



WEATHER

FORECAST for FRIDAY:
Continued partly cloudy with noticeably higher temperatures, especially at night.

HIGH:73

LOW:52

Dole proposes 6-month trial period for Tower

WASHINGTON (AP) — Senate Republican Leader Bob Dole, struggling to stave off rejection of John Tower's nomination as defense secretary, proposed Wednesday night an extraordinary six-month trial confirmation period so senators could judge whether Tower lived up to his no-drinking pledge.

Senate Democratic Leader George Mitchell expressed "immediate serious concerns" over the proposal, but promised to consider it overnight.

Dole made his dramatic bid to salvage the nomination at the end of the fifth day of a draining Senate debate, and after conceding it would "take a miracle to win confirmation."

Under Dole's proposal, Tower would be confirmed, but would submit a letter of res-

ignation to President Bush dated Oct. 1, 1989. If Tower's performance were satisfactory, there "probably" would be no need to reconfirm him, Dole said. Otherwise, "he probably wouldn't be the nominee."

Dole said he offered his proposal after discussing it with Tower. It came as the Senate neared a climax in its bitter struggle over the nomination.

Lloyd Bentsen of Texas became the third Democrat to endorse Tower's confirmation, but his speech was bracketed by declarations of opposition from Claiborne Pell of Rhode Island, Bennett Johnston of Louisiana, Joseph Lieberman of Connecticut and Charles Robb of Virginia — Democrats who had been lobbied hard by the Bush administration as potential pro-Tower votes.

An Associated Press survey found 51

Democrats and Republican Sen. Larry Pressler of South Dakota either solidly opposed or leaning against confirmation with 41 Republicans and three Democrats either supporting or leaning in favor of the nomination.

Democrats hold a 55-45 edge in the Senate.

Dole made his extraordinary proposal to deal with Senate concerns over Tower's history of drinking. "I think we ought to give him a second chance that many of us have had," said Dole, who was seriously wounded during World War II but has risen to a position of power and prominence in the Senate.

"It gives this Senate a second opportunity," Dole said. "It addresses the concerns raised by the chairman and the majority

leader and by others at the same time it gives President Bush his choice for secretary of defense."

Earlier, Dole suggested Tower be permitted to come to the Senate and answer the allegations against him, but did not immediately press the issue when Mitchell objected.

There was little doubt that Dole's maneuverings were his final bid to save the nomination. Earlier, he conceded it would "take a miracle" to do so, and Johnston's speech seemed to deflate Republican hopes.

"In the nuclear age we can't afford to take a chance on the man who holds the future in his hands," Johnston said on the Senate floor.

The Louisiana Democrat said he was troubled by Tower's drinking habits and

that alcohol altered the former senator's judgment. "There seems to be a personality change that occurs in Senator Tower," Johnston said.

Earlier, Bentsen became the third Democrat to support the embattled nomination, saying, "I hope that when I get the next chance to talk with John Tower about the tough job of keeping this country strong, it will be while he's in his new office at the Pentagon."

Tower said, "I'm both honored to have his prestigious support, and grateful for his humane understanding of what my family has endured."

Despite Bentsen's decision, Mitchell repeated his claim the Senate will reject the nomination, and he led a chorus of Democrats who called for a quick vote.

Witness says North pleas gained money for Contras

WASHINGTON (AP) — Oliver North made impassioned pleas about the Nicaraguan Contras to wealthy contributors who came through later with large checks, a witness told the North jury Wednesday. He described one contribution that exceeded \$1 million in stocks.

North, who is charged with lying to Congress about his activities on behalf of the Contras, also was quoted by the witness as saying he was willing to risk jail and didn't "care if I have to lie to Congress about this."

Once, testified conservative fundraiser Carl R. Channell, North met Nelson Bunker Hunt in Dallas' Petroleum Club and went through a pitch about what North said was a need for \$5 million to \$6 million for planes, missiles and other aid to keep the rebels going.

"The only thing that sticks in my mind is that Bunker said what are you going to do? Do you mind get-

ting into trouble?" Channell testified. He said North replied:

"I don't care if I have to go to jail for this; I don't care if I have to lie to Congress about this." Hunt, Channell said, "didn't laugh, but he chuckled."

North himself did not take the checks, Channell said, and at the end of the meeting with Hunt he left, saying "something like 'you all are going to talk about money and I can't take any money.'"

