

# Ziegler returns after six months' credibility gap

WASHINGTON (AP) — White House Press Secretary Ronald L. Ziegler, a survivor of high-level recommendations that he be replaced because he lacked credibility, is back confronting the media again.

"I intend to give more briefings," Ziegler announced Tuesday. He had just surprised the White House press corps by returning to the press room podium after a lengthy absence from regular briefings.

Ziegler's credibility was shaken last year when he declared "inoperative" Watergate-related statements he had made over a period of months.

"Six months is too long to be away from my friends in the press," he told White House re-

porters with whom he often has been at odds.

Ziegler has not appeared regularly to brief reporters at the White House since last June. As questions about his credibility were raised by the press corps, key Nixon advisers Melvin R. Laird and former Treasury Secretary John B. Connally suggested that he be replaced.

But Ziegler, a former advertising executive with the J. Walter Thompson agency, has survived and been given added stature as a presidential assistant.

While abdicating the briefing podium to his stand-in, Deputy Press Secretary Gerald L. Warren, Ziegler has surfaced periodically to handle major announcements. He last appeared Nov. 29 when Warren was ill.

Some veteran White House reporters suspect Ziegler is returning because Nixon wants his most trusted press man out front now that the serious issues of impeachment and the possibility of more Watergate indictments are coming to the fore.

Asked why Ziegler was returning, Warren said, "The President thought it was a good idea and Ron wanted to do it."

At a 50-minute Tuesday morning briefing, Ziegler faced a barrage of Watergate-related questions.

One reporter asked: "Do you think your credibility has been restored?"

"I think credibility is always a question that has to be determined by the listener," Ziegler said. He said that in speaking

for the White House he has stated the facts as he knew them to be and could speak "in very good conscience."

Asked about a new White House directive that all White House aides report to him on their contacts to the press, Ziegler said the procedure was launched because many news stories have been quoting anonymous White House sources. He said Nixon aides now would "go on the record as much as possible except when it is beneficial to us or to you."

When the briefing was over, the press secretary was asked how he liked getting back into the fray.

"Well, it hasn't changed much," Ziegler replied.

## Our mistake

Yesterday The Battalion printed an erroneous schedule for the Thursday and Friday public hearings of the Student Service Fee Allocation Committee. The correct schedule is as follows:

Thursday: 7:30 p.m., Athletic Department; 8:30 p.m., Intramural Department.

Friday: 7:30 p.m., Student Publications; 8 p.m., Health Center; 8:30 p.m., Student Lawyer; 9 p.m., Student Government.

The committee hearings will be in Room 501 of the Rudder Tower.

## Weather

Continued rain Wednesday and Thursday. High today 56°. Thursday morning low 38°.

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# The Battalion

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## Services fees on Senate agenda

The Student Senate will begin its long work on fee allocations at 7:30 tonight in Room 102 of Zachry Engineering Center.

Randy Ross, Student Government president, said that some past history and future proposals concerning Student Service Fees will be discussed.

The Senate will also discuss a proposal to appoint two students and two alternates to the Athletic Council.

Shariq Yosufzai, S.G. vice president, said presently no students are on the Athletic Council. "If appointed the students should have voting privileges on the council," Yosufzai said. "I can't over emphasize the need for students on the council. A lot of our student fees go to the Athletic Council and we need a voice in decisions."

Yosufzai said many other universities have students on their Athletic Councils.

"Baylor University has two students on its Athletic Council, Texas University has two, Texas Tech has two and Rice University has two students but no voting privi-

leges," said Yosufzai. Some major legislative and judicial constitutional changes will also be discussed tonight.

John Tyler (Corps) explained that the revision resolution would change the title of vice president of the senate.

"Vice president would be called speaker of the senate and he would be elected by the Senate," Tyler said.

Also the jobs of the corresponding secretary and the recorder would be combined to recording secretary.

The Judicial Committee would be changed to the Judicial Board. The Legal Rights Commission, presently a part of the Judicial Committee, would be dissolved.

## Silver Taps

Silver Taps for Patricia A. Ward and Wayne Hanawa is scheduled tonight at 10:30. Students are reminded that lights will be turned off from 10:20 until the conclusion of the ceremony.

# MSC asks for \$57,000 services fee increase



Don Webb addresses members of the Student Services Fee Allocation Committee. Photo by Alan Killingsworth

By VICKIE ASHWILL

Sums totaling over \$300,000 were discussed in a public hearing concerning student services fee allocations Tuesday night.

The three and one half hour meeting was spent in questioning a requested \$57,298 increase in funds to the Memorial Student Center and a \$60,000 request by the shuttle bus committee.

MSC Council President Don Webb said they are the only facility which will triple in size next year and the requested increase would not be expected each year. "We will not be using the facilities to their capacity without the increase in funds. Neither will TAMU students have the programs available at other universities," said Webb.

MSC programs is asking for a total of \$255,829 over the \$198,331 they received from student services fees last year.

Increases in the recommended budget include the creation of a graphic arts coordinator, arts and crafts coordinator, assistant programs coordinator and a box office manager.

Other expenses totaling \$78,665 include records and tapes for use in the Browsing Library (necessary to utilize new equipment), initial supplies for arts and crafts, programming increases and camera and radio committee moving expenses.

Without the increase, Webb said there would probably be a decrease in programs instead of employees and the facilities would set idle until money was allocated to use them.

"To get the best and most use out of the equipment the center has, we need to spend the money on the programming now," continued Webb.

Webb also said the equipment had been approved in last year's budget and procedure made the center wait until this year to ask for money to hire persons to work the equipment.

