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In Our Opinion

By W. T. HAYS

THE DEMOCRATIC CONVENTION just about did everything they could to insure the re-election of President Richard Nixon.

It was obvious from the beginning of the convention that the liberal element was in command. They ran the show from start to finish and had the attitude of "we will get our way or take our little red wagon and go home."

Senator George McGovern said in substance in the beginning that if the convention didn't seat the California delegation he would make no promises about supporting the nominee of the convention. But the McGovern bunch were quick to suggest that convention delegates support the nominee when they got their way.

They also got their way on the platform, which is one that very few in this area could support. It is the most socialistic, liberal platform ever conceived by any party that this writer can remember, and completely unpalatable to most of the people.

McGovern has adopted some of the extremist rhetoric of the discredited campus radicals, and many Americans are unfamiliar of just how far out he has gone. The Dallas Times Herald recently branded the platform "the most profoundly radical program of action that America has ever been asked to swallow."

They couldn't be more right. McGovern would push forced busing of school children, while all polls taken has shown that a vast majority of the people of this nation do not favor bussing for the purpose of attaining a balance of races.

McGovern would make drastic cuts in defense spending, and granted, some could be made. But with his suggested cuts this nation could become a second rate power in a hurry.

McGovern would pull American troops out of Viet Nam immediately and completely, even though our prisoners of war are still in northern prison camps. He makes the rash statement that he will bring the prisoners home; but he don't say how, and it is obvious to all that he is making a promise that he can't keep.

Once our troops are taken out of South Viet Nam the Reds would have no reason to negotiate with us. They still have French prisoners of war captured in the 1950's and refuse to make an accounting of them.

McGovern favors amnesty for deserters and draft dodgers, ignoring the sacrifices of thousands of Americans who have fought to uphold their nation's honor and commitments.

McGovern goes overboard on welfare. Even though he did not agree to the Welfare Rights group to go for a \$6,500 minimum wage guarantee, he supports a big give-away program that caters to the non-workers, and professional loafers and there is no doubt that they will support him all the way. We just wonder who will do the work when everyone gets on this guaranteed annual wage for not working.

Even though, we may not agree with everything John Connally stands for, we must admire his refusal to support this radical platform. Our hope is that others in Texas and the country will not submit to the pressure of so-called party unity and support a cause they cannot accept in reality.

If McGovern ever gets elected, Lord help this nation.

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STATE Capital NEWS By BILL BOYKIN

Austin — Parks and Wildlife Commissioners presented Texans twin surprises with the announcement of the purchase of beachfront property in Jefferson County for development as the state's second largest park and a decision to buy the controversial, long debated Mustang Island property in Nueces County for another beach park.

The Jefferson County purchase of 14,360 acres includes a five and a half mile waterway to the beachfront with a vast saltwater marsh inland. The \$2,154,000 purchase lies due south of Port Arthur and stretches from the intracoastal waterway to the Gulf of Mexico.

Palo Duro State Park, in the Panhandle near Canyon and Amarillo, still holds its ranking as biggest of the state parks with 15,103 acres.

The Mustang Island purchase, delayed by court wrangles for nearly two and a half years, if no new stumbling blocks suddenly appear, will cost about \$600,000 less than the original \$4.2 million asking price of the island property owner, Mrs. Sam E. Wilson Jr. of Corpus Christi.

The amount of property involved is less than the original 3,965 acres the state was looking at. Seems a survey of the property revealed the state already owned some of the property. Per acre price, however, remains the same — \$1,100.

Announcement of the Mustang purchase came after Parks Commissioners asked Atty. Gen. Crawford Martin if he was sure he was right when he ruled earlier the state has a legal binding contract with Mrs. Wilson to purchase the property.

Martin agreed to review his own opinion, did, and told Parks Commissioners he was right the first time.

STATE HUNTS "CHOO CHOO" TRAIN — Gov. Preston Smith has asked the U.S. Navy to make available to the State of Texas surplus authentic steam locomotives for use in developing the 33.7 state-owned railroad between Rusk and Palestine in East Texas as a tourist attraction. The Legislature last year said the Parks Department could operate the full gauge railroad as a public recreational facility.

The Parks Department is currently rehabilitating 26 miles of the railroad and hopes to operate public excursion trains using historically authentic steam locomotives.

Smith wrote to Navy officials saying he had been informed several military steam engines have been declared surplus and asked for assistance in acquiring one or two of the "iron horses."

DRUG FUNDS GRANTED STATE — Texas is one of three states selected by the federal Law Enforcement Assistance Administration to take part in a pilot program designed to stop the flow of legal drugs into illegal channels.

Texas Criminal Justice Council will be funded \$333,011 to be subgranted to the Texas Department of Public Safety to operate a diversion investigation unit. Primary goal is to curtail diversion of controlled substances at the retail level. It is estimated by federal officials that half the legitimately produced amphetamines and barbiturates are diverted to the illicit market.

Headquarters will be in Austin, with target cities to be chosen over the state to assure widespread coverage, officials say, Michigan and Mississippi are the other two pilot

program states. FARM-RANCH SAFETY WEEK — Fires, drownings and machinery and tractor accidents continue to be the main sources of accidental deaths on Texas farms and ranches, the Texas Safety Association says.

The Association hopes to focus public attention on the continuing upward trend of deaths in nearly every category during Texas Farm and Ranch Safety Week, July 25-31.

TSA spokesman say 35 deaths were recorded last year from fires, explosions or burns on farms and ranches in the state. Other leading causes of accidental death last year on farms and ranches included 29 drownings, 28 accidental shootings, 26 machinery accidents, 22 tractor accidents, 22 falls and 17 accidents involving animals.

