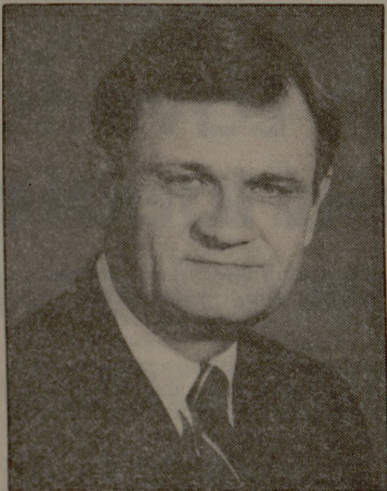


State and Local

CS councilman stresses unity, pride for residents

Bond hopes for more citizen involvement

By Carol Ellison
Reporter



James Bond

Many years ago, a new choir director at Texas A&M Consolidated High School knew he had to get the interest of the athletes to have a successful choir program. His first recruit was a 160-pound guard on the football team.

That guard, James Bond, now is a College Station city councilman. He directs the choir director changed his name. Bond says singing became one of his favorite hobbies because of his choir director and he's spent 13 years singing in church on Sundays.

"I could be eternally happy simply singing in the church choir," he says. Bond's choir director 35 years ago was Bob Boon, who is now the director of the Singing Cadets at Texas A&M. Boon has remained close friends with Bond, and sang in the choir at his wedding.

"Bond was the first recipient of the Arion Music Award, which I in-

"College Station has grown faster than it can keep up with," he says. "We are now at a plateau. In order to solve that problem, Bond would like to see the residents

"I'd like to see the residents of College Station rally around the 'high school' and its accomplishments."

— James Bond, College Station city councilman

...gated at A&M Consolidated,"

...son says. "He was a very hard worker, so I gave him a solo. Since he left high school, he has been very active in church work. He believes in his fellow man, knowing that he has weaknesses, but he is here to help and not to criticize."

Bond is in his first term as city councilman, but he has been active in other areas of government. He held a position on the Navasota school board of trustees as well as being Navasota's city attorney from 1970 to 1976.

In 1973, he was appointed to the state Industrial Commission — now the Texas Economic Development Commission — by former Governorolph Briscoe. He served on the commission until 1978.

Bond says he wants College Station to become a unified city. He has deep interest in College Station, he says.

of College Station find a common interest. Bond calls himself the "cheerleader type" and he says he wants the city to become unified, full of good attitudes and pride.

"I'd like to see the residents of College Station rally around the 'high school' and its accomplishments," Bond says.

Besides his involvement with the city council, Bond is the deputy chancellor for legal and external affairs at Texas A&M.

Bond graduated from A&M in 1958 with a bachelor's degree in physical education. He attended law school at the University of Houston from 1964 through 1968.

Bond has been with the Texas A&M University System since 1976 except for two and a half years when he went into private law practice in Bryan. Before he left, he was the vice-chancellor for legal and public affairs.

"I had no notion of coming back to A&M after I went into private practice," he says. "I am not a person who looks back, and I wasn't excited about coming back."

The members of the Board of Regents asked Bond to return to A&M before former chancellor Arthur Hansen left, Bond says.

"I never said I would come back," he says, "but I left the door open to the possibility."

After Dr. Hansen left, they began to search within for a new chancellor. I was interested in working with the people they were considering, especially Dr. (Perry) Adkisson.

"Now I am delighted that I returned. Private practice was good for me, but I think I am more of the public servant type."

Bond describes himself as a sensitive person: "I care about people. I think I am a sociologist at heart because I love to think about people."

"I find at this age, people's feelings are very important to me."

Bond carries his sensitivity into his position of city councilman.

He describes his feelings on the proposed budget cuts in Texas:

"I am sensitive about cutting programs that were never overfunded to start with. They can find fault with programs but they must have a substitute for what they take away. Someone benefited from those programs and you can't just take them away."

Bond says his sensitivity while he was practicing law probably helped him become a better lawyer. It made him feel good to know that he helped people in some way, he says.

Law is still a hobby for Bond, even though he is not in private practice anymore, he said.

"It is an ever-emerging, wonderful exercise of great minds at work," he says. "I never get caught up with studying law. I enjoy reading and considering it."

Although Bond describes himself as a caring man, he tries not to take his job too seriously. He says he likes to be able to laugh at himself and others.

