

[MUSIC PLAYING]

- The ground war begins in the Persian Gulf. This is the Pacifica Network News. I'm Don Rush along with Leon Collins in Washington. There's now word from Saudi television that US-led forces have moved into areas near the town of Wafra along the Kuwaiti border.

Reuters wire service is quoting responsible Saudi sources and joint commanders, saying that some forces were able to cross the Kuwaiti border near that town some 40 miles from the Persian Gulf Coast. Western military sources also said that Patriot air defense missiles intercepted a Scud Missile headed towards Riyadh.

Scores of transport planes and refueling tankers flew in and out of the Riyadh airport overnight. The Kuwaiti news agency reported that Allied forces had captured a small island that commands the sea approaches to Kuwait City.

Also, this just in, that the Iraqi President Saddam Hussein has just spoken on Baghdad radio.

- [SPEAKING ARABIC]

- Hussein told the Iraqi people a huge comprehensive land attack on the Iraqi fighting forces have begun this morning. Hussein called those attacking treacherous and in his words, they have been treacherous to those who have signed with them the UN Security Council resolutions.

But says Hussein, their treachery will be turned back on them and their treacherous crowd. As Hussein put it from the beginning, these evil people have taken the aggressive path towards the people of Iraq. But says Hussein, the great Iraqi people and their brave army will fight them with all the mean of faith in god and in their dignity as a people.

Hussein says, if you fight them, then victory and glory will be ours. The leader of Iraq ended his speech with the words, god is great.

As we've talked about in the past, there is a great significance to the events that have taken place inside the Persian Gulf and indeed for a large number of people, both the Iraqis but also the Palestinians in the occupied territories, who oftentimes were seen cheering on some of these Scud missiles that came approaching the towns of Tel Aviv, Jerusalem, and so on.

Take a look at what all of this may mean for the Palestinians. We have on the line now with us Daoud Kuttab, he's our correspondent in East Jerusalem. And Daoud, what's your own sense about what's transpired tonight, the fact that there is this now ground war, particularly for Palestinians in the occupied territories?

- Well, I think Palestinians are obviously very tense in what's going on, both for what it's going to mean for the Iraqi, in a sense, the Arab leadership, and also what it will mean for the Palestinians. I dare say that people don't really see any good signs in the very short future, in the short term, no matter how this battle will end.

But I think those who have any kind of hope look more to the long term as to basically seeds of Arab dignity and Arab power and steadfastness and so on. These fuel emotional things that Saddam Hussein and the Iraqi army seemed to have portrayed in its defiance.

- Now, my understanding is that the Palestinian issue, which had been linked to a withdrawal from Kuwait, that was dropped in the very last sets of agreements that the Iraqis came up with in terms of the Soviet proposal and so on. Were Palestinians disappointed that that finally got dropped out of the last diplomatic efforts?

- I don't think-- I don't think so, because-- I mean, Palestinians we're always very pleased with the Iraqis and always felt that the Iraqis were going further for our cause. And they needed to, that they should have basically solved their own problem first, not to link it with us. Obviously, people were appreciative of that.

But I think for most people, the linkage was made. And therefore, there was really no need to keep it as a condition because the linkage was made, as Palestinians see it, in the exposing of the double standard of the United Nations, of the US, and how it dealt with one occupation and didn't deal with another.

And it was linked, if you will, a linkage of suffering when Israelis start to suffer from the state of war they've been at to the Arab world, where that was really not an active state of war. So for most Palestinians, the linkage was made. There was really no need to keep that burden on the Iraqis.

And what was more their concern was not the linkage issue but the survival of the Iraqi government and Saddam Hussein and so on. That was much more of concern to Palestinians because they felt that a strong militarily political Iraq would be always kind of an asset to try to push the Western world or to push Israel to make a deal that includes Palestinian rights and so on.

- Our correspondent, Daoud Kuttab, our reporter in East Jerusalem, reporting on the Palestinian issue.

Now, we want to take a look at what this may mean in terms of the Middle East itself. Earlier this evening, we talked with Joe Stork. He's editor of *Middle East Report*. And we asked Joe whether or not he could give us an assessment about the commencement of this ground war, particularly in terms of the Gulf in the Middle East.

