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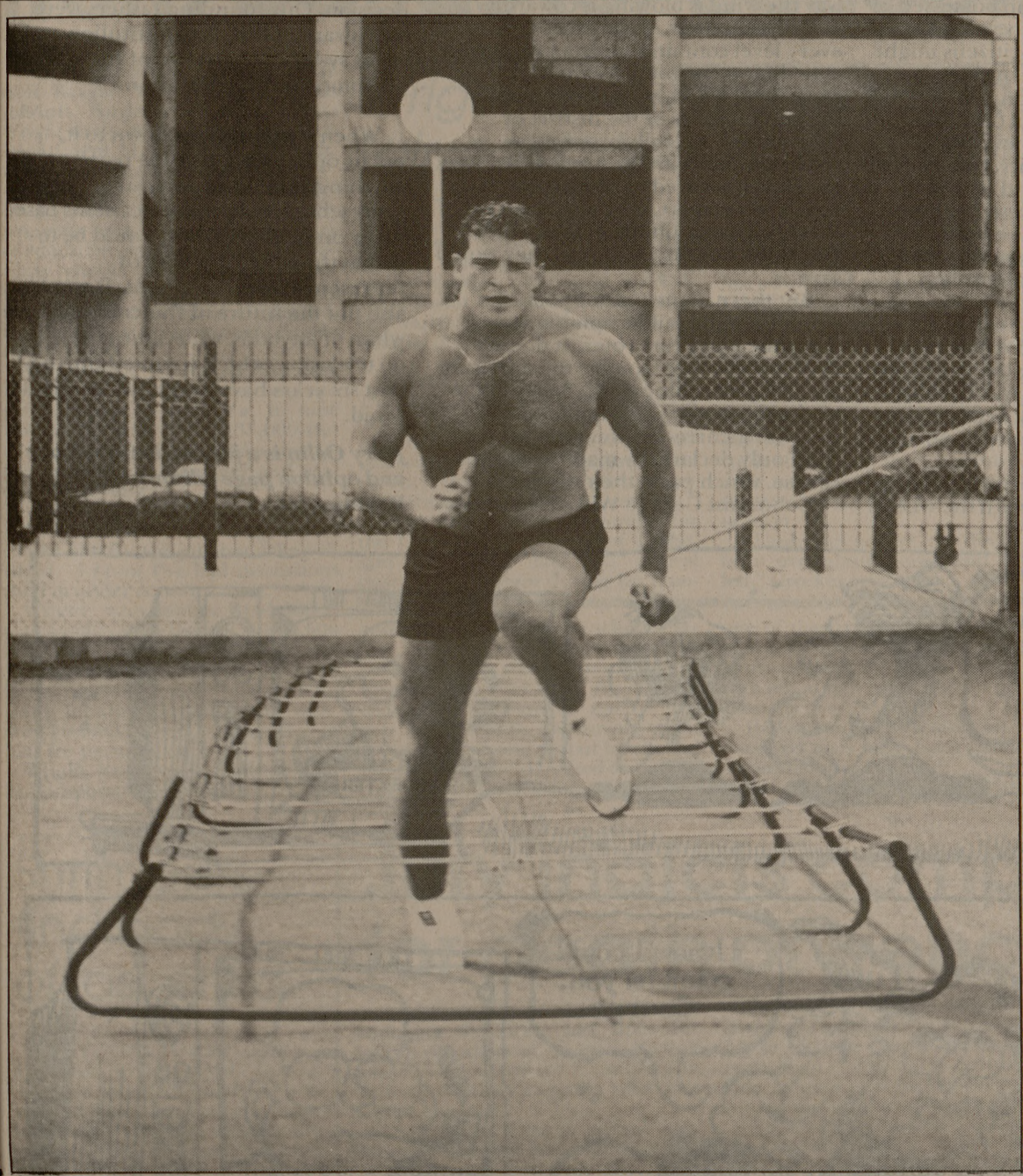


Photo by Sam Myers

Get Your Knees Up!

