

# State and Local

## Wilson says fund-cutting efforts not result of personal incident

HOUSTON (AP) — A congressman said his efforts to cut funding for some planes at U.S. embassies weren't prompted by the Pentagon's refusal to fly his friend aboard a military jet in Pakistan.

U.S. Rep. Charles Wilson, D-Lufkin, a member of the U.S. House Appropriations Committee and Intelligence Committee, acknowledged he was behind efforts to cut funding for two of the 22 planes that are used at U.S. embassies located around the world.

In February 1986, during a trip to Pakistan, the Pentagon refused to allow a female acquaintance of Wilson to ride with him on one of the Defense Intelligence Agency's planes, even though Wilson offered reimbursement for the travel costs of his friend.

Wilson told reporters Monday he did not recommend the budget cuts because of the 1986 episode, but acknowledged it made him evaluate his thinking about funding the planes.

Wilson said he was puzzled by the

controversy over his action, since more significant cuts have been made in other areas of the Pentagon budget.

The congressman said he believed there have been abuses of the air-planes but declined to be more specific because the funding for the air-planes is part of a budget that is classified.

At the Department of Defense, a spokesman declined extensive comment about the matter.

"We consider the case closed," Cmdr. Bob Prucha said. "It's a dead issue until the next budget."

In the recently passed spending bill, Wilson wrote a provision that transferred two of the planes in the U.S. embassy fleet to the Army National Guard and Air Force National Guard.

"Naturally, I examined the thing closely," he said. "I determined the planes could be put to better use by the National Guard."

Wilson commented that the provision did not specify which of the U.S. embassies would be the ones to lose their planes.

## Clayton takes charge of alumni association

By Daniel A. La Bry  
Managing Editor

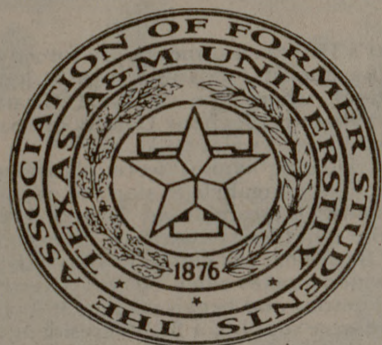
Former four-time Texas House Speaker Bill Clayton of Austin stepped in as the 1988 Association of Former Students president on Jan. 1 with a bright outlook for the upcoming year.

"We moved into the new building debt-free and plan to raise an endowment fund to take care of the maintenance," the new president said during a telephone interview from his Austin office. "With the new building behind us, we can concentrate more on University-oriented projects."

The \$7 million Clayton W. Williams Jr. Alumni Center opened in early September. Planning for the long-awaited center began in 1979.

Now that the center is completed, Clayton said, the association can now focus its attention on items such as faculty awards, academic grants and membership recruitment.

Clayton, Class of '50, was the only Texas House Speaker elected to four terms and has been a leading political figure in the state since the early 1960s. He



is now president of a political and business consulting firm in Austin.

He was named a distinguished alumnus by the University in 1979 and has served three years as vice president for community affairs on the board of the former students' association before becoming president-elect last year. He replaced W. Mike Baggett of Dallas as the association's president.

Richard A. Williford of Tulsa will serve as the 1988 president-elect. Williford, Class of '55, was previously the national vice president.

## Famed surgeon working despite bankruptcy claim

HOUSTON (AP) — Pioneering heart surgeon Dr. Denton Cooley went to work as usual Tuesday, a day after filing for federal bankruptcy protection.

"Dr. Cooley is in the operating room," said Cooley's secretary, Joan Miller, who declined further comment.

On Monday, Cooley filed for personal bankruptcy protection under Chapter 11 of the U.S. Bankruptcy Code, claiming debts of about \$100 million.

Cooley was identified as doing business as Cardiovascular Associates, Southwest Apartment Homes, Point of the Southwest, Southwestern Plaza, Texas American Bank Building and Cool Acres Ranch.

His attorney, Leonard Simon, said the filing did not involve Cooley's medical practice or the Texas Heart Institute, which Cooley founded 25 years ago.

Cooley, 67, listed among his assets real property valued at \$44 million including several undeveloped tracts, at least one apartment complex, a six-story office building, two beach houses and oil and gas royalties.

Other assets include six vehicles, including two Rolls-Royces.

