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Senate panel votes to halt Contra funds

Measure's supporters expect Reagan veto

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Senate Foreign Relations Committee voted 11-9 Wednesday to halt U.S. aid to Nicaragua's anti-government guerrillas in the first major test of sentiment in the new Congress toward the Contras.

However, even supporters of the measure passed by the Democratic-controlled committee conceded it will be vetoed by President Reagan if eventually passes the Senate and the House.

"I think we have the votes on the floor to pass it, but of course the president will veto it and I doubt that we can override the veto," said Sen. Claiborne Pell, D-R.I., chairman of the panel and an opponent of Contra aid. No action by the full Senate is likely for several weeks, he said.

The vote came after more than three hours of debate, in which both

sides repeated their arguments favoring or opposing the program.

"This is one of the most crucial war-peace issues we will face," said Sen. Alan Cranston, D-Calif., a strong opponent of Contra aid.

Sen. Terry Sanford, D-N.C., another opponent, said Reagan is following "a very dangerous and likely unsuccessful policy."

However, Sen. Paul Trible, R-Va., noted that the Contras have just begun receiving official U.S. help again after a two-year hiatus and said, "We ought to play this hand over the next year or so" and see if they can win.

The program has been highly controversial ever since the Contras, with secret U.S. help, began fighting Nicaragua's leftist government six years ago.

Congress banned U.S. military aid for two years but narrowly reversed

itself last fall and voted for \$100 million worth of aid, including \$70 million in military help, for the current fiscal year.

Much of the money already has been committed by the administration, but the final \$40 million cannot be spent until Reagan sends Congress a report saying the aid is needed and the Contras are making progress.

Congress could vote to block the expenditure, but Reagan could veto any such disapproval and it would take a two-thirds majority in each chamber to overturn his veto.

The bill sent to the floor Wednesday would not specifically block the \$40 million.

It has no cut-off figure or date in it.

The measure simply would ban U.S. help for the Contras, and Sen. Christopher Dodd, D-Conn., one of the sponsors, said if it eventually becomes law, it would halt whatever part of the \$100 million package had not been spent.

A similar cut-off bill has been introduced in the House.

House Majority Leader Thomas S. Foley, D-Wash., said Wednesday there is no question that Reagan will win the remaining \$40 million because there is no chance that opponents will have enough votes to override a presidential veto.

But Foley told reporters that Reagan's anticipated request for \$105 million in new Contra aid "is in grave trouble."

He spoke after attending a congressional meeting with Reagan at the White House.

A&M, UT cooperating in effort to establish joint marine institute

By Melanie Perkins
Staff Writer

Task forces are being appointed to study the possibility of a joint marine science research institute and dock and ship support operations in Galveston.

The institute could enhance cooperation between Texas A&M and the University of Texas, maximize the use of existing resources and possibly save the state some money.

At its Jan. 26 meeting, the Texas A&M Board of Regents discussed joint developments between the two universities in the areas of marine sciences and oceanography.

Dr. William H. Mobley, A&M deputy chancellor for academic and resource development, said several preliminary plans and options already have been developed.

One task force will study a joint docking proposal, he said, and a second will begin looking at a wider range of research and cooperative efforts between A&M and UT in a variety of ocean and marine areas.

The task forces will be working through the spring and probably will have some recommendations by summer, Mobley said.

"Essentially, what we have now is an agreement to study cooperatively," Mobley said. "None of the detail has been worked out. The only tangible thing is that there have been

several specific dock design options identified."

A&M's ship operations now are headquartered at Texas A&M and Galveston's Mitchell Campus on Pelican Island, while UT's operations are based at its medical branch in Galveston.

Mobley said both A&M and UT have the opportunity to expand and strengthen themselves in the areas of marine and oceanography facilities.

"The Select Committee on Higher Education concluded that since A&M and UT were both engaged in ocean and marine kinds of activities," he said, "there might be some opportunity for cooperation, coordination — and thus, cost savings."

A joint venture in this area also would allow the two universities to compete more effectively for federal grants and major research contracts, Mobley said.

Gen. Wesley F. Peel, A&M vice chancellor for facilities planning and construction, said UT first asked A&M to look into extending and sharing its dock facilities on Pelican Island.

The idea is feasible, Peel said, but how much dock space will be needed is a matter of economics and detail. Both school's boards will have to agree, he said.

Teachers join forces to request raise

A&M dean: Texas groups chose wrong time for proposal

By Daniel A. La Bry
Staff Writer

Texas teacher organizations finally got their act together on Feb. 9 by making a joint proposal to the 70th session of the State Legislature for a minimum salary increase — the groups just picked the wrong time to do it, said Bryan Cole, an associate dean in Texas A&M's College of Education.

"With the economic situation the way it is and the other demands on the state resources, I would seriously doubt they (teachers) would receive that kind of an increase as a state minimum," Cole said.

