



## WEATHER

FORECAST for WEDNESDAY:  
Continued partly cloudy and  
warm with a 20 percent chance of  
scattered showers.

HIGH:81

LOW:62

## Wright's endorsement of video comes under fire

WASHINGTON (AP) — Speaker Jim Wright, now defending himself against House ethics charges, in 1985 inserted in Congress' official journal his endorsement of a home video program sold by a company employing his wife.

In the endorsement, later used by the company for promotional material, Wright praised the program as "a marvelously useful home video tool."

Congressional rules generally bar members from receiving benefits as a result of improperly exerting their position, and guidelines caution lawmakers against becoming so "affiliated with a particular enterprise"

that it creates an appearance of impropriety.

The speaker, who is defending himself against charges of breaking House rules 69 times over the past decade, has argued recently that the career of his wife, Betty, is totally separate from his work as a member of Congress.

But in the Dec. 9, 1985 edition of the Congressional Record, Wright inserted a 350-word endorsement of the Pacific Institute's family video series that his wife had helped develop. He did not mention her \$36,000-a-year job at the Seattle, Wash., company or role in its production.

"It was a nice gesture. We didn't ask for it," Jack Fitterer, the company's chief operating officer, said. "We were pleasantly surprised."

Asked Monday about the incident, Wright said he had no comment.

In the endorsement, Wright calls the marketing of the video "a heartening development indeed" and notes that the series is "available at a nominal price within the range of most American families." The tapes sold for \$34.95 each.

He also terms the taped motivational program "a marvelously useful home video tool to promote togetherness and really productive fam-

ily conversation."

Wright adds: "From its base in Seattle, Wash., the Pacific Institute has drawn upon the skills of professional educators and specialists in personal and family development to perfect a series of 21 home video programs . . . The institute promises to make these services available widely throughout the country."

The company later reprinted Wright's Congressional Record comments as promotional material for its video series.

Any member of Congress is free to insert material into the Congressional Record, which is the daily journal of Congress' official floor ac-

tivities. But the rules caution lawmakers to prevent the appearance that the rule is being broken. They say further that "communications should be drafted so that they do not lend themselves to misinterpretation as an official endorsement from the Congress."

And the rules specifically bar members from letting their congressional stationery be used by outsiders for commercial promotions.

In addition to charging Wright with 69 instances of House rules violations, the ethics panel is continuing to investigate a Texas gas well deal that brought huge profits to Wright's blind trust in a short period

last year, Wright's ties to the Pacific Institute and his wife's employment are not currently subjects of the ethics probe.

It is not known whether the committee was previously aware of Wright's submission of the promotional material to the Record, first reported Monday by the *Wall Street Journal*.

But the panel found reason to believe Betty Wright's employment by another company, the Wright's investment partnership with real estate developer George Mallick, was nothing more than a conduit for gifts from Mallick.

## Officials say White House may raise gasoline taxes

WASHINGTON (AP) — Despite President Bush's "read my lips" vow against new taxes, his administration is considering higher gasoline taxes for 1991 as part of a possible trade for concessions such as a lower capital gains tax, officials said Monday.

Administration sources said it is unlikely Bush can hold his no-new-taxes stance for more than one year, given the difficulty of reaching budget-deficit targets by adjusting only the spending side of the ledger.

Bush on Monday showed no indication he was in the mood to trade right now, telling the annual meeting of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, "I mean to live by what I've said: No new taxes."

However, the administration sources, who spoke on the condition of anonymity, said planning was under way for a possible fiscal 1991 budget pact with Congress that would indeed include new taxes. One item being considered, they said, is administration support for a higher gasoline tax in exchange for a lower capital gains tax, or for other concessions from Congress in the area of presidential spending authority.

Such a deal would not be part of the recently crafted agreement between the White House and congres-

sional leaders for fiscal 1990, which begins next Oct. 1, the sources said.

That pact calls for \$5.3 billion in new revenues, but doesn't specify new taxes, enabling Bush to say he is keeping his campaign vow for the time being.

Currently, the federal gasoline tax is 9.1 cents per gallon. The size of any increase that might be part of a deal with Congress remains up in the air, the administration sources said.

A possible trade was discussed late last month at a weekend meeting at the presidential retreat in Camp David, Md., between Bush and a group of economists.

Although Bush did not take a stand on the proposal at the time, such a trade was well received by even conservative supply-side economists at the meeting, who generally are the most vocal opponents of higher taxes, the sources said.