At the time, North was a lieutenant colonel in the Marine Corps and assigned to the National Security Council in the White House. During the congressional Iran-Contra hearings two years ago, he testified, "I do not recall ever asking a single, solitary American citizen for money" although "I showed a lot of munitions lists."

Channell had set up a charitable foundation, the National Endow-

ment for the Preservation of Liberty, to receive money for aid to the Contras at a time when Congress had forbidden any official U.S. help. Because the organization was a tax-exempt foundation, donors were able to take tax deductions.

One of the 12 criminal charges against North is that he conspired to defraud the Treasury of tax revenue because the donations were for an improper purpose — military aid for the rebels. Six of the charges accuse North of making false statements and obstructing Congress by attempting to hide his efforts on behalf of the Contras.

Channell pleaded guilty on April 29, 1987, to depriving the government of tax revenue by using the foundation to solicit contributions for military equipment for the Contras. He testified at the North trial under immunity from further prosecution.

Pope tells bishops to proclaim good word as taught by church

VATICAN CITY (AP) — Pope John Paul II encouraged U.S. Roman Catholic bishops Wednesday to proclaim church teaching even if it is unpopular. They responded that authoritarianism does not convince Americans.

The views were voiced at the start of a special four-day conference of 35 American bishops whom the pontiff summoned to Rome.

Dissent from church teaching in the United States has raised concern in the Vatican, which considers the 52 million-member American church critical because of its size, wealth and potential to set worldwide trends.

John Paul described the bishops as "pillars" who give the church strength, and the bishop's role is expected to dominate the 12 hours of discussions with top Vatican officials through Saturday.

The meeting was closed but his remarks were made public.

"I wish to encourage you in your ministry," John Paul said. "I am fully conscious of the challenges you face in bringing the Gospel message to a world that

does not often readily accept it.

"Your people experience the difficulties of being Christians in today's world. Yet at the same time they search for direction in following the path marked out by Christ."

Responding to the pope, Archbishop John L. May of St. Louis, president of the U.S. National Conference of Catholic Bishops, took up the theme of American democracy raised earlier in the day by Cardinal Joseph Bernardin of Chicago.

"Authoritarianism is suspect in any area of learning or culture" in America, May said. "Individual freedom is prized supremely. Religious doctrine and moral teaching are widely judged by these criteria."

"Therefore, to assert that there is a church teaching with authority binding for eternity is truly a sign of contradiction to many Americans who consider the divine right of bishops as outmoded as the divine right of kings," he said. "Accordingly, bishops live and work constantly in this atmosphere."

FBI: Iranian students pose threat of violence

WASHINGTON (AP) — Thousands of "zealous" Iranian students in the United States pose the greatest threat of violence against publishers and others over the controversial novel, "The Satanic Verses," an FBI official told Congress Wednesday.

As if to underline the impact of the threats of retribution coming from Iran's Ayatollah Khomeini, a representative of the U.S. publisher of the book, Viking-Penguin, declined to appear at the hearing.

A committee source said the company had cited security concerns in refusing the invitation. Calls to the publisher were not immediately returned.

"There are a large number (of students) here, both legally and illegally, who are zealous adherents to the Khomeini rhetoric... and pursuit of violence," said Oliver "Buck" Revell, the executive assistant investigations director of the FBI.

Some 30,000 Iranian citizens are in the United States on student visas, and at least that many more are in the country illegally, he said. Some 10,000 to 15,000 are activists with sympathies for Khomeini's fundamentalist Shiite regime, he said, and many receive

government money to help them stay in the United States or are affiliated with the Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps.

Those Iranians, most of them students, represent a greater threat than the 200 or so foreign nationals in the United States who have known links to Iranian terrorist and intelligence networks and are routinely tracked by the bureau, Revell told the Senate Foreign Relations subcommittee on terrorism.

They are "more dangerous than any sort of infrastructure or organizational activity" because they cannot be monitored, he said, and because the State Department's standards for issuing visas are lax.

Khomeini's blanket threat with its promise of martyrdom should a follower die attempting retribution for the book, and his government's offer of a reward of up to \$5.2 million for the death of author Salman Rushdie, escalate the terrorist threat beyond those normally faced by the FBI, he said.

Revell said the FBI so far knows of 178 threats to booksellers by telephone and by letter, received in cities from New York to San Francisco to Houston.