The Texas State Teachers Association, Association of Texas Professional Educators, Texas Classroom Teachers Association and Texas Federation of Teachers — which have separate legislative programs — banded together to make one unified proposal for a statewide minimum salary increase of \$2,900 over the next two years.

Jeri Stone, TCTA executive director, said the four groups wanted to send a clear message to the Legislature that future salaries were a priority for all four groups and that the groups had a single and unified stand on the issue.

The proposal calls for increasing starting salaries from the cur-

rent minimum of \$15,200 to \$17,080 for the first year and to \$18,100 for the 1988-89 school year. The \$15,200 minimum salary was set in House Bill 72 by the Legislature during the 1984 special session.

Stone said the proposal would increase the salaries of current teachers as well as those entering the profession in the future.

"With the economic situation the way it is . . . I would seriously doubt they (teachers) would receive that kind of an increase as a state minimum."
— Bryan Cole, associate dean in A&M College of Education.

The four groups based their pay requests on the 1983 findings of the Select Committee on Public Education, which recommended starting salaries of \$17,080, she said.

Cole said he believes the increase is justified, but said the present economic condition in Texas will seriously hinder the proposal's chance for success.

Stone said, "I think the present economic situation is going to affect the consideration of any bill that requires any type of expenditures — and probably negatively."

"But that was one of the reasons the four teacher groups

wanted to avoid sending a mixed message to the Legislature. We didn't want to have four proposals out there floating around."

Cole said the presentation of different proposals to the Legislature hurt the teacher groups in 1984 during the consideration of House Bill 72.

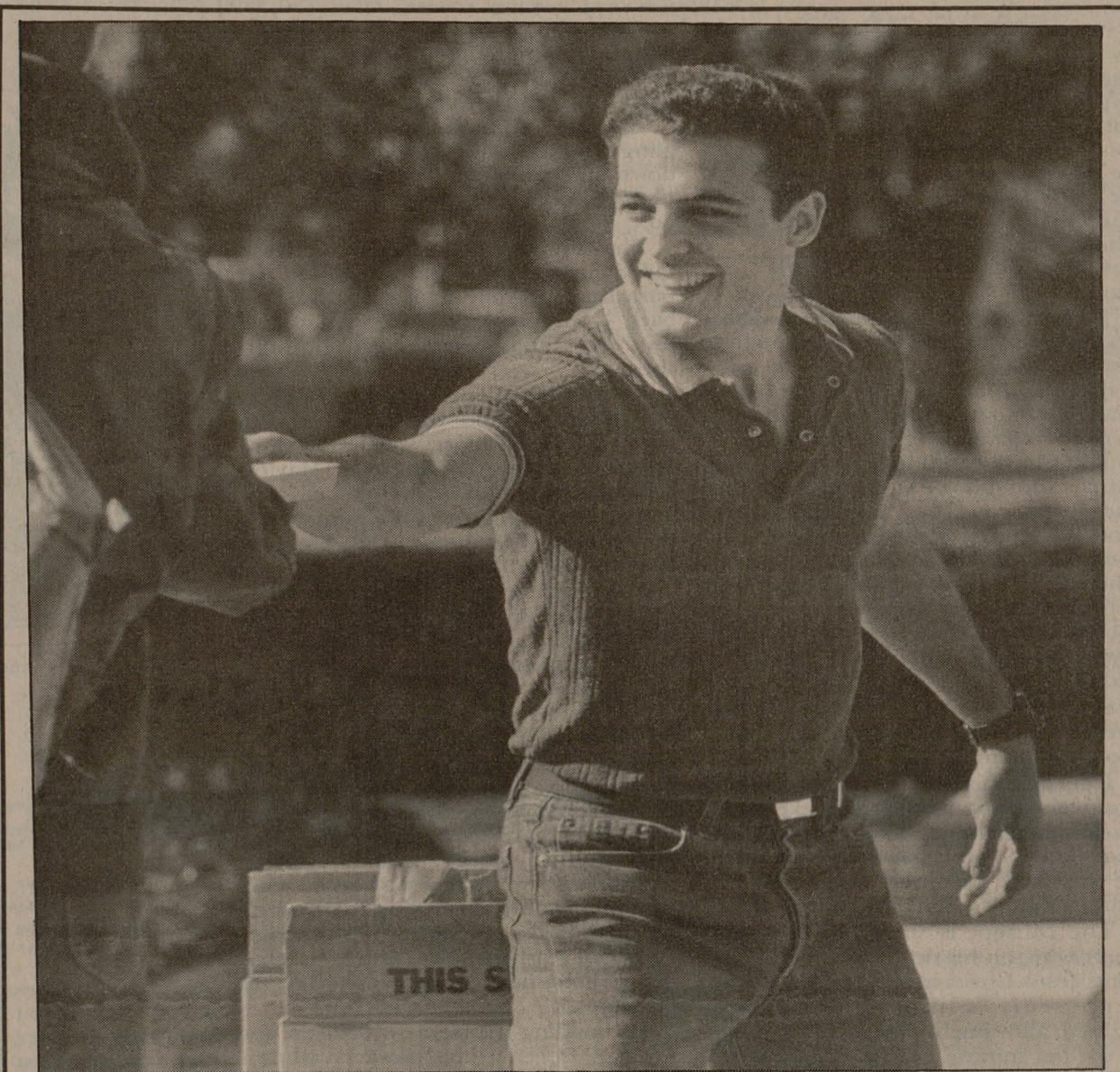
"No question about that," he said. "One of the things that hurt

them during the discussion of House Bill 72 was that all the teachers groups could not agree."