A trade between a capital gains tax cut and a gasoline tax increase for 1991 would only come into play if Bush's proposal for cutting the tax in fiscal 1990 is rejected by Congress.

Despite strong administration advocacy for cutting the capital gains

tax, the idea so far has received very little support among the Democratic majorities of the tax-writing House Ways and Means and Senate Finance committees.

Bush told the Chamber of Commerce, "We don't have to raise taxes. We have to release the energies of free enterprise." He said his "favorite source of new revenue" was the capital gains tax cut.

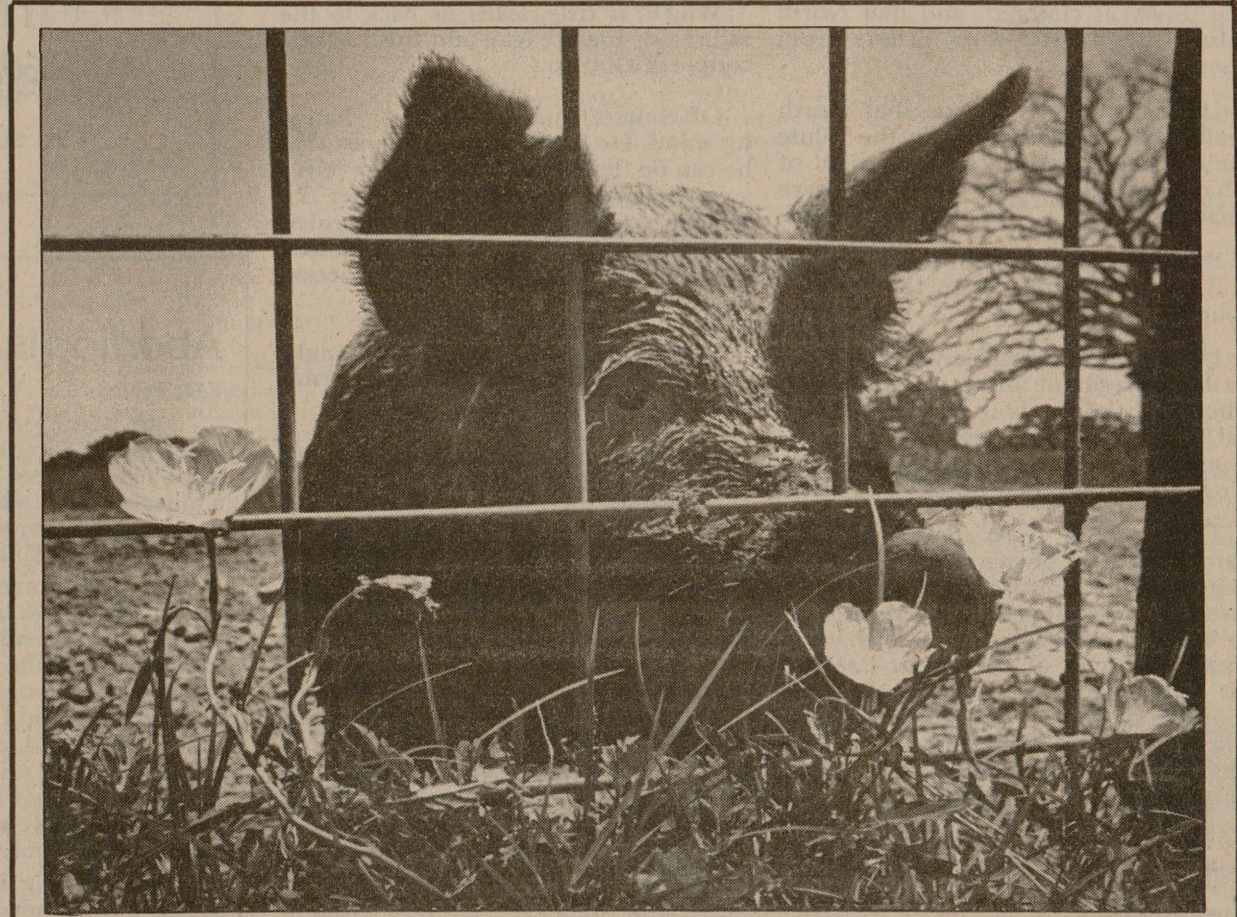
He has argued that reducing the tax on capital gains — profits from the sale of real estate, stocks or other assets — from 28 percent rate to 15 percent should bring \$4.8 billion to the Treasury in fiscal 1990 by stimulating business investment.

