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EPA involvement in political races probed

WASHINGTON (AP) — The admission by a presidential aide that he held an extensive discussion on political races with an Environmental Protection Agency official will likely drive a House probe of the agency into a sharp turn toward the White House.

James M. Medas, White House special assistant for intergovernmental affairs, changed his earlier story and late Monday admitted that on July 13 he and then-EPA Assistant Administrator Rita M. Lavelle talked about several governors up for re-election.

Earlier in the day, he had said he and Ms. Lavelle held a discussion but discussed no campaigns except one in California.

Members of the House Energy and Commerce subcommittee on investigations were ready Monday to question Lavelle about her meeting with Medas, but the former EPA official defied a committee subpoena and failed to appear. The panel voted 8-0 to cite her for contempt, an action which could lead to criminal prosecution.

The committee members have been looking for evidence that the White House and the EPA used the \$1.6 billion toxic waste "superfund" for political purposes.

Even before Medas' statement,

Clements' re-election bid among those targeted

WASHINGTON (AP) — Documents released by a House committee investigating the Environmental Protection Agency purport to show that the White House tried to use a part of the \$1.6 billion "superfund" toxic waste cleanup program to boost the re-election bid of former Texas Gov. Bill Clements.

The documents, released Monday, contain terse references to several Republican candidates

and denote, the committee claimed, White House political manipulation of the program.

Next to Clements' name was a notation of "tough fight" and two stars.

"That was indicated to be an important race to the White House," said Rep. Albert Gore Jr., D-Tenn.

The documents were released by the House Energy and Commerce subcommittee on investi-

gations, which voted to cite former EPA official Rita M. Lavelle for contempt of Congress.

The subcommittee said the notes were taken at a White House meeting last July 13 between Ms. Lavelle and James M. Medas, a White House special assistant for intergovernmental affairs.

Gore said that "Texas fared well under pre-election superfund consideration because

announcements were made regarding four sites during the August to September 1982 period."

Clements lost his re-election bid to then-Attorney General Mark White.

The notes reflected even more favorably on Gov. Thomas Kean, a New Jersey Republican. "Help him all we can — new 'guy,'" the documents said, referring to Kean.

Ms. Lavelle was fired by President Reagan after she refused a request from ex-EPA Administrator Anne McGill Burford to resign. The action followed sharp criticism by Ms. Lavelle of the agency's general counsel, Robert Perry.

Ms. Burford's notes of the Medas-Lavelle meeting included these references:

—New Jersey Gov. Thomas Kean, a Republican elected in 1981: "Help him all we can — new 'guy'."

—Bend over backwards for Republican Gov. Richard Snelling of Vermont, re-elected last year; and

for conservative Democrat Edward King, former Massachusetts governor defeated in his state's 1982 primary.

—Democratic Gov. Bob Graham of Florida, "very wary; takes shots all the time."

—Former Texas Gov. Bill Clements, a Republican defeated in 1982, "tough fight."

—Gov. Dick Thornburgh of Pennsylvania, re-elected last year: "real solid; only media market Republican."

—James Thompson, re-elected Illinois governor last year in a close race, "tough, very important."

—Lamar Alexander, re-elected Republican governor of Tennessee last year, "terrific; very important, former chief to Baker."

—Democratic Gov. Charles Robb of Virginia, "quiet, highly ambitious, pretty."

—Robert List, former GOP governor of Nevada defeated in 1982, "tough re-election; support (Interior Secretary James) Watt, Gorsuch."

—Mrs. Burford was Anne Gorsuch before her recent marriage.

Ms. Lavelle's attorney, James J. Bierbower, said his client would testify if the subcommittee let her review the documents in its possession.

Appointment will change EPA — but not probe

By VIC OSTROWIDZKI
Heard Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — William Ruckelshaus, President Reagan's nominee as administrator of the embattled Environmental Protection Agency, will move rapidly to change its policies reducing restraints on industrial polluters, sources said Monday.

But the appointment of Ruckelshaus, who resigned as deputy attorney general in the Nixon administration rather than fire Watergate special prosecutor Archibald Cox, will not stop the six separate House committees from continuing their investigation of alleged wrongdoing at EPA, congressional sources added.

Administration officials stressed that Ruckelshaus, who returns to the EPA where he served the agency's first administrator from 1970 to 1973, was given "carte blanche" by President Reagan to "clean house" and do whatever is necessary to enforce the environmental laws.

He said it would take a few weeks before he could "get over to the EPA to take charge."

In appointing Ruckelshaus, President Reagan said his nominee has the authority to "conduct an agency-wide review of the personnel and resources" and urged him to run "an open and responsive" operation.

Ruckelshaus will replace Anne Burford, who resigned March 9 amid charges of mismanagement and favoritism to polluters, and John W. Hernandez Jr., the acting administrator, who was accused last week of ordering a softening of an EPA study which concluded that Dow Chemical Co. contaminated major Michigan waterways with toxic pollutants.

The Ruckelshaus selection was praised Monday by even such staunch critics of Reagan's environmental policies as House Speaker

Thomas P. O'Neill, who said he would have no problem working with the nominee.

"Bill's a nice guy and he's extremely able," O'Neill added.

Democratic Senate Minority Leader Robert Byrd called Ruckelshaus "a good administrator who is perceived as a man of integrity" and expressed confidence Ruckelshaus will be swiftly confirmed by the Senate.

Congressional sources agreed Monday that the appointment of Ruckelshaus, a senior vice president of the Weyerhaeuser Timber Co., in Tacoma, Wash., would help the administration in the long run restore its tarnished environmental credibility with the American people.

But they felt, however, that the controversy around the agency will not die soon because the allegations of impropriety against EPA officials may result in prosecutions.

"Ruckelshaus should bring back stability to EPA which has been weakened by a series of charges of impropriety and favoritism," said a congressional aide who deals on a daily basis with EPA.

"These investigations of alleged political manipulation of the agency's toxic waste cleanup program, possible conflicts of interest and perjury involving top current and former officials, political hit lists and surveillance of agency employees and possible favoritism toward industrial polluters will continue," the aide said.

One congressional source said the investigations may drag on for months.

The House Science and Technology Committee will hold a hearing Wednesday to determine the involvement of Dow Chemical Co. officials in getting the EPA to soften a regional study that criticized the company for polluting Michigan rivers.



Which way is spring?

A resident of Spring Street in Cedarburg, Wis., shovels snow following a six-inch snowfall Monday, the first full day of spring.

Wintry weather still plagues nation

By The Associated Press

Ignoring the calendar, wintry storms swept from Nevada to New England on the second full day of spring, leaving eight people dead in Wisconsin from shoveling snow and sending cars crashing helter-skelter on icy roads in the Northeast.

Snow fell from Illinois to New Hampshire and temperatures dipped into the 20s early today, with the cold reaching far enough south to threaten Georgia peaches.

Along the Atlantic coast, rain fell Monday on already saturated ground or drained into swollen rivers. Floods drove 16 families from their homes along the Merrimack River in Massachusetts.

The stormy weather has been blamed for 15 deaths since the week-end.

From Maryland to Massachusetts, dozens of rivers and streams were reported overflowing or near flood stage. "Plan ahead. Be ready to

move quickly if necessary," a weather service bulletin in Massachusetts said.

Rushing rain water killed an electric company lineman in Providence, R.I., sweeping him through a sewer after he fell into an open manhole, authorities said.

"We're going to keep pumping until one of three things happens: either the rain stops, the pumps break, or we collapse," said Fire Chief Clem Silva, in Provincetown, Mass., where roads and basements were flooded and storm drains were clogged with sand.

Chicago, Milwaukee, Detroit and Fort Wayne, Ind., were tormented with half a foot or more of wind-blown snow after Monday's storm. Drifts were waist-high in parts of Indiana and southern Michigan, where up to a foot of snow fell.

A Purdue University student died in an accident involving two snowmobiles and a sled in West Lafayette, Ind.

Rain, snow and sleet made road conditions treacherous in western New York. "We've got a little bit of everything today," said a forecaster for the National Weather Service in Buffalo, N.Y. "You name it, we've got it falling somewhere."

The weather service predicted snow today from Ohio to New England as the storm marched northeast toward Quebec. A second winter storm was sweeping down from the Rocky Mountains and yet another storm was poised to hit the West Coast, said Nolan Duke of the weather service's Severe Storms Center in Kansas City, Mo.

Hundreds of traffic accidents were blamed on the weather. In the Buffalo, N.Y., area, 29 cars were damaged in three pile-ups early Monday and another crash killed a 34-year-old man. A 44-year-old man died in a two-car collision on a slippery highway in Watertown Township, Mich.

The snow posed a different threat

in Wisconsin. Eight men, ranging in age from 58 to 82, collapsed and died Monday during or after shoveling snow in southeastern Wisconsin, according to sheriff's officials in Waukesha and Milwaukee counties.

One victim, Charles J. Casperson, 67, of Neenah, died of an apparent heart attack in an Oconomowoc hospital after having complained to passersby of chest pains while digging around his car after it got stuck on a rural road.

The others were shoveling snow at their homes and suffered from over-exertion, officers said.

Mitchell Field, Milwaukee's airport, was closed for about seven hours Monday morning after ground crews gave up trying to keep runways clear of snow driven by wind gusts of up to 44 mph.

In the water-weary Northeast, drenching rains sent streams gushing out of their banks and forced evacuations in several communities.

Budget compromise bill near completion

WASHINGTON (AP) — Congress is on the verge of completing the first anti-recession bill of 1983, a \$4.6 billion package providing aid for the needy and money for thousands of public works jobs.

A compromise plan worked out late Monday night also contains \$5 billion for a combination of direct payment to the unemployed and loans to states unable to meet their own unemployment compensation requirements.

The money is urgently needed to assure continued payment of unemployment benefits in 27 states and the District of Columbia. As a result, congressional leaders said they hoped for final passage by Wednesday.

That would send the measure to President Reagan, who opposed a jobs bill for the first six weeks of the congressional session, but then succumbed to congressional pressure and authorized his aides to present a blueprint that served as the starting point for the eventual compromise.

