

Friday, July 28, 1989

Senate votes to spend \$225 million on construction of super collider

Clements predicts accelerator project could begin in November

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Senate voted Thursday to spend \$225 million to begin construction of the super collider, with Sen. Phil Gramm calling the particle accelerator "a daring project of almost unimaginable scope."

Texas Gov. Bill Clements predicted construction of the collider could begin as early as November at a site south of Dallas in Ellis County.

Clements met with Energy Secretary James A. Watkins for nearly an hour Thursday and said they discussed "getting construction under way. We're going to do it."

"Time is running out on us in this regard," Clements said. "We need to get some tangible effort out there on the site."

State of Texas lobbyist Henry Gandy said Clements is concerned there is substantial evidence progress on the project is "well under way by next fiscal year," when debate begins on fiscal 1991 funding for the high-energy physics project.

Funds for the collider were included in an \$18.4 billion energy and water appropriations package that passed the Senate by voice vote.

The Senate's decision to spend \$225 million on the collider in the fiscal year that begins Oct. 1 is \$25 million more than what the House set aside,

but is \$25 million less than what President Bush had requested.

Differences in the House and Senate bills will be worked out in a conference committee, which could meet as early as next week.

"This was a major investment in America's future, that creates immediate jobs for hard pressed Texans and the research that comes from it will create jobs for America's future, increase our productivity, and help restore our technological leadership. And I'm exuberant," Sen. Lloyd Bentsen, D-Texas, said after the vote.

In a statement, Clements said the Senate's decision "moves us one step closer to ensuring our country remains on the cutting edge of high-energy physics."

Under the Senate version of the bill, foreign participation in construction of the \$4.4 billion project at a site south of Dallas would have to be reviewed by the administration.

The Appropriations Committee imposed the restrictions after some senators questioned whether participation by foreign countries might jeopardize the contributions of U.S. industry.

"What we are doing today is taking the next logical step toward building a machine that will be a quantum jump in terms of our capacity to

understand the nature of matter," Gramm, R-Texas, told the Senate.

"The implications for this investment in terms of transportation and medicine and science and productivity, in thousands of new products and millions of new jobs, cannot be measured today," Gramm said.

Gramm called the super collider a "great, new, magnificent machine" and said it will give the country the ability to test new ideas and use them in research that can be "industrialized and made commercial not by government, but by the private sector economy."

Gramm said the collider, over the next several decades, would make the country more competitive and would raise the standard of living. He said the project would lead to advances in medicine, transportation and science.

"Investments in basic research pay rich dividends and the Senate today made a big investment in the future of America," Bentsen said. "It's a good feeling to be over that last big hurdle, to be assured that construction will start on the SSC sometime this fall."

The Senate conferees will have to convince their House counterparts to raise funding for the SSC by \$25 million.

Local children participate in sports, education program

By Mia B. Moody
STAFF WRITER

The Sport and Education program, sponsored by the Texas A&M physical education department, gives children from surrounding areas an opportunity to participate in a program that works on improving their minds as well as their bodies.

Dr. Frank Ashley, project administrator and assistant professor in the physical education department, said the sport program gives children the opportunity to play basketball, baseball and run relays while the enrichment program offers career orientation, classes on personal hygiene and sex and drug education.

The program, which ends today, is funded by a grant from the federal government. Ashley said the National Collegiate Athletic Association has the authority to designate five colleges as locations for the program.

"This is A&M's first year to

participate in the five-week program," Ashley said. "The NCAA was so impressed by our program that they want to use it as a model program for other colleges and universities next year."

Ashley said the program was conducted successfully with help from faculty and students from the A&M physical education department and faculty members of the Bryan-College Station school districts.

About 320 students are participating in the program, which is offered at no cost to students.

"The program lasts for four and a half hours a day," Ashley said. "The participants receive a free meal and a snack daily at the Shiba Cafeteria, they are bused in free of charge and are given a free examination at the beginning of the program by the Texas A&M Medical School."

Ashley said the equipment which is used for sport activities is provided by sports companies and by donations from local agencies and individuals.

Environmentalists call on lawmakers to end shrimpers' violence to turtles

WASHINGTON (AP) — Environmentalists Thursday called on Gulf Coast lawmakers to condemn violence by shrimpers, on the eve of a court hearing to decide whether shrimpers must equip their nets with devices to protect endangered sea turtles.