That's the lion's share of the \$5.3 billion in "new revenues" to be raised in 1990 under the recent White House-Congress agreement.

However, many private economists have disputed Bush's claim of increased revenues from a such tax cut.

And a capital gains tax cut has generally been portrayed by critics as a tax break mainly benefiting the rich.

White House press secretary Marlin Fitzwater said Monday, "We are talking to the tax-writing committees about it (the capital gains tax cut)."



### Stop and smell the flowers

Though this pig from the A&M Swine Center appears to be taking some time out Monday af-

ternoon to smell a buttercup, he actually was about to eat it.

Photo by Mike C. Mulvey

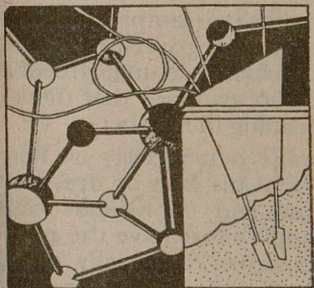
## A&M researchers say repeated test indicates fusion

By Holly Becka

STAFF WRITER

Researchers at the Texas A&M Cyclotron Institute reported they successfully repeated another part of a controversial experiment that Utah scientists claim is an indicator of a fusion reaction.

The A&M researchers reported finding a low level of neutrons being produced by an electrochemical cell in two experiments conducted last week,



Graphic by Norzani Mufti

said Office of Public Information science writer Gene Charleton.

"The reaction produces neutrons, but as far as what that means, no one is willing to say," Charleton said. "One thing they're not willing to say is, 'yes, this is fusion.' They cannot say that based on what they have found so far."

He said last week's set of experiments differed from the original experiments, which tested for excess heat. The finding of excess heat energy is significant to researchers because it cannot be explained by normal chemistry.

Charleton said the neutrons present in the reaction are important because they break scientific theory. He said whether fusion results from the experiment cannot yet be determined.

"It is just too early to say," he said. "If it is fusion, neutrons ought to be produced and some other things ought to be happen-

ing. They've found some neutrons, but the results don't make a whole lot of sense or act the way they would be expected to act."

Charleton said Dr. Kevin L. Wolf, an A&M chemistry professor, reported findings that confirmed the observations of Brigham Young University's researcher Dr. Steven Jones.

Charleton said Jones collaborated with researchers B. Stanley Pons, chairman of the University of Utah's chemistry department, and Martin Fleischmann of the University of Southampton, the original nuclear fusion scientists.

Pons and Fleischmann believe their results indicate a fusion reaction. A&M researchers only will confirm that their experiments resulted in the production of neutrons by electrochemical cells.

Charleton said these neutron counts were several times higher than the background count, a certain number of neutrons that always are present.

He said last week's experiments were "shielded" from the background neutrons and those neutrons were accounted for statistically.

"By the time you shield the experiment from those background neutrons and account for them, the numbers they were getting were more than that," he said. "They're really not talking about many neutrons — it's only several a minute (that are being produced by the reaction) — which, in terms of those processes, isn't that many."

"But it is a low level of neutrons and they reproduced it. In other words, they got it in one experiment, did the experiment again and got neutrons."

"The tough thing with the whole story is dealing with the fact that it is still early. These guys are working at this very hard and so far all that they can say is they are seeing some strange things."

Charleton said three groups of A&M researchers are working on the fusion experiment.

## NASA resets Atlantis launch for Thursday after mechanical delays

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP) — NASA Monday rescheduled the once-aborted launch of space shuttle Atlantis for Thursday afternoon after technicians working around the clock did a "bang-up job" in replacing two faulty fuel system parts.

The space agency said in a statement that "this plan is optimistic . . . pending completion of testing and analysis to understand clearly the problems encountered during Friday's launch attempt."

But officials said they were confident enough of making a Thursday launch that they gave the signal to start a new countdown at 8 a.m. Tuesday for the first shuttle planetary launch.

The five astronauts aboard Atlantis are to propel the \$550 million Magellan spacecraft toward Venus to map the cloud-veiled surface.

The launch opportunity "window" on Thursday is 64 minutes long.

The launch was scrubbed Friday, 31 seconds before the planned liftoff because of a sudden electrical surge in a hydrogen fuel pump. NASA

said Monday that tiny metal particles found in the pump may have caused a short circuit.

