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World and Nation

Former Tech president gets nominated to replace Bennett

WASHINGTON (AP) — Lauro Cavazos' father always stressed the importance of education to his three boys growing up in the untamed brushland of the renowned King Ranch.

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The strength of that message took Cavazos all the way to the White House, where President Reagan on Tuesday nominated him to succeed William Bennett as U.S. Secretary of Education.

Cavazos, 61, has devoted most of his life to educating himself and others, becoming the first Hispanic president of Texas Tech University and its medical school. That post makes him head of the nation's larg-

est higher educational institution run by a Hispanic.

"I have pushed hard on that, especially with minority groups," Cavazos has said.

"I am convinced education is the key to many things. If you have sufficient education, you can solve most any problem in the world. Famine. Ecological problems. Nuclear problems. Racism. They're all solved with education."

At Tech, Cavazos paid special attention to minority education. He oversaw the creation of a special office to handle minority student problems and increased efforts to recruit and retain minorities. He regularly gave speeches on the importance of curtailing the skyrocket-

ing dropout rate of minority students.

During his tenure, Hispanic enrollment increased from 3.6 percent in 1980 to 6.3 percent in 1987. Black enrollment edged up from 1.85 percent to 2.4 percent during the same period.

Despite his soft-spoken, friendly demeanor and good organizational skills, Cavazos was sometimes criticized for being stretched too thin in running both the university and its medical school.

Dr. Bernard Mittlemeier, executive vice president of Tech's Health Sciences Center, said Cavazos was always easy to work with, but occasionally difficult to get track down.

"He basically is a delegator," Mittlemeier said. "He works best in an

atmosphere where people are able to solve problems through communication."

Cavazos, known informally as Larry, is one of a trio of remarkable brothers who all left the King Ranch where their father was the foreman of the Santa Gertrudis cattle operation, to get an education at what was then Texas Technological College.

After becoming in 1980 the first Tech alumnus named president, Cavazos is keeping the family tradition alive. Seven of his 10 children hold Tech degrees.

Cavazos announced in May that he would resign as president of Texas Tech in July 1989 and, after developmental leave, return to anatomy in the medical school where he has tenure.

Democratic ticket excites politicians around Dixieland

WASHINGTON (AP) — Sen. Lloyd Bentsen's presence at the top of the ticket has helped energize conservative Democratic leaders around the South who in past elections kept their distance from the presidential nominee.

Some congressional Democrats say nominee Michael Dukakis buttressed his standing with the conservative wing of the party by picking Bentsen, a three-term senator from Texas with a record of being pro-business and pro-defense, as his running mate.

Other factors play into the support Dukakis is apparently gathering across the South — part is the absence of President Reagan from the ticket and part is the candidate himself, say some Democrats who perceive Dukakis as a tough and astute manager.

"For the first time in modern history, the nominee moved to the right in selecting his running mate," said Rep. Charles Stenholm, a conservative Texan who can be considered the "head boll weevil" in the House. "It's what we always ask for and finally received."

"I know of no candidate... for Congress who is running away from the ticket," said Stenholm, who remembers other election years when Democrats would not even appear on the same platform as the presidential nominee.

Although Stenholm supported previous Democratic tickets for president, he "couldn't influence one vote," he said Monday.

Evidence of similar support is dotted around Dixie — Sen. David Boren wants to campaign with Dukakis and Bentsen if they come to Oklahoma and Georgia Gov. Joe Frank Harris says he's willing to serve in any capacity on the campaign.

Rep. Marvin Leath of Texas says he's excited about a Democratic ticket for the first time in years. Sens. Bennett Johnston of Louisiana and Sam Nunn of Georgia say they're confident Dukakis-Bentsen can deliver the White House to the Democrats, and Rep. Charlie Wilson of Texas is ready to start campaigning.

But Texas Republican Party Chairman Fred Meyer says "that's all political rhetoric... They're doing it for political expediency."