Texas A&M offensive lineman Jerry Fontenot, a junior aerospace engineer major, works out in preparation for two-a-days which start in August.

"Two-a-days" is the name given to the workouts that take place twice a day — once in the morning and again in the late afternoon.

Meese says Reagan 'surprised' by affair

Official gives details of Iran-Contra inquiry

WASHINGTON (AP) — Attorney General Edwin Meese III testified Tuesday that President Reagan "was quite surprised" last November when Meese told him about the diversion of Iranian arms-sales profits for use of the rebels fighting Nicaragua's communist government.

"He indicated he had not known anything about this," Meese told the congressional Iran-Contra committee.

In recounting five crucial days in the affair, from Nov. 20 to Nov. 25 last year, Meese told of questioning the principals, learning the details and finally telling the president.

Testifying in calm, even tones at the nationally televised hearings, Meese also defended his preliminary inquiry, even as he described the lies and deceit that other administration officials threw his way.

Meese interviewed Lt. Col. Oliver North on Sunday, Nov. 23, as part of a fact-finding inquiry. He testified he did not immediately turn the inquiry into a criminal investigation at that time because he had no reason to believe North had lied.

"At that point, we still hadn't figured out whether there was any criminality involved," Meese said.

On Tuesday, Nov. 25, he said, he received a telephone call from chief of staff Donald Regan indicating he would ask later that morning for the resignation of John M. Poindexter, the national security adviser.

The eventual decision for Poindexter's leaving, and for the firing of North, Meese said, was the president's.

After Poindexter's resignation and North's reassignment back to the Marine Corps, a special review board would be convened "to make recommendations to make sure this kind of thing could not happen again," Meese said.

Meese and his assistants inter-

viewed North one day after Justice Department investigators found a document in the National Security Council aide's files revealing the Iran-Contra diversion plan.

"He was basically forthright,"

Meese said of North in the interview, held on a Sunday afternoon in Meese's fifth-floor office at the Justice Department. "He certainly didn't appear to be concealing anything."

Kuwaiti officials plan to load crippled ship for trip back into gulf

KUWAIT (AP) — Kuwaiti officials said Tuesday they expect to send the crippled supertanker Bridgeton back down the Persian Gulf by the weekend with a U.S. Navy escort and a partial load of crude oil.

An official of the state-owned tanker company, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the U.S. Coast Guard had given oral permission to load the Bridgeton. A Coast Guard spokesman in New York said, however, that no decision had been made about the tanker, which now flies the American flag.

The Bridgeton hit a mine Friday as it steamed toward Kuwait, under the protection of three U.S. warships, through waters in which many attacks on ships have occurred in the 7-year-old war between Iran and Iraq.

In Washington, Pentagon officials said Saudi Arabia has told the Navy more mines are moored near Iran's Farsi Island, where the Bridgeton was hit, and that some have been removed.

They said it was too early to say how many mines might have been strewn in the area, but one source said the Saudis had located seven. The sources, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said "Navy units"

had begun a preliminary search of the area in the previous 24 hours.

Pentagon officials said they were almost certain the mine was planted by Iran, which has denounced and threatened the American convoy effort.

Pentagon spokesman Robert Sims said the United States assumes the mine that damaged the Bridgeton was planted in the channel shortly before the convoy arrived.

A well-connected shipping source said the loading of the 401,382-ton Bridgeton probably would start today. Kuwaiti officials have said they expect the Bridgeton and the 46,730-ton Gas Prince, which is traveling with it, to leave on Friday for the three-day voyage south.

The Kuwaiti official said the Coast Guard had approved loading 1,820,000 barrels of oil on the 1,200-foot-long tanker, more than two-thirds of its capacity, despite a large hole in its port side. Four of its 31 compartments were flooded after the mine exploded.

Coast Guard approval is needed because the ship now is registered as a U.S. vessel. The Bridgeton normally carries 2.4 million barrels of crude.

Texas politicians analyze impact of Hobby's retirement

AUSTIN (AP) — Lt. Gov. Bill Hobby's surprise announcement that he will leave politics left Texas politicians analyzing the impact Tuesday.