The bill calls for \$225 million for shelter and various food distribution programs for the needy, as well as several hundred million dollars for programs such as social services, maternal and child health, and alcohol, drug abuse and mental health.

The largest single item in the measure is \$1 billion in Community Development Block Grants to local governments. Most of the remainder of the \$4.6 billion will provide funds for public works jobs in areas ranging from highway construction, Amtrak repairs and programs administered by the Tennessee Valley Authority and the Corps of Engineers.

The measure allocates an estimated \$2.1 billion of its \$4.6 billion to areas of high unemployment.

But some spending — notably for transportation and military construction projects — are earmarked largely for areas represented by influential members of the appro-



Rep. Jamie Whitten, D-Miss., is flanked by Rep. Silvio Conte, R-Mass., and Sen. Mark O. Hatfield, R-Ore., prior to a House-Senate conference committee meeting. Related stories, Page 2A.

priations committees of the two houses. A report accompanying the bill provides \$33.8 million, for example, for transportation projects in the Dade County, Fla., area. That's the region represented by Rep. William Lehman, D-Fla., chairman of the transportation

subcommittee.

The overall \$4.6 billion price tag is slightly higher than Reagan's original \$4.3 billion plan, but below both the \$4.9 billion the House approved earlier this month and the \$5.2 billion agreed to by the Senate.

In addition, it was stripped of a Senate-passed provision that Reagan found particularly objectionable, \$1.2 billion in increased revenue sharing for cities and counties.

House Democrats were more than willing to agree to the Senate-passed revenue sharing provision, but Sen. Mark Hatfield, R-Ore., insisted on deleting the funds.

He said unidentified officials at the White House had made it clear to him over the weekend that the revenue sharing fund could prompt a veto by the president. "The administration has indicated to me that this bill is too large and specifically they do not like" the revenue sharing, Hatfield said.

With the revenue sharing funds stripped out, he said, chances of Reagan signing the measure were "100 percent better."

Congressional aides, who asked not to be identified by name, said there would be other attempts later in the year to increase revenue sharing, a program under which the federal government provides grants to cities and counties with relatively few strings attached.

In addition, both houses of Congress are expected to begin work shortly after their Easter recess on other anti-recession legislation.

Democrats in the House have promised to offer bills providing health care for unemployed workers, for example, and legislation is expected on the House floor later this year to provide protection to farmers and homeowners facing mortgage foreclosure.

INSIDE TODAY

- IN THE STATE: None injured in fire that destroys 170 apartments in Dallas.....3A
- IN THE NATION: Accused kidnapper commits suicide during FBI questioning.....8A
- IN THE WORLD: Fighting between Nicaragua, Honduras may continue to escalate.....5C
- Bridge.....5A
- Business.....5B
- Classified.....7C
- Comics.....4A
- Crossword.....4A
- Editorial.....6A
- Entertainment.....5C
- Lifestyle.....3C
- Local.....1C
- Markets.....6B
- Obituaries.....2C
- Sports.....1B
- TV Schedule.....5A

Weather

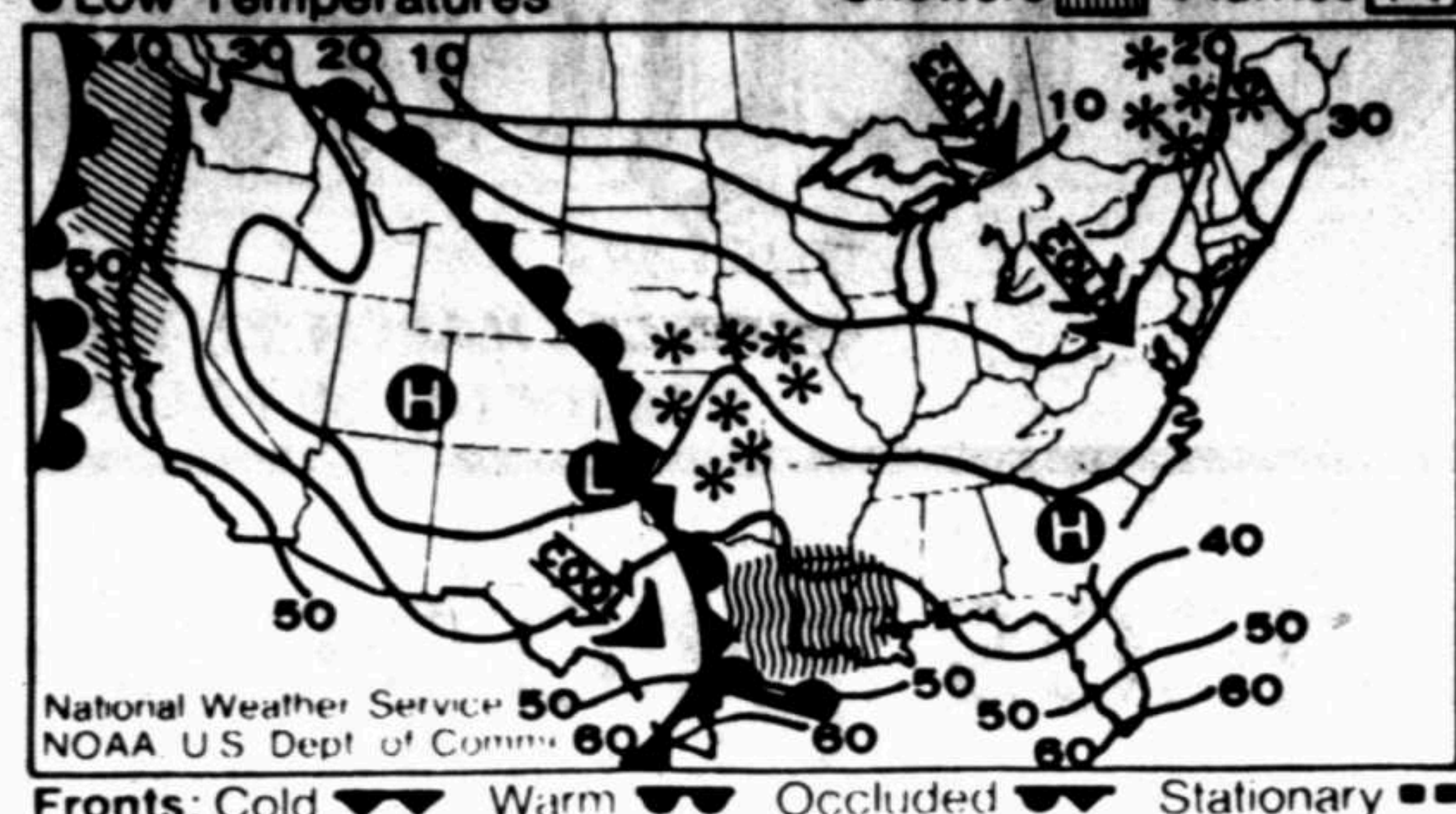
Partly cloudy and mild Wednesday with a high expected in the mid-60s. Details on Page 2A.

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Other Calls.....662-5311

WEATHER SUMMARY

The Forecast For 7 a.m. EST
Wednesday, March 23
Low Temperatures



National Weather Service
NOAA U.S. Dept. of Commerce

Fronts: Cold Warm Occluded Stationary

AP Laserphoto Map

Most areas of the nation will be colder, according to the National Weather Service. Showers are forecast for the central Gulf; snow flurries are expected for the eastern Plains and northern New England; rain is predicted for the northern half of the Pacific Coast.

Near-freezing night forecast

Though spring has sprung, another light touch of winter may be upon Midlanders tonight.

The mercury is to drop to the near-freezing mid-30s, said the weatherman at the National Weather Service at Midland Regional Airport. Winds, under partly skies, are to be southwesterly at 10 to 15 mph.

A milder day is in the offing for Wednesday, when the high is to be in the mid-60s. Winds are to be westerly at 10 to 15 mph.

Monday's high temperature of 52 degrees was far from the record high of 87 degrees for the date in 1934. Monday's low of 32 was only eight degrees higher than the record low of 24 degrees for the date in 1952.

Midland statistics

FORECAST

Partly cloudy and cold tonight with a low in the mid-30s. Winds southwesterly at 10-15 mph tonight. Partly cloudy and mild on Wednesday with a high in the mid-60s. Winds westerly at 10-15 mph.

NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE READINGS

Yesterday's High 52 degrees
Overnight Low 32 degrees
Sunrise today 7:02 a.m.
Sunset tomorrow 6:49 a.m.
Precipitation Last 24 hours 0.00 inches
This month to date 0.09 inches
1983 to date 1.49 inches

LOCAL TEMPERATURES

Time	Temp	Wind	Dir
6 a.m.	29	8	SW
7 a.m.	30	7	SW
8 a.m.	31	8	SW
9 a.m.	32	9	SW
10 a.m.	33	10	SW
11 a.m.	37	11	SW
noon	40	12	SW
1 p.m.	43	13	SW
2 p.m.	46	14	SW
3 p.m.	49	15	SW
4 p.m.	50	16	SW
5 p.m.	51	17	SW

SOUTHWEST TEMPERATURES

City	High	Low
Abilene	46	35
Albany	37	21
Amarillo	40	28
El Paso	67	43
Fort Worth	50	34
Houston	57	37
Lubbock	60	29
Marfa	62	26
Odessa	47	25
Wichita Falls	49	30

Extended forecasts

Thursday Through Saturday

West Texas: Partly cloudy with scattered showers and a few thunderstorms Friday. No important temperature changes until turning cooler. Panhandle Saturday Highs Thursday and Friday mid 50s. Panhandle to lower 80s Big Bend cooling to upper 40s. Panhandle to upper 70s Big Bend Saturday. Lower 20s Panhandle to mid 40s lower Pecos Valley and Big Bend.

North Texas: Mostly cloudy and cool with a chance of showers. Highs 60s. Lows upper 30s to upper 40s.

South Texas: Chance of rain extreme east Thursday. Chance of showers Saturday and west and south late Friday. Cool. Highs mid 60s to near 70 north and low and mid 70s south. Lows upper 40s and lower 50s north to mid and upper 50s south.

