

Tuesday, October 9, 1990

Wright disagrees with budget plan

DALLAS (AP) — Former House Speaker Jim Wright says Congress is working the budget all wrong.

If he were still in Washington, Wright would have been no part of the package of spending cuts and tax increases the House rejected, he told the Dallas Times Herald in a telephone interview.

He also said he would oppose a budget process that includes prior approval from the president.

In the wake of a \$500 billion deficit-cutting package recently rejected by the House, frustrated congressman, especially those from Texas, are muttering that such problems would never have arisen if the iron-willed Wright were still in charge.

The House's failure to pass the package prompted President Bush's decision to shut down the federal government Saturday until a deal he can accept is assembled.

Careful not to criticize current House Speaker Tom Foley and

Former House speaker thinks deficit-cutting package is unfair

House Majority Leader Richard Gephardt directly, Wright said the failed package was unfair.

"I could not have supported it," said Wright who served in the House for 34 years. "It was manifestly unfair, putting a disproportionate burden on low-income and middle-income people. I thought on balance it was a bad bargain."

Wright also said spending and tax bills are supposed to originate in the House and that budget resolutions need no acceptance from the White House.

"It seems to me that the process has wandered too far afield from the constitutional and legal guidelines

established for spending and tax priorities," he said. "You don't go and get the president's permission. You do it."

Conceding that Capitol Hill has been wary of raising taxes and cutting spending, Wright said that with a little leadership, both Congress and the American people can find the strength to make tough decisions and sacrifice for a greater good.

"Nobody has made a strong case to the American people that there is a (deficit) problem and that there is fair, demonstrable and equitable way of paying for it," Wright said.

He said several of his former col-

leagues called him last week "quite distressed that such an unfair package was emerging, and Congress was being forced to yield to a president with an almost religious devotion to the idea that rich people shouldn't be taxed."

One of Wright's first tasks in Washington in 1956 was to lead a delegation to tell President Dwight Eisenhower that the country needed more tax money for the interstate highway.

Although he was nervous to make such a pitch to Eisenhower, Wright said the president understood and said: "If you think you can sell that to the American people, go right ahead."

"God, what we could do with that kind of straightforward position in the White House today," Wright said.

Aston Hall residents evacuated due to fire

Residents evacuated Aston Hall after a fire was reported Sunday in a first-floor custodial trash chute.

University Police Department officials received a call at about 4:15 p.m. and dispatched the College Station Fire Department to the scene.

Lt. Cabrina Scott of the University Police Department says the cause of the fire is unknown.

A police investigation will not be conducted at this time.

Aston Hall residents were allowed to return to their rooms after about an hour.

Scott says the resident directors and advisers did a good job of evacuating the dormitory.

"Everything appeared to go off without a hitch," she says.

No report has been made of student property damage.

Command performance Singing Cadets tune up to entertain Bush in Dallas

Texas A&M's Singing Cadets are tuning up for a command performance for President Bush.

The group will provide a half-hour of entertainment during an Oct. 15 banquet for Bush and Republican gubernatorial candidate Clayton Williams at the Hyatt Convention Center in Dallas.

The president requested the group sing his favorite song "God Bless the U.S.A." as he enters the

room. Robert Boone, vocal music coordinator, says the song first was performed by the Singing Cadets for Bush during his visit to A&M for May 1990's commencement.

"We're also going to do about 30 minutes of patriotic material," Boone adds.

The performance will be one of 40 appearances the Singing Cadets will make this year.

League of Women Voters formally cancels debate between gubernatorial candidates

AUSTIN (AP) — The League of Women Voters on Monday formally canceled plans for an Oct. 30 debate between gubernatorial candidates Clayton Williams and Ann Richards, saying Williams wouldn't commit to it.

"It takes two to debate, and without his cooperation the show cannot go on," said Diane Sheridan, head of the league's Texas Education Fund.

Williams, the Republican nominee, has said he won't debate Richards unless the Democrat signs a pledge to stop all negative television advertising.