Democrats said Hobby's retirement leaves a void in their party, while a Republican official said the GOP has an even better chance to capture statewide offices in 1990. "The game of musical chairs is about to be played," Comptroller Bob Bullock said. "Now, who gets to sit in them remains to be seen."

Hobby, who first won the lieutenant governor's office in 1972, earlier this year indicated he would run for governor. But Monday he said he won't seek any office.

Bullock, who decided in 1982 that he would seek the 1986 gubernatorial nomination and then changed his mind, said he

isn't planning to run for governor. And he said he learned five years ago that an early announcement can pose a hazard.

"Every move that you make after that (announcement) is characterized as political, looked upon with skepticism," Bullock said. "It's almost deceiving. If a man's going to be political, he's going to be political whether he's announced or not."

Hobby's decision means that for the first time since 1972, the Democratic Party won't have an incumbent seeking re-election as either governor or lieutenant governor.

Texas Democratic Party Chairman Bob Slagle said Democrats have a number of good prospects for both jobs.

"I think it's very healthy that the party has multiple candidates for governor and lieutenant governor," Slagle said. "It's bet-

ter to have 20 good candidates for six jobs than no qualified candidates for those jobs, like the Republicans."

Because running for governor is expensive — Bill Clements and Mark White spent about \$24 million between them last year — Slagle said the Democratic primary may not be a free-for-all.

"We might find only two or three (candidates) because of the availability of funds," he said.

John Weaver, executive director of the Texas GOP, said Hobby's decision was good news for Republicans.

"Hobby's leaving the scene is almost the end of a political era in Texas that dates back generations," Weaver said. "The only one left is (U.S. Sen.) Lloyd Bentsen. As the Democratic Party becomes more liberal, the

(Jim) Hightowers, (Jim) Mattox and others make the Republican Party that much more attractive."

"For us, obviously it makes the governor's race and the lieutenant governor's race and most likely all other down-ballot races winnable and wide open."

One Democrat who says he's studying the race, Attorney General Jim Mattox, was not available to comment Tuesday, aides said.

But Mattox issued a written statement Monday night that said, "I was not looking forward to a race against Bill Hobby. . . I am relieved he will not be making the race."

Land Commissioner Garry Mauro said Hobby's decision "creates a real vacuum."

"It's obvious Texans are going to be looking for new faces and new leadership," he said.

Mauro, first elected in 1982, admits he would like to run for governor someday. But echoing the comments of other potential candidates, he said it is too early to decide.

San Antonio Mayor Henry Cisneros, widely considered a possible gubernatorial candidate, said the next election is more than three years away.

"It is far too early for a definitive comment now on my part," Cisneros said.

State Treasurer Ann Richards, under speculation as a possible candidate for either the governor's or lieutenant governor's races, was out of town Tuesday.

Another Democrat, Agriculture Commissioner Jim Hightower, says he is looking at two 1990 races — governor and U.S. Senate.

U.S., Soviet negotiators working toward 3rd superpower summit

WASHINGTON (AP) — The United States and the Soviet Union made major strides Tuesday toward a third superpower summit meeting that would bring General Secretary Mikhail S. Gorbachev here in the fall for talks with President Reagan.

But they did not resolve their dispute over equipping West German missiles with American nuclear warheads, a major stumbling block to the first U.S.-Soviet arms control agreement in eight years.

The steps toward a summit were taken almost simultaneously here and in Geneva, where U.S. and Soviet negotiators have been at work on nuclear weapons reductions since November 1981.

American negotiator Maynard Giltman formally accepted Gorbachev's latest proposal for a worldwide ban on U.S. and Soviet medium-range missiles. At the White House, spokesman Marlin Fitzwater announced that Secretary of State George P. Shultz and Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard A. Shevardnadze would meet in September.

Both moves pointed toward a pre-Thanksgiving summit hosted by Reagan for Gorbachev. It would be their third meeting and mark the Soviet leader's first visit to America. Shultz and Shevardnadze would have the double task of trying to re-

solve whatever differences might stand in the way of an arms control accord by September and drawing up a superpower summit agenda. That usually takes about six weeks.

