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U.S. trade bill seeks mandatory reprisals

Unfair trading legislation called 'misguided'

WASHINGTON (AP) — A top congressional Democrat said Sunday that legislation calling for mandatory U.S. reprisals against nations using unfair trading practices is misguided and "destined for a veto" by President Reagan.

But Rep. Dan Rostenkowski, chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, said he would not be surprised if the so-called Gephardt amendment passes the House this week, and he blamed the Japanese for that.

With Japanese Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone coming to Washington for talks with Reagan, and the House poised to commence debate Tuesday on trade legislation, Rep. Richard Gephardt, D-Mo., called his amendment "the stick in the closet" needed to force fair practices by America's trading partners.

At the same time, Nobuo Matsunaga, the Japanese ambassador to the United States, acknowledged on ABC-TV's "This Week with David Brinkley" that "we are quite aware that we cannot continue this abnormal situation with a huge trade imbalance."

Hidetoshi Ukawa, Japanese consul general in New York, appearing on NBC's "Meet the Press," said, "I think there are a number of things we should be doing.

That is to say, we should be pursuing policies that we have committed ourselves to . . . to play a more constructive role in the world and global economy."

Nakasone, during his meeting with Reagan on Wednesday, will likely try to get the president to rescind the \$300 million in tariffs the administration imposed on Japanese electronic products earlier this month.

That action was taken in reprisal for what the United States said was a violation by the Japanese of a 1986 agreement to open their markets to U.S.-made semiconductor chips.

Americans last year imported \$58.6 billion more in goods from Japan than the Japanese imported from this country.

The Gephardt amendment would place a mechanism to force down "excess and unwarranted" trade surpluses amassed against the United States by its trading partners' if Congress found the trade advantage was gained through unfair practices. A country found to have gained such an advantage would have to lower the trade surplus by 10 percent annually or face retaliatory measures.

Trial for Julie's Place murder receives change of venue

By Carolyn Garcia
Staff Writer

In an effort to assure a fair trial for capital-murder suspect Terry Washington, State District Judge Carolyn Ruffino will allow the case to be tried outside of Brazos County.

Washington's change of venue was granted Friday with no objection from District Attorney Bill Turner.

Washington is charged with the Jan. 15 stabbing death of Beatrice Huling, the night manager of Julie's Place Restaurant. Washington worked as a dishwasher at the restaurant.

Although court-appointed defense attorney Tyler Moore received the change of venue, his attempt to get Ruffino to curtail severely the news media's coverage of the pre-trial hearings was unsuccessful.

Moore argued that news coverage of the case had been inflammatory and unfair and had created such hostility for Washington that it

would be difficult to select an impartial jury.

Moore asked the judge to prevent the media from reporting in detail any evidence presented during the hearings and that the attorneys be allowed to argue the case outside the presence of the media.

Ruffino denied almost all the media restrictions. She did, however, ban photographers from taking pictures inside the courtroom and reaffirmed the gag order already in effect. The judge also decided that pre-trial evidence will be withheld from the public until the actual trial begins.

No court date or county has been chosen for Washington's trial.

Huling, the mother of two, was found in the doorway of her office around 4 a.m. Police went to the restaurant after the woman's purse was found next door in the parking lot of Adult Video when a patron heard it being thrown over the fence. Her

husband confirmed that she had not come home after her shift.

Huling's body was found in a pool of blood and pathologist J.C. Lee determined she had been stabbed 85 times. More than \$600 was reported missing from the restaurant.

Because money was stolen during the murder, Texas law dictates that the offense is ruled as capital murder, which carries the possible punishment of the death penalty. If convicted, Washington could face death by lethal injection.

Moore argued Friday that, should his client be convicted, he should be notified of any evidence Turner plans to present during the punishment phase of the trial, since Turner will be seeking the death penalty. Ruffino responded that she would consider that request when it became necessary at that stage of the trial.

Ruffino did, however, authorize paying \$2,275 to a private investigator to seek new evidence on Washington's behalf.