"I see humor in a lot of things, but I can make a decision," he says, referring to his position on the city council. "I am never without facts for making a decision and I don't like to wear the subject out."

Legislature opens session facing \$5.8 billion shortfall

AUSTIN (AP) — Low-hanging clouds and the state's money woes offered a gloomy counterpoint to the typically colorful ceremonies marking Tuesday's opening of the Texas Legislature.

Convening just after noon, members of the House and Senate quickly were reminded that during their 40-day session they must balance a state budget that Comptroller Bob Bullock says is \$5.8 billion in the red, largely because of the collapse of oil and gas prices.

"In the best of times and in the worst of times, difficult choices must

be made," Secretary of State Myra McDaniel told the House after gaveling that chamber into session.

"Your mission in the next 139 days is to operate as a rather large Ways and Means Committee for the state of Texas," she said. "It is never easy to determine the course of government which will best serve all the people of the state."

The secretary of state wields the gavel on opening day until the House elects a speaker. As expected, Speaker Gib Lewis, D-Fort Worth, easily was re-elected to a third term in that job.

With his 149 colleagues seated at their desks, Lewis gave lawmakers the gloomy forecast.

"I wish I could welcome you to a session in which our greatest challenge would be the management of plenty," Lewis said. "Unfortunately, that is not the case."

"You come here from every corner of the state and you know the problem."

Urging legislators to show "resolve and courage," Lewis said the 1987 session would be marked by tough choices, late hours and pressure from those who favor the numerous state programs that will be under scrutiny.

Urging consolidation of some state agencies, Lewis pledged that before any tax increase will get consideration in the House, "We will have made the hard choices . . . and said no many, many times."

At the top of the lawmakers' agenda is the state government budget for the fiscal year that ends Aug. 31.

Bullock has projected that it is still \$1 billion in the red.

Bullock also is projecting that revenues will fall \$4.8 billion short for the 1988-89 budget which lawmakers also must write this year.

Compounding those problems is a projected drop in tax revenue, with 1988-89 income estimated at 2.9 percent less than 1986-87 income. That's the first revenue drop since the mid-1950s.

In addition, a near \$1 billion increase in the state sales and motor fuels taxes passed by lawmakers last summer is scheduled to expire on Aug. 31.

Sen. Grant Jones, D-Temple, chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, said, "It's obvious we've got major problems."

The magnitude of the trouble already had lawmakers talking about the possibility of special sessions being held this summer. Jones was among those saying he hasn't yet planned his summer vacation.

Next week, Republican Gov.-elect Bill Clements — who has promised to offer lawmakers a budget that will require no new taxes — will be sworn into office.

Church leaders: SMU may face probation

DALLAS (AP) — Officials of the United Methodist Church University Senate say Southern Methodist University may be put on probation if the school does not comply with criteria required of Methodist-affiliated colleges.

The senate, which has authority over a college or university's denominational affiliation, has sent three investigative teams to the SMU campus over the past year, officials said Monday.

The group met Friday in Austin and, after studying the team's findings, reported that the school is "at the very least on an alert" regarding its affiliation with the church.

Senate President Roy B. Shilling said the agency is not only troubled by allegations of NCAA rules violations in SMU's football program, but is "seriously concerned about broader institutional issues."

Senate members would not specify the investigation's focus, but an official with the senate in New York told the Dallas Morning News that the allegations of improprieties in SMU's athletic

program are seen as "only symptomatic" of greater concerns.

The Southwest Conference school's football program has been racked with allegations of player payoffs and illegal booster activity.

The official, who asked not to be identified, said the senate "doesn't give a hoot about a win-loss record."

"We care only about the issues that impact on colleges, universities and seminaries," he said, indicating that the investigation is concerned with finances, SMU's relationship with the church, ethics and standards.

Shilling, who is also president of the Methodist-affiliated southwestern University in Georgetown, said a report of the senate's findings is being compiled and will be sent to interim SMU President William Stallcup.

Stallcup said he had not received the report, but said he understands its interest "goes far beyond the football program." He added that the senate's concern is "definite and understandable."

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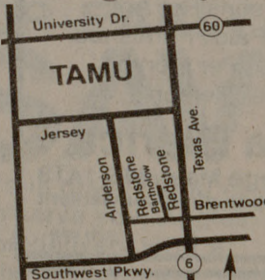
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Guess who's playing doctor?



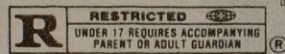
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