Federal reserve gives boost to lending rate

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Federal Reserve Board, in a move to fight inflation, said Tuesday it was boosting its key bank lending rate for the first time in nearly a year. Analysts said other interest rates likely would head higher as a result.

With only three months left before the presidential election, the board members, all appointed by President Reagan, sent a dramatic signal that they were willing to push up interest rates to dampen inflationary pressures even at the risk of endangering Vice President George Bush's presidential aspirations.

The increase in the discount rate, from 6 percent to 6.5 percent, was adopted by a 6-0 vote and took effect immediately. It was the first change since Sept. 4 and put the rate at its highest in more than two years.

An increase in the discount rate, which is the fee the Fed charges for short-term loans to member banks, is the central bank's most direct way of pushing interest rates higher as a curb on economic growth.

Economists said jumps in other interest rates, including those on mortgage rates and credit cards, are likely to follow.

"This will hit consumer pocket-books fairly soon," said David Jones, an economist with Aubrey G. Lanston, a government securities dealer in New York.

He said banks likely will raise their prime rate, the interest they charge their most creditworthy commercial customers, this week or next.

Since May, banks have raised their prime rate by a full point to 9.5 percent, the highest since March 1986.

World briefs

House approves drought relief plan

WASHINGTON (AP) — The House approved a \$3.9 billion aid package for drought-stricken farmers Tuesday and sent the measure to President Reagan, who made known he intends to sign it.

"We have kept the faith," House Agriculture Committee Chairman E. "Kika" de la Garza, D-Texas, said as the House approved the bill, 383-18. "To all who will be helped by this legislation, our promise has been kept."

The House devoted only brief debate to the measure, which emerged from a House-Senate conference committee last week

and won Senate approval on Monday. Congress raced to put the legislation on Reagan's desk before it begins a three-week break Friday.

Presidential spokesman Martin Fitzwater told reporters hours earlier there was no doubt Reagan will sign the measure.

Provisions call for government payments to farmers who have lost more than 35 percent of their crops because of drought, hail, excessive moisture or related damage, such as that caused by insects. The payments would be equal to 65 percent of their losses over the 35 percent threshold level.

House approves tariff-free trade pact

WASHINGTON (AP) — The House voted overwhelmingly Tuesday to sweep away most tariffs and a wide array of other barriers to the annual \$166 billion trade in goods and services between the United States and Canada.

"We have a bill here, in short, in which everyone gains and no one loses," Rep. William Frenzel, R-Minn., said as the House approved 366-40 and sent to the Senate the free-trade agreement signed by President Reagan and Canadian Prime Minister Brian Mulroney last January.

The measure would authorize the president to phase out most

tariffs between the two countries over the next 10 years, and approves elimination of a wide range of other trade barriers under the pact.

Many lawmakers said such a free-trade zone is needed as a counterbalance to European Common Market protectionism.

Counterpart legislation is stalled in Canada's appointive Senate, where it is encountering Liberal Party opposition.

The agreement does not set up a common market between the United States and Canada. That would mean adopting common tariffs on imports from third countries.

Beryl weakens, raises hopes for rain

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — Tropical Storm Beryl weakened Tuesday after moving inland, leaving one person missing in the Gulf of Mexico but raising hopes that the storm's remnants could bring rain to drought-stricken Midwest farmers.

The Coast Guard rescued six people who endured two days of wind and rain on an island after high seas prevented them from returning to the mainland.

There was virtually no damage in southern Louisiana except for some spot flooding and tree limbs blown down. Scattered damage was reported in southern Mississippi, including downed tree limbs and scattered power outages.

In New Orleans, where preparations continued for next week's Republican National Convention, few problems developed from the storm.

Critics lukewarm to 'Last temptation'

UNIVERSAL CITY, Calif. (AP) — Film critics gave a lukewarm reception Tuesday to "The Last Temptation of Christ," a new interpretation of the life of

Jesus that has been denounced, unseen, by some Christians.

The film, which opens to the public Friday, depicts Jesus as a troubled, guilt-ridden man

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