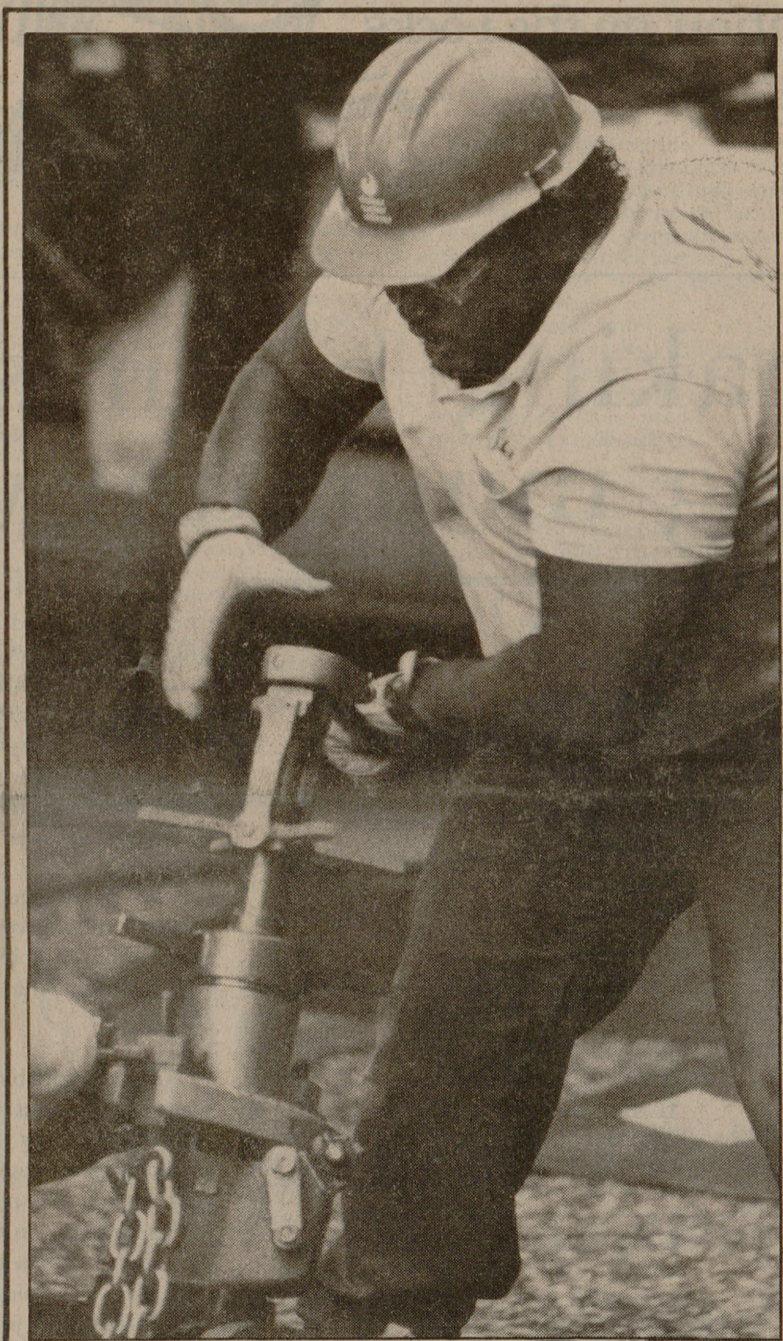


Photo by Frederick D. Joe

'Rock' on

Wayne "The Rock" Bradford helps lead the Dallas Water Works team to their second victory in a row in the Texas Section American Water Works Pipe Tapping Competition Wednesday. The team will travel to Los Angeles for the national competition.

Student Senate approves service fee budget

By Kelly S. Brown

STAFF WRITER

The Student Senate approved a budget of over \$6 million Wednesday night, which, if approved, will increase student service fees \$6.

Mike Lister, chairman of the Finance Committee, said there was an overall conservative nature to the consideration of each funding area, as cuts were made in the student service fee budget for the 1989-1990 fiscal year.

A.P. Beutel Health Center and the MSC, the major funding areas, would be allotted over \$1 million each.

The health center would receive \$1,442,450 — which is 24.96 percent of the entire fee portion, while the MSC would be allotted \$1,424,196 — 24.56 percent of the total.

Intramurals would be funded with \$889,402 by the student service fees, and Counseling Services would receive \$837,983.