Committee members suggested it might be possible to reallocate funds from OPAS to pay for more MSC employees, helping to lower the budget request.

"It seems to me that OPAS is

a Cadillac running on a Volkswagen budget," said Ron Miori committee member.

Webb argued that students did attend the OPAS programs and that possibly in two to three years OPAS would be able to pay for its programs without any subsidy.

"We finally making various cultural programs available to the students," said Webb. "It's not fair to take OPAS away from the students."

Any money taken from the OPAS budget would kill the entire program, said Webb.

"The primary complaint by students is there is not enough to do," said Webb. "Students might answer differently when asked about an increase in student services fees if told the increase was to improve programs."

Webb also said Political Forum was requesting \$9,500 over the (See BUDGET, page 6)



Donald Hall

## Famed poet makes visit

One of the best-known poets in America will give a free public reading Thursday at 8 p.m. in the Forum Room of the Rudder Conference Tower.

Donald Hall, a Harvard graduate, will launch three days of workshops on communication and motivating students toward improving their writing skills.

Besides Hall, the TAMU committee on Freshman English will bring James B. Hogins of San Diego Mesa College, co-author of "Reading, Writing, and Rhetoric," Charles Christianson of Little, Brown & Co. in Boston and Frank Gaddis of Science Research Associates, Inc. in Chicago and Palo Alto, Calif., will also be present.

A reviewer in New York City summarized Hall's impact as "a very relaxed and often humorous platform manner that suits his varying moods better than any poet's I've heard since I listened to my Dylan Thomas records."

Hall not only writes poetry but short stories, biographies and formal and informal essays as well. He has been working for several years on a biography of the late British actor, Charles Laughton. Now a professor of English at Michigan University, Hall has held fellowship at Oxford and Stanford and is the recipient of two Guggenheim awards.

University National Bank  
"On the side of Texas A&M."  
Adv.

# Nixon 'not involved in erasures'

## Ford claims well-financed plot to oust President

WASHINGTON (AP) — Vice President Gerald R. Ford said Tuesday he knows President Nixon had nothing to do with the 18½-minute erasure of a key Watergate tape.

The reason, he told a news conference, is a one-hour, 45-minute conversation he had Monday with Nixon. Based on what Nixon told him, Ford said, "I do know the President was not involved" in the erasure.

The vice president defended last week's speech in which he said a small group of political enemies was out to impeach the President as "the truth," saying "As long as I tell the truth . . . my credibility is not eroded at all."

He said he told the President there is "a coordinated, well-financed, skillful effort on the part of some organizations to oust him."

"I think he is fully cognizant of the various polls, he is fully

cognizant of what some members are saying" and what some organizations are doing, Ford added.

Ford also said: "I have not indicated there was an organized effort in the Congress."

"I have no knowledge of that,"

Ford added. "I know certain members believe that. I know of no organized effort" in Congress to impeach Nixon.

"It would be unwise and improper for the White House to release" transcripts of conversa-

tions between President Nixon and former presidential aide John W. Dean III that Senate GOP Leader Hugh Scott said show Nixon's innocence.

The reason, Ford said, is that these matters are before the courts and grand juries.

"The President is not going to resign," and Ford added "the President would be very unwise to resign. It would be very wrong for him to do so, particularly since I believe he is not guilty."

Ford was asked about his statement last week that impeachable grounds were lacking, even if Nixon were involved in the 18½-minute erasure on a tape of a conversation between the President and former aide H. R. Halde-

"I do not believe that the President was involved at all. I do not know who was involved. I do know the President was not involved," Ford said.

Asked how he knew, he referred to the Monday meeting and said that "I know from these conversations that the President had no prior knowledge of the Watergate break-in, took no part in the coverup and was not part of any of these allegations that have been made by some."

## Impeachment seen less likely

NEW YORK (AP)—NBC News said Tuesday a poll of returned congressmen shows the number for impeachment of President Nixon has dropped but many who opposed impeachment last fall are now undecided or silent.

NBC reported that all 431 members of the House of Representatives or their aides were polled since last Thursday and results were compared with a similar poll last October, after

the firing of special Watergate prosecutor Archibald Cox.

In October 109 of the 427 members responding favored or tended to favor impeachment. The new poll shows only 90 saying they favor or tend to favor impeachment, NBC said.

But while in October 167 were against or tended to be against impeachment, only 137 now express opposition to impeachment, it said.

NBC said the number of House

members undecided or those declining to give an opinion rose from 151 in October to 204 at present.

NBC also reported that the poll showed 50 uncommitted congressmen saying they would favor impeachment if the House Judiciary Committee recommended it, and another 53 saying that such a recommendation might change their minds—a total of 103 votes that could be affected by the committee's action.

# OPAS features ballet in second presentation

"The Sleeping Beauty," a classic ballet, will be danced by the National Ballet of Washington Thursday, Jan. 31 at 8 p.m. in Rudder Center Auditorium. The ballet is the second event in the premiere season of the Opera and Performing Arts Society.

Staged by Ben Stevenson, it is a full-length production with a prologue and three acts. The original choreography was executed by Marius Petipa. The musical score by Tchaikovsky was composed especially for the Petipa ballet.

The dancers are under the direction of Frederic Franklin and Stevenson. Six were prize-winners at the International Ballet Competition in Varna, Bulgaria, in 1972.

Admission to the ballet will be by OPAS season ticket or single admission. Tickets are on sale at Rudder Center Box Office, Monday through Friday, from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. For more information, call 845-2916.



Tchaikovsky provides the dance music for "The Sleeping Beauty."