Among his debts were 11 unsecured debts of \$26.5 million. Amounts of the debts ranged from \$19.9 million owed to First City National Bank of Houston, which is itself in the process of being reorganized with the help of a Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. contribution, to \$523 owed a local sandwich shop.

But Jim Day, First City spokesman, on Tuesday disputed the unsecured amount in the petition, saying the bank loaned Cooley \$26 million and it is all secured.

Cooley's filing said he has \$2.7 million in tax liabilities, but he indicated that at least a portion of that is under contest.

The native Houston doctor, founder and head of the Texas Heart Institute at the Texas Medical Center in Houston, performed his first heart transplant in 1968, almost a year after Dr. Christiaan Barnard first removed the diseased heart of a South African man and sewed in a new one.

Cooley did 21 other transplants within the span of a year, but he abandoned the program after most of his patients died when their bodies rejected the donor organ.

He resumed transplants in July 1982 after the drug cyclosporine was proved to combat rejection.

## Austin man, 2 children die in mobile home fire

AUSTIN (AP) — A father and two of his children died Tuesday in a mobile home fire that might have been caused by smoking in bed, an Austin Fire Department captain said.

The man's wife suffered cuts on her arms when she apparently tried to get into the burning home to rescue the occupants, according to Capt. Mike Vanblaricom.

The victims were identified as Joseph Ramon Sr., 26; his son Joseph Jr., 3, and his daughter Delphina, 2. Another child in the family, 2-month-old Joey Ramon, escaped unharmed, according to Vanblaricom.

He said the infant apparently was rescued from the burning mobile home by a visiting couple who also were in the house when the fire began.

## Panhandle residents ready for predicted cold weather

LUBBOCK (AP) — Patches of freezing precipitation glazed the Panhandle Tuesday as residents readied for a predicted siege of bitter cold weather.

Forecasters said as much as four inches of snow could fall in the Panhandle by Wednesday morning, accompanied by temperatures in the mid-teens.

Throughout the Panhandle and South Plains, freezing drizzle Tuesday caused icy roads, slowing travel to a crawl on highways and farm-to-market roads.

"Have you ever poured water over oil and had it run through it?" said Department of Public Safety trooper Jerry Burgdorf, describing road conditions around Amarillo. "It's super slick. We're basically having an ice storm."

Some minor weather-related traffic accidents had been reported around Amarillo, Burgdorf said, but all roads remained open. Travel on Interstate 27, which links Amarillo and Lubbock, was slowed to 40-45 mph, but speeds were much slower on city streets, he noted.

The freezing conditions caused 70 traffic accidents here from midnight Monday to noon Tuesday, including 50 between 6 a.m. and 11 a.m., said

Lubbock Police Department spokesman Amy Jones.

Conditions in the Panhandle were foggy and misty, which further hampered traffic and cut visibility to less than a mile in some areas, National Weather Service officials said.

Temperatures were in the 20s Tuesday afternoon over the Panhandle and South Plains, weather service officials said. More snow could fall Wednesday in the Panhandle, while cloud cover should boost temperatures somewhat in the Permian Basin area.

### Correction

In the Dec. 8 issue of *The Battalion*, it was incorrectly reported that an interdisciplinary class dealing with world hunger and malnutrition would begin next fall. The class — Special Topics in World Agriculture and Nutrition — actually begins this semester.

It is listed in the schedule of classes as Nutrition 689 and will be taught by a team of faculty members on Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 10 a.m.

## What's up

Thursday

**LADY AGGIES BASKETBALL TEAM:** Texas A&M faculty and staff members who bring an I.D. card will be admitted free to the Lady Aggies' game against North Texas State University at 7:30 p.m. in G. Rolie White Coliseum. Faculty and staff members also are invited to a post-game reception in the Lettermen's Lounge with the team and Coach Lynn Hickey.

Sunday

**BRAZOS VALLEY ALZHEIMER'S FAMILY SUPPORT GROUP:** will meet at 3 p.m. in 160 Medical Sciences. Dr. Judy Warren, gerontology specialist with the Texas Agricultural Extension Service, will discuss working with the patients when they are disoriented.

Items for *What's Up* should be submitted to *The Battalion*, 216 Reed McDonald, no less than three working days before desired publication date.

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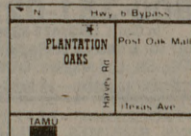
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