Heavy rain, snow plague nation

By The Associated Press

New England was trying to shed itself of a heavy rainfall today, while the upper Midwest was still shoveling out from a wintry storm that dumped almost a foot of snow.

As snow fell from Illinois to New Hampshire and temperatures dipped into the 20s early today, winter-like chill extended south into Georgia. Winter storm or flash flood warnings remained in effect from Michigan to Maine.

Along the Atlantic coast Monday swollen rivers rose still further. From Maryland to Massachusetts dozens of rivers and streams were reported overflowing or near flood stage. In Provincetown, Mass., Fire Chief Clem Silva said: "We're going to keep pumping until one of three things happens: either the rain stops, the pumps break, or we collapse."

Forecasters predicted snow today from the Great Basin through the central Rockies into the central Plains, and from Ohio to New England. Rain was expected along the western Gulf coast.

Temperatures around the nation at 2 a.m. EST ranged from 11 degrees in Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., to 64 degrees in Key West, Fla.

Elsewhere: —East: Atlanta 35 cloudy; Boston 50 foggy; Buffalo 22 snow; Caribou 36 rain; Charleston, S.C. 42 fair; Cincinnati 25 snow; Cleveland 20 snow; Detroit 19 snow; Miami 58 fair; New York 46 windy; Philadelphia 39 partly cloudy; Pittsburgh 24 snow; Washington 41 cloudy.

Weather elsewhere

Tuesday

Temperatures indicate previous day's high and overnight low to 8 a.m. EST.

City	High	Low	Dir
Albany	41	34	78 cdy
Albuquerque	56	33	01 cdy
Anchorage	40	28	cdy
Anchorage	41	22	cdy
Asheville	50	30	cdy
Atlanta	52	33	cdy
Atlantic City	65	38	41 cdy
Austin	55	38	rn
Baltimore	63	37	36 cdy
Bellingham	45	21	cdy
Birmingham	45	29	04 cdy
Bismarck	32	14	cdy
Boston	53	41	cdy
Boston	55	45	91 cdy
Brownsville	64	57	cdy
Buffalo	30	20	87 cdy
Burlington	34	21	06 cdy
Casper	40	19	cdy
Charleston, S.C.	66	42	cdy
Charleston, W.V.	49	27	09 cdy
Charlotte, N.C.	60	30	cdy
Cheyenne	30	10	cdy
Chicago	30	14	12 cdy
Cincinnati	41	21	02 cdy
Cleveland	38	19	05 cdy
Columbia, S.C.	66	35	cdy
Columbus	44	23	01 cdy
Dallas-Ft. Worth	50	34	cdy
Dayton	38	20	03 cdy
Denver	37	21	cdy
Des Moines	30	16	cdy
Detroit	26	13	cdy
Duluth	20	08	cdy
El Paso	67	43	cdy
Faribault	40	20	cdy
Fargo	26	13	cdy
Flagstaff	37	25	cdy
Great Falls	33	24	01 cdy
Hartford	56	38	81 cdy
Helena	43	28	cdy
Honolulu	81	67	cdy
Houston	55	42	cdy
Indianapolis	34	28	06 cdy
Jackson, Miss.	46	26	rn
Jacksonville	66	36	cdy
Juneau	41	21	cdy
Las Vegas	57	40	12 cdy
Little Rock	47	29	rn
Los Angeles	65	49	07 cdy
Louisville	42	27	cdy
Lubbock	50	29	cdy
Memphis	42	29	cdy
Miami	64	57	cdy
Minneapolis	28	14	15 cdy
Mobile	31	16	cdy
Nashville	41	30	cdy
New Orleans	56	38	cdy
New York	56	40	109 cdy
Norfolk	73	42	22 cdy
North Platte	31	13	cdy
Okla. City	47	25	cdy
Omaha	35	18	cdy
Orlando	74	46	cdy
Philadelphia	59	37	126 cdy
Phoenix	64	46	27 cdy
Pittsburgh	47	19	24 cdy
Portland, Me.	46	39	41 cdy
Portland, Ore.	57	45	07 cdy
Providence	54	48	180 cdy
Raleigh	68	34	04 cdy
Rapid City	34	18	cdy
Reno	47	24	01 cdy
Richmond	70	39	21 cdy
St. Louis	33	23	02 cdy
St. Peter, Tampa	75	49	cdy
Salt Lake	51	36	18 cdy
San Antonio	50	34	rn
San Diego	63	58	24 cdy
San Francisco	58	51	cdy
San Jose	18	05	cdy
Seattle	58	46	13 cdy
Shreveport	53	31	cdy
Siox Falls	26	07	cdy
Spokane	54	35	cdy
Syracuse	38	26	66 cdy
Topsham	39	20	cdy
Tucson	60	45	02 cdy
Tulsa	45	26	cdy
Washington	69	40	40 cdy
Wichita	41	21	cdy

TEXAS TEMPERATURES

Tuesday

Temperatures indicate previous day's high and low as of 7 a.m.

City	High	Low	Dir
Abilene	2	35	00
Alice	5	47	00
Amarillo	0	28	00
Austin	5	38	00
Beaumont	0	41	00
Brownsville	4	58	00
Childress	7	30	00
College Station	2	37	00
Corpus Christi	1	49	00
Dalhart	7	30	00
Dallas	7	35	00
Del Rio	2	48	00
El Paso	7	43	00
Fort Worth	0	34	00
Gaustonia	6	50	00
Houston	7	37	00
Longview	0	30	00
Lubbock	0	29	00
Lufkin	6	33	00
Marfa	0	26	00
McAllen	9	55	00
Midland	2	33	00
Palacios	7	43	00
San Antonio	0	34	00
San Antonio	8	40	00
Stephenville	1	33	00
Texasville	2	33	00
Victoria	9	43	00
Waco	2	34	00
Wichita	9	43	00
Wichita Falls	2	34	00
Wink	3	30	00

Young suicide victim 'never OK'

By SCOTT KRAFT
Associated Press Writer

EDGEWOOD, Md. — Melissa Putney, 14 years old and nine months pregnant, her room tidied and her locker emptied, opened her spiral notebook. "To my dear Mom..." she began, and went on to fill three pages.

Sitting on a bed of oak leaves in the woods behind school, Melissa and her 12-year-old cousin finished their picnic lunch and swallowed the last of their wine.

Twelve minutes before noon, a tiny white flock of light appeared far down the railroad tracks. Then, seconds later, the crescendo of engines going 100 mph.

Amtrak 141 — The Bankers — was right on time.

Melissa ran to the tracks, knelt between the rails and clasped her hands in prayer. Her cousin, Pearl, tried to stop her, but Melissa had always been bigger and stronger.

Melissa Celeste Putney made the sign of the cross.

On that warm Tuesday midday last week in rural Maryland, a troubled eighth grader and her unborn baby died.

"You always ask me if there's anything wrong," she wrote to her mother. "I said, 'No, I'm OK.'"

"Mom, I wasn't telling the truth. I was never OK. I was very depressed."

Melissa dealt with her pregnancy by denying it. "I am not pregnant," she wrote in the notebook, two weeks before she was due to give birth.

But the condition was apparent, even on her stocky 5-foot-6 frame.

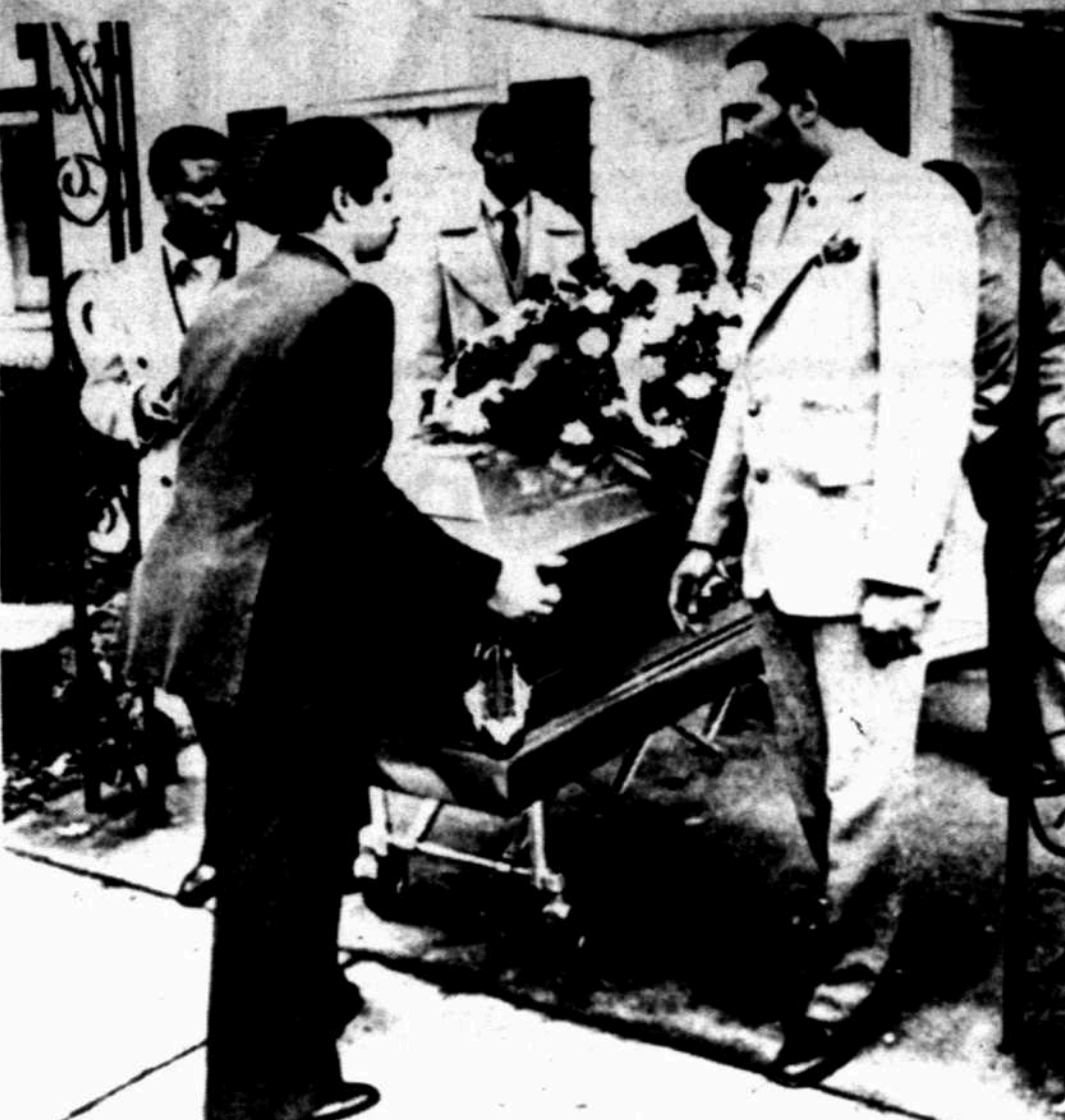
"I ran away from all of my problems," she wrote. "I am taking the easy way out."

