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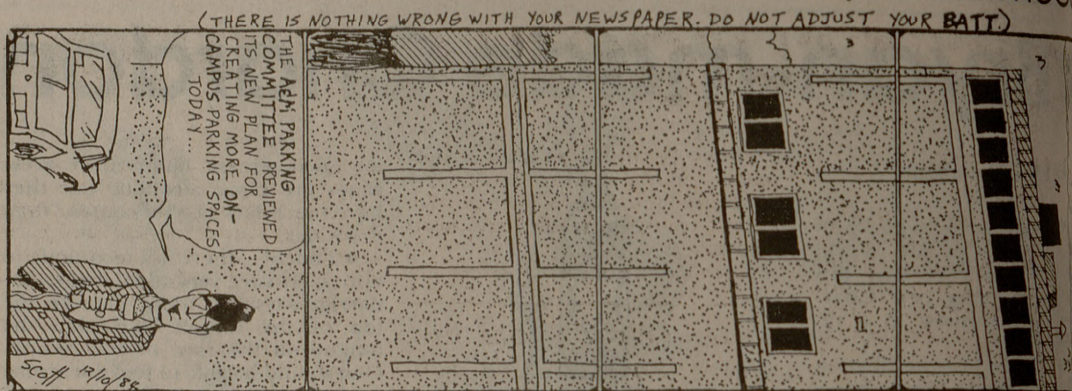
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County official lobbies for nuclear waste dump

AUSTIN (AP) — Andrews County is eager to be considered as the site for Texas' first low-level nuclear waste dump, a lobbyist for the county said Tuesday.

Former House Speaker Bill Clayton made the pitch for Andrews County, northwest of Midland-Odessa, at a meeting of the Texas Low-Level Radioactive Waste Disposal Authority.

Clayton's presentation could be viewed as having a dual purpose since he also represents El Paso County, which filed suit earlier this year to stop a possible nuclear waste site in the adjoining county of Hudspeth, officials said.

He said county officials were so excited about the prospect of attracting a disposal site that they conduct drill tests at county expense.

"It appears to me when you're dealing with such as this, where there is a lot of emotion at the ... certainly one thing you take into consideration is community acceptance ...," Clayton said. "I believe that it is wholeheartedly accepted in Andrews County."

Jacobi said the agency wants to take another Andrews County.

"We need to work with Midland-Odessa, even Amarillo" because of the Ogallala aquifer area, he said.

Clayton also mentioned a possible site in El Paso County, but Jacobi said the staff had technical doubts about that site — 25 to 30 miles north of Van Housen because it rests on gypsum, which dissolves when wet, also because of the water flow in that area.

Executive Director Lawrence Jacobi Jr. said the staff had highly recommended a site in Hudspeth County, 11 miles northeast of Fort Hancock.

El Paso County then obtained an injunction to block selection of the site, Jacobi said, and trial is set for Dec. 7.

"We're just on hold," Jacobi said. "It really upsets the staff to have to sit down and just wait, but unfortunately we're under injunction and have to obey the law."

Jacobi spoke with a reporter at the conclusion of a two-hour board meeting that included a one-hour private session on litigation.

Clayton said agency staff had met at Andrews with the county judge, mayor, school superintendent, chamber of commerce representatives and newspaper editor.

"There was a unanimous approach by the whole county trying to attract" a low-level facility, Clayton said.

Jacobi acknowledged that the El Paso laws slow the site-selection process considerably, but "No matter where we go, I'm convinced we will win this type of problem."

He mentioned Andrews, and said, "I'm sure people in Midland-Odessa would not be any more about this than the people in El Paso are."

Time is lost, he said, "in the sense that we can't pursue our major goal, which is to find a siting area in."

Defense attorney attacks transcript of trial's testimony

BROWNSVILLE (AP) — The lead defense attorney attacked the credibility of a grand jury transcript central to the aggravated perjury trial of Mayor Emilio Hernandez, who was indicted in a Texas Rangers-led probe of city government.

Defense attorney Rey Cantu objected to use of the transcript from January grand jury testimony, but District Judge Darrell Hester allowed its admission into evidence.

Cantu questioned the qualifications of court reporter Bill Briggs. The defense attorney also pointed out errors and ambiguities in the transcript, depending on how one would interpret its punctuation.

