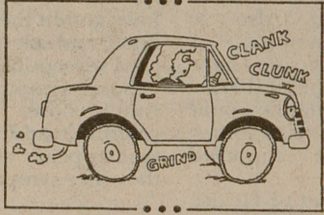


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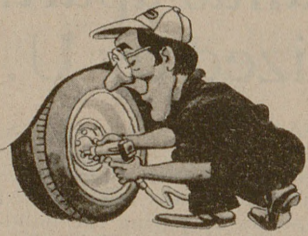
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House Speaker polls members on pay raise

WASHINGTON (AP) — Texas congressmen are finding tea bags and scathing letters in their mail as they answer House Speaker Jim Wright's poll on whether, in their heart of hearts, they really want to vote on a \$45,500 pay raise.

Until Tuesday, Wright and other House Democratic leaders had indicated there would be no House vote on the 50 percent pay raise before Feb. 8, meaning it would take effect automatically and boost their salaries from \$89,500 to \$135,000.

But now Wright is seeking the advice of House members, asking them to "tell me how you really feel," and promising to be faithful to their wishes while keeping the answers confidential.

"Sure he's feeling the pressure, sure he's feeling the heat," Rep. Ralph Hall, a Rockwall Democrat who has signed on to seven bills against the pay raise, said. "He's a speaker, he's a Texas speaker, and he's been a friend of mine for over 50 years. I don't think he ought to fade all the heat. He might as well give us a vote and that would take the heat off of him."

"It's no time for a pay raise," said Hall, whose mail is running nine to one against the raise.

"This has put everybody in a bad situation — they're either greedy or incompetent (for not voting)," Hall said.

A Democratic staffer who spoke on condition of anonymity said Wright's poll has created a firestorm for members who had been outspoken in favor of the raise.

"They can't put the phones down," the staffer said. "It has created a tumult." Staff in some offices are "going banshee."

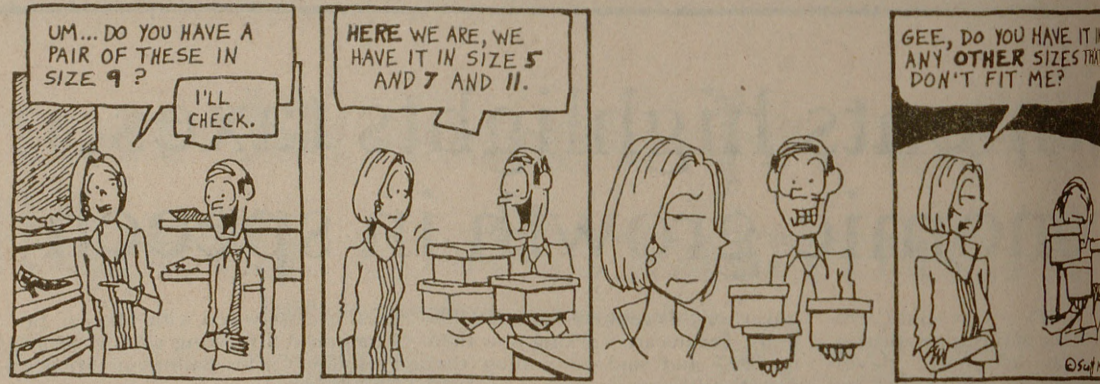
Several Texas Democrats, including Reps. Martin Frost and John Bryant of Dallas and Charlie Stenholm of Stamford, said they were pleased to see the speaker's poll. All agree the 50 percent increase is excessive.

"I think he wants to know what people's true feelings are and I think he's getting mixed signals from the membership," Bryant said. "His role in this has been one of attempting to do what's right for the institution. He's been getting so much conflicting advice he wants an honest statement from each member."

Frost said Wright has been taking "all the criticism" but with the poll "he'll be able to find out for certain what a majority wants."

Frost says he's getting "a fair amount" of mail and the sentiments are intense and strongly expressed.

Warped



Waldo



Local food bank provides Brazos needy with meals

By Ashley A. Bailey
STAFF WRITER

It's doubtful that many, if any, Texas A&M students know what real hunger is.

It's not that feeling you get at the end of the month when you're out of money and have only bologna and green beans until Mom sends more money. And it isn't that feeling you get when you can't go out to eat with friends because of a lack of funds.

It's the feeling one has when there is no money, no bologna, no green beans, no money coming from Mom — nothing. And that feeling is well-known for about 500 families in Brazos County. Barbara Reiley, a member of the Brazos Food Bank's board of directors, said.