"It finally got to the point where many of the legislators just quit listening to any of them (the groups) because they were contradicting each other."

Stone said House Bill 72 increased the teacher salary schedule, but it increased entry-level salaries considerably more than career salaries.

"Traditionally we've had a problem within the teaching profession," Stone said. "Virtually everybody who is going to leave the profession leaves within the first



Spreading The Word

Photo by Doug La Rue

Shawn Garza, a sophomore chemical engineering major, hands out a new version of the New Testament. Members of the Baptist Student Union gave away about 12,000 of the books Wednesday.

Official: Co-op is state's best chance

Center tries to land supercollider

By Christi Daugherty
Staff Writer

The superconducting supercollider is probably the greatest research coup a state could get today, and if any group is going to get it for Texas, it probably will be the Houston Area Research Center, a HARC official said.

Located in The Woodlands north of Houston, HARC is a cooperative formed by four Texas universities, countless businesses and the federal government.

The four universities involved with HARC include Texas A&M, the University of Texas, the University of Houston and Rice University.

Dr. Jane Armstrong, vice president for program development at HARC, said HARC's objective is to combine the resources and knowl-

edge of Texas universities with funds from Texas businesses.

This combination should develop new technologies that will address the research needs of the private sector.

HARC hopes to land the supercollider project for Texas, she said, but whether or not it does, the center will continue to grow.

Originally incorporated in 1980, the center was the brainchild of Houston real estate developer George P. Mitchell, who said he stumbled onto the idea after reading about research conducted through major universities at similar centers in other states.

"We just felt such a thing would be feasible here, so we convinced the boards of the four universities," Mitchell said.

Mitchell picked the Houston location because 31 percent of the state's income is generated in that area, he said.

Each university appoints four members of its faculty to HARC's 29-member board of directors, and this board decides which projects will be pursued.

A&M has close ties to the center, including HARC's president, Dr. W. Arthur Porter, who has served as director of A&M's Texas Engineering Experiment Station.

Another link is the center's recently acquired supercomputer.

A&M and the other universities in HARC have relatively free access to the computer, which currently remains in the testing stage.

The \$20 million computer is the first supercomputer produced by Ja-

pan and the only one of its kind in the Western Hemisphere, Armstrong said.

Because of its size and speed, it is considered to be the best research computer in existence.

The computer is so immense that it will take up over 16,000 square feet in HARC's new research facility, which is under construction.

Dr. John Dinkle, A&M associate provost for computing, said A&M is using the computer heavily for research in areas such as molecular modeling, meteorology and business computations.

Meanwhile, HARC, like organizations from 44 other states, is pursuing the multibillion-dollar supercollider, hungry for the prestige and

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UH budget committee proposes elimination of 3 school programs

HOUSTON (AP) — Three academic programs have been targeted for termination by a University of Houston advisory budget committee that also wants to cut five other areas to fund research during difficult economic times.

The 24-member advisory committee recommended scrapping the sizable College of Technology, along with the recreation program in the education college and the department of human development and consumer science in the social sciences college.

Cutbacks were suggested in the architecture college, music school, sociology department, communication school and graduate school of social work, according to a draft report issued Tuesday.

About 1,500 students are enrolled in the technology college, which provides trained workers to the engineering, computer electronics and construction fields. It employs 40 full-time faculty members.

Lawrence Wolf, dean of the technology college, called the proposed cuts "insensitive and incorrect."

"I think the primary issue is whether a public university will provide opportunities only for those who seek to be the privileged or elite or will include education for those who do much of the essential work in our society," Wolf said.

The budget advisory council — which includes faculty, student and staff members — wants comments on its draft report by mid-March.

President Richard Van Horn said he will use the final report in developing next year's budget. He declined comment on the specific recommendations.

"When you have limited funds, you have to decide where to put them," he said.

Ira Shepard, a law professor who chaired the council, said its recommendations are based on the premise that another round of across-the-board cutbacks is "totally undesirable."

"You eliminate some programs to keep the strength and momentum in other programs," Shepard said.

According to the report, the university's "primary mission is to be a national comprehensive research university."

Shepard said it is difficult to estimate the cost savings of the cuts because it is hard to judge how many students the university might fail to attract without them. The council's proposal would allow current majors to complete their programs.

The report said affected faculty should be placed elsewhere in the university, if possible.