- Assessment, well, we're sort a continuing to march down this criminal path that George Bush has laid out. I mean, this is a horrible mistake. Whether it's over soon or not, in terms of the political implications of moving into this ground war phase, is totally unnecessary by any conceivable criteria.

It's a continuation of Bush's determination of a small number of white men sitting around in the White House, Bush, Cheney, Scowcroft, Baker, to say, our agenda is what counts. Nothing else counts. Lest anybody get in the way and think that maybe there should be consultations at any level, we're setting the timetable.

- Now, I understand that even up to the last minute, there were constant diplomatic contacts at the United Nations about trying to clarify the positions in the Soviet peace proposal and the US proposal and so on. And indeed, the UN Security Council met tonight ostensibly to review those and was overtaken by events.

What do you make of those last-minute efforts to try to find some kind of peaceful resolution?

- They were not serious in terms of what the Bush White House was up to. Very clearly, they had set their timetable, and nothing was going to get in the way of it. The ultimatum that Bush read out yesterday, the 24-hour ultimatum, was like all of his past dictums designed precisely to encourage or to discourage Saddam Hussein and the Iraqi regime from complying.

It was precisely designed to practically guarantee that Saddam Hussein would thumb his nose and refused to take this kind of a dictate, Bush is determined to not only just to get Iraq out of Kuwait and not only to destroy the military, remaining military might of the Iraqis, but he's also determined to basically be the only voice that counts in any kind of a postwar settlement here.

- So this is Leon Collins. When Ayatollah Khomeini came to power, he also referred to the Persian Gulf states as America's Islam. In the aftermath of the war, who do you think will benefit from the new power in the Middle East?

- Well, actually, I think it's pretty clear at some level who's going to benefit anyway. I mean, politically, in the region, I think it's probably countries like Iran, Turkey, and Israel, the non-Arab states, which two of them, Israel and Turkey, very closely allied with the US. Iran, not allied with the US, neutral in this conflict but with everything to gain from, on the one hand, the complete military and political defeat of their archenemy, Saddam Hussein in Baghdad.

And with Iran, not welcoming this huge American military presence in the region but also knowing that the US is going to be-- you're going to have a very difficult time of it over the long run in terms of maintaining occupation troops in Kuwait and Iraq, if that's what it comes to, or even in Saudi Arabia, which is surely on the Bush agenda.

- Finally, Joe, in terms of the Soviet Union, which worked right up to the last minute to avert this war, what kind of standing do you think they are going to come out of this with as far as the Arab world is concerned?

- Well, I think it's certainly going to improve their standing somewhat. But the Soviet Union is everybody except perhaps Saddam Hussein understood.

The Soviet Union is following a policy in the Middle East that very much derives from a dependent relationship that's developed with the United States and with Western Europe over the last couple of years in terms of the shape that the Soviet economy is in, in terms of the need of Gorbachev and his government for Western cooperation on a whole number of levels, including not screaming too much or getting too involved in the whole situation with the Baltic republics and the secession movements there.

Saddam Hussein seems to have miscalculated as to what the Soviets could do for him. But in any case, I think the Soviets were moved pretty adroitly and did, in fact, manage to get the administration to spend at least a couple of days thinking about what it could do in this situation and almost pulled it off.

So I think, they're certainly going to be in the better position politically, diplomatically when this is all over then, if they hadn't put these intensive efforts into the diplomatic arena in the last week or so.

- Joe Stork, editor of *Middle East Report*.

Boulder Colorado has been the scene of almost daily protest against a Persian Gulf War since the US military action began. Scott Schlegel reports many in Boulder, who do not support the war, are frustrated with the national news media, which they say is cheering on the Bush administration rather than getting at the truth.

- Thousands of protesters have stopped traffic on major thoroughfares in Boulder over these past several weeks. And more than 100 have been arrested for blocking entrances to military recruiting centers. Yesterday, children and their parents rallied outside a Toys R US store in Boulder to protest the sale of war toys.

Ironically, the marketing manager of a major Denver toy manufacturer proudly displays a toy Patriot Missile on the front page of Saturday's *Denver Post* business section. Calls from our customers requesting the Patriot have been extraordinary, the company president said.

At the Rocky Mountain Peace Center in Boulder, Director Paul Casey expects protests to increase with the advent of a ground war.

