

Friday, August 10, 1990

## Congress reevaluates defense spending Invasion may deter military cuts

DALLAS (AP) — The tensions in the Middle East may make Congress look twice at wholesale cuts in military spending, but defense contractors in Texas aren't speculating.

"The thing in the Gulf is a pretty worrisome situation and certainly it would be very inappropriate for a company to use that as some sort of sales leverage," said Bob Leder, spokesman for Bell Helicopter Textron Inc., in Fort Worth. "We're not walking around the halls of Congress saying, 'See, you need the V-22 because of Iraq.'"

The V-22 tilt-rotor craft was one program jeopardized by Defense Department cutbacks. General Dynamics and LTV Corp. also were concerned about Defense Department plans to cut spending.

That was before Iraq invaded Kuwait last Thursday and President Bush ordered U.S. troops to Saudi Arabia.

Iraqi strongman Saddam Hussein's invasion came days after the House Armed Services Committee carved \$24 billion from President Bush's defense budget request.

"These defense contractors, their spirits have been lifted by what's going on because many people have been concerned there was too much euphoria over this denouement between the East and West," said Ron Hatchett of the Mosher Institute for Defense Studies at Texas A&M University.

The Iraqi invasion will make lawmakers "a little less inclined to make such deep cuts without further study," Hatchett said Thursday. "It will slow the rush to cuts, which means it will keep the defense contractors like General Dynamics in business. There is still a need for their business." Hatchett said the defense contractors may in fact find themselves well positioned for the future.

With the end of the Cold War, superpower conflicts are over and regional conflicts, such as in the Middle East, will become the norm, Hatchett said.

The military's reliance on ground troops will have to shift to an ability to deploy troops and

equipment rapidly, he said. Many defense programs in Texas would fit the bill, he said, including Bell's V-22 Osprey tilt-rotor, LTV's C-17 transport plane and General Dynamics' F-16 fighter.

Hatchett said he doubts lawmakers will undo previous budget cuts, but said they will be more careful about making future cuts.

"I think that Congress probably understands now that even though the Cold War is over, that the potential for regional conflicts is very high and that they may have to rethink some of their defense cuts," said economist Harold Gross, associate director for the Center for Economic Development and Research at the University of North Texas.

"How that rethinking will affect the defense industry in Texas is anybody's guess," he said Thursday. "We may not like some of the decisions they come up with. They're not going to make the simple, straightforward decision of restoring programs that have been axed."

## State officials approve oil spill cleanup plan

AUSTIN (AP) — State officials, overwhelmed by two major oil spills this summer, endorsed an oil cleanup plan Thursday and discussed a possible oil tax to pay for emergency equipment.

Members of the Governor's Oil Spill Advisory Committee said the state was not prepared to handle spills from the June 8 explosion of the tanker Mega Borg in the Gulf of Mexico, and the July 28 collision between a tanker and two barges in Galveston Bay.

"It keeps getting worse and worse and worse," Texas Water Commission Chairman Buck Wynne said. "Somebody is trying to tell us something."

About 3.9 million gallons of oil spilled from the Mega Borg about 60 miles off the coast from Galveston, while 700,000 gallons of oil

### Members discuss oil tax to pay for special emergency equipment

spilled when the Shinoussa hit two barges.

The barge spill prompted a temporary fishing ban in Galveston Bay. Environmentalists believe the sea-food-rich estuary may have suffered heavy, long-term damage.

Committee members said Texas' response to oil spills is slow, underfunded and confusing.

"We really suffered from the fact that we did not have one general (agency)," in the Galveston Bay spill, said Andy Sansom, executive director of the Texas Parks and Wildlife

Department.

Under a proposal by Land Commissioner Garry Mauro, the responsibility for preparing and responding to oil spills would be placed under one agency. He said state laws are vague and have led to a bureaucratic maze that slows down the response time.

To prepare for an oil spill, the state needs to stockpile booms, skimmers, dispersants and oil-eating microbes equipment at five centers along the coast, Mauro said. A similar setup in Florida cost \$2.3 million. Mauro said a 1-cent-per-barrel fee

on petroleum products unloaded in Texas ports would produce \$8 million per year, enough to pay for equipment and trained personnel.

The committee Thursday endorsed the one-agency concept and said details could be worked out by next month. A proposal could go to the Legislature in January.

Mauro said he would present his fee proposal to the Legislature separately.

A Florida legislator told the committee that such a plan upsets strong lobby groups, such as oil, shipping and port interests.

But state Sen. George Kirkpatrick said, "Texas dodged a bullet. It's a true paradise and nothing can destroy it quicker than a major oil spill."

## A&M to take cold showers next week

Texas A&M's main campus will do without hot water from Monday through Wednesday.

The heating water system will not operate for three days as the physical plant does necessary maintenance work on the utility.