Richards spokesman Bill Cryer said Williams first should agree to debate. He also said Richards doesn't trust Williams to keep his side of a pledge against negative TV ads.

As an example, Cryer pointed to a Monday news release from Williams' campaign that compared Richards to unsuccessful Democratic presidential candidate Mike Dukakis.

"Like Dukakis, Richards is a captive of liberals and special interest groups," the release charged. Among others, it says Richards is supported by

"left-wing Hollywood liberals," the Gay and Lesbian Caucus, Wall Street brokerage houses, National Organization for Women President Molly Yard and death row inmates.

"The average person is who they're missing on that list — the average Texan earning an average wage, doing a good job keeping home and family together, as opposed to Clayton Williams and his big money friends, his insurance pals," Cryer said.

He called the comparison with Dukakis "ridiculous" and the news release "completely negative. It shows the complete hypocrisy of their campaign."

Williams spokesman Gordon Hensley said, "We don't view this as negative. We view this as truth in advertising."

In other political developments Monday:

• Republican lieutenant governor candidate Rob Mosbacher asked rival Bob Bullock to specifically outline an income tax plan, saying the

Democrat left the door open to such a levy in a Saturday debate.

"Not only will I close the door on an income tax, I'll nail it shut," Mosbacher said.

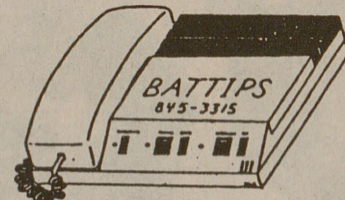
Rafe Greenlee, Bullock's press secretary, said Bullock has consistently said he's opposed to a state income tax.

However, he said, "Bullock doesn't want to start ruling things out before we've had a chance to study everything ... He's not making any stupid, rhetorical campaign promises."

• Republican attorney general candidate J.E. "Buster" Brown charged that his Democratic opponent, Dan Morales, apparently violated an ethics rule of the State Bar of Texas by allowing his name to be listed on the letterhead of a law firm.

Morales lists no income from the law firm, with which he holds the title "Of Counsel." Morales, of San Antonio, says he's provided free legal services to his constituents since being elected to the Texas House.

BATTIPS

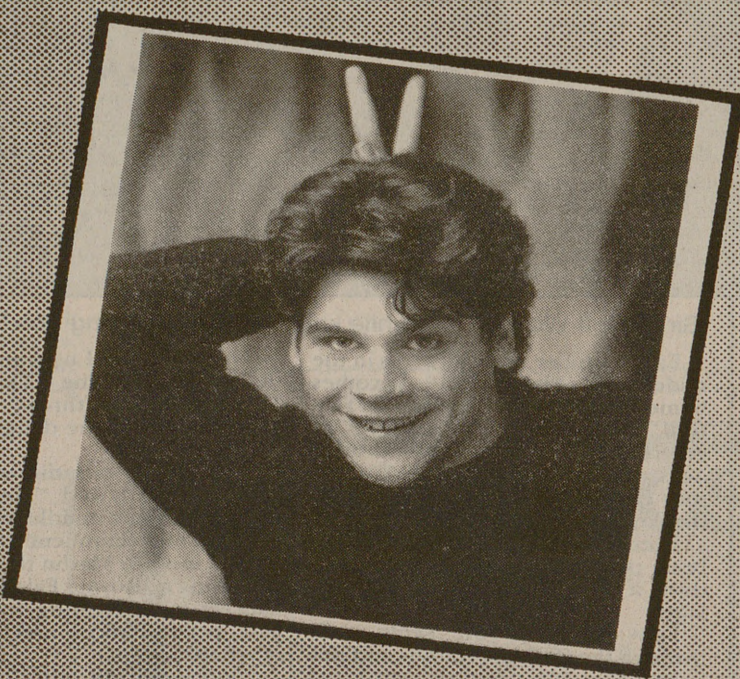


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