"We didn't pull these numbers from the air," Lister said. "There are justifiable explanations as to how and why each of the budgets were decided."

For six months, Lister's 20-member committee has been working on the \$6,120,192 budget, and the process of raising the student service fee from \$67 to \$73 was a complicated one, he said.



Lister said a committee member was assigned to a budget area after each funding area submitted a requested budget. The committee member met with the director and became acquainted with the service before the entire committee went through the budget and voted on how much they would allot each area.

Some things taken into consideration were previous budgets, salaries and new programs that could be implemented, he said.

"At a University like A&M, there is no reason why we shouldn't fund a program that is justifiably needed," Lister said.

The committee didn't have a choice on allocating some of the funds.

"The administration gave us things that we didn't have a choice on because they are state mandated," he said. "For example Drug Prevention received \$46,062 — a 296 percent increase from last year — because the state requires that we fund them. Drug Prevention had two grants last year, and the grants

are running out."

The Aggie Band is the only one of the 18 funding areas that requested funds but didn't receive any.

The band asked for \$110,000 and did not receive anything.

Lister said although there are plenty of sources for administrative funding at A&M, people first approach the Student Government when asking for funds.

"Once we're hit and it gets on the budget, it will stay and the following year it will increase," Lister said.

Michael Kelley, Speaker Pro-Tempore and Aggie Band member, said he hopes in the future the band will receive at least partial funding. The band receives most of its money from alumni.

Lister added that the band received \$200,000 from student service fees this year.

Kevin Buchman, Speaker of the Senate, said the report was the most professional job he has seen on a financial bill.

The bill will be sent to Dr. John Koldus, Vice President of Student Services, and if approved by him, will go to President William Mobley and the Board of Regents for their approval.

Other action taken during the meeting included the approval of a bill that will ask the administration to implement new directives pertaining

to syllabi content and distribution.

The bill, introduced by senators Beth Ammons and Mark Williams, came amidst concern over the failure of some professors to adequately explain course content or tell students of books and supplies that would be needed for their course.

Williams said the bill is not trying to restrict the professors at all, but require them to inform students up front how much they're going to have to spend for the class.

Also during the meeting, a resolution was passed encouraging the position of an Advisory Student Regent to enhance communication between students and the Board of Regents.

The bill, which was introduced by Ty Clevenger, a sophomore genetics major, passed unanimously endorsing the position, while supporting the Legislative Study Group's effort to present this viewpoint to the Texas Legislature.

One viewpoint the Senate hopes George Bush will hear, is that A&M wants to be the site for the George Bush Presidential Library.

Clevenger introduced the resolution from the Academic Affairs Committee. The University of Houston, Rice University and Yale University also are in the running to attract the library.

"We want to stir up enough support to give A&M an advantage in getting the site," Clevenger said.

State senator bids to take Gramm's seat

AUSTIN (AP) — Democratic state Sen. Hugh Parmer launched his bid for the U.S. Senate on Wednesday, charging that incumbent Republican Phil Gramm talks one way in Texas while he votes a different way in Washington.

Parmer, a two-term senator and former Fort Worth mayor, said Gramm is out of touch with Texas families and their values.

"He talks like an East Texas farmer in Lufkin but votes like a Wall Street banker in Washington," Parmer said of Gramm.

"In Texas, he says he wants to be tough on crime. In Washington, he voted against the appropriations for drug enforcement and even the FBI... In Texas, he says he wouldn't hurt senior citizens. In Washington, he voted against funding for Meals on Wheels for shut-in elderly."

Parmer, 49, became the first Democrat in the 1990 Senate race.

Many party officials had expected Agriculture Commissioner Jim Hightower to take on Gramm, but Hightower decided in January to seek re-election to a third term and concentrate on populist political organizing efforts.

Gramm reportedly has said he can raise \$20 million for a re-election bid. Parmer said he wasn't worried about the size of the Republican's war chest, although he admitted it would be a tough fight.

"Sure, I expect it to be difficult," he said. "One of the good things about American democracy is that we don't auction off seats in the U.S. Senate... If you could just buy a seat for \$20 million, then I won't have it. But I don't believe that."

"What I need is an adequate amount of money to get across a message. And the message is: Phil Gramm does not represent the values that Texans believe in, and I do. I'll have enough money to get that message across. And when I get it across, I believe I'll win."

Parmer, who never has run a statewide race, downplayed early public opinion polls that show Gramm running strongly.