

Tower Voices Opposition To Labor Reform Measure

By BETTY SHEPARD
Star News Staff

Sen. John Tower told members of the Harlingen Rotary Club and their guests Friday that the Labor Reform Bill would be enormously detrimental to Texas and would spell trouble for the state.

The Republican senator, on a campaign visit to the Valley, said he has assumed a leadership position in a proposed filibuster against the bill.

"The legislation would help the federal government bring about forced unionization," he said.

In answer to questions from the audience, Tower predicted a school tuition tax credit bill passed by the House of Representatives Thursday will be improved upon and passed by the Senate.

The bill, in its present form, calls for income tax credit of up to \$250 against the cost of college tuition and \$100 for secondary and elementary private school tuition.

In discussing the Panama Canal Treaty, Tower said allegations that the influence of bankers had brought about the Senate's approval of the treaty had not been verified.

Applause greeted his remark when he said "there was no sense in giving back the seaway to the Panama and paying them to take it. You can't blame the bankers," he said.

He added that the Treaty is not in the best national interest.

On the strategic arms limitation talks (SALT), Tower said he doesn't like the way the talks are trending and there are unanswered questions.

Tower also took a dim view of socialized medicine. He said Sen. Edward Kennedy (D-Mass.) is sponsoring a national health insurance bill estimated to cost about \$75 billion. "I think the bill has little prospect of passing," he said. The senator said there may be some type of provision enacted for catastrophic illness only.

On the subject of inflation, the senator said the way to curb increasing costs is to cut govern-

ment spending and reduce the number of government agencies which are not serving the needs of the people.

During a press conference following the Rotary meeting, Tower announced that Pete Diaz Jr. of Rio Grande City, a Valley businessman and civic leader, will head up the statewide *Nosotros Con Tower* campaign for reelection.

Tower said Diaz will organize the steering committee aimed at the Mexican-American voters. "Mr. Diaz is representative of the qualities I admire in the Mexican-American people," he said. "His success has come through his own good judgment, creativity and honest hard work, not through handouts or giveaway programs."

Diaz told reporters that while he is a Democrat, he feels Texas, and especially the Mexicanos of Texas, cannot afford to lose Tower.

He said Tower has shown the Mexican-Americans of Texas his deep concern through his support of bilingual education, legislation for minority businesses, the LULACs and other organizations and projects.

"The senator's opponent talks about these things but does not act upon them," Diaz said.

In other matters, Tower said

there is a trend in Congress to oppose the Carter administration plan to drop U.S. ties with Taiwan in order to strengthen diplomatic relations with Communist China.

Other questions on foreign policy concerned South Korea, Iran and Africa. Tower said he does not anticipate the U.S. will cut off foreign aid to South Korea because of the bribery scandal now being discussed. "Continued aid to South Korea is in our national interest," he said.

The senator said he approves the sale of F-16 aircraft to Iran because Iran is on the border of Russia.

He expressed hope that the U.S. will provide assistance in the form of material to anti-Soviet elements in Africa.

In a prepared statement handed to reporters, Tower blasted the Congress for enacting legislation with a \$227 billion price tag to reduce the Social Security System.

He said he agrees that action must be taken to restore the fiscal health of the system, but the legislation, which he voted against but which was passed, is foolhardy because there are better alternatives.

"Now the Carter Administration is proposing tax cuts to compensate for the effects of higher Social Security taxes,"

he said.

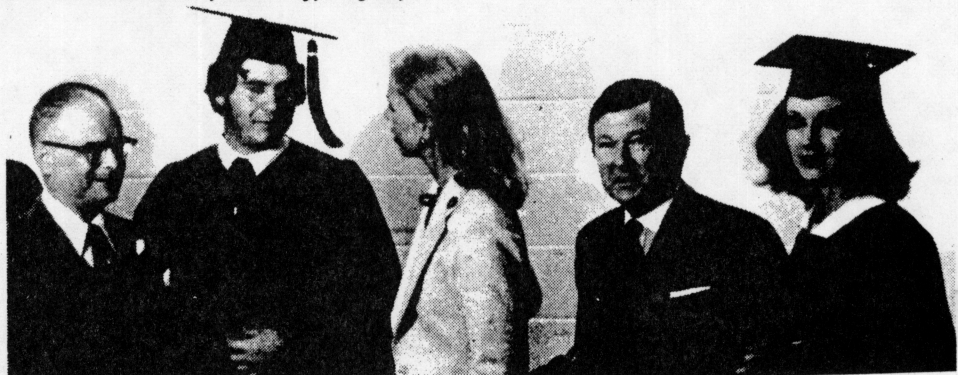
"But combining the idea of a tax reduction with social security is ludicrous," the senator continued. A substantial tax reduction, especially for middle income wage earners and business, is required over and apart from any rollback in payroll taxes. To stem the tide of the inflationary spiral, the federal government must, under the leadership of Congress, allow business the freedom for additional capital formation, reduce expensive spending habits by the government, and ease the financial burden on the middle income citizen who has been shackled with the major share of the tax load for years."

Friday evening, Tower went to Dixieland Park in Harlingen where he was presented a plaque of honorary membership in the Associated Independent Electrical Contractors of America, Valley Chapter, by the chapter president, Bob Amos.

Tower told eight graduating apprentice electricians and about 175 guests that the graduation marks a "potential for earning," and the graduates are in "an extremely honorable profession."

Amos commended the Senator on his support of the free enterprise system.

2 The Laredo Times, Saturday, May 27, 1978



Dr. J. G. Cigarroa Jr., left, president of the Laredo ISD board of trustees, and Nixon High graduate Alonso L. Ramirez Jr. chat with Mrs. John G. Tower as Sen. Tower does the same with another Nixon High

graduating senior Elizabeth Pacheco, right. Tower was the commencement speaker for Nixon's graduates Thursday night at the Laredo Civic Center. (Timesphoto by Adrian Collazo)