- If it drags on, I think there's going to be more people coming out as there's sort of an undeniable casualty rate. Whether they're going to allow people to see the bodies at Dover Air Base or the coffins coming off the planes or not, I mean, it's going to be just undeniable that there are going to be thousands of people dead if it drags on for a while.

- This evening, citizens against the war with Iraq will erect a replica of the Vietnam War Memorial in front of the Boulder County Courthouse, listing names of Americans who have already died in the war with Iraq. Casey is careful to point out that students at the University of Colorado in Boulder aren't the only people here who opposed the war.

- There is a very large student group here that's been very active. But it's certainly not limited to student activity here. And in fact, the work that I've seen at the Peace Center, as an organizer of people who have just come to us and the kind of work that they're doing, I'm really amazed at the amount of energy that has come from just citizens of Boulder.

- However, Denver television newscasters tonight said they were unable to find people who oppose the war. Newscaster said the American people seem to be behind the war. Parents of several soldiers believed to be on the front lines of the assault on Kuwait said they're glad the war has begun. They just hope their children come home soon.

For Pacifica, I'm Scott Schlegel in Boulder, Colorado.

- And that's our report tonight. Pacific will be back on the air at 4:00 PM Eastern time tomorrow afternoon with a 15-minute update and a roundup of the day's events. This is Don Rush along with Leon Collins in Washington for the Pacifica Network News.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

- Think of what has happened in historism as a result of this perverted use of the drum-major instinct. It was led to the most tragic prejudice, the most tragic expressions of man's inhumanity to man. And not only does this thing go into the racial struggle, it goes into the struggle between nations.

And I would submit to you this morning that what is wrong in the world today is that the nations of the world are engaged in a bitter colossal contest for supremacy. And if something doesn't happen to stop this trend, I'm sorely afraid that we won't be here to talk about Jesus Christ and about god and about brotherhood too many more years.

If somebody doesn't bring it in to this suicidal thrust that we see in the world today, none of us are going to be around because somebody is going to make the mistake through our senseless blundering of dropping a nuclear bomb somewhere. And then another one is going to drop. And don't let anybody fool you.

This can happen within a matter of seconds. They have 20-megaton bombs in Russia right now that can destroy a city as big as New York in three seconds with everybody wiped away and every building. And we can do the same thing to Russia and China. But this is where we are drifting, and we are drifting there.

Because nations are caught up with the drum-major instinct, I must be first, I must be supreme, our nation must rule the world. And I am sad to say that the nation in which we live is the supreme culprit. And I'm going to continue to say it to America because I love this country too much to see the drift that it has taken.

God didn't call America to do what she's doing in the world now. God didn't call America to engage in a senseless unjust war as the war in Vietnam. And we are criminals in that war. We've committed more war crimes almost than any nation in the world. And I'm going to continue to say it. And we won't stop it.

Because of our pride and our arrogance as a nation-- but god has a way of even putting nations in their place. The god that I worship has a way of saying, don't play with me. He has a way of saying he is a god that the Old Testament used to say. The Hebrews, don't play with me. Don't play with. me, Babylon.

Be still and know that I'm god. If you don't stop your reckless course, I'll rise up and break the backbone of your power. And that can happen to America. Every now and then, I go back and read Gibbon's *Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire*. And when I come and look at America, I say to myself, the parallels are frightening. And we have perverted the drum-major instinct.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

[SHOUTING PROTESTS]

- When do we want them?

- Now!

- What do we want?

- Gay rights!

- When do we want it?

- Now!

- What do we want?

- Gay rights!

- When do we want it?

- Now!

- What do we want?

- Gay rights!

- When do we want them?

- Now! What do we want?

- Gay rights!

- When do we want them?

- Now!

[SHOUTING PROTESTS]

- For love and for life, we're not going back! For love and for life, we're not going back. For love and for life, we're not going back! For love and for life, we're not going back!

- I think that's Robin Tyler on the stage leading the chant.

- For love or for life, we're not going back.
- Good afternoon, and welcome to the national march on Washington, D.C. for gay and lesbian rights and call reciting! Let's hear it out there!

