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Women guerrillas in training

Women guerrillas train recently for the Front for the Liberation of the Enclave of Cabinda (FLEC), a group seeking independence for Angola's oil-rich section of Cabinda. FLEC claims control over most of the Cabindan countryside.

and says it is both anti-American and anti-Soviet. This photo was taken by a FLEC photographer. The women will eventually get office jobs, and are not expected to see actual fighting, according to the organization. (AP Wirephoto)

Clayton plugs compromise effort as legislators return

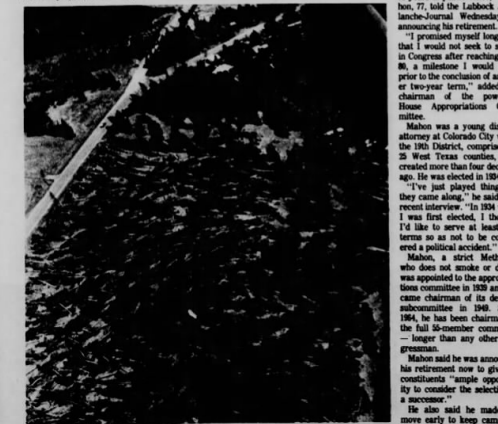
AUSTIN, Tex. (AP) — House members returned to the school financing crisis today with a request from Speaker Bill Clayton to have a bill ready for special session debate by the middle of next week. "You have a very big job and chore," Clayton told the House Committee on Public Education in an unusual public hearing called prior to the opening of the special session at 10 a.m. Monday. Committee members were told that anything they did today and Friday would be only advisory nature, but would expedite consideration of public school legislation once the session opened.

Hill indicates market value basis for all taxes

AUSTIN, Tex. (AP) — Texas legislators have a guideline from Atty. Gen. John Hill in passing a school finance bill but no definite date. Hill, in effect, told Lt. Gov. Bill Hobby and Speaker Bill Clayton Wednesday to present him with a specific legislative proposal and then he would decide if it was constitutional. The opinion from Hill said in broad terms that property taxes must be assessed on market value and no one type of property may be assessed at a lower percentage of its market value than others. The opinion, asked by Hobby and Clayton, was expected to be a guide to the special session meeting Monday on the public school financing issue. Hobby and Clayton asked if the legislature could provide that local property taxes on agricultural land be set according to some standard of value other than market value, such as valuation on the basis of use or education. Any proposal the legislature adopts should specifically indicate the legitimate state purpose which is being served by the formula and should clearly reflect the rational relationship between the legitimate state purpose and the formula, the opinion said.

With your discussions today and Friday you would be ready to go into a formal meeting soon after we meet Monday and I would hope you would be ready to pass out a bill by Monday afternoon or evening or maybe Tuesday morning," Clayton said. "That way we could debate it on the floor just as soon as it could be printed and laid on member's desks." Clayton put in a plug for a new compromise effort proposed under his sponsorship but carrying the names of the House conferees involved in last minute negotiations in the regular session that ended May 20. "This bill, House Bill 1, is a better bill than HB 736 (of the regular session) because it clarifies the needs of our school districts," he said. Clayton said he felt a raising Wednesday by the attorney general would not affect Hill's bill but would allow the main feature of the bill — a choice by local districts setting local school taxes either by full market or agricultural use values. He said he believed the attorney general's opinion ruled out a proposal that had been made by some senators that single-family dwelling be taxed differently from other property. The committee moved next into a detailed discussion of Clayton's bill.

There were no similar hearings scheduled in the Senate but several senators planned to informally observe the House hearing. Gov. Dolph Briscoe, who was expected to issue a formal call for the special session today, has said he plans to make public school financing the No. 1 task of the special session. Lawmakers got good news Wednesday from Comptroller Bob Bullock who said the special session would have \$96.8 million to spend for public school financing and other issues, about \$60 million more than his estimate on May 20. "I promised myself long ago that I would not seek to serve in Congress after reaching age 60, a milestone I would pass prior to the conclusion of another two-year term," added the chairman of the powerful House Appropriations Committee. Mahon was a young district attorney at Colorado City when the 19th District, comprised of 29 West Texas counties, was created more than four decades ago. He was elected in 1964. "I've just played things as they came along," he said in a recent interview. "In 1964 when I was first elected, I thought I'd like to serve at least two terms so as not to be considered a political accident." Mahon, a strict Methodist who does not smoke or drink, was appointed to the appropriations committee in 1968 and became chairman of its defense subcommittee in 1969. Since 1964, he has been chairman of the full 56-member committee — longer than any other congressman. Mahon said he was announcing his retirement now to give his constituents "ample opportunity to consider the selection of a successor." He also said he made the move early to keep campaign workers from organizing a 1978 re-election effort. Mahon, called the best of Texas' 27 congressmen last year by a statewide magazine, said he had no specific future plans.