"I am admitting to myself that I am a weak person not able to handle the weight of life."

Born in Baltimore, Melissa moved to this rural community four years ago. Her mother, Patricia, worked as night custodian at the Middle School. Mrs. Putney, along with four daughters, two sons and some of her grandchildren, lived in a three-bedroom apartment in Beacon Terrace, a housing development.

Edgewood, 25 miles northeast of Baltimore, has 9,000 people, a half-dozen traffic lights, a volunteer fire department and no police force of its own. About a third of the residents work at the Aberdeen Proving Ground, where the Army develops and tests weapons, others commute to Baltimore.

Middle School Principal Joseph J.



The body of Melissa Putney, a 14-year-old pregnant suicide victim, is taken from a funeral home in Edgewood, Md.

Brown described Melissa as an average student who "got along well with her peers."

"It's been a shock to this community," he said. "I'll tell you that. Brown said, 'And it's going to be quite some time before we're over it.'"

There are two guidance counselors and a staff psychologist for the school's 1,170 pupils, but Melissa's friends said she had not sought help.

A tree-planting ceremony was planned when the weather turns warmer. "Just something so the kids can remember her," Brown said.

A framed school portrait on Melissa's casket showed her in a frilly white dress, her short hair parted on the side and a happy grin on her smooth black face.

"She was kinda pretty, and she had lots of friends," said a cousin, Dana Brown, 12, a seventh grader. "She was nice, easy going, could get along with anybody."

Many of the kids at school knew she was pregnant. "In gym class," said 11-year-old Tina Bailey, "you could tell."

Melissa was big for her age, often playing quarterback when the neighborhood kids gathered to play football in a field across the two-lane blacktop.

"She was the best girl out there," said Glenn Sargable, a 14-year-old neighbor. "When she ran, I'll tell you, I looked out."

Melissa wasn't perfect; she had been hauled to the office for talking back to teachers, smoking in the bathroom and playing hooky, her classmates said.

"She wasn't always nice, but she could make you laugh," said Caprice Alves, 13.

Melissa was baptized at Community Baptist Church, a one-room church on a hillside a few miles away in Joppa, Md. The Rev. Alpheus Jones remembers "a very lovely person. She'd always come to church, and when my wife wasn't in the choir they'd sit together."

Melissa hadn't been to church for several months.

"This is a need I'm sorry hadn't been brought to me at all," Jones

said. "If I had known something about it earlier..."

Last Tuesday, March 15, Melissa walked the two miles to school. She and her cousin, Samaria "Pearl" Ridgely, slipped out a back door before 11 a.m., walked a half mile across the playing fields to the railroad tracks that carry 52 Amtrak trains past the school every day.

They had brought sandwiches in brown bags and two bottles of wine, according to the Maryland State Police.

The two girls ate, drank and talked, and Melissa wrote the note to her mother, later found among her school books. She also took some pills; state police say it will be several weeks before they know what she swallowed.

"I'm very sorry to put you all through the troubles. I think everything I have to do is done."

"I drank some wine and took some pills. But before I did that I prayed to my father God in heaven. I asked him to forgive me but he won't. I don't blame him for that."

"Please pray that I don't be sent to hell, because then I won't be able to come back and watch over you and help you. I want to do that."

"Mom, please don't have a nervous breakdown and be crying all the time. I don't want you to. I want you to live forever and ever, the way you want to and I will always love you very much. Please try and forgive me."

"I love you always and always."

"Love, Melissa."

The train engineer, with a young daughter of his own, saw Melissa cross herself as he applied the brakes. He cannot bring himself to discuss it.

At the Putney home, sympathy cards were dropped up on the coffee table and white sheets covered the sofas. Mrs. Putney was silent.

On Saturday, at a funeral home 12 miles up the track, more than 100 friends black and white gathered to mourn Melissa, in a Chesapeake Bay town called Havre de Grace. The name means Harbor of Mercy.

"I loved you Melissa. I don't know what was wrong," sobbed one of Melissa's sisters, rushing to the silver-colored casket and falling to her knees. Pearl was carried out screaming.

"How could we possibly know her exhaustion from the struggle?" the Rev. Bonita Davis asked the mourners who packed the tiny chapel.

"We cannot. That's why we have to turn to God. We know Melissa Putney was not fearful to face her God — right now."

Battle over withholding escalates

Debate stalls Social Security rescue plan

WASHINGTON (AP) — An increasingly bitter battle over withholding taxes from interest and dividends is trapping a \$165 billion bill to shore up the troubled Social Security system.

Senators who want to repeal withholding "may win but not on this bill," vowed Sen. Robert J. Dole, R-Kan., manager of the Social Security legislation. "If we are going to have a Social Security bill, it's not going to have this amendment on it."

It thus appears unlikely Congress will be able to meet its deadline of completing work before Easter on the big Social Security measure. Lawmakers plan to recess all next week.

While there is no pressure to pass the Social Security provisions immediately, unless the bill is passed by March 31 supplemental jobless benefits for many of the nation's unemployed workers would lapse. A provision extending the benefits for up to eight weeks is attached to the bill.

Accusing the banking lobby of

misleading the public about withholding, Dole drew an angry response from Sen. Barry Goldwater, R-Ariz. "You are losing this for yourself," said Goldwater. "The American people don't like this and they don't care where (on what bill) you put this amendment."

Sen. Jake Garn, R-Utah, the Banking Committee chairman, wants to repeal withholding but not as part of the Social Security bill. "We've seen Senate demagoguery at its worst tonight," Garn said.

This is the second time this month that the

business/energy

Gnomes believe recovery's coming fast

By Bernard D. Kaplan
Hearst European Correspondent

PARIS — The famous Gnomes of Zurich, who are not given to wishful thinking, believe that Western economic recovery, paced by the U.S., is underway — and coming on faster than widely supposed.

The hard-eyed Swiss banking fraternity not only agrees with recent American assessments concerning an upturn, but goes further. It is advising its far-flung customers that a moderate, but solid economic boom will be in full swing within six months, its beginnings already visible in America and starting to sprout in some European industries.

For this, the Gnomes give almost the whole credit to two men — President Reagan and Federal Reserve Chairman Paul Volcker. Hero wor-

ship isn't exactly their line, but if they had a hero, it clearly would be Reagan.

"The first president in more than a decade to protect America's economic interests and therefore those of the West" was how the Swiss Bank Corporation's Damasus Reolon described him.

"His approach to the problems of social and labor costs for Western industrial countries is the only sound one and is now being proved correct and effective," the banker added.

IF REAGAN COMES first in the Gnomes' pantheon, Volcker isn't far behind. The latter has become an international "symbol" of sound financial practices, much needed in an era when it had been widely assumed that such practices were no

longer politically feasible.

"Volcker is the equivalent of \$20 billion in reserve currency for the U.S. government so far as foreign bankers are concerned," in the view of Creditverrein's Axel Schmidt. The unmistakable implication was that Reagan would be making a cardinal error not to reappoint him as Federal Reserve chief when his term expires soon.

A consensus of bankers here predicted that recovery would be "gradual." It would not take the form of a dramatic take-off. But that, they agreed, was a good thing.

"Sudden expansion would only bring with it a return to the wages-and-prices spiral that caused so much trouble in the seventies," Schmidt warned. "What's needed is a stretched-out period of stable growth in which European and

American industries can reassess their markets and their future in order not to repeat their recent mistakes."

In this scenario, the Gnomes are virtually one in believing that the U.S. economy will play the central role of catalyst. They are putting their money behind their opinions.

"Overseas investment in the U.S. is again on the rise," Reolon said. "Foreigners are investing heavily, particularly in computers, insurance, services, warehousing and other fields."

A BIG REASON for this confidence in America is a general belief that the dollar's recent strength isn't a flash in the pan.

"The dollar will stay strong," said Gerhard Zangher of Hypo Bank. "There will be pronounced swings

— that's inevitable given the massive amounts of dollars bouncing around the world. But, essentially, it is one of the world's strongest currencies and will remain so."

Surprisingly, the Gnomes are cautious about Japan. They incline to the view that the future of its economy may have been over-sold. They haven't gone as far as to try to dissuade customers from investing in Japan — in so far as it is possible for outsiders to do so — but they're not especially bullish.

"The Japanese have ignored fundamental problems, for instance, in the way they're destroying their environment, and they'll have to pay for it in the future," Reolon said.

"Furthermore, nobody really knows what Japanese labor costs are. Nobody knows for certain how Japanese industry is financed. Their industries have benefitted from cheap government money, as well as from the institutionalized links between banks and manufacturing companies. Many banks and companies are, in reality, under a single direction and ownership. The advantages are obvious and can last over a long period. But whether, ultimately, the Japanese can escape the basic laws of investment and return on capital is more doubtful."

IN SHORT, in the cool, hard view of the Gnomes, Japan's economic success rests on shakier foundations

than is usually assumed.