"If a ruling comes down in our favor, we think it's wise to act pro-actively," Tom Miller, a spokesman for the Center for Marine Conservation, said.

Miller said his organization sees a need to "lower the rhetoric, lower the threshold of violence, and for cooler heads to prevail" pending Friday's scheduled hearing in federal court. The National Wildlife Federation is seeking a temporary restraining order that would require shrimpers to resume using the controversial turtle excluder devices.

On Monday, Commerce Secretary Robert Mosbacher suspended enforcement of those regulations for 45 days, after a weekend protest by shrimpers who blockaded ship channels along the Texas Gulf Coast.

Mosbacher said he will not decide whether to require shrimpers to use

the devices until after the National Academy of Sciences completes a study on the status and conservation of sea turtles in U.S. waters.

After the 45-day period ends and before the study is completed, shrimpers would be required to pull their nets every 90 minutes, the length of time a turtle can remain alive while submerged.

On Tuesday, the National Wildlife Federation filed suit in federal court in the District of Columbia, charging that Mosbacher's decision violates environmental protection laws.

"The fact that some shrimpers are protesting doesn't change the law and the secretary knows it," Steven N. Moyer, the federation's legislative representative, said. "The law requires protection for the sea turtles and we expect them to get that protection."

It was only last week that Mosbacher had ordered enforcement of the regulations be resumed, sparking the weekend protests and threats of violence by shrimpers if the law

was not shelved or modified.

The shrimpers contend the devices reduce their catch by 17 percent to 35 percent or more, while the Wildlife Federation says extensive tests by the Commerce Department have found that use of the devices reduces catches by only minor amounts.

The National Marine Fisheries Service has estimated that American shrimpers drown 11,000 sea turtles every year, including many Kemp's Ridley turtles, the most endangered. Biologists estimate fewer than 600 nesting females remain worldwide, the federation said.

Michael Weber, vice president of the Center for Marine Conservation, said Gulf Coast lawmakers who sought to overturn the regulations have a responsibility for maintaining public peace. He also called on Tee John Mailjevich, president of the Concerned Shrimpers of America, to publicly condemn the use of violence.

"It is his voice, and those of Gulf Coast elected officials, that will dampen this volatile situation," Weber said.

Regents announce Anisman will be new president of SHSU

HUNTSVILLE (AP) — Texas State University System regents Thursday named a Springfield College official as president of Sam Houston State University beginning Sept. 1.

Dr. Martin J. Anisman, vice president for academic affairs and dean of the faculty at the Massachusetts college, will replace Dr. Elliott T. Bowers, who is retiring in August after 21 years as president.

Bowers, who has spent 52 years at Sam Houston as a student, faculty member and administrator, will turn 70 in August.

Anisman was one of four finalists brought to the campus for interviews with the regents Thursday and was chosen in a subsequent vote by the board which also oversees Angelo State University, Sul Ross University and Southwest Texas State University.

"We are convinced that Dr. Anisman has the vision, experience and leadership qualities to help Sam Houston achieve its potential as a great, comprehensive university," regents Chairman Norman D. Elder said Thursday.

Elder also noted Anisman's involvement in professional and civic activities, including service on library and bank boards in his community.

Before joining the faculty at Springfield College in 1986, Anisman was at Southern Connecticut State College where he taught English and was chairman of the Department of English. He also served as acting dean of the School of Business Economics and was dean of the School of Arts and Sciences for eight years.

Anisman, 48, received his bachelor's degree at Syracuse University in 1963, his master's at New York University in 1964 and his doctorate at New York University in 1970.

Other finalists for the Sam Houston presidency included Dr. Otto F. Bauer, vice chancellor for academic affairs at the University of Nebraska at Omaha; Dr. Samuel Curl, dean of the college of agricultural sciences at Texas Tech University; and Dr. Kala M. Stroup, president of Murray State University in Murray, Ky.

Tree activists attempt to neutralize poison in Treaty Oak with saltwater

AUSTIN (AP) — Rescue efforts on the historic Treaty Oak have centered on trying to neutralize the poison with a saltwater solution, but a tree activist from Pennsylvania said Thursday the centuries-old tree is dead.

