

Robertson calls for national plan to make U.S. energy independent

AUSTIN (AP) — Republican presidential candidate Pat Robertson called for a national energy policy Monday and said the current generation of Americans may win or lose world peace in the oil fields of the Middle East.

Robertson said the United States does not need an oil import fee but should use other methods of becoming energy independent by 1992.

He compared that goal to former President John Kennedy's challenge in the early 1960s to put a man on the moon within a decade.

Robertson said the United States must negotiate long-term mutually beneficial contracts to obtain oil from Canada, Mexico and Venezuela, then take matters into its own hands.

"That which threatens freedom in this day and time screams from the oil fields of the Middle East," he said. "It is there that this generation of Americans will win the peace, or possibly lose it."

He appeared in the Senate chamber at the Capitol, and 500 to 600 supporters gathered downstairs after the balcony was closed for apparent security reasons.

In releasing his own energy plan for the first time, the former television preacher called for reinstatement of the controversial 27 and one-half percent oil depletion allowance and repeal of the so-called windfall profits tax.

Robertson said Congress should declare a "tax holiday" for two years on all new oil wells drilled in the continental United States.

That proposal drew the loudest applause from his audience.

He said conservation incentives must be given to the energy industry and strategic reserves should be increased from 500 million barrels to 1 billion barrels.

He also asked the energy industry to commit itself "to making ours the first nation to develop safe nuclear fusion as an energy source."

"Though I am convinced that the petroleum industry currently holds the key to our present standard of living, I further believe that nuclear fusion holds the key to our long-term survival," Robertson said.

"We are hereby putting the world on notice that the next great breakthrough in energy development will not be made in Japan or Mexico or Canada or Saudi Arabia," he said. "It will be made in America. And by God's help it will be made by Americans, and by Texans."

In other political developments: • South Texas elected officials announced a committee of more than 1,000 residents of that area support Massachusetts Gov. Michael Dukakis for the Democratic presidential nomination. The Dukakis supporters are from 32 counties.

State Sen. Hector Uribe, D-Brownsville, said Dukakis' "proven record of job creation and innovative government is what gets peo-

ple's attention in the Rio Grande Valley."

"He's created almost 300,000 jobs in Massachusetts in the last three years," Uribe told a Capitol news conference. "We need jobs, and we believe a Dukakis presidency will end government's complacency and get things moving again."

State Rep. Ernestine Glosbrenner, D-Alice, said Dukakis will inspire "the nation to produce a strong cadre of professional educators."

• Illinois Sen. Paul Simon's campaign for the Democratic nomination said Illinois businessman Bernie Alchon would visit seven Texas counties Wednesday through Friday on Simon's behalf.

• Railroad Commission candidate Jerry Langdon said incumbent Jim Nugent "laid a giant dinosaur egg" at last weekend's Mexican American Democrats convention, getting only about 25 percent of the vote.

Minorities use lawsuit as protection

DALLAS (AP) — Widespread opposition from minority organizations wanting continued court protection for Dallas students could put an end to recommendations the school board seek a court judgment declaring the district desegregated.

"I think the school board would have to think hard about voting to ask the court to do that and I would think the court would be prone to weigh that in terms of the reasons the community is in opposition," Kathryn Gilliam, board vice president, said.

Minorities account for 80 percent of the Dallas Independent School District's 131,000 students, and some ethnic organizations say they will oppose any effort by the DISD to end the 18-year-old desegregation lawsuit.

Minority leaders said they wanted to maintain the court order as protection against a return to separate and unequal schools that federal courts ruled the district was operating.

In 1982, U.S. District Judge Barefoot Sanders issued the third integration plan stemming from the 1970 lawsuit.

"All we want to do is make certain there is a check and balance in place," the Rev. S.M. Wright, head of the Interdenominational Ministers Alliance, said. Several members of the group are opposed to ending the lawsuit now.

"We just don't feel with the present composition of the board that we will get fair treatment," said Guillermo Galindo, chairman of the Hispanic Advisory Committee, a DISD-created panel of citizens.

Officials said the opposition efforts stemmed from distrust of the Anglo-dominated board, which holds a 5-4 majority.

DISD attorney Robert Thomas recommended Jan. 6 that the board ask Sanders to declare the district desegregated.

San Antonio-based group opposes domed stadium

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — A community-based group that has fought for the poor has voted to oppose a proposed \$158 million domed stadium because taxes would have to be raised to pay for it.

In a voice vote Sunday, Communities Organized for Public Service gave a resounding "no" to a proposal that would raise the VIA Metropolitan Transit Authority's sales tax by a half-cent to pay for the proposed 65,000-seat Alamodome.

The Rev. Rosendo Urrabazo, one of the five co-chairmen who head COPS, said the organization wants any tax increase to be used for basic services, not for stadiums.