A hung jury in July caused a mistrial the first time the perjury case was tried. In that trial, the jury deadlocked at 7-5 in favor of acquittal. The state alleges that Hernandez lied to a grand jury when he said he did not buy billboard advertising for the 1985 re-election campaign of a former city commissioner.

Hernandez voluntarily testified in January before the grand jury,

which was looking into allegations of wrongdoing in city government.

Judge Hester last month denied a change-of-venue motion by Special Prosecutor Sharon MacRae, who had maintained that the mayor's influence prevented the state from getting a fair trial.

Juan Gonzalez, district sales manager with Browning Ferris Industries, which was trying to win a garbage contract with the city in 1985, testified that Hernandez told him that the Jesse Sloss campaign needed \$3,000-\$4,000 in cash for billboards, but that the mayor did not ask him for it.

Cantu questioned the credibility of Gonzalez' previous testimony, and asked him if Hernandez and Sloss embarrassed him in front of two BFI executives by refusing contributions from BFI's political action committee.

The mayor in June was acquitted of a felony theft by a public servant charge stemming from the probe, but still faces a bribery trial.

Officer, guard held after trial at robbery

PORT LAVACA (AP) — A police officer and a former security guard were being held Tuesday on charges in several indictments of conspiring to commit an aggravated robbery, authorities said.

Port Lavaca Police Lt. Lee Nowotny, 41, was indicted by a Calhoun County grand jury. The indictment alleged he conspired with Port Lavaca policeman John Ayce McNeil, former Victoria policeman Wayne Slovacek in the alleged robbery of First State Bank and Trust Co. employees on 15, 1986.

David Anthony Hamilton of Port Lavaca, was arrested and indicted for conspiring to commit an aggravated robbery of First State Bank and Trust Co. on early November, a plan that did not put into effect.

Both Nowotny and Hamilton were in custody in the Calhoun County Jail. Justice of the Peace Marlene Paul set bond Monday at \$100,000 on Nowotny and \$30,000 on Hamilton.

Captive freed from Mozambique won't rule out more charity work

HOUSTON (AP) — Houston nurse Kindra Bryan, who spent three months as a captive of Mozambique guerillas, says she won't rule out returning to the country for charity work, according to a published report.

"I'm real open," she told the *Houston Chronicle* in a copyright story published Tuesday. "If God were to tell me I should go back to Mozambique, I'd be perfectly happy to."

In an interview conducted in Harare, Zimbabwe, where she was recuperating, she said, "I know I could handle it now."

Bryan and six other captives were released last week at the Mozambique-Malawi border by pro-Western guerillas fighting Mozambique's central government. Spokesmen for the rebels said the group was marched out of Mozambique for its own safety.

In the interview, Bryan declined to discuss the politics of her captivity and said her thoughts have turned toward returning home.

"Because of what's happened, I feel a little out of control of my life," Bryan said. "Just to be independent — just to get in my car and do what I

want to do without anyone driving me. That's what I want."

During her captivity, she traveled on foot more than 100 miles.

"Sometimes I thought I'd handle it," she told the newspaper. "Now it just seems a normal life is walking through the bushes with soldiers. It's not such a big deal."

During the ordeal, Bryan lost 20 pounds and now weighs about 100 pounds, the newspaper said. She was freed by the guerilla group was flown to Harare and questioned by government officials.

Lawyer extends offer to represent families of boxcar tragedy victims

EL PASO (AP) — A lawyer has offered to represent families of the 18 men who died in the Sierra Blanca boxcar tragedy last month, but officials said another law firm already is handling the cases.

George McAlmon of El Paso would not say Monday whether any of the relatives had asked him to represent them for free, but he said he might make an announcement soon.

Meanwhile, three men from the Albuquerque, N.M., law firm of Duhigg, Cronin and Spring were interviewing some of the victims' relatives in Ojo Caliente in the state of Aguascalientes, the town's mayor, Miguel Razo Hernandez, said Monday.

A Border Patrol agent found the dead men and the lone survivor during a routine search of boxcars at Sierra Blanca, about 90 miles east of El Paso.

The men suffocated in an airtight car that was out in the broiling desert sun for hours. Temperature in the insulated, steel-sided car soared to as high as 140 degrees.

The survivor, Miguel Tostado Rodriguez, an alien smuggler had locked the 19 Mexican-immigrant workers into the car from the outside yard in El Paso.

Lawyers have said that if the victims' families they could ask for as much as \$9 million. Potential defendants include the Border Patrol and the railroad.