

# Veterans Request Removal of Gilchrist

Two resolutions, one asking the board of directors to remove President Gibb Gilchrist from office, and the other expressing a lack of confidence in the college administration, were passed by the Veteran Students Association in a special mass meeting Thursday night. The resolutions were ordered to be placed before the board of directors at their meeting yesterday.

Meeting in the Assembly Hall, crowded "to the rafters" by 3,000 veterans, the group heard a condemnatory report, prepared by the association officers and read by W. S. (Bill) Andrews, president of the association. Also read were letters from the Fort Worth Mothers Club and the Winter Garden A. & M. Club, expressing dissatisfaction with the present administration.

The meeting was conducted in an orderly fashion, and though there were frequent bursts of wild

cheering during the session, after it was over the veterans returned quietly to their dormitories and apartments.

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VSA Report

The report read by Andrews follows in its entirety:

It is our intention to show the former students, the people of Texas, and the State Legislature that we have sufficient data to prove that there has been a trespass upon and an intimidation of the student body, of the faculty and of the employees of this college.

Lest we forget those principals for which you and I so recently fought World War II, and truly those which exist in name only on this campus, may I quote you a section from the Constitution of the State of Texas:

"Every person shall be at liberty to speak, write, or publish his opinions on any subject, and

no law shall ever be passed curtailing the liberty of speech or of the press."

Continuing along this line of thought, we bring to you our main issue, which we feel violates every principle of democracy. That being the control of the faculty by President Gibb Gilchrist through the use of duress and intimidation. We quote from a statement made by a present member of the Faculty of Texas A. & M.:

"To my certain knowledge such intimidation has existed during the last few years and there is reason to believe that it still exists. In the early stages of this intimidation it took the form of threats to 'fine' certain individuals if they did not refrain from doing that which they would otherwise have done, and which they had the legal right to do."

We do not care to make public at this time the name of this faculty member. His signed state-

ment, however, is in our files and he stands ready to appear before any legislative investigating committee that will come down here.

Another quotation which is from a Resolution passed by the Constitutional Convention, 1875, of our State is especially directed to each of you as you attempt to make your \$65 or \$90 stretch from the first to the last day of each month—something that is almost an impossibility on the campus under the present administration.

"Whereas, from the earliest period of Texas History the people have through their representatives, repeatedly expressed a cherished purpose to establish within the state, institutions of learning of the highest order, upon what is known as the 'University System'; and have from time to time, illustrated a desire to provide for the ample endowment of same. In order to place within the reach of their

sons, whether rich or poor, an opportunity of acquiring in Texas a thorough education in the classics, and in all the branches of the liberal arts and sciences."

Can we say that the appropriations which the legislature obviously believed were ample for this institution, have been administered in the best interest of your education during the last three years?

For two reasons we contend this can not be, because expenses formerly covered by appropriated or budgeted funds have been shifted in part to the student as a direct expense.

Room Rent

First: The College is charging each student \$7 room rent per month for rooms which were originally sealed to rent for approximately \$5. This is based upon the construction of dormitories 1-12 and Duncan Hall which was financed through a \$2,000,000 issue

of 30 year non-callable, 6% bonds. To amortize these bonds and pay the interest charges, the Board of Directors guaranteed payments on the basis of two students per room at \$3.50 per student per month for nine months out of each calendar year.

At the same time rooms in the older dormitories are renting at the same rate (\$7 per man) and the students at the Bryan Field Annex are charged \$6 per man to live 14 men in an army barracks.

Mess Hall

The second reason for this contention is that part of the normal operating expense of the dining halls have been shifted from the college's budget to the student through higher food prices.

Normal overhead expenses, involving such items as ice, steam, water, light, heat and normal depreciation, were formerly allowed for in the budget because the Power Plant was constructed and equipped through a direct appropriation of State Funds. Also the Power Plant normally showed a substantial profit from other operations. Furthermore, the whole building of Sbsa was constructed from direct appropriation of state funds.

Our Mess Hall Committee has been told repeatedly by the mess hall manager that the price of food could be lowered if it were not for this overhead. Upon what basis does the administration justify this?

Publicity

We charge that President Gilchrist, through controlled and directed publicity, has kept the true status of this institution from the people of the state. We cite as evidence of this, the statement released to the press in April 1944 that Gibb Gilchrist was unanimously elected as president of A. & M. College. "Eight of nine directors for Mr. Gilchrist. The ninth is overseas." REFERENCE: Dallas Morning News—May 26, 1944. Actually, there were three votes cast against him and the ninth member of the board was absent. Col. E. J. Buchanan was on active duty with the army and Mr. F. M. Law, Mr. John Byrnes, and General Breese cast negative votes.

Further, we present for your consideration the following questions for you to decide for yourself whether or not the administration has adequately accounted for its actions to the people of the state. We demand the administration make public statements in answer to our questions.

1. What has happened to a fund established prior to 1943 for a new classroom and laboratory building to augment the Science Hall (and we need it). Why hasn't construction started on the building? This fund was in the amount of approximately \$200,000.
2. What was the basis of the purchase of a Brazos River Bottom farm at approximately \$78 per acre when adjacent farm land was, and still is, selling at approximately \$60 per acre?
3. Why should the College Exchange Store, located here on state-owned property be permitted to make a net profit last year of \$54,000 at the expense of the individual student and the Federal Government?
4. Why is the \$100,000 wind-tunnel located at Easterbrook not in operation? Why was the survey and subsequent recommendation by Dr. A. A. Potter, of Purdue University, to spend not more than \$25,000 on a wind-tunnel ignored?
5. Why did President Gilchrist refuse to accept the outright gift of Bryan Army Air Field from the Federal Government for the use of the Aeronautical Engineering Department?
6. Why doesn't Texas A. & M. have a definite tenure system for right of appeal for its faculty members?

As older men, who returned to the campus as veterans, we found that many changes had been made in the policies of the institutions and its directing personnel, while many of us did not perhaps agree that the directing head of the institution had neither the training nor the qualities of mind and heart that would enable him to provide the dynamic leadership essential to the fullest development of our institution. We did believe that he was entitled to a fair and impartial opportunity to demonstrate his capacity and ability to direct the college. Therefore, regardless of our personal opinions we offered our cooperation and support to those in authority with the greatest hope that they would succeed. But, in conclusion I would like to say that after three long years of conscientious effort upon the students part we believe that the administration has completely failed to measure up to its responsibilities.

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Hot Discussion

After Bill Andrews finished reading his report, the meeting was thrown open for general discussion. Many veterans came up to the microphone and stated their names and grievances. Among them, with their main points of issue, were:

**Dan Kuykendall**

We want our sons and grandsons to have the same opportunities at A. & M. that we had. I could not now recommend to anyone in whom I am sincerely interested that he go to A. & M.

**Bob Faulk**

The administration is trying to do away with the Cadet Corps.

**Brantley Myer**

We are not spoiling for a fight. We are not rabble rousers.

**Louis B. Cole**

We need nationally-famous teachers, well-paid ones. Some of those now here have ideas they haven't changed in thirty years. I believe teachers should go to "school," too.

**Al Hudeck**

Student Activities hired me to take pictures. I didn't get paid.

**C. W. Nesom (from the floor)**

I didn't either!

**Hudeck (Continuing)**

Some one in that office (now in the Attorney General's office in Austin) gave me \$5 out of his pocket as gas money to get to the LSU football game. He didn't make me give a receipt. I call that bad bookkeeping.

**Joe F. Benson**

We are losing many teachers because of low salaries.

**Jim Kelly**

I am glad the legislature is sending an investigating committee. Maybe we'd better watch them too. I suggest we ask the Ex-student's Association to see that we have a clean-cut investigation.

**Tom Dietz**

Have you looked this over carefully? Do we have sufficient facts? Don't forget Gilchrist knows President Truman. . .

**Joe T. Sample**

Maybe Truman knows Gilchrist, but how many Aggies know him?

**Charley Bernard**

Let's show everybody that this is not a kid grudge, but serious business.

**Bob Polson**

We believe certain members of the Board of Directors are in the dark as to certain conditions here. We believe the board will give us a fair deal.

**Chester Conway**

The government pays \$500 a year for us, but we work in tumbled-down buildings.

**Jimmy LaHaye**

I think we ought to have a Federal investigation, not just a state one, including conditions at Easterwood Field.

**David Trent**

I couldn't get an apartment! . . .

**Henry Crew**

I got one, by raising Cain when they jumped the man behind me 25 names. President Gilchrist objects to my keeping fish and snake specimens in a barrel outside my apartment. That's because there isn't space in the laboratory.

**Cadet Capt. "Red" Miller (Vet)**

We don't want the rest of you veterans to forget that some of us are also in the cadet corps.

**Bill Matthews**

The housing policy works like this: (shouted down)

**Bill Andrews**

Let him speak. That's what we are fighting for, free speech.

**Joe Cullinan (from the floor)**

Who can we get to take Gilchrist's place?

**Bill Andrews**

It's not for us to pick the next president. Only the Board of Directors can do that, and only the board can force Gilchrist's resignation.

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**John Laufenberg**, president of the Veterans Association at the Bryan Air Field Annex, a separ-

## Texas A. & M. College

# The Battalion

VOLUME 46 COLLEGE STATION (Aggieland), TEXAS, SATURDAY, MARCH 29, 1947 Number 53

### Legislative Investigation Of A&M Approved by House

#### 5-Man Committee to Be Named Monday To Obtain First-Hand Information

The House of Representatives voted 90-31 Thursday to investigate the "deplorable" situation at A. & M. College.

In a resolution submitted by Representative Searcy Bracewell, a five-man committee would be sent to A. & M. to obtain first-hand information from all parts concerned and to report its findings to the House.

Speaker of the House W. O. Reed stated that he would appoint the committee Monday, and that he would offer Representative W. T. Moore of Bryan a place on the committee. Moore, an ex-Aggie and Representative from the college district, took no part in the discussion of Bracewell's resolution.

Representative Bracewell, in proposing the resolution, said that the controversy at A. & M. had been in progress for six weeks, causing great distress and consternation to the people of Texas. "The school has been in a state of confusion. The ex-students are confused and the public is confused. Where there is so much smoke, there is bound to be a little fire."

F. G. Swanson of Tyler, who opposed Bracewell's resolution, said, "There's no more occasion to investigate A. & M. College than there is to investigate this Legislature. If some people had their way, they would investigate us." Swanson's attempt was defeated by substantial votes.

Bracewell, Class of '38, reported that there had been two incidents of disorder during the last month, and stated, "This great institution deserves to continue its education

### Vets Refuse Board Interview; Seniors Questioned on Ideas

Bill McCormick, senior class prexy, testified before the Board of Directors Friday afternoon regarding the recent flareup of anti-administration feeling, but the board took no action on the ten-day-old controversy between the military department and seniors.

Action taken by Col. Meloy after a meeting of the class March 19, which provoked the resignations of Cadet Col. Ed Brandt and Cadet Lt. Col. Jack Nelson after a vote of "no confidence", received little attention from the board as they fired questions at McCormick concerning an open letter from the Class of 1948. This letter, adopted by the class on March 12, charged political corruption in the A. & M. administration and called upon friends and supporters of the college to investigate the causes of the differences between students and administration.

Prexy Gibb Gilchrist led the questioning as he specifically asked McCormick who printed the letter, who wrote it, and how many were printed.

McCormick refused to reply to any of the questions except the one regarding the number, setting it at 5000.

Gilchrist, after reading a phrase from the letter charging corruption in the college, queried, "Who is corrupt?" McCormick answered with no specific names or incidents.

"Is the effort of the administration to stop hazing the only corruptness you charge?" asked Rufus Peeples of Tehuacana.

McCormick denied this, stating it is the destruction of traditions which the class decries. As an example, McCormick mentioned the fact that humping is no longer required of freshmen according to the Articles of the Cadet Corps.

Gilchrist answered a charge of speaking to the Dallas A. & M. Mothers Club on far-fetched subjects by saying he had been invited to speak on any subject he liked. "I spoke on the construction program at A. & M.—the chapel, the union building, and other proposed buildings."

Roy Potts, board member, queried McCormick about the source of funds used to pay for 5000 copies of the open letter. "Were outside funds used?" he asked.

"The senior class fund was used to pay for the printing bill," replied McCormick.

Board members then initiated a lengthy discussion of the hazing problem, questioning McCormick repeatedly about its prevalence in the cadet corps.

"You have given no specific instances of the general charges which you bring up in the open letter," stated Newton, who spoke for the board a majority of the time. "When you get out into business, don't ever put anything in a letter when you don't have facts to back it up."

McCormick was dismissed, after which two cadet seniors, Dick Jones and Bob Sanders, were introduced.

Major Wayne Long, tactical officer of Dormitory 6, explained that Jones and Sanders were quite outspoken against the administration in interviews he conducted with them.

Sanders charged Maj. Long with violating a promise to keep his criticisms in strict confidence. Long stated it was true that he had made such a promise.

Sanders launched his violent criticism of the "political corruptness of Gibb Gilchrist and the administration" only after an assurance from the board that no action would be taken against him.

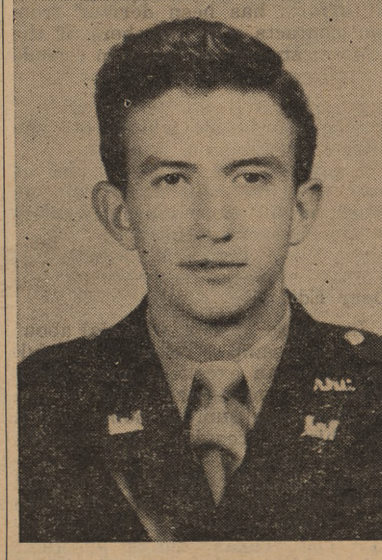
Smiles frequently wreathed the faces of board members, Gilchrist, (See CADETS on Page 4)

Officers of the Veteran Students Association, in an appearance before the Board of Directors yesterday, refused to amplify charges made by the association Thursday night. "We wish to withhold further statements until the state legislative investigating committee comes here," stated W. S. Andrews, president of the association and spokesman for the group.

#### Queried by Board



**BILL ANDREWS**  
President VSA



**BILL MCCORMICK**  
President, Senior Class

#### Text of Letters, Telegrams

The text of several telegrams received by the VSA prior to the Thursday night meeting was released by W. S. Andrews. They follow:

**TEXAS A. & M. STUDENTS CAN ACCOMPLISH ANY JUST AND HONEST UNDERTAKING PROVIDED THEY DO IT BY JUST AND HONEST MEANS. PRESENT EPISODE AT A. & M. CAUSED MUCH UNFAVORABLE PUBLICITY IN THIS PART OF THE COUNTRY. I URGE THAT WHATEVER YOU ARE TRYING TO ACCOMPLISH THAT YOU DO IT IN A WAY WHICH DOES NOT BRING DISCREDIT ON THE FINEST SCHOOL IN THE WORLD. OUR SCHOOL IS MUCH GREATER AND MORE IMPORTANT THAN YOU OR ANY GROUP.**

Congressman Olin E. Teague, '32

**MORE POWER TO YOU BOYS. HANG IN THERE. YOU ARE DOING A GREAT JOB IN TRYING TO REMEDY THE INCIDENTS.**

The Kokinos Bros. and Friends

**YOUR ACTION TO DISCLOSE THE TACTICS OF YOUR SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION IS ANOTHER ATTACK ON THE AGE-OLD PERSECUTION OF THE AMERICAN STUDENT. UNTIL WE CAN IMPRESS UPON THE REACTIONARY REGIME OF OUR TEXAS SCHOOLS THAT WE ARE CAPABLE OF GOVERNING OUR AFFAIRS, WE WILL BE FORCED TO GO TO THE PEOPLE. WE APPLAUD YOUR ACTION.**

Leo Steikoeng, President  
Veterans Association  
West Texas State College

Letters from the Fort Worth A. & M. Mothers' Club and the Winter Garden A. & M. were read by Ray Sanders and Buddy Brennan, respectively. They follow:

**Mr. R. M. Harrison,**  
Board of Directors, A&M College,  
South Bend, Texas.

Dear Sir:

We are greatly concerned over existing conditions at the college. Many of our sons are members of the Corps; many more of them are enrolled as returned servicemen, so we feel that we have a clear, unbiased view of the present college life.

The current state of affairs at the college is not a healthy condition, and it is not of sudden development. The causes are many. We do not confuse hazing with class distinction—class distinction exists in all institutions of higher learning. We do not confuse hazing with the principle of student government. Texas A&M College was founded on the principle of student government—why should it prove unsatisfactory? For years it has been the basic policy of a

### Dance Slated Tonight at 9

An All-College dance will be held tonight in Sbsa Hall. Continuing the practice of following each organizational dance of Friday with a dance for all students, the Student Activities Office announced that the Aggieband Orchestra will furnish music for the occasion.

Beginning at 9 p. m. the dance will last until midnight. Tickets will be on sale at the door at the cost of \$1.50 stag or drag.

### Cigar Smoke-Filled Assembly Hall Shakes Under 4000-Strong

By Mack T. Nolen

Expecting to get a ring side seat, four bosom buddies trekked toward the Assembly Hall at 6:45 p.m., Thursday night for the big meeting. They had their throats sprayed, the better to emit shrill, fanatic screams of approval, and their teeth newly brushed for whistling. In their pockets fat, black cigars bulged in ominous portent. Cigar smoke and mass meetings go hand in hand.

Dumb luck led them to four seats in the back. They gargled a last mouthful of Listerine, and fired up the stogies.

Soft music came out over the loudspeaker system to give the appearance of a quiet, refined, intellectual discussion. When the "Aggie War Hymn" record was put on, however, pandemonium almost broke loose in the building as an approximate 4,000 true-blue Aggies felt the old spirit surging again in their veins.

The Assembly Hall, the age and condition of which was not discussed, had people hanging from

ate organization from the campus VSA, pledged the support of his group.

Andrews read the results of a poll, taken among 2200 