[CHEERING]

- I'm Lea Delaria.
- I'm Bruce Hopkins.
- I'm a dyke.
- I'm a faggot.
- And we're best friends!
- I want you to savor this next moment. I have the proud task of telling you that the official count of the Lesbian and Gay Rights March-- the official count is over 500,000 strong! 500,000 strong! Look at you all.

[CHEERING]

- 500,000 strong.
- They all come out.
- 500,000 strong. One of the largest marches in United States history.
- It's all right. You may all come out.
- One of the largest marches in United States history. 500,000 strong!
- It's all right. You may all come out.
- We, parents, want to persuade society that our gay children are not acting out of defiance, of self-indulgence. They're being true to their own nature. Our children are fine men and women. And we say to society, the parents and friends of lesbians and gay men, we'll support their children.
- They've got to understand something. They've got to understand something. We are not talking about Black politics. This is not a movement from the waist down. We are talking about our right to love and to choose and to live. And I don't care about straight provenance. And I don't care about great understanding. You got to hear me in Washington. We are demanding, we are demanding our civil right.
- Harry, do you have a few words for KPFA?
- Yeah, I do.
- Come on out! [LAUGHS] Join us. Bring your friends.
- What do you think about the turnout so far?

- Well, it's never enough, never enough, never enough.
- We must destroy the myths once and for all, shatter them. We must continue to speak out. And most importantly, most importantly, every gay person must come out.

[CHEERING]

As difficult as it is, you must tell your immediate family. You must tell your relatives. You must tell your friends if indeed they are your friends. You must tell your neighbors. You must tell the people you work with. You must tell the people in the stores you shop in. You--

[CHEERING]

And once they realize that we are indeed their children and we are indeed everywhere, every myth, every lie, every innuendo will be destroyed once and for. And once you do, you will feel so much better.

[CHEERING]

- What do we want?

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- When do we want it?

- Now!

- What do we want?

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- When do we want them?

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- What do we want?

- Gay rights!

- When do we want them?

- Now!

- I asked people all over this country to do one thing. Come out! Come out, America! Come out!

[CHEERING]

- Sorry, Gary.

- Well, we have to do it.

- Well, I couldn't stand it.

- We had to have the opening. We had to have Harvey Milk. We had to have Harry Britt and PFLAG and all the other ones--
- Because no matter what we do, the war is going to go on.
- That's true. So we can still play our little opening at least.
- KPFT.
- Yes, this is Harry Haines calling.
- Yeah, Harry.
- And I would just wanted to call back here. I hope this is off the air.
- No, we're on the air. Do you want to be on the air?
- Well--
- I'm sorry, they told me you wanted to be on the air.
- Well, that's fine. I'll be on the air then.
- OK, you're on.
- I was calling, I was driving home from dinner with some friends. And I was listening to some remarks there that was made on the show. And I sympathized with a lot of different causes for human rights. But it kind of disgusted me to hear that somebody on a pacifist station, Pacifica, would make a remark that maybe the dome or the summit should be a target for terrorist act.
- I didn't say that. I said, if any country deserved to be bombed during this war, we do--
- But we don't.
- --because we take it off-- why don't we? We're at war. We're so smug and so secure that nothing's going to happen here.
- Well, let me just say this--
- Why do we not deserve to be bombed?
- Why do we deserve to?
- Why do we not deserve to be bombed? You tell me that, that's what I was asking. Why do you think we shouldn't be bombed? Did you hear them earlier? We dropped over 7 million pounds of explosives on Vietnam, and this country never once had a bomb go off on it.

We're at war now with Iraq, and they could bomb us, right? Why do we not deserve to be bombed? I don't understand.

- Well, that wasn't--
- I mean, do you understand what I'm saying, though, Harry?
- Well, I can't see why.
- Wait, let me put it another way. What if we were bombed? Do you think the country would change its attitude?

- I think if we were bombed, I would immediately join the services.

- How old are you?

- 32.

- 32?

- Yes, sir. You bet I would.

- Have you ever served in the military?

- I have not.

- I was in the Air Force.

- I would certainly wouldn't hesitate.

- I was in the Air Force, Harry. And we stood on the flight line in San Antonio in the early '70s and watched them unload bodies by the hundreds from Vietnam.

- Do you think the answer to that is that something should happen, something bad should happen here in this country?

- I'm saying we're at war.

- Right.

- We just take it for granted that nothing's going to happen.

- But why is that such a problem?