"We believe the spending of public funds is a public trust," Urrabazo said.

"We are not against taxes when they are used for the public good," he said.

Urrabazo said the city needs to address the problem of housing, jobs and much-needed capital improvements before public funds can be used on the Alamodome.

"The risk should not fall on the backs of our people," Urrabazo, a Catholic priest, told about 1,000 people at the COPS rally.

Mayor Henry Cisneros, the stadium's chief proponent and a graduate of A&M, said he had expected the negative vote.

"I don't know of any other way that this facility can be built but with the sales tax hike," Cisneros said Sunday.

"I have researched ways to build this facility for six years," he said. "What is being proposed is the only configuration that is available. Delaying or covering old ground won't change that."

The mayor said the tax increase would be about \$18.63 a year for a family of three with an income of \$10,000.

"That's roughly one 21-piece barrel of Kentucky Fried Chicken with trimmings per year," Cisneros said.

He said the stadium would be built in three years and paid for within five years.

Councilman Frank Wing, who said he supported the sales tax, said the tax-increase proposal has merit.

"Private funding cannot fund it," Wing said. "It is just too much of an enormous amount of money to be tied to the private sector."

Cisneros, who has been at odds with COPS since last fall, did not attend the rally.

He has declined COPS' suggestion to postpone a May referendum vote on the stadium proposal.

Exhibit showing circus world illustrates Mardi Gras theme

GALVESTON (AP) — A work of art is under construction at the Galveston Arts Center.

Adriana Russo, 28, an American artist who has lived in Florence, Italy, for the past seven years, is creating "Il Circo."

The exhibit, an elaborate circus environment featuring larger-than-life, garishly finished sideshow and big top performers, is being presented by the Galveston Arts Center in conjunction with this year's Venetian-theme Mardi Gras activities.

"The circus theme has always been in my work, since the beginning," said Russo, who began her art studies at 18. She grew up near Cleveland and attended school there before transferring to Florence to continue her study of art.

"Italy is the perfect place for me," Russo said. "In Italy the entire city

celebrates Mardi Gras for a month. Even the baker can be seen with a mask. The French are much more reserved, where the Italian celebration is really in the streets.

"Although it's a Christian country, the Carnevale Mardi Gras in Italy is really a pagan festival deriving from the Greek mythology feast of Dionysus."

Russo's "Il Circo" project will fill the entire main gallery of the Arts Center through Feb. 29 and transform it for a month into a kind of "Carnevale" sideshow.

The fat lady and strong man will be there, as will many other conventional sideshow characters such as jugglers, acrobats and fire-eaters.

Using a variety of materials—anything from plastic and wire to rope and styrofoam—the finished product promises to convey all the vi-

brant excitement and earthiness of the Italian circus tradition as seen through the eyes of the contemporary American artist.

"I represent most often and have been most fascinated with the freaks of the circus, such as the fat lady and the strong man," Russo said. "But I don't see freaks as persons to be stared at or pitied. As with anything in life—celebrate it and it turns into magic." Russo explained that a lot of love and a lot of herself goes into her works.

Although each piece of art could stand on its own, each is an integral part of the whole "Carnevale," explains Russo, who since the early 1980s has either traveled with or followed a number of well-known circus troupes in Europe and the United States in search of themes and images for her work.

Train enthusiast remembers rail's golden era

ODESSA (AP) — Warren Taylor remembers the days when the railroad streamliners roared prosperously along their tracks from coast to coast.

Today, he savors those times with his collection of railroad collectibles, which are on display at Odessa's Presidential Museum.

Taylor, 42, of Midland has been collecting pieces ranging from custom-made china to engineer's lanterns for the last 15 years. Born in

1945, he says he was able to get in on the tail end of the golden era before the U.S. government took over rail service with Amtrak in 1968.

"I got to ride a few of the wonderful old streamliners," Taylor said, fondly recalling trains with names like "California Zephyr" and Santa Fe's "Super Chief."

In the days when the trains were owned individually, passenger service was a high priority, Taylor said. "And many of those trains were

very deluxe . . . having dinner in the diner was always an incredibly special experience," he told the *Odessa American*.

"The food was always incredibly good and there was always a lot of it," he said. "And it was served on custom-made china, sometimes with the railroad crest.

"And then, of course, there was the silver—and the linens were damask. The waiters wore starched white jackets and they were trained

carefully so that the way people were served was according to a very specific etiquette."

Taylor belongs to an association of railroad collectors, and attends antique shows that specialize in railroad collectibles.

In his collection, Taylor said, he has 150 pieces of china from railroad diners.

Other items include stepstools used to board trains, lanterns, Pullman blankets and dining car menus.

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