Photo by Tracy Staton

But He Started It . . .

Bart Askew gets advice between rounds of a fight at Sigma Phi Epsilon's Fight Night semifinals Saturday.

Askew represented Beta Theta Pi in the lightweight Greek division of Fight Night.

Hospital lists Casey as critical

GLEN COVE, N.Y. (AP) —

Former CIA Director William J. Casey was in critical condition Sunday at a suburban New York hospital where he was admitted the day before for treatment of pneumonia, a spokesman said.

Casey, who underwent surgery for brain cancer in December, was admitted at about 2 p.m. Saturday to the intensive care unit at Glen Cove Community Hospital, a private acute-care facility on Long Island, according to hospital spokesman Joan Bass.

Bass said she could not comment on the nature of his treatment but said he was conscious when he was admitted.

Casey's admitting diagnosis was aspiration pneumonia, which is caused by fluid in the lungs, she said. All patients in the intensive care unit are listed in critical condition, she said.

Casey has a home in Roslyn Harbor, just south of Glen Cove, where he has been staying for the past several weeks, said Ken Cynar, a spokesman for Nassau County Executive Thomas S. Gulotta. Casey's son-in-law, Owen Smith, is Gulotta's deputy executive.

Casey, 74, underwent surgery Dec. 18 at Georgetown University Hospital in Washington, D.C. for removal of a malignant brain tumor. He was released from the hospital Feb. 28, but was readmitted for re-evaluation March 13 and discharged again March 28.

Casey resigned as CIA director for health reasons on Feb. 2. He had been in the midst of lengthy congressional testimony about the CIA's role in the Iran-Contra scandal when he went into the hospital in December and has not been able to resume testimony since.

Texas looks into 'dumping' of hospital patients

HOUSTON (AP) — Eighteen complaints alleging patients in unstable condition were transferred from private hospitals to tax-supported public hospitals for economic reasons are being investigated by state health officials, the *Houston Post* reported Sunday.

The complaints being investigated by the Texas Department of Health include one from the Harris County Hospital District against Humana Clear Lake Hospital and four from the Dallas County Hospital District against hospitals in the Dallas area, the newspaper reported in a copyright story.

"Dumping," a term for transferring poor patients for economic reasons, has become a controversial topic since new state and federal

laws regarding transfers became effective last April.

"Every transfer is potentially harmful and should not be done unless necessary for medical reasons," argues Dr. Don Winston of Houston, a critic of hospital transfer policies.

No disciplinary action has been taken so far against any private hospital for dumping, health officials said.

But the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services can suspend Medicare payments to an offending hospital and impose monetary fines, while the Texas Department of Health can revoke a hospital's license and also impose civil penalties.

The complaint against Humana Clear Lake concerns a woman who stopped breathing

while being transferred from the hospital to Ben Taub Hospital, the *Post* reported.

Mary Rourke, who was brain dead when she arrived at Ben Taub and pronounced dead two days later, had no medical insurance.

Hospital district officials filed a complaint in the case with the state health department. The federal Health and Human Services Department later issued a statement of deficiencies that found Humana violated "compliance with federal and state law regarding the transfer bill."

Robert Rourke, the woman's husband, said Humana hospital officials pressured him to move his wife after her bills mounted. Hospital officials, however, said the family wanted

the woman transferred.

Mitchell Chunn, a federal certifications specialist in Dallas, said his agency has sent the state health department to survey Humana Clear Lake to determine if it has "corrected its deficiencies."

For a transfer from a private hospital to the hospital district, the new rules require the permission of a doctor in the transferring hospital and of a hospital district doctor.

If the transfer is not being made for medical reasons, the patient also is supposed to be eligible for hospital district services and be in "stable" condition.

"Stable for transfer is a hospital euphemism for 'patient doesn't have insurance,'" Winston claims.

Student presidency subject of debate

Past office holders varied on opinions about power, prestige of position

By Christi Daugherty
Staff Writer

The position of student body president at Texas A&M has been described as both powerless and powerful, as important and insignificant, as a culmination of a dream and just a steppingstone to a career.