The system will be shut down from 8 a.m. Monday to 11 p.m. on Wednesday.

Any questions about the outage can be directed to 845-5511.

## Teachers give 'A' to reform, 'F' to salaries

AUSTIN (AP) — Teachers gave high marks to smaller class sizes and the no-pass-no-play rule, but said their salaries are too low and their jobs too restricted in a survey released Thursday.

"There's a good news-bad news story here," said John Cole, president of the Texas Federation of Teachers, as he released results of a survey measuring progress in Texas schools since reforms imposed in 1984.

"The good news is that some of the reforms have worked," Cole said.

Teachers gave an 'A' to smaller classes in lower grades. They gave a 'B' to requiring students to pass their courses before participating in extracurricular activities, and to pre-

kindergarten and kindergarten programs.

"The bad news is that the exchange that we've made for those took away something from teachers, took away their ability to deal with children as individuals, took away their freedom to teach and it's shackled them with tons of paperwork," Cole said.

The salary level for teachers — an average \$27,000 in Texas, compared to nearly \$30,000 nationwide, Cole said — got the only 'F' on the statewide survey, which included about 50,000 responses from 55 school districts.

Teacher autonomy, career ladder, evaluation system and paperwork load each got a 'D.'

"We urge the Legislature to consider keeping the good parts and discarding the bad parts of these reforms," Cole said.

"We think it's time to stop and listen to the real experts, the classroom teachers, who are on the front lines every day," he said.

The survey was completed in April, before lawmakers passed an education reform law that affects school funding and administration.

Cole criticized a part of the new law that allows model school districts to be exempt from a number of state regulations.

Cole also responded to criticisms this week from state prison board Chairman Charles Terrell of Dallas, who criticized the job public

schools are doing.

Terrell said inmates arrive with an average 6th grade education but catch up quickly once they take classes in prison.

"We've done the best we could with the materials we've been given," Cole said.

"Who knows, had we had a prekindergarten program and the smaller class sizes in 1969, that 18- or 19-year-old thug might have been kept in school," he said. "We are doing some things now that should show up ... down the road."

"But I would be less than candid to say that the things we are doing are adequate," Cole said.

## Restaurant Report

The restaurants listed below were inspected by the Brazos County Health Department between July 9 and July 13. Information is from a food service establishment inspection report.

SCORED BETWEEN 95 AND 100:

**Confucius Chinese Cuisine** at 2322 S. Texas Ave. Score — 97. Points were deducted for inadequate food protection during storage and unsatisfactory design of non-food contact surfaces. It was a regularly scheduled inspection.

**Emilio's Pizza** at 2418 S. Texas Ave. Score — 96. Points were deducted for unclean food-contact surfaces and unclean floors, walls and ceiling. It was a regularly scheduled inspection.

**Pizza Hut Delivery** at 1103 Anderson #103. Score — 95. Points were deducted for inadequate food protection during storage, not using hair restraints, unclean non-food contact surfaces and walls and ceiling in bad repair. It was a regularly scheduled inspection.

**Mt. Aggie Snow Cones** at University Square Shopping Center. Score — 95. Points were deducted for an unsafe water source (major violation). It was a regularly scheduled inspection.

SCORED BETWEEN 90 AND 94:

**Carney's Pub** at 3410 S. College Ave. Score — 94. Points were deducted for poorly maintained non-food contact surfaces, unclean food-contact surfaces, toilet doors were not self-closing, inadequate hand-drying devices and improper toilet area waste receptacles. It was a regularly scheduled inspection.

**B.B.'s Oriental Restaurant** at 2402 S. Texas Ave. Score — 93. Points were deducted for improperly labeled containers, inadequate food protection during storage, improperly constructed non-food contact

surfaces, unclean food-contact surfaces and unclean walls and ceiling. It was a regularly scheduled inspection.

**International House of Pancakes** at 103 S. College. Score — 91. Points were deducted for inaccessible toilet and handwashing facilities, unprotected outer openings and poor repair of walls and ceiling. It was a regularly scheduled inspection.

**Long John Silver's** at 1808 S. Texas Ave. Score — 88. Points were deducted for improperly constructed non-food contact surfaces, unclean food-contact surfaces, unprotected outer openings and improperly stored toxic items (major violation). It was a regularly scheduled inspection.

David Jefferson, a registered sanitarian at the department, said restaurants with scores of 95 or above generally have excellent operations and facilities. He said restaurants with scores in the 70s or low 80s usually have serious violations in the health report.

Scores can be misleading, Jefferson said, because restaurants can get the same score by having several minor violations or a few major violations. He said the minor violations can be corrected during the inspection. Point deductions or violations in the report range from one point (minor violations) to five points (major violations).

Jefferson said the department might close a restaurant if the score is below 60, the personnel have infectious diseases, the restaurant lacks adequate refrigeration, there is a sewage backup in the building or the restaurant has a complete lack of sanitization for the food equipment.