"Requests for emergency food assistance are not rare in Brazos County," Reiley said. "Every week, about 500 families turn to local churches and social service agencies, asking for food."

Some of the needy are poor, some are ill or elderly and some are simply victims of a temporary crisis. But all of them need food.

In April 1985 a group of Bryan-

College Station residents, aware of the communities' needs, decided to work toward creating a Bryan-College Station food bank, Reiley said.

"When they organized, they only had a little warehouse where they stored food," she said. "They collected food and distributed it to church pantries, and then it was given to the needy. It was a very small operation then, but it has grown and grown."

"We (the food bank) now have a large storage warehouse on FM 2818 that's equipped with several large freezers, and we now work in cooperation with the American Red Cross, the A&M Church of Christ, the Brazos Girl's Club, the Central Church of Christ and others. These charitable organizations determine who receives what food."

Volunteers and cooperating grocery stores are the heart of the food bank, Reiley said.

"Initially, everyone working for the food bank was a volunteer, but in 1986 a part-time paid staff member was hired to manage the storage warehouse," she said.

Reiley said volunteers pick up food, weigh it and take inventory, take care of warehouse grounds and maintenance, help edit a quarterly

newsletter, publicize food bank efforts and make policy and planning decisions. But getting the food out of their higher priorities.

"Volunteers regularly collect from participating grocery stores," she said. "This surplus food results from mislabeling, cosmetic imperfections, approaching pull date, marketing changes and superior damage to packaging."

Bread, dairy products and meat are delivered to the warehouse and divided for distribution to pantries. Sometimes food is delivered directly to pantries, she said.

Reiley said the food bank relies heavily on local grocers to donate food, but food collection barrels are an important food source.

"Local stores, including Kneel Safeway, 7-Eleven, Pal's Supermarket and the Shenandoah Store, have provided radio station KTAW with food collection barrels near the store exits to make it easy for residents to donate food," she said.

The food bank is a non-profit organization and is supported chiefly by United Way, but it also receives grants from the Department of Housing and Urban Development. Donations also help fund the organization.

DA backs retrial for convicted gunman

DALLAS (AP) — Randall Dale Adams, convicted of being the gunman who shot a police officer at least five times during a routine traffic stop, deserves a new trial, according to a prosecutor who earlier maintained the conviction was just.

District Attorney John Vance told a state appeals court Monday that Adams deserves a new trial on a charge accusing him of murder in Robert Wood's 1976 slaying.

Vance's office, in a legal brief filed with the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals, said it agrees that Adams did not receive a fair trial. But Vance said he still believes Adams is guilty of killing Wood.

Perjured testimony may have caused the jury to unjustly convict Adams and sentence him to death, the prosecutor said. The death sentence was since commuted to life. Adams has spent the last 12 years in prison, maintaining his innocence the whole time.

The 40-year-old Adams was convicted in the

slaying of Wood, who was shot to death Nov. 28, 1976. Another man who has since testified against Adams confessed that he was the gunman.

Evidence has surfaced that at least four other key witnesses at his trial lied, authorities said. Last fall, a documentary movie, "The Thin Blue Line," examined Adams' possible innocence.

Adams' lawyers sought for the past six months to win a new trial. In the brief filed with the appeals court, Vance's office said it "has no objection to... the finding that (Adams) is entitled to a new trial."

District Court Judge Larry Baraka also has recommended that Adams be given a new trial.

Baraka, after hearing three days of testimony last November, concluded Adams was probably innocent, that key witnesses had committed perjury and that former Assistant District Attorney Doug Mulder, who prosecuted Adams, suppressed crucial evidence that might have cleared him.

Vance told the Dallas Times Herald he had read the brief his office filed, he had instructed assistant prosecutors to send it to the appeals court if they felt the evidence supported Adams' claims.

"I told them to do whatever was right on the thing. If that's the way it was, that's the way it was," said Vance. "I agreed with Judge Baraka that there had been perjured testimony during that trial and agreed that it might very well warrant a new trial."

The prosecutor said that if Adams is granted a new trial, he will attempt to charge Adams again with the killing.

Attorneys who observed the case said a retrial would be difficult because the key witnesses against Adams have been discredited. But defense lawyer Randy Schaffer praised the action by Vance's office.

"It's obviously a radical shift in their position," said Schaffer.

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