They also detect a problem on the horizon that, while not uniquely affecting Japan, is a serious threat to its current domination of many consumer products markets.

"There are simply too many new and 'improved' products entering the market before the costs of earlier models have been amortized," Schmidt contended. "A kind of crazed determination to bring on ever newer versions of the same thing has become a long-term threat to the structure of many industries. Research and competition are cornerstones of capitalism and product improvement is to be applauded. But it is threatening to get totally out of hand."

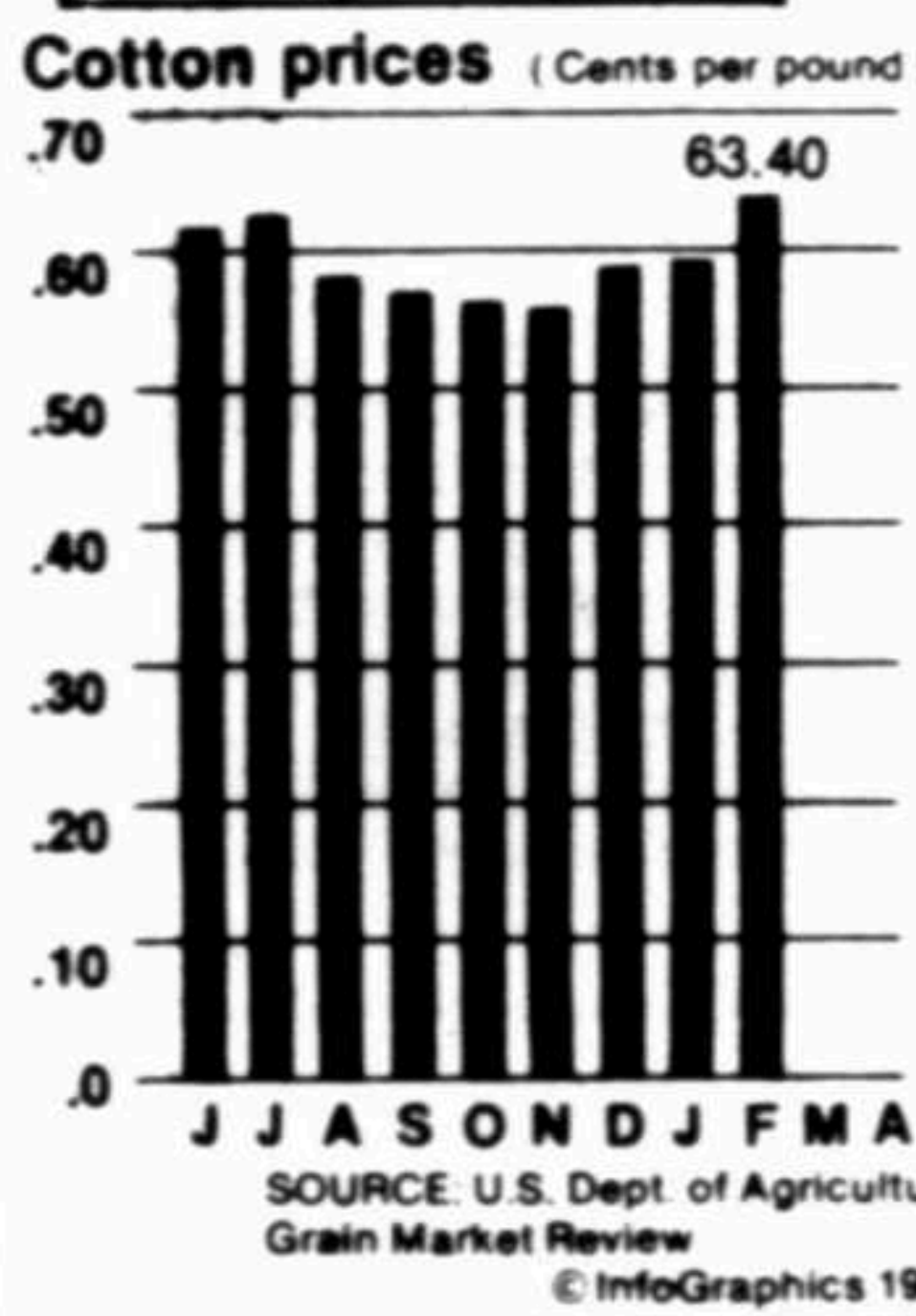
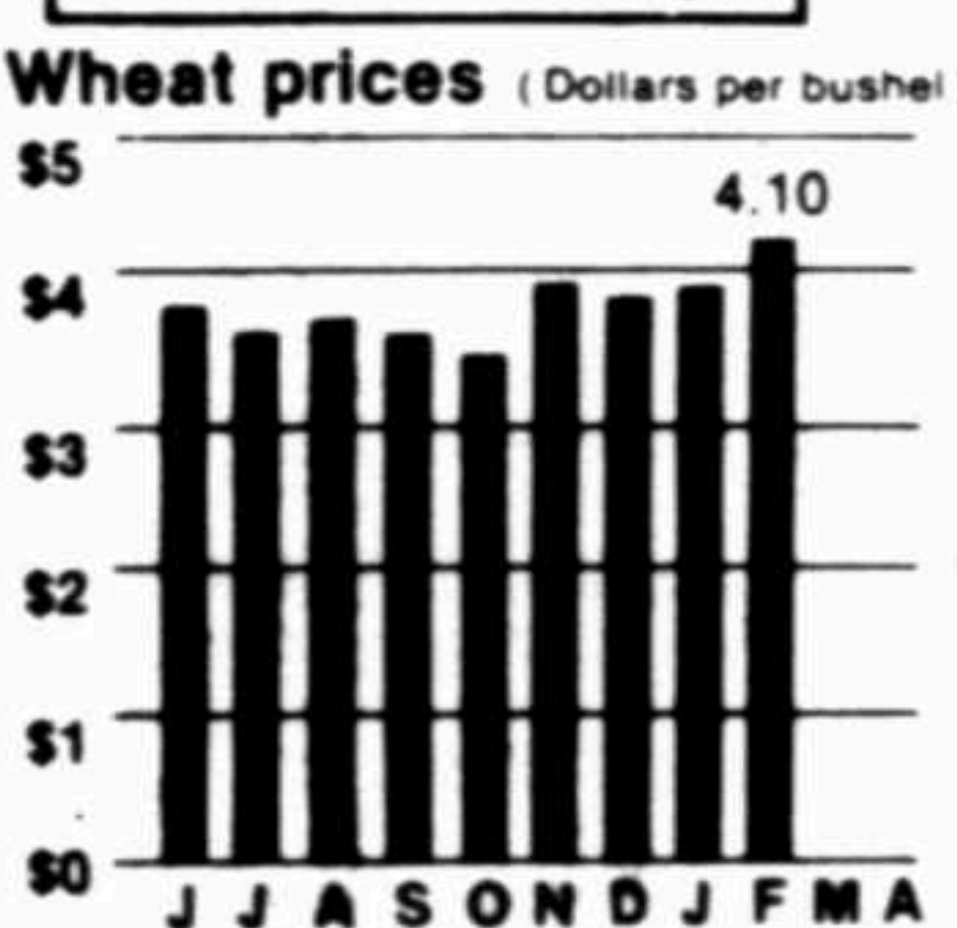
Customers have been conditioned to expect something new in the electronics and related fields every few months, he said.

"This has two calamitous results," he added. "They postpone purchases, believing that they'll do better by waiting. Firms hardly have time to market a new item and get a reasonable return on the research costs involved before they're forced to replace it."

Slowing down this process, while maintaining competition and a healthy level of research and development, will, in the Gnomes' view, be one of the major economic challenges of the late Eighties and Nineties.

Wheat and cotton prices

After dipping in the fall, wheat and cotton prices have staged a modest rise that has lasted through February.



SOURCE: U.S. Dept. of Agriculture
Grain Market Review
© InfoGraphics 1983

Mexican Beetles infest Southwest

DETROIT (AP) — The Volkswagen Beetle, that droop-nosed, air-cooled economy car so big on college campuses during the 1960s, is making a comeback with nostalgia buffs — but not everyone loves the Bug.

The German-based manufacturer stopped shipping the car to the United States country in 1979. But they are still made in Mexico, and because of peso devaluations, Beetles can be bought in that country for as little as \$2,500.

The cars are turning up in California, Texas and other Sunbelt states, but U.S. customs officials say the Mexican models don't meet federal emissions and safety standards. Authorities are trying to stamp out car rings that import and sell the

unauthorized versions.

"There are a number of them (organized rings) under investigation," said Charles Conroy, a Customs spokesman in Houston. "They buy them for \$3,000 or less, and turn around and sell them in Texas for double."

The bootleg importers don't bother to upgrade the cars' safety and emissions features, he said, and consumers trying to get away with an unconverted Beetle may wind up having it seized.

If discovered, buyers must bring the car into compliance themselves — which could cost as much as \$7,000 in some areas — ship them back out of the country or just leave them in government hands and lose

their investment, officials said.

Customs officials say they have seized hundreds of cars, and not just Beetles, for non-compliance with federal regulations.

Ted Kade, a spokesman for Volkswagen of America Inc. in Troy, Mich., said Monday that the south-of-the-border Beetles aren't covered by a company warranty because the cars aren't sold in the United States.

"It's not something we're encouraging," Kade said.

Still, the Beetle has its champions. "People are treating this car as a long-lost friend," said Joseph Molina, a spokesman for The People's Car Co., a Solana Beach, Calif., company that legally imports the VWs into this country.

"The market is huge to say the least," Molina said. "Most of the people who are buying them have owned a Bug before. There's intense loyalty ... it's a nostalgia thing."

The company spends about \$2,500 to convert the vehicles to U.S. standards, including strengthening bumpers, changing window glass, installing seat belts and a warning buzzer, Molina said.

The cars also must have catalytic converters and be made to run on unleaded gasoline to meet emission standards, he said. The company also pays import duties.