The department inspects each restaurant every six months.

## Closed waterway costs \$20 million

HOUSTON (AP) — Delays in reopening the Houston Ship Channel after a tanker-tug collision in Galveston Bay has cost shipowners as much as \$20 million, an industry official said.

The July 28 accident, which dumped an estimated 700,000 gallons of oil into the bay, has disrupted traffic in the busy ship channel for nearly two weeks.

Ted Thorjussen, president of the West Gulf Maritime Association, an organization of shipping lines, estimates that closing the channel has cost the lines between \$15 million and \$20 million.

Deep-draft traffic through the ship channel was stopped between July 28 and Aug. 3 — a move that cost the average shipowner up to \$17,000 a day plus docking fees of

up to \$3,500 a day.

Two-way barge traffic has been permitted in the channel for nearly a week, with one-way traffic allowed for tow-escorted ship traffic since last Friday.

But efforts to clean up the oil spill and remove a submerged barge damaged in the accident have delayed the full reopening of the waterway.

## Williams' proposal hits 'mathematical pothole'

AUSTIN (AP) — Clayton Williams' proposal to save \$25 million a year by giving private engineers more state highway department design work appears to have hit a mathematical pothole, it was reported Thursday.

The Republican gubernatorial candidate's numbers differed from those provided by the Texas Department of Highways and Public Transportation, the Houston Chronicle said.

Williams said savings could be made by giving at least half of the department's road design work to private contractors rather than the state's 5,000 engineering workers.

But the Chronicle reported that

the highway department already pays engineers in the private sector to design more than half its projects.

Department spokesman Pete Haight said that in 1989, \$30.5 million of the \$51 million in design work for state projects was handled by private firms.

During the last three years, design work represented 3.3 percent of project costs when done by engineers on the state payroll, compared with 6.1 percent when done by the private sector, Haight said. However, the costs of personnel benefits for state workers apparently wasn't included.

Williams said the state spends \$125 million a year on the work of state engineers.

## Perfect symmetry

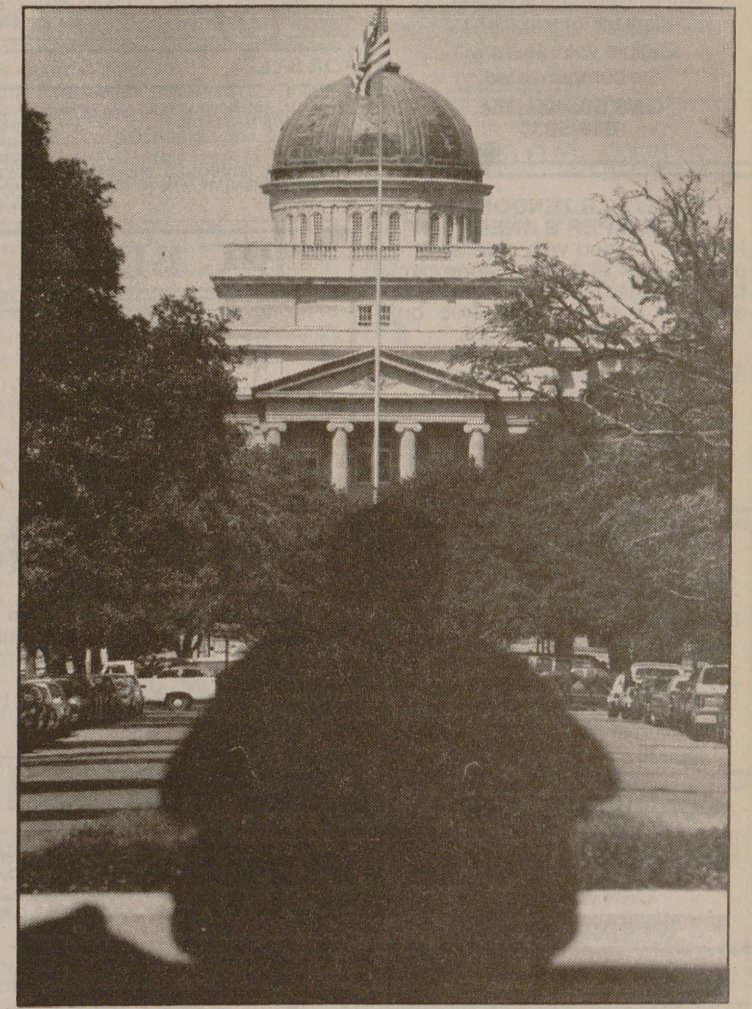


Photo by Mike C. Mulvey

Henry Villarreal, a senior building construction major, positions himself underneath Albritton Tower in order to etch out a one-point perspective drawing of the Academic Building for his final in Environmental Design 111, Design Media.

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