But what it really seems to be is all these things rolled into one job at the pinnacle of success in A&M Student Government.

Certainly there's a sense of prestige, and perhaps that's what attracts students to the job. But there's little agreement among former presidents about the real reason students are willing to go into debt, terminally injure their grade-point ratios and devote weeks of their lives to an exhausting political campaign in the middle of their college careers.

Mike Sims, the current student body president, admits there's a certain amount of desire for personal gain involved.

"A major reason any person runs is for personal development," Sims said, but that's not the only reason.

Sims said the best student body presidents run because they think they can help the school. And based on his experience he thinks they can — but only a little. And not nearly as

much as they expect to.

Sean Royall was student body president last year, and currently works for Sen. Phil Gramm in Washington D.C. He said that when he ran he wanted to find out what decisions were being made at A&M behind the scenes and he wanted to see if he could use his good relationship with Faculty Senate members to influence decisions.

David Alders, president two years ago, now works for Trammell Crow & Co., a Dallas real estate development company. He ran, he said, because he wanted to use the influence he'd developed during his years on the Senate with A&M administrators to increase the effectiveness of Student Government.

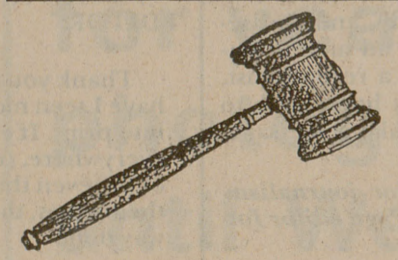
All agree the actual base of power of the office is extremely low, but while some think this is almost unnatural considering the perceptions most students have of the office, others think it's necessary to prohibit possible misuse of power.

"Power depends on how you define it," Sims said. "A student body president should have power in certain regards because anarchy doesn't work well in any organization."

"But if by power you mean the ability to announce something and have it be so, there's only one person

on this campus who can do that — Frank Vandiver."

Royall went even further, saying not only does the student body presi-



The student body presidency
Part one of a two-part series

dent have no power, but neither does Student Government as a whole.

"Student Government has no inherent power," Royall said. "The only power they have is given to them by the faculty and the administration. Therefore, Student Government has to gain the respect of the decision-makers in order to accomplish anything at all."

"I think Student Government is probably capable of having more

power than it does, but I don't know if Student Government itself really deserves more power. First, they need to be more effective and responsible.

"They must prove they can learn from their past."

Mike Cook ran for student body president against Royall two years ago and lost, but he's retained an interest in the position and the progress made by Student Government.

He feels Student Government must become more activist before it will be respected as a political power on campus.

"Student Government is afraid to lose its credibility," Cook said. "They're afraid administrators won't respect them if they disagree."

"But they don't understand, they don't have that respect right now because they won't express an opinion."

"Student body presidents run because they want to run for Congress someday, so they spend a year making nobody mad — and they end up accomplishing nothing."

Most of the former presidents consider Cook's views rather radical and they insist that the power of the president rests most heavily in his ability to work with administration and faculty.

In fact, one of the stated goals of

Royall's campaign was to gain the respect of the faculty and administration and to work with them on issues instead of against them.

"We're very fortunate to have at A&M administration officials who will work with students," Royall said. "Things like the shuttle-bus service and student service fees are examples of the faculty working directly with the students."

And Alders shares Royall's perspective of Student Government.

"The thing I think it's important to remember is that Student Government is not the governing body of Texas A&M — it's not now, nor should it ever be — heaven forbid," Alders said.

"It's always bothered me, this knee-jerk reaction a lot of Student Government members have to these situations, of wanting to make all the rules."

But he does admit that Student Government needs to be able to exert some influence on some issues.

"There are issues where the students have legitimate beefs — it was the senior finals issue during my tenure — where usually the faculty and not the administration strongly oppose the students, and their goal is

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