VEGETABLE INSPECTION STUDIED — Importation and exportation of vegetables to other states is being scrutinized by a special House Interim Committee on Vegetable Marketing.

The Committee in a recent hearing heard witnesses complain that vegetable growers in Mexico enjoy tremendous competitive advantage with Texas growers not only because of low labor costs, but because they are not subject to the rigid government regulations restricting use by American growers of many chemical pesticides and herbicides.

Another problem reviewed by the Committee was the claim by witnesses that the reputation of Texas-produced vegetables is suffering in out-of-state markets because some Texas growers persist in shipping large volumes of low-grade products. The result, witnesses said, is loss by Texas growers of the cut-of-state markets because the produce of certain other states is consistently of higher quality and desirability.

Most practical solution, suggested witnesses, would be establishment of market orders to establish and enforce standard quality grades for Texas-grown vegetables and inspection of imported vegetables from Mexico.

MONEY GRANTED FOR ALCOHOL ABUSE STUDY — Texas is the first state in the nation to be awarded federal funds for prevention, treatment, education and rehabilitation programs to deal with alcohol abuse and alcoholism.

The \$1.6 million grant will go to the Texas Commission on Alcoholism which in accordance with new federal law developed and submitted the first state plan for such a program.

The TCA estimates there are 425,000 alcoholic persons in Texas, equivalent to about 3.8 per cent of the state's population.

NO ELECTION MONEY — Officials in the office of Secretary of State Bob Bullock say the Legislature in its special session made no provision for funds needed to wind up the cost to the state of financing elections in Texas counties.

Bullock aides say the Legislature's budget writers were asked for an additional \$400,000 to wind up the bill paying for the primary and run-off elections. No money was provided.

Bullock will make another effort to get the additional funds when the Legislature comes back to Austin for its 63rd Session in January, 1973. In the meantime, enough money is believed by Secre-

tary of State staffers to be available to at least enable county election officials to pay Texans who worked in precinct voting boxes. Printing companies apparently will have to wait for final payment after the first of the year, aides say.

SHORT SNORTS

The Texas Animal Health Commission has lifted the hog cholera quarantine from Jim Wells County, but continues to impose movement ban on hogs in Nueces, Dawson, Terry and portions of Harris, Bexar, Webb, Mitchell and Nolan counties.

Requirements and standards for the installation of heating, plumbing and electrical systems in mobile homes, as adopted by the state Performance Certification Board, went into effect on December 15, 1971. Attorney General Martin says.

Richard L. Coffman, administrator of the Texas Employment Commission, has resigned to become Regional Manpower Administrator for the U.S. Department of Labor.

Mrs. J. Douglas Toole Sr. of Houston has been named by Governor Smith to the Texas State Historical Survey Committee, replacing Roy Barrera of San Antonio, who resigned.

U.S. Transportation Secretary John Volpe has released \$24 million in federal highway funds to Texas. The funds had been withheld pending adoption by the Texas Legislature of regulations complying with the Highway Beautification (Billboard) Act.

Parks and Wildlife Commission has adopted a regulation banning use of firearms and crossbows while hunting deer or turkey during the special archery season.

Russell H. Perry of Dallas is the new president of the Texas Good Roads, replacing Callan Graham of Austin.

ALLISON VISITORS

Visitors last week with Mr. and Mrs. W. B. Allison included their daughter, Mrs. George Gehring of San Angelo, and Mr. and Mrs. Dick Titchen, Ivy Joyce, Robin, Randy and Ragen, and Mr. and Mrs. George Haynes of Lovington, N.M., and Mr. and Mrs. Bobby Seals, Bobby and Lesia of Houston.

Others visiting here were Mr. and Mrs. Art Kuehl and Vicky of Artisia, N.M., Mr. and Mrs. Pete Kunz, Cindy, Lorretta and Brenda, of Cameron, Mrs. Medina Burselson of San Antonio and Mrs. Maurine Blair of Coleman.

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THE CITY LIBRARY

A new group of junior books have been put on the Santa Anna Public Library shelves for July and August. The books are on loan from the Brownwood Public Library.

Horse stories include "Taffy's Foal" by Bialk; "Golden Lady" by Brown; "Tornado Boy" by Hinkle; and "The Phantom Roan" by Thompson.

Four new books containing dog stories are available including "Old Yeller" by Gipson, which was made into a movie by Walt Disney.

A number of other animal stories are also among the new arrivals.

For the adult readers, five new Zane Grey westerns have been loaned to the local library as well as a number of mystery fiction books.

One of the new books is reviewed briefly as follows:

HALLOWEEN PARTY by Agatha Christi

A child boasted of having witnessed a murder. Only a few hours later, that child was dead. And Hercule Poirot was faced with one of the most challenging cases of his long and brilliant career.

Joyce was thirteen, a tiresome girl given to extravagant statements. The group of adults and children who were getting the games ready for the Halloween party just laughed unbelievably when she insisted she had once seen a murder committed. Yet that night someone shoved head down into the bucket of water with the apples and held her there until she drowned. After the party was over, she was found, kneeling

as if she were bobbing for apples.

One of the very respectable guests at the party given in the quiet respectable town of Woodleigh Common must have committed a murder and had got away with it, someone who had received a nasty shock from Joyce's revelation and had struck back as soon as it was possible. And yet who among the few grown-ups present — the mothers and aunts, the vicar and a local schoolteacher — would have been capable of committing such a brutal crime?

As Poirot searched for the unlikely murderer, however, he uncovered strange and often dangerous secrets. The tension mounts until it explodes in a dazzling denouncement, which is as logical as it is unexpected. Here is a novel that bears the unmistakable stamp of a gifted artist — the intricate puzzle, the unflinching suspense, and the insight into those human passions that lead to murder.

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