- Why are we supposed to be immune from this? What makes us any better than any-- why are we dropping bombs on Iraq then?

- Well, we need to take care of this Saddam situation.

- OK, Saddam wants to take care of us. If he could get to us, do you think he wouldn't bomb this country?

- I don't think he has the capability to do so.

- If he had the capability and could, do you think he would?

- Sure, he does. But I trust that we would do everything in our power as this great republic to defend ourselves against his attack. Furthermore, you're talking about a man who threatened to turn Israel into a graveyard.

- No, we're talking about a man who turned his own country into a graveyard.

- OK.

- He killed his own people.

- Well, I'm talking about something that he said last summer that has to do with the Israeli.

- We don't want to talk about Saddam Hussein, though. We're talking about this country. I don't understand why you think-- why you think that this country is immune to suffering. If we were bombed-- I can't-- Frank, do you know what I'm saying?

- Yeah. If we would have one bomb go off anywhere in this country, then people would get to experience what war is really like. I think, that's what Buddy is saying. It makes it a lot different when you have the risk of going to work and not coming home at night because you've been blown off the map. That's what's happening every hour in Baghdad right now.

And we sit here in Houston, very comfortably and secure, and I'm glad. You know, I'm real glad for that. But we need to realize that we could be bombed. I'm not saying we're going to be. I don't think he can do it. I don't think he has the capability.

- Harry, all I mean is that we shouldn't be so secure to think that we don't deserve what they're getting because this is war. We're just fortunate to be on this side of the planet, and they're on that side of the planet. And he has not the technology to strike us, or he would be shooting rockets at us just as fast as he's shooting them at Israel.

- Well, I don't know if you understand back in World War II, it came out after the war that Hitler was planning to build rockets large enough to hit New York City.

- And all during World War II, London was bombed almost daily.

- Right.

- That's why the people in London are not screaming, drop the bombs, because they know what it is like for their cities to blow up, and we don't. And that's the point I was trying to make. Do you understand what I'm saying?

- There are people over here screaming, drop the bomb.

- And they have not had a bomb dropped on them yet. If they had, they wouldn't scream as loud.

- Well, if the British have a problem, why are they involved in this then?

- [LAUGHS] If we had the answer to that, my friend, we wouldn't have a war. But listen, thanks for calling. And have a good night, OK?

- OK. Well, my only thing is that I listen to your station a lot. And as soon as the marathon was over, you all turn a new leaf and get into these-- get into this, though.

- No, I go on like this every time I get on the radio. Marathon has nothing to do with it. You just need to listen to us more often maybe. I don't know if you're listening to the right show. We complain about it all the time. Well, listen, I got to go. We got things to do. I appreciate you calling, though.

- OK.

- Have a good night.

- Good morning.

[MUSIC - EDWIN STARR, "WAR"]

- That's incredible.

- It's OK as long as we bomb them. But goddamn it, they can't bomb us. That wouldn't be fair. I don't understand. Do you understand what I was coming from?

- Look, I think the point you were making when you said that and what I got out of it is that if a few bombs were dropped over here, people would change their tune.

- They certainly would.

- Because over here, since we are not touched by war at all, it can be romantic to us.

- Absolutely nothing. They would turn-- and they would change their tune all right.

- But if it was us trying to find some drinking water that wasn't tainted--

- Exactly.

[MUSIC - R.E.M., "IT'S THE END OF THE WORLD AS WE KNOW IT"]

- I don't understand what he meant either when he said, we'd changed our tune after marathon.

- Oh, yeah, I don't understand that.

- We're screaming it's unfair all the time.

- Yeah.

- At least on this show anyway.

- We have always been antiwar.

- Yep.

- And "It's The End of the World as We Know It."

- For our troops, antiwar.

- Yeah. There's a difference.

- Yes.

- And when you see those white ribbons instead of those yellow ribbons around them, that's what it means. Protroops, antiwar.

- It's just we're waving a flag, it just happens to be rainbow colored. We hold the Constitution in one hand and a big stick in the other hand. It's called freedom.

- Right.

- I can't understand either why Don Rush from Pacifica was talking about how the media is describing the war, like they're carrying a sports event or a football game or something.