Stephen Redding, 42, of Green Lane, Pa. traveled to Austin and stayed near the live oak tree continuously for six days.

He said city parks and recreation crews were not treating the tree properly. "I felt the spirit of the tree leave," he said.

But city officials deny Redding's claim, saying the tree is clinging to life and that experts have devised their rescue attempts.

The tree was poisoned at least four months ago with a deadly herbicide in an attack that has received international attention.

Police have arrested and charged a 45-year-old man with felony criminal mischief for the poisoning. Authorities say the man was carrying out a ritual when he poisoned the tree. The case was scheduled to be heard by a grand jury later Thursday.

John Giedraitis, city forester, and several experts ordered the injection of a saltwater solution into Treaty Oak in more than 100 places earlier this week in an effort to offset the herbicide, Velpar.

"The tree has huge amounts of poison in it," Giedraitis said.

It was decided to use the saltwater solution after tests showed twigs on the tree had no carbohydrates, or energy reserves, he said.

But Giedraitis said a test of the roots showed there was an ample supply of carbohydrates. "The roots will give up their energy to the leaves," Giedraitis said. "We expect this to happen in the fall. This tree is not dead."

He said the injection process is standard technology.

But Redding, who owns a tree maintenance business and calls himself an "arborist," said the treatment "was the final nail in the coffin."

"In my opinion that oak expired at 5:20 p.m. Tuesday," when the crews started injecting the solution, he said.

He also complained that the city applied sewer sludge around the roots of the tree. But Giedraitis said the sludge is a mild organic fertilizer that to trees is like "chicken broth."

Giedraitis said Redding is a tree lover, but said, "He doesn't understand what is exactly going on in the tree."

Teacher subject to charges of fondling child

HOUSTON (AP) — A special education teacher accused of fondling an 11-year-old boy who was one of his students here also faces similar charges in Florida, officials said.

Michael David Stein, 31, was ordered held without bail on six counts of indecency with a child after his arrest at his home Wednesday. He has been a teacher with the Houston Independent School District since October 1988.

Stein, who taught at F.M. Black Middle School, is accused of fondling a sixth-grader's genitals at the school on six occasions between April 10 and June 8, court documents said.

The alleged abuse surfaced when the student's mother found a letter Stein allegedly wrote to the boy, Houston Police Department spokesman Dan Turner said.

"She thought the letter was inappropriate for a teacher-student relationship and confronted school officials," Turner said. "There was nothing vulgar (in the letter). She just thought it was inappropriate."

Group loses EPA grants after chemical company caused toxic pollution

DALLAS (AP) — A booster group controlled by a chemical company that caused toxic pollution in Jacksonville, Ark., has lost \$150,000 in grants after the Environmental Protection Agency canceled the funds.

The money had been intended to help victims, rather than the producers, of a hazardous waste. The Dallas EPA office announced withdrawal of the grants on Wednesday.

"We want to make sure this won't happen again," Lew Crampton, special assistant to the EPA director in Washington, said. The grant process has been changed "to include new grant criteria about the representation of community people," he said.

The EPA suspended the grants June 13 pending an investigation.

A six-week probe by the federal agency revealed that a business group known as the Jacksonville People With Pride Clean Up Coalition was effectively a front for the polluter, Hercules Inc.

Local business leaders founded the organization in 1986 to counter negative publicity about dioxin contamination, which the group has maintained poses no health risks. Hercules funds and reviews pamphlets that support that belief.

The EPA grants were to be used by people living near three toxic waste sites to hire experts to monitor cleanup activities.

Companies responsible for toxic waste are not eligible for the technical assistance grants awarded under the "Superfund" program.

In the case of the Jacksonville People With Pride, the polluter "was being effectively represented in the organization," Crampton said. "That kind of influence is definitely not what we intended, nor was it what Congress intended."

Mike Wilson, president of Jacksonville People With Pride, did not return phone calls to the Associated Press Thursday.

Environmentalists have described Jacksonville, a community of 29,000 northeast of Little Rock, as the most dangerous site of dioxin contamination ever discovered in this nation. Dioxin generally is considered one of the world's most toxic substances.

The East Coast-based Hercules, which once owned a plant in Jacksonville, admitted partial responsibility for producing the dioxin, a by-product of Agent Orange.



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