Trees flattened

A large section of pine trees near Phillips, Wis., flattened by strong winds during the storm which struck northern Wisconsin Monday, are viewed from a plane flying over the area Tuesday. (AP Wirephoto)

Few expected to use special 'cut-rate' stamps

WASHINGTON (AP) — The nation's top postal official says an estimated one letter in five would qualify for a proposed new "citizen rate" on stamps, but admits he doesn't know how many people would "go to the trouble" of meeting the requirements. Postmaster General Benjamin F. Bailar recommended the new rate on Wednesday at a meeting with the Postal Service board of governors. His proposal would retain the present 15-cent stamp for personal letters while raising the cost of a first-class business stamp three cents. The board of governors meets Monday to vote on the plan. If it approves, the new rates would take effect automatically. At the board meeting on Wednesday, Bailar also said he hopes to begin ending Saturday mail deliveries and possibly close more small post offices within the next several months. Strong congressional opposition exists to both moves, but Bailar said, "I think the public will support responsible cost-cutting."

He noted a recent poll showing 79 per cent of the public supports five-day delivery if it would keep postage rates from climbing. Before he decides whether to recommend a five-day delivery schedule, Bailar said, opposition of the postal employees' union in the West Bank territories which the guerrillas want to establish a Palestinian state. Israel took the territory from Jordan in the 1967 war, and Benjamin Netanyahu, Israel's prime minister, said it is part of historical Israel. Patah Tiyya, a city of 100,000, is five miles from the border of the occupied territory, and thousands of West Bank Arabs pass through it daily on their way to and from work in Israel. It was the scene of two Arab bombings last November in which five persons were injured. Following the bombing Wednesday, police warned the people to be on the lookout for suspicious persons and people, especially in crowded public places. The bombing was the worst in Israel since May 1976, when a body-cramped motor scooter blew up in Jerusalem, killing one person and injuring 28. Hospital officials said a 56-year-old woman died Wednesday night while undergoing surgery, and four other wounded persons were reported in serious condition. The police rounded up about 100 Arabs for questioning. The Popular Democratic Front said one of its guerrillas killed Israeli security measures to plant a time bomb.

Market bombed by Palestinians

TEL AVIV, Israel (AP) — A Palestinian guerrilla group says the pipe bomb in the Patah Tiyya market that killed a woman and wounded others was its answer to Prime Minister Menachem Begin's territorial policy. The radical Popular Democratic Front for the Liberation and Palestine announced in Beirut that one of its guerrillas planted the bomb that exploded Wednesday in response to the new prime minister's policy of creating new settlements in Palestine. Begin before he became prime minister supported the establishment of Jewish settlements in the West Bank territories.

LIBROCK, Tex. (AP) — U.S. Rep. George Mahon, D-Texas, said he will not seek reelection in 1978. "At the end of my present term, I will have served 44 years in Congress and a total of 23 years in public office," Mahon, 77, told the Lubbock Avalanche-Journal Wednesday in announcing his retirement. "I promised myself long ago that I would not seek to serve in Congress after reaching age 60, a milestone I would pass prior to the conclusion of another two-year term," added the chairman of the powerful House Appropriations Committee. Mahon was a young district attorney at Colorado City when the 19th District, comprised of 29 West Texas counties, was created more than four decades ago. He was elected in 1964. "I've just played things as they came along," he said in a recent interview. "In 1964 when I was first elected, I thought I'd like to serve at least two terms so as not to be considered a political accident." Mahon, a strict Methodist who does not smoke or drink, was appointed to the appropriations committee in 1968 and became chairman of its defense subcommittee in 1969. Since 1964, he has been chairman of the full 56-member committee — longer than any other congressman. Mahon said he was announcing his retirement now to give his constituents "ample opportunity to consider the selection of a successor." He also said he made the move early to keep campaign workers from organizing a 1978 re-election effort. Mahon, called the best of Texas' 27 congressmen last year by a statewide magazine, said he had no specific future plans.

'Hawley Him' on the loose

ABILENE, Tex. (AP) — Neighbors, some with tongue in cheek, listened today to stories about the so-called "Hawley Him" — described as a hairy, 7-foot tall monster — roaming the countryside. Three teenagers told of dodging rocks hurled at them Wednesday by the ape-like creature on a ranch outside Hawley, a community 5 miles north of Abilene in West Central Texas. "Whatever it was, he looked like kind of an ape but was still a man," said Larry Suggs, 15. "He had huge arms — they hung by his knees. "You'd have to see him to believe it." One of the rocks hit Suggs' right leg, he said, and others narrowly missed his companions, Tom Roberts, 14, and Renee McFarland, 13. Young Suggs and Roberts, who live at Abilene boys ranch, ran to the McFarland home after first sighting the creature. She returned with them packing a deer rifle and handed it to Suggs after the monster disappeared. "She handed the gun to me and said, 'You shoot it,' Suggs related. He fired from a distance of about 40 yards and apparently missed, he said, adding that the weapon's recoil knocked him off his feet. The teenagers said the "Him" — their name for the beast — went crashing away through almost impenetrable brush. They led others to a spot where foot-long prints marked the passage of something. Bob Scott, manager of Abilene Ranch, owns the place where Suggs and Roberts were working when they saw the creature disappear. Scott said some sort of animal apparently is to blame for the disappearance of 21 goats off his land in recent days. Several carcasses were found later in the brush, he said. Sheriff's officers expressed a belief that coyotes killed some of the goats but had no explanation for the complete disappearance of others.

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