WTGS to here Burke

Kevin Burke, professor of geology, State University of New York, Albany, will address a meeting of the West Texas Geological society Friday, 11:30 a.m., at Midland Center. Burke is an AAPG distinguished lecturer. He will talk about "Development and Distribution of Rift Systems."

Those wishing to attend should make reservations before 4 p.m. Wednesday by phoning the Society office at 683-1573.

Burke was born and educated in London. He taught geology at the University of Ghana, the University of Idaban in Nigeria and University of the West Indies in Jamaica. He served on the Geological Survey of Great Britain and has been a nuclear raw materials advisor to the Republic of Korea.

Shaid trial moved back

TYLER, Texas (AP) — A federal judge has ruled that a man previously convicted of bank fraud will stand trial on charges of bilking at least two banks April 4.

U.S. District Judge William Wayne Justice on Monday postponed Orin Shaid Jr.'s trial after defense attorneys said they had not been given enough time to prepare for it.

Shaid's lawyers pointed out that under law, Shaid was entitled to 30 days between his arraignment and trial date. The defendant was arraigned March 4 on a 19-count indictment that superseded an indictment returned by a federal grand jury Jan. 12.

Justice also lowered Shaid's bond from \$200,000 to \$175,000. The judge previously lowered the bond from \$250,000 for Shaid, who has been in Smith County Jail since Nov. 29.

"I'm not disappointed about it (the delay)," said Assistant U.S. Attorney Chris Harrison. "He's just giving us more time to get ready."

Shaid, whom Justice sentenced to eight years in prison on a 1972 bank fraud conviction, is accused of bilking funds from two East Texas banks.

The indictment claimed Shaid schemed to defraud at least two banks by presenting loan collateral in the form of bogus \$100,000 CDs from the Ranchlander National Bank in Melvin.

Shaid, court documents claim, was one of the owners of the now defunct bank. The Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. took control of the Ranchlander National Bank four months ago after significant loan losses were discovered.

Left hook hits Right Guard

NEW YORK (AP) — The Mennen Co. has filed suit accusing the rival Gillette Co. of infringing on its trademark with a new package design for "Right Guard" deodorant and antiperspirant.

A U.S. District Court judge was asked Monday to enjoin Gillette and its advertising agency, Young & Rubicam Inc., from distributing or selling "Right Guard" packages with the new design.

DEVELOPMENT WELLS

ANDREWS COUNTY
Cowden, North
Amoco Production Co. No. 29 Frank Cowden R.A. "T", 1,980 Int. & Nat. sec. 3, blk. 43, T-1-N, T&P, 15 s. Andrews, TD 4,700.
Same No. 30 Frank Cowden R.A. "T", 1,930 Int. 660 Int. sec. 3, blk. 43, T-1-N, T&P, 15 s. Andrews, TD 4,700.
Same No. 31 Frank Cowden R.A. "D", 1,980 Int. & Nat. sec. 1, blk. 44, T-1-N, T&P, 15 s. Andrews, TD 4,700.
Same No. 32 Frank Cowden R.A. "T", 1,980 Int. & Nat. sec. 3, blk. 43, T-1-N, T&P, 15 s. Andrews, TD 4,700.
Same No. 33 Frank Cowden R.A. "D", 1,980 Int. 660 Int. sec. 1, blk. 44, T-1-N, T&P, 15 s. Andrews, TD 4,700.
Fullerton
Exxon Co. No. 2017 Fullerton Clearfork Unit, 50 Int. 1,100 Int. sec. 6, blk. 13, ULS, 16.5 w/n Andrews, TD 7,400.
Same No. 2115 Fullerton Clearfork Unit, 1,320 Int. 200 Int. sec. 6, blk. 13, ULS, 16.5 w/n Andrews, TD 7,400.
GLASSCOCK COUNTY
Powell (8,300)
Hendon Exploration No. 3 Powell "32-A", 2,310 Int. 1,320 Int. sec. 32, blk. 35, T-36, T&P, 11 n/w Garden City, TD 9,000.

HOWARD COUNTY
Howard-Glasscock (Clearfork, Miss)
John Oils Cole No. 1 Doris Chalk "D", 1,720 Int. 1,980 Int. sec. 124, blk. 29, W&N, 10 e. Foran, TD 4,000.
PECOS COUNTY
Yucca Butte, West (Ellenburger)
Sohu Petroleum Co. No. 1 Canon, 1,932 Int. 2,091 Int. sec. 81, blk. A-2, TCR, 12 w/n Sheffield, TD 11,000. Elev. 2,091.
McComb (Ellenburger)
Exxon Corp. No. 1 Strommen Gas Unit, 1,320 Int. 1,867 Int. sec. 30, blk. 1, T&M, 10 e. Ft. Stockton, TD 25,000.
Pecos Valley (High Gravity)
Mineral Development Inc. No. 18 Scharriff, 2,736 Int. 1,705 Int. sec. 36, blk. 3, H&TC, 8 s/w Imperial, TD 2,200.

REEVES COUNTY
Jesse Burner (Delaware, 3800)
Oria Petro Inc. No. 6 Jesse Burner, 660 Int. 1,650 Int. sec. 40, blk. 57, T&P, A n/Oria, TD 4,300.
STERLING COUNTY
Conner (Penn)
Union Oil of California No. 13 Foster, W.L., 660 Int. 467 Int. sec. 27, blk. 22, H&TC, 22 s/w Garden City, TD 8,400. Elev. 2,655.
Wagner & Brown No. 306 Barbee, 660 Int. & Nat. sec. 6, Moses Harrin survey, 18 s/w Sterling City, TD 8,400.

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SIPC

Price of unleaded gasoline dips below \$1

By VINCE GIORGI
Staff Writer

The price of unleaded gasoline dipped to less than a dollar a gallon at the pumps of at least one Midland gas station last week. But one area wholesaler suggested Monday that the march toward lower prices should swing about-face beginning April 1.

About a month after the price for a gallon of regular gasoline in Midland dropped to less than a dollar, prices for a self-service gallon of unleaded dipped to 99.9 cents Wednesday at the Taylor Petroleum station, 2500 W. Front Ave.

Marge McCowin, station manager, said the price was cut from \$1.03.9 after a regular survey of local gas outlets revealed some stations pricing their unleaded as cheap as \$1.01.9.

Ms. McCowin said she relayed the pricing information to the Taylor Petroleum home office in Amarillo, and was instructed to cut the price to less than a dollar.

Marlin Conner, Taylor's area supervisor, said, "We just watch the street price and our wholesale price, and that's how we determine our price." But Conner said he was unable to discuss the wholesale price or the station's profit margin per gallon.

Conner said Taylor's wasn't the first area station to cut unleaded prices to less than a dollar a gallon.

But a check of several area gas stations Monday failed to find another station with unleaded prices less than a dollar.

Harry Hinkle, president of Hinkle Distributors, an area gasoline wholesaler, said gas price decreases recently have been passed on throughout the distribution chain — from the refinery to the gas station.

But Hinkle said despite the decreases, stations selling gas for close to a dollar or less are likely nursing a very thin profit margin.

"The margins now are way below what they were in the past," said Hinkle, who estimated that when the gas market is strong, refineries, wholesalers and retailers each take their cut from about an 8- to 10-cent profit spread.

"If you're doing real poorly, you might have a penny or two" spread from which to exact profits, said Hinkle. "We're much closer to a penny than we are to 10 cents. We're all trying to keep a piece of a shrinking pie."

"It's real competitive," said Hinkle, who added that retailers selling gas for "real close" to cost is indicative of the competition for Midland's automobile gas tanks.

Hinkle said that because lower gasoline prices are both a help and a hindrance in Midland, where petroleum production fuels the area economy, declining gas prices mean "we might find the whole country pulling out of the recession at our expense."

Ralph Arrell, vice president of Eddins-Walcher Co., a wholesaler which supplies several local industrial accounts and a smattering of service stations, thinks lower prices reflect an attempt by refineries to dispose of large reserves. He said he expects gas prices to stop falling as refineries dispose of their price-depressing reserves.

Arrell said at least two West Texas refineries announced price increases during the last few days.

He said the additional nickel-a-gallon federal gasoline tax, set to take effect April 1, should send prices back up at the pump. The extra nickel tax will bring the federal surcharge to 9 cents on each gallon of gas. Proceeds from the tax are targeted for road repairs and construction.

Because retailers must pay the extra gas tax on their inventories as of April 1, Arrell said most retailers won't be rushing to fill their storage tanks to beat the impending tax hike.

But Arrell predicted area motorists will rush to "fill 'er up" before the tax begins.

"They're going to all want those tanks nice and full on Thursday the 31st," he said. "It'll be like Fourth of July weekend and Christmas all rolled into one." Arrell said he wouldn't be surprised to see spot shortages at some area gas stations March 31.



Staff Photo by Paul Gilbert

Gasoline price dips

Unleaded gas prices dipped to less than a dollar per gallon in Midland Wednesday at the Taylor Petroleum station, 2500 W. Front Ave. The price cut comes about a month after regular gasoline prices dropped to less than a dollar per gallon in Midland.

Suit filed by Odessan claims he was 'unlawfully restrained'

By ED TODD
Staff Writer

An Odessa convict who claims he was jailed into pleading guilty and settling for three concurrent life sentences in state prison has filed a writ of habeas corpus in federal court here to show cause why he should be imprisoned in the first place.

The Odessan, Henry Newton Jones, who was arrested in 1980 for aggravated kidnapping, aggravated rape and burglary of a habitation, claims the Ector County district attorney offered him "three life sentences" in exchange for his guilty pleas. However, the DA's offer was made without Jones having benefit of legal counsel, Jones alleges.

Later, Jones' court-appointed attorney, Gerald Lopez, advised him not to accept the DA's offer and suggested that he plead "not guilty" and present his case to a jury.

"Mr. Lopez immediately realized that the agreement was too severe," Jones wrote in his application for a

writ of habeas corpus. "He (Lopez) felt that he might be able to work out a better deal with the district attorney," who in 1980 was John Green.

"However, the defendant was afraid that the district attorney would vacate his original offer if he (Jones)...did not cooperate. Mr. Lopez states that he would be eligible for parole in 20 years in any case."

