachry, Class of '22, and is listed by *Forbes* magazine in top 200 non-public companies in the country with annual sales of about \$525 million, the *Express-News* reported. Company president H.B. Zachry Jr. graduated from Texas A&M in 1954.

The company spent at least \$70,000 on drinks, ammunition, hunting kits and the like between 1983-1985, the newspaper reported.

A Zachry executive said the hunting parties violated no law and said they had no influence on the government contracts the company holds.

A Zachry spokeswoman told the newspaper, "There is no violation of the law."

A guest register at the 17,399-acre complex contains more than 300 names of guests who said they were associated with various government and semi-governmental bodies.

The Texas Department of Highways and Public Transportation was the agency most represented at the hunting lease.

At least 250 highway department officials signed a guest register over a four-year period, the newspaper reported.

Zachry won about \$250 million in state highway contracts for the 1984-1985 fiscal year.

Top San Antonio city officials also were guests at the ranch.

Since 1980, the city has awarded Zachry about \$40 million for construction projects.

As a result of work at the Dallas-

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'Cotton Club' again a smash hit for A&M

By Daniel A. La Bry
Staff Writer

The front lawn of G. Rollie White Coliseum was speckled with a mosaic of colorful tents Sunday night as Texas A&M football fans made their second annual pilgrimage to the Cotton Bowl ticket line.

"Camp Cotton" boasted about 700 loyal campers, including a Santa Claus, and more than 100 dwellings decorated with everything from Christmas lights to beer cans, the latter being the most popular by far.

It was like history repeating itself, following in the footsteps of last year's Cotton Bowl escapade.

In 1985, plenty of tickets were left after the first and tickets continued to sell the second day. Jim Kotch, ticket manager for the Athletic Department, said the ticket office has about 200 tickets left to go on sale today.

If the campers weren't worried about getting Cotton Bowl tickets, why were they there?

The pilgrimage may have been caused by a craving for the free donuts that arrived about 5:30 a.m., compliments of head football coach Jackie Sherrill.

J. W. Maynard, assistant director of food services, said Sherrill sent 75 dozen donuts with hot coffee in appreciation for the fan support.

The only problem with this theory is that people still stayed after the donuts were gone. Another theory is that the campers flocked to G. Rollie White to attend one of the last yell practices held on campus this year.

Four yell leaders conducted a short yell practice for the campers at about 12:30 a.m. from atop the marquee over the ticket windows.

After the yells were over, campers went

back to playing backgammon, poker, dominoes and quarters.

Another reason for the pilgrims' arrival could have been the wide variety of free movies shown throughout the night — and into the morning.

Campers could choose from a prestigious list, including "Animal House," "48 Hours," "Back to the Future," and "Caddyshack."

The highlight of the movies came with a 3 a.m., ear-splitting version of the helicopter attack scene in "Apocalypse Now" — in stereo.

Some over-rambunctious campers decided to test their speakers and see how many tents they could knock over with only sound.

Unfortunately, this highly scientific test failed, but it did wake up everyone who had fallen asleep by accident.

Mysteriously enough, the dedicated campers held tight, refusing to move.

Freshmen Pat Schulte and Alan Akin were the first campers to set up. Schulte said they

showed up at about 2:30 a.m. Friday.

The two were holding a spot for their wing in Aston Hall.

In return for the time they spent camping, Schulte and Akin got senior books to cover their freshmen books.

Schulte said the two passed time by playing games, making friends, watching movies and studying.

Senior Mary McFarland, the first person to pitch a tent last year, was the fourth person out this time.

McFarland said the first couple of nights were pretty calm, but Sunday night was wild — wilder than any night last year.

She said she came out for the party and just to have a good time.

Junior Dawn Ross, who set up Friday afternoon, said Friday was the big night, while

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