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Bush: U.S. should support neighbors to achieve solidarity for hemisphere

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — Vice President George Bush, fresh from a trip to earthquake-ravaged Ecuador, said Monday that Americans must support their southern neighbors because "they are just like us."

Bush, speaking to the Texas Daily Newspaper Association, said democratic governments in Central and South America are in the majority, but are suffering militarily and economically.

"What we're going to need to do as we move into the 1990s is hemispheric solidarity, trust such as we've never seen and never had," Bush said.

"I believe we must look homeward because of the threats, because of the opportunities and because these are our neighbors," he said. "We haven't always treated them with the respect and attention they deserve."

"These are our people. They are Americans. They are just like us." Bush said he has encouraged bankers to lend more money to the financially plagued governments.

"Debt is a tremendous problem that weakens these new democracies and also prevents them from buying our products, which in turn would help our trade deficit," Bush said.

He said that the Reagan administration has failed to educate the American people on the dangers of the Sandinista regime in Nicaragua.

Bush criticized the U.S. House for wanting to turn its back on the Contra rebels fighting the Nicaraguan regime.

He said that Congressional appropriations for fiscal year 1987 required that the U.S. economic assistance to Latin America and the Caribbean be cut 20 percent to \$1.2 billion.

"Either we're going to support the democracies that exist and those who are seeking democracy or we're going to turn our backs economically and strategically," Bush said. "We cannot continue to say we support democracy in Latin America, but then do nothing."

He said a Gallup poll conducted

in Central America in January concluded that people in that region support U.S. policy.

"The people of Central America have a right to know what they can expect from us," Bush said. "They have a right to a consistent U.S. policy."

Bush said Ecuador is trying to hold on to democracy while it works out economic and military problems.

"When it comes to democracy in Latin America, my heart is in my throat," Bush said. "I don't believe

there's anyplace in the world that is more hopeful and at the same time more concerned."

He said the earthquake claimed thousands of lives, destroyed an oil pipeline carrying the country's oil, which provides 40 percent of the government's revenues.

He declined during questions from delegates and reporters what his opposition to President Reagan's plan concerning the Contra arms deal.

Analyst: Newspaper industry losing readers over profits

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — The newspaper industry is losing readers because making a profit has become more important than producing a quality product, an analyst told newspaper publishers and owners Monday.

"Year after year, the ratio of circulation to households has continued to drop," said John Morton, a newspaper analyst from Washington, D.C. "And year after year, newspaper companies continued to demonstrate how they can make even more money despite the dwindling readership."

Morton addressed about 100

newspaper executives attending a conference of the Texas Daily Newspaper Association.

The preoccupation with profit at the root of newspapers' problems, he said.

Morton says those in the newspaper industry respond inappropriately when faced with tough economic times. He said newspapers should find ways to maintain their income instead of accepting the decline.

To cut costs, newspapers are generating non-revenue generating items such as editorial, advertising and final product, he said.

Sales Tax

(Continued from page 1)

them on the prices they have to pay to run a hospital."

House's study points out that goods and services industries are different. It states that the service industry has produced the most net new jobs from 1980 to 1986, while the goods industry actually has had a deterioration in the number of jobs available to Texans.

Statistics from Bullock's office support this. Over the past five years, 56 percent of all new jobs created in Texas have been in the service industries.

This is the problem, according

to Bullock's office. The Texas economy has changed while the state tax structure has not. Some major parts of the tax structure are 80 years old, and some of the newest major tax is a quarter of a century old.

The Texas economy is moving away from an oil- and gas-based economy toward one based on technology, information services, reports from Bullock's office say.

"The state cannot expect to take tax revenue from industries that are declining," Profit said. "The proposal is designed to spread the tax burden across all sectors of the economy."

Supreme Court hears case on Reagan death comment

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Supreme Court heard arguments Monday on whether a Houston constable had a right to fire a newly hired computer operator for saying she hoped President Reagan would be assassinated.

In the case, Ardeth McPherson claimed her free-speech rights were violated when she was fired for telling co-workers she wished Reagan had been killed in an assassination attempt in 1981.

McPherson was on duty in Constable Walter H. Rankin's office March 30, 1981, the day Reagan was shot and wounded in Washington by John W. Hinckley Jr.

While listening to radio reports about the incident, McPherson told a co-worker, "I hope if they go for him again, they get him."

The remark was reported to Rankin, who called McPherson into his office and fired her after asking her if she meant it.

Attorneys for Rankin argued that by merely making the statements,

McPherson showed that she was not the kind of person who should be working as a deputy constable, and Rankin thus had the right to fire her.

Outside the courtroom after the justices heard her case, McPherson said she never meant the president should be killed.

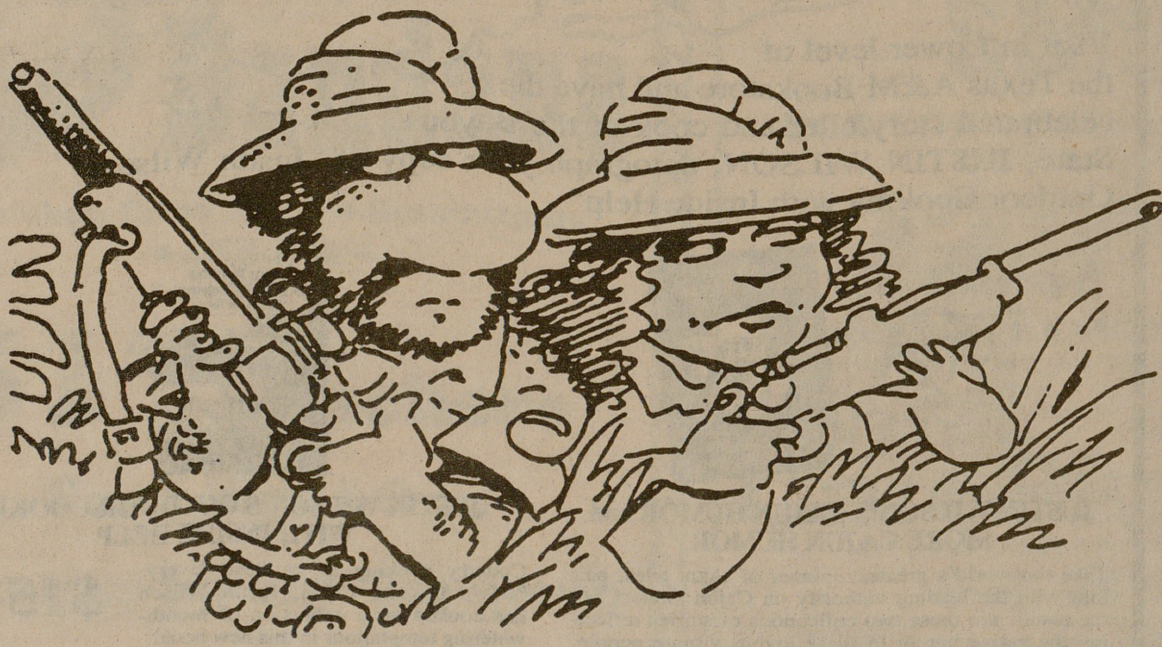
"It doesn't have anything to do with death and dying. It's just me disagreeing with his policies. That's just the way I speak," she said.

In its decision, the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals said McPherson's remark was political in nature and addressed a "matter of public concern" protected by the right to free speech under the First Amendment.

The appellate court also said that in weighing freedom against the interest in maintaining discipline and efficiency in government workplaces, McPherson's "potential for undermining the office's mission" was trivial.

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