Jones notes in his application that Lopez admonished him not to plead guilty and not to accept the DA's offer but that Jones "remained adamant about taking the prosecutor's offer."

As a result, Jones reasons that he was "thus effectively denied counseled plea bargaining with the prosecutor."

Jones notes that he, without legal counsel, "agreed to what was essentially the maximum sentence" for the offenses.

"In spite of the best efforts of his appointed attorney, (Jones)...insisted on pleading guilty to three life sen-

tences," Jones says. "The state...was able to indelibly establish the erroneous impression that there were significant differences between three life sentences running concurrently and three not running concurrently."

He pleaded guilty before the judge in 161st State District Court in Odessa.

Jones notes that he "followed through on his uncounseled agreement although his appointed attorney advised him that he may be able to strike a better bargain or even a jury might not impose so strict a sentence."

Jones admits that Lopez was "vehemently opposed" to his accepting the DA's original offer.

Nevertheless, Jones maintains that he was "irreparably harmed by the fact that he was not appointed or afforded an attorney at the most critical stage of his prosecution."

U.S. District Judge Lucius D. Bunton is to hear Jones' case of alleged unlawful restraint.

MISD teachers voice discontent at candidates' forum

By HALLYE JORDAN
Staff Writer

If one thing was apparent at the Meet the Candidates Forum Monday afternoon, it was the teachers' adamant disapproval of a few school board policies.

Before the meeting, the three candidates for Midland Independent School District Board of Trustees were unaware of the degree of teacher discontent, they said.

About 15 teachers, principals and administrators attended the forum, sponsored by Midland Educators Association.

"I'm hearing all of this now, but I don't think the board knows," said Ron Britton, unopposed candidate for re-election to Place 1.

Complaints against board policies requiring teachers to phone parents of students whose grades drop by two letter grades during a semester and to issue an automatic 50 to a child who has four unexcused absences occupied much of the meeting.

Also, inconsistency with a teacher promotion policy of "promoting from within" was referred to as a "fallacy of policy" by at least one teacher.

CANDIDATES FOR Place 2 on the board, incumbent Bill Jackson and challenger Gil Kenney, also attended the two-hour session.

Teachers, one who came equipped with a thick book of logged phone calls, complained about the time and effort wasted in trying to contact parents of students with rapidly falling grades by telephone.

Since many schools require three-



Gil Kenney

week progress reports, teachers said they felt that was ample communication.

The policy of phoning parents was approved by board members following reports of teachers being verbally abused by angry parents at the school after their children received unsatisfactory grades.

"The whole idea was to make sure we were protecting the teachers," Britton said.

Britton, the only board member to vote against the policy, said, "I think it's ridiculous we have y'all trying to call parents. The ones y'all are having trouble with can't be reached by phone anywhere."

"I wanted it to be a one-time written response. You can call, fine. But if you don't get ahold of them, drop a letter — then get on with your

business of teaching the other kids. I want it changed back. If you write a letter one time and see that it's delivered to parents, they can't come back and say 'the teacher never contacted me.'"

"I think we're trying desperately to teach these children some responsibility and at the same time, we're bending over backwards to do the parents' responsibilities," one teacher said. "Aren't we spending thousands and thousands of dollars (on paperwork for progress reports)?"

According to Alma Marshall, MEA immediate past president, a "lengthy comment" made by her at the meeting prior to the board's vote on the policy, was ignored. "Nobody seemed to stop and take even a little hesitation as to the problems we teachers may have (with the phoning). For one thing, we don't have enough phones and we use other systems such as grading reports (to communicate with parents)."

"WHAT WE ATTEMPTED to do was set up a system we felt was better than what we had," Jackson said. "It's not etched in stone but at least we made some attempt at bettering the communication between parents and teachers."

"If it's not working, let's look at it."

Teachers also complained about academically punishing a student for disciplinary problems. According to one teacher, the board policy of giving a student a 50 for the six-week grading period after the third unexcused absence does that.

The policy was approved on the recommendation of secondary principals to discourage unexcused absences, including those with



Bill Jackson

parental permission, Jackson said.

Students who are planning to miss school can receive permission from teachers three days in advance in order to make up work. This applies to unexcused absences for a deer hunting trip or to look at a college campus.

But a problem arises when teachers and the principal do not grant permission.

"If he missed, he just missed," one teacher said. "Put the responsibility on him."

"It's a fallacy of policy," another said. "The kids will go anyway and call in sick."

"The problem is there is no consistency," Britton said. "One teacher wouldn't call if the kid missed 20 days."

Another policy — or the inconsis-

tency with which it is handled — is the within-district promotion of staff to fill vacancies.

"I PERCEIVE a morale problem here," Ms. Marshall said. "People feel we've been inundated by people from other places and that our people's blood, sweat and tears are being ignored."

"I've heard those rumors but when you look at the total numbers..." Britton said, referring to district-wide transfers and promotions of teachers, principals and administrators. "We started the intern program to have more people trained to do the job."

Interns this year were placed at each freshman high and high school.

"The first place you need to look is in your school district," Jackson said. "But I always ask one question: 'Is this the best person we can find anywhere?'"

"I'm not aware we had any big problems with transfers and promotions," Britton said.

Kenney said he perceived the problem to be the unhappiness of people in-district who have met the qualifications — which the board and administrative staff has on paper — but feel they still are being overlooked.

At least eight persons from outside or with one year or less experience in the district were hired or promoted to administrative positions for the 1982-83 school year.

"I guarantee if you go back and collect job applications, you will find discrepancies (with the consistency of the policy)," Ms. Marshall said. "It's gotten to the point when certain positions are posted, people walk by (the bulletin board) and say,



Ron Britton

'Hey, wanna bet who this one was written for?'"

POSITIONS AT two elementary schools and Midland High School are open now.

"People are saying that the people involved in the writing of the criteria (for positions) are writing them with certain persons in mind," Ms. Marshall said.

"If they're doing it, they're doing it cleverly," Britton said. "I don't think there are any cinches on whose going to have those jobs until all seven (board members) have voted."

"There are teachers who believe the purge is on," one teacher said. "That's erroneous," Britton said.

"Maybe," the teacher replied, "but when action speaks loudly..."

Midland College to institute program to provide special assistance

A Special Needs Coordinating Service begins this week at Midland College.

As a comprehensive community college with an open-door admissions policy, MC attracts many students who have special needs and aren't able to succeed in college without special assistance. Programs are being developed for academic under-achievers, women and handicapped students.

"Due to a variety of reasons, many students need some type of special

assistance in order to be successful at Midland College," Dr. Richard Holmes, dean of Vocational Studies, said. "It can be social problems, low academic achievement, physical handicap, poor study skills or many other reasons."

Coordinator Wanda Phillips will work through vocational and technical instructors to identify students who are not making satisfactory progress.

"In order to help these students,

instructors will have to recommend them for the Special Needs program," she said. "We will not try to identify these under-achieving students directly, but will be relying on the instructors who work closely with them."

She also will be developing support services for women to provide programs of career exploration and planning, especially for non-traditional employment in the job market.

"Too many women still feel that occupational opportunities are limited to certain jobs, while there are many options available to them," Mrs. Phillips said. "In today's economy, many young women will be employed for most of their adult lives. The two-income family is a reality and so is the single-parent household. Our goal is to open horizons. Today, many women re-enter the job market after having raised children and they don't realize there

are so many possibilities for them."

The support services for vocational students may include special tutors, financial counseling, career planning or assistance for those with physical handicaps.

"Many persons with physical handicaps don't realize there are still many vocational courses and employment avenues open to them," Mrs. Phillips said. "We will be seeking out these people...both those already attending classes or those in

the community who could benefit from the training. Once they are identified, we can provide special services to help them succeed in their studies, whether it's a sign language interpreter for the deaf or a guide for a person who's sightless."

Additional information may be obtained by contacting Mrs. Phillips at the Adult Learning Center, Room 127, Occupational-Technical Building, or by calling 684-7851, extension 243.

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Shirley Been, postmistress of Penwell, performs another chore for the U.S. government — taking temperature and precipitation readings for the National Climatic Center, an agency of the

National Weather Service. Been, 47, became a weather observer in this West Texas community 10 years ago.

Postmistress braves Texas weather

PENWELL (AP) — Six mornings a week, the postmaster here proves that mail distribution doesn't have to be the sole reason for braving the whims of West Texas weather.

For Penwell Postmaster Shirley Been, the weather itself can be the motivation.

Each day, except Sundays and holidays, Mrs. Been steps outside the one-room Penwell Post Office on FM 1601 to do a second chore for Uncle Sam — taking 9 a.m. temperature and precipitation readings for the National Climatic Center in Asheville, N.C., a sister agency to the National Weather Service.

Mrs. Been, who was reared in Penwell but who now lives just west of Odessa, also records the high and low temperatures for the 24-hour period preceding her trek to the weather gauges.

At the end of each month, she sends a report to the weather center detailing her daily readings.

As is the case for thousands of other observers nationwide, Been

doesn't get paid for the weather work.

With a population of 74, Penwell — 15 miles west of Odessa — is the only Ector County community that has a weather observer to relay both temperature and precipitation data to the national center. Odessa, the only other community in the county that sends data to the center, reports only daily precipitation readings.

A sand and dirt path leads to Mrs. Been's weather equipment. The path turns to mud on rainy days, and walking it on a cold winter morning during a spring windstorm or after a heavy rain can make the simple job difficult, she said.

"It's not much fun on cold days to go out there. On windy days, the gravel and tumbleweed is dirty, dirty," Mrs. Been said.

And there are other job-related discomforts — she once found a rattlesnake coiled under a box containing her thermometers. "You just remember to look out here," But the job, she said, "is not that

much of a problem. It's kind of fun."

Two thermometers — one to measure high temperatures, the other for low readings — and a thermograph that automatically charts temperatures around-the-clock are housed in a still-elevated wooden box that has slatted sides to allow for air flow.

Farther down the path, a cylindrical rain gauge stands ready to catch moisture. A measuring stick is dipped into the gauge to get a reading.