- Isn't that incredible? It's exactly like a sport--

- We're under a media blackout from the Persian Gulf area. No video for 48 hours. And maybe then, well, only the pretty stuff of those planes taking off in the Gulf.

[MUSIC - C.W. MCCALL, "THERE WON'T BE NO COUNTRY MUSIC"]

- 90.1 FM KPFT Houston. Some real scary thoughts from C.W. McCall.

- Yeah, I hadn't heard that one before.

- [LAUGHS] No news from the Gulf is good news.

- Hmm.

- Hmm.

- 526-4000 or 526-KPFT. We want to know what's on your mind this morning.

- You know something we should ask that guy that called a while ago that I forgot to ask him about?

- What?

- Was like what he was doing about the homelessness situation in this country.

- Oh, he can't be bothered with that.

- Why?

- Because you can look the other way.

- Oh, yeah, right. OK.

- See, that's the other thing. During all of this, all of our own problems are like on hold on the back burner and it's that old syndrome. It's so much easier to solve other people's problems than to tackle your own.

- It's still floors me, though, that it's OK for us to bomb them, but they can't bomb us. Doesn't that really floor you, that someone would even think that?

- Yeah, this is war. I mean, it's equal on both sides here.

- The last time a bomb or cannon was fired in this country in war was in the Civil War, I think.

- Yeah.

- And something actually exploded and they were trying to kill us.

- Yeah.

- That was over 100 years ago.

- And we're so arrogant about it. I can't understand that. But you're right.

- Hey, that's too bad. You don't understand. As Hitaji Aziz has said all along, we're all interconnected. Whether you're Catholic or Jewish or atheist or just a heathen, there's something inside you that makes you you. And that energy has to go somewhere.

And whether you like it or not, we're all part of that big ball, baby. And even those people in Iraq, who are dying, fighting for what they believe in, as much as our kids are fighting for what we believe in, they're dying. And as--

- They are our brothers--

- As Obi-Wan Kenobi said in *Star Wars*, I feel a great disturbance in the force this morning as if thousands of souls are crying out. Something's wrong. And we, as a people, need to wake up and understand that we are all brothers and sisters. And we all have to learn how to live together and work together. Because if we don't, we'll certainly all die together. And that's what's happening now.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

- 526-4000, 526-KPFT.

[MUSIC - PETER TOSH, "COME TOGETHER"]

- Just kills me, we're talking about hating the people in the Middle East so much. And we forget about the hate right here in our own front yards. I mean, yeah, we've got these segregation laws and laws that protect discrimination against people of color and Hispanics and Orientals.

But how many times, this past week, have you heard jokes cracked about Mexicans and Blacks and faggots and everything else? And you didn't stop and say, hey, wait a minute. Maybe we're all guilty, who knows?

It's just funny, we just can't seem to get together. And I think that's sad.

[MUSIC - PAUL McCARTNEY AND STEVIE WONDER, "EBONY AND IVORY"]

- 90.1 FM KPFT Houston. Why can't we all live together? That's a good question.

- I don't know. It's been going on for years and years and years and years and years. It's almost as if we, as humans, have to have somebody to hate.

- Like Dr. King said, the drum-major instinct. Everybody wants to be first, everybody wants to be on top.

[MUSIC - CAT STEVENS, "PEACE TRAIN"]

- 526-4000 OR 526-KPFT. We'll take your calls after 3:00. Give us a ring.

- And we'll take your calls after this break. You're listening to 90.1 FM KPFT Houston. 526-4000.

- 526-KPFT.

- This is a real watered-down *After Hours*. We'll be back next week with the whole thing. Hopefully, maybe this will be over. Who knows?

- Wouldn't that be great?

- Hang on. We'll be back to take your calls at 526-4000 or 526-KPFT after these breaks. So stay with us.

- Every Saturday night at midnight on *After Hours*, we play music.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

- *After Hours* every Saturday night at midnight, right here on KPFT Houston, 90.1 FM.

- And then, girl, you know what happens at 4:00 when we get the hell out of here?

- Oh, yes, I do. Those barefoot blues broads come in.

[MUSIC - LITTLE JUNIOR PARKER, "IN THE HEAT OF THE NIGHT"]

- "In the Heat of the Night," we have blues for you on 90.1 FM KPFT Houston, Texas, 4:00 AM, Sunday.