Gorbachev, who met with Reagan in Geneva in November 1985 and in Reykjavik, Iceland, last October,

"There is still much to do in Geneva, but I am heartened that the climate is now receptive to an historic proposal of this type."

— President Ronald Reagan

made it plain during a Shultz visit to Moscow last April that he wanted a summit that produced results.

"Generally, without reason, I do not go anywhere, particularly America," the Soviet leader said.

Once U.S. negotiator Giltman advised the Soviets their latest offer was acceptable, the White House moved swiftly to dramatize the progress — and to claim credit for it.

Reagan revised a scheduled speech to a group of scientists and businessmen to declare "the climate is now receptive" to a historic accord banning the U.S. and Soviet intermediate-range missiles.

Referring to his own proposal in

1981 that all such missiles be scrapped, Reagan said that until last week "the Soviet Union had insisted on what could have been a major stumbling block."

But Gorbachev agreed last week to destroy the 33 triple-warhead SS-20 launchers with a range of 3,125

miles that the Soviets intended to store in their Asian territories; and 50 SS-12 single-warhead launchers with a range of 565 miles that also are targeted on China, Japan and South Korea.

Reagan said the United States had reiterated its insistence that both categories of medium-range missiles be reduced to zero, and "we are pleased that the Soviets now endorse both concepts."

Another key provision, however, reflected American acquiescence to Soviet demands. None of the Pershing 2 and cruise missiles the United States would withdraw from

Western Europe would be modified into other types of nuclear weapons. Nor can the U.S. rockets be turned over to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization allies.

"There is still much to do in Geneva, but I am heartened that the climate is now receptive to an historic proposal of this type," Reagan said.

Fitzwater said, meanwhile, that progress toward an arms control agreement had improved the prospects for Gorbachev to visit Washington.

"If you view arms control as a process, . . . it is an optimistic sign for a summit," he said.

Chief U.S. negotiator Max M. Kampelman, in a government-sponsored telecast to Western Europe, also noted the progress and said "we hope to proceed to final drafting" of a missile-reduction treaty, which would be Reagan's first after 6½ years in office.

But Kampelman sharply criticized the Soviets for continuing to insist on the destruction of American warheads that would be placed on 72 Pershing 1-A missiles that are in West German hands. He said the Soviets were being "mischievous" and that "it's not for us to decide whether the Germans need the missiles for their own security."

Houston airport gets FAA's new computer for air traffic control

HOUSTON (AP) — A new computer system in the Houston air traffic control center should increase controllers' capacity by at least 50 percent and help warn of near-misses in advance, officials said.

The Federal Aviation Administration activated the \$20 million system Monday at Houston International Airport. Officials said the system would enable controllers to handle at least 600 planes at any time, compared to the previous maximum of 400.

The new system eventually will expand controllers' ability to warn aircraft of near-collisions in advance, officials said.

At any given time, the Houston Air Route Traffic Control Center handles about 165 planes flying within 367,000 square miles of airspace over southern Texas, Alabama, Mississippi and the Gulf of Mexico.

The old system suffered from occasional blackouts, which frustrated the 300 controllers in the Houston center, said C.R. Melugin Jr., FAA chief in the Southwest region.

"We had a failure several months ago that shook us up a whole lot," Melugin said.

Although the center's radar operated normally, controllers took several hours to reload information on each flight into a backup computer, Melugin said.

He said the FAA is developing a computer program to warn controllers if a small plane strays into airspace around large airports such as Intercontinental.

The system is a tremendous accomplishment, said Jim Burnett, the National Transportation Safety Board chairman who has warned of an erosion in flight safety.

Burnett said the new system should boost two major shortcomings of the FAA — insufficient computer capacity and the lack of a collision alert system.

The new system is part of a \$12.2 billion 10-year program to raise the safety level of the FAA, he said. Houston is the second center to receive the computer system; the first was installed in Seattle. The FAA plans to install systems in 20 U.S. control centers.