After the launch was postponed, engineers also discovered a pinhole leak in a 4-inch-diameter line that carries liquid hydrogen from the external tank to the shuttle.

Officials had said Sunday that Friday was the earliest launch possibility. But with the replacement work going so well, they said Monday that Thursday was possible.

"This is a very dedicated team here," said Warren Wiley, deputy director of engineering at the Kennedy Space Center, speaking of the repair crew. "When the chips are down they really get out and hustle. They did a bang-up job."

The delay meant a loss of valuable days in starting Magellan on its voyage. Because of the shifting positions of Earth and Venus, there is only a 32-day period when the spacecraft can be launched toward Earth's sister planet.

If the shuttle cannot get off the ground by May 28, the mission will have to be put off for

two years, at a cost of more than \$100 million, until the two planets are again properly aligned.

To maintain their efficiency, the five astronauts who will fly the mission scheduled practice sessions in a shuttle simulator at their training base in Houston.

They will fly back here Tuesday to again make final preparations for liftoff.

Commanding the mission is David Walker. The pilot is Ron Grabe and the mission specialists are Mary Cleave, Mark Lee and Norman Thagard. Lee is the only one who has not flown a previous shuttle flight.

Cleave and Lee, operating controls from a remote station inside Atlantis' cabin, are to release Magellan from the cargo bay six hours after launch. A rocket motor is to fire an hour later to start the craft on its 15-month journey to Venus. The 7,600-pound robot is to orbit the planet and map up to 90 percent of its cloud-veiled surface with high resolution radar.

## House bill would mandate drug tests for workers in hazardous industries

AUSTIN (AP) — A bill that would require employers in hazardous industries to adopt a written drug-testing policy was tentatively approved by the House Monday, when the measure's sponsor said it would promote workplace safety.

The legislation was opposed by the Texas Civil Liberties Union, whose legal director called it "an affront to the privacy and dignity of Texas workers."

House members also gave preliminary approval to a bill that would allow judges to order a breath-analysis device to be placed on the vehicle of a person granted probation after a first conviction for driving while intoxicated.

Rep. Lloyd Criss said his employee drug-testing measure would outline workers' rights. Employers with 15 or more workers in such hazardous industries as mining, construction and manufacturing would be required to develop a drug-testing policy under the bill.

"The purpose of this bill is to provide a safe workplace, and I think it

benefits everybody," said Criss, D-LaMarque.

The bill would provide mandatory guidelines and legal protection for any employer who engaged in worker drug testing. The employer would have the option of providing treatment and rehabilitation.

The Texas Department of Health would establish standards for registering drug-testing laboratories, which Criss said currently are unregulated.

Companies already may test employees for drugs, Criss said.

"What this bill says is when a company utilizes drug testing, they will have to adhere to the strictest of standards, the most accurate type of testing," he said. "We're establishing some standards for workers' rights."

Jim Harrington, TCLU legal director, said his organization could not work out what it considered to be an "acceptable drug-testing bill" with Criss. For example, the organization said, the bill would allow employees to be fired for refusing to take a drug test.

"Not only is drug testing unnecessary and unreliable, but it creates an atmosphere of witch-hunting and turns the presumption of innocence on its head," Harrington said in a statement.

The measure on breath-analysis devices for DWI offenders' vehicles would expand judges' authority. Such a device requires a breath test for a car to be started.

Currently, judges can order use of the ignition interlock device as a condition of probation for those convicted of two or more DWI offenses.

The device also may be made a condition to granting an essential-need license after a person's driver's license has been suspended because of a DWI conviction, under current law.

The bill by Rep. Larry Evans, D-Houston, allowing the device to be ordered for first-offense probationers was amended to allow it when DWI offenders are released on pa-

role from the Texas Department of Corrections.

The House also tentatively approved a Senate bill that would increase general revenue available for spending in fiscal 1990-91 by \$168 million by requiring that taxes being paid under protest by out-of-state life, accident and health insurance companies be deposited in the General Revenue Fund.

In other House action, a bill was adopted that would grant a 10-year, 50 percent exemption from the state's severance tax on oil produced from enhanced recovery projects.

The bill by state Rep. Rick Perry, D-Haskell, is designed to stimulate new oil production. The measure now goes to the Senate where it is sponsored by Steve Carriker, D-Wichita Falls.

Under the bill, oil produced through enhanced recovery would receive a 50 percent severance tax exemption for 10 years once the project has been approved by the Railroad Commission.