Mrs. Been, 47, said she became a weather observer 10 years ago — after a NWS representative from Lubbock asked her to do the job. "He said it wouldn't be hard," she recalled.

Since then, she has become a weather authority for Penwell. She said she receives calls and visits, often after extreme weather, at the post office.

"Especially when it rains, ranchers will call or come in and ask, 'Shirley, how much rain?'"

But the job, she said, "is not that

DEATHS

Harold R. Mann

Services for Harold Roy Mann, 82, of 2719 Roosevelt Ave. were Monday in First Church of the Nazarene with the Rev. Harold L. Quarles officiating. Burial was at Resthaven Memorial Park under direction of Newnie W. Ellis Funeral Home.

Mann died Saturday afternoon in a Midland hospital following a lengthy illness.

He was born Nov. 16, 1900, in Inwood, Ind. He lived his early life in Indiana and was sent to Texas by the U.S. Army as a teenager. Upon discharge, he moved to Big Spring and then to Midland in 1942. He began work for Midland County in 1945 and retired in 1970. He was a charter member of First Church of the Nazarene.

Survivors include his wife, Frances Mann of Midland; a son, Roy D. Mann of Harlingen; two stepsons, Leslie Whitley of San Jose, Calif., and Ray Whitley of Quanah; two stepdaughters, Helen Leftwich of Stanton and Kay Rascoe of Atlanta; a brother, Russell C. Mann of Plymouth, Ind.; a sister, Imo Hart of South Bend, Ind.; 18 grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

the Rev. William Irwin of Big Spring officiating and the Rev. Lennox Hester of the First United Methodist Church in Midland, assisting. Handling arrangements is Glibbreath Funeral Home of Stanton.

He died Monday in Big Spring. Hazlewood was born Sept. 4, 1906, in Cisco. He was a lifetime resident of Stanton. He was a farmer and a rancher. He married Ruth Dell White June 1, 1935, in Midland.

Survivors include his wife of Stanton; a daughter, Mrs. David (Ingrid) Williamson of Spring; three brothers, L.C. Hazlewood and L.B. Hazlewood, both of Stanton, and O.C. Hazlewood of Midland; three sisters, Mrs. C.A. Koonce of Midland, Mrs. A.N. McDowell of Houston and Mrs. J.E. Angel of Stanton; and two grandchildren.

The family requests that memorials be directed to one's favorite charity.

Opal L. Compton

Services for Opal Likely Compton, 68, of 4009 Monty Drive, were Monday at the Crestview Baptist Church with Dr. Kenneth Hall officiating, assisted by J.T. Brosch.

Burial was in Resthaven Memorial Park under direction of Newnie W. Ellis Funeral Home.

Mrs. Compton died Saturday in a Big Spring hospital following a lengthy illness.

Pallbearers were Frank Wolfe, Phil Wilson, Gene Shelburne, Thur-

man Pylant, Henry Klingman, Kelly Brown, Webb McDaniel, Charles Priddy and Jim Crumley.

Honorary pallbearers were E.W. Green, Dennis Hughes, Steve Holcomb, Richard Melvin and Jim McIlroy.

Clay C. Cherry

Graveside services for Clay C. Cherry, infant son of Mr. and Mrs. Wade Cherry of 114 S. Dewberry, were to be at 2 p.m. today at Resthaven Memorial Park under direction of Newnie W. Ellis Funeral Home.

He died early this morning in a Lubbock hospital.

He was born Jan. 15, 1983, in Lubbock.

Survivors other than his parents include his grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Howard L. Cherry and Mr. and Mrs. Maurice Carter, all of Midland; his great-grandmother, Mary Herring of Midland; and several aunts and uncles.

Shelly Fischer

BRAZORIA — Services for Shelly Dawn Fischer, 8-week-old granddaughter of Mr. and Mrs. Vern Adams of Midland, were held recently in Brazoria.

The infant died Thursday at her home.

Other survivors include her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Jim Fischer of Brazoria and paternal grandmother, Charlene Fischer of Brazoria.

R. Hazlewood

STANTON — Services for Roscoe Hazlewood, 76, of Stanton, will be at 3 p.m. Wednesday at Resthaven North Mausoleum in Midland with

Farm workers hope legislature passes compensation insurance bills

Austin Bureau

AUSTIN — Texas farm workers were to be making their first moves today to win approval of an ambitious legislative program when House and Senate committees take up measures to bring farm workers under worker's compensation insurance.

It won't be the first time for farm workers to make such a request, but the sponsors of the bills — HB 521 by Rep. Juan Hinojosa, D-McAllen, and SB 521 by Sen. Hector Uribe, D-Brownsville — are hoping this session will see the measures approved.

These will be the first hearings to pass a comprehensive program, reports Lyle Larson, who works in Austin with farm workers groups. The program also includes unemployment compensation, increasing minimum wages and creating an agricultural labor relations board.

Hinojosa says the bill on workers' compensation insurance will be amended in committee to exempt small family farms and ranches. As it's now written, the bill strikes the words "farm laborers" from the section of exemptions in the current

law.

"This bill really is aimed at the large farming corporations and the large growers," says Hinojosa. He argues worker's compensation makes sense for farmers and ranchers because most "are not judgment proof," and could be subject to lawsuits if a worker who isn't covered by compensation coverage is injured or killed.

Also introduced is legislation bringing farm workers under unemployment compensation — HB 2173 by Rep. Gonzalo Barrientos, D-Austin.

That measure would strike current exemptions for such workers and specifies types of employment which would be covered.

Barrientos' aide, Cappy White, said "90 percent of farm workers don't qualify for unemployment compensation and under the current law they never will."

The minimum wage legislation is carried in the House as HB 925 by Rep. Al Moreno, D-Edinburg, and in the Senate as SB 592 by Sen. Craig Washington, D-Houston. Those measures would strike current provisions relating to "piece rate work-

ers" employed in agriculture, along with provisions relating to contract labor and use of "man days" calculating wages for agriculture workers.

The bills would set the minimum wage at \$3.35 an hour or "20 cents an hour less than the federal minimum wage, whichever amount is higher."

Rep. Lloyd Criss, D-Texas City, is sponsor of HB 2287, providing for creation and operation of the Agricultural Labor Relations Board. This nine-member board would be appointed by the governor, with advice and consent of the Senate, with members serving five-year terms.

The board would be given powers to examine and subpoena records, investigate complaints and hold hearings regarding labor practices with penalties set for interfering with the board's operation or its agents.

Farm workers also are seeking to amend a law passed in 1981 which prohibited use of hoes with handles less than four feet long to cover other tools.

BIRTHS

MIDLAND MEMORIAL HOSPITAL

March 17, 1983

Barbara Ann Worsham, 1202 E. Cottonwood Ave., a girl.

Mr. and Mrs. Ismael L. Sotello, 2801 Franklin Ave. Apt. B, a boy.

Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Brian Collins, 503 Raymond Road, a boy.

Mr. and Mrs. John Adrian Martin, 3111 Auburn Drive, a girl.

Mr. and Mrs. Kerry Wayne Speers, 2800 Kessler Ave., a girl.

March 17, 1983

Mr. and Mrs. William Carl Tampke, 4001 Roosevelt Drive, a boy.

Mr. and Mrs. Donald Glenn Kitts, 5009 Rio Grande Ave. Apt. 5E, a girl.

Mr. and Mrs. Phillip Van Coleman, 1700 N. Main St., a boy.

Mr. and Mrs. Steven Leonard Kalicki, 4301 Crenshaw Drive, a boy.

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Warren Barnes Jr., 3012 Whittle Way, a girl.

Mr. and Mrs. Larry Wayne Alexander, 3618 Baumann Ave., a girl.

Mr. and Mrs. Rance Alan Green, 3607 Tanner Drive, a boy.

Mr. and Mrs. Calvin Lee Clausen, Route 2 Box 122-A, a girl.

Mr. and Mrs. Jose Antonio Macias, Route 4 Box 2D Space A3, twin girls.

March 18, 1983

Mr. and Mrs. Jose de la Cruz Gonzalez, 203 W. Nobles Ave., a girl.

Mr. and Mrs. Bobby Christian Koiner, 4505 Wilshire Drive, a boy.

Mr. and Mrs. Joe Lynn Hart, 2704 Delano Ave., a boy.

Mr. and Mrs. Don P. Miller II, 3711 Casady Court, a boy.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Walter McFarland, 2520 Gulf Ave., a boy.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Williams Wagner, 4715 W. Wadley Ave. No. 812, a boy.

March 19, 1983

Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Reyes Juarez, 1301 S. Colorado St., a boy.

Mr. and Mrs. Billy Joe Hendrix, 2108 W. Front Ave., a boy.

Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Wayne Crow, 4310 Princeton Ave., a girl.

Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Marc Traweck, Route 1 Box 137, a girl.

Mr. and Mrs. Ramiro Silva Jr., 706 N. Lee St., a girl.

Mr. and Mrs. John Berzozza Arguelles, 2019 W. 4th St., Odessa, a boy.

March 20, 1983

Mr. and Mrs. Billy Fred Mitchell Jr., 905 Canyon Drive, a girl.

Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Lynn Carter, 3108 Delano Ave., a girl.

Mr. and Mrs. Roy Wallace Ward, 1709 N. Edwards St., a boy.

Mr. and Mrs. Adan Gonzales, Route 3 Box 440 No. 19, a girl.

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MMH board to act on expansion

Midland Memorial Hospital governing boards are expected to take action on financing its \$15 million 77-bed expansion Thursday in the MMH medical conference room.

Trustees will meet at 12:30 p.m., while the directors will meet at 2 p.m.

Other agenda items include approval for replacement of a CT scanner, recommendations for the master site plan and possible adjustments to the 1983 budget.

Directors will look at financial statements and consider a date for

a special meeting to canvass results of the April 2 election.

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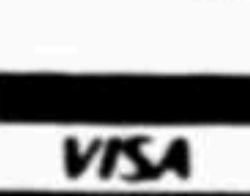
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