

Saudi Arabia, Kuwaiti repayment to America

Gramm: Arabs should accept Israel

HOUSTON (AP) — The United States should demand that Saudi Arabia and Kuwait repay the United States for the role it played in helping the Arab countries in the war against Iraq, U.S. Sen. Phil Gramm, R-Texas, said Monday.

"Countries like Kuwait and Saudi Arabia are going to owe their existence to us," Gramm said in an appearance at a Grumman Houston Corp. aircraft plant. "We've got to put this victory and the influence and power it will bring to some great and noble purpose. And I believe that purpose is trying to get a lasting peace in the Middle East."

"I think we have the right to ask Kuwait and Saudi Arabia to recognize Israel," Gramm said. "Gramm said a U.S.-led victory in the Persian Gulf War and the multitude of problems being experienced in the Soviet Union will leave the United States as the only superpower in the world."

"I think we've got to put that power and influence to an important purpose, and I think trying to find a permanent peace in the Middle East is a big part of that purpose," he said.

Asked if such an idea is realistic in light of the long and bitter Arab-Israeli antagonism, he replied, "Yes. I'm not claiming it's going to be easy."

Gramm visited the Grumman plant to thank workers for their skills in assembling the aircraft "that we see every night on television, planes that

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— Phil Gramm, senator

are taking the war to the Iraqis and are saving American lives."

The plant turns out hundreds of components that are used in the assembly of aircraft that include the A-6E Intruder, a Navy and Marine Corps attack plane, and the F-14 Tomcat, a Navy fighter plane.

"We appreciate the fact you take pride in your work," he said. "We appreciate the fact those weapons systems work. And you're an important part of the victory we're winning in the Middle East. We owe a lot to the craftsmen who work

here in Houston to build those weapons and put quality into every part.

"When the Iraqis come out of their bunkers, whatever they come out of, your A-6 Intruder is going to welcome them to American technology," Gramm said while about 200 employees cheered and whistled.

Employees also were enthusiastic about Gramm's visit.

"It makes me feel a whole lot better for someone like him to tell you they appreciate what we're doing," said Valerie Horton, who was working with her husband on the cockpit of an E-2C Hawkeye, an airborne early warning craft that carries a large round radar dish atop its fuselage.

"They're not beautiful but they do work," Gramm said of the plane.

Gramm predicted the war would end quickly but refused to be pinned down to a time.

"I'm reluctant ... to give a timetable but I do not believe we're looking at a long drawn-out conflict," he said.

Gramm is on a tour of defense plants around Texas. Earlier in the day, he visited San Antonio-based Fairchild Aircraft Co., which has unveiled a complex cooling system manufactured for the Air Force to cool thousands of military personnel in the Middle East.



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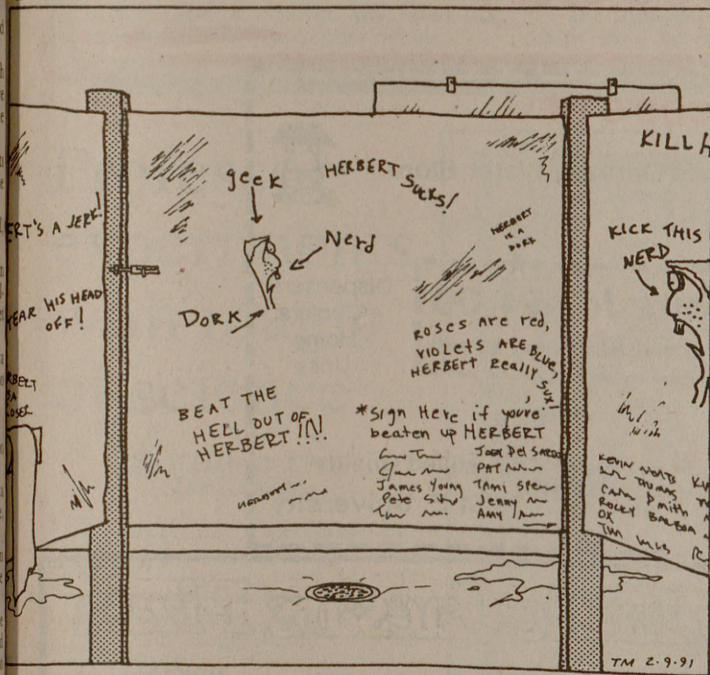
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HERBERT, HIDING IN THE BATHROOM, FEELS KIND OF FAMOUS.

Student prepares file for draft objection

FORT WORTH (AP) — The president's word may be good enough for most Americans, but a 21-year-old Hurst student says he doesn't believe President Bush's assertion that Congress won't be asked to reinstate the draft.

So Christopher Largen is taking steps to make sure that he won't have to fight now or later. He's building a file to support his claim to conscientious objector status.

David Stoler, a counselor for the Central Committee for Conscientious Objectors in Philadelphia, said the file could include a wide variety of documentation.

"It could be a paper you wrote at school, handouts from a demonstration or correspondence," he said.

"Simply believing that killing is wrong isn't good enough," Stoler said. "You have to state it on moral grounds."

Largen's 3-inch-thick file includes

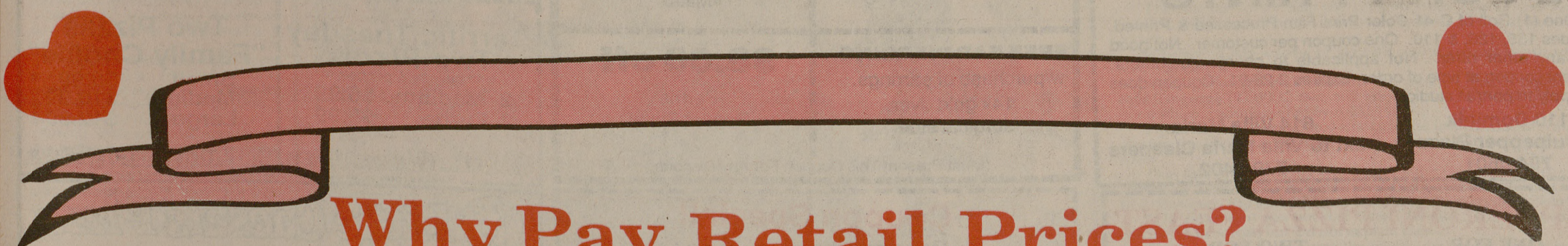
an essay on America's willingness to punish murderers and decorate soldiers, a letter to his college newspaper urging students to reject bigotry and a statement to the Selective Service outlining his philosophy of nonviolence.

"If they don't give me the status, then I'll go to jail," said Largen, a freshman at Tarrant County Junior College.

According to the Selective Service Act, a conscientious objector is one, who "by reason of religious training and by belief, is conscientiously opposed to participation in war in any form."

Conscientious objection to American military service dates from Colonial times but has been slow to gain social acceptability.

Bush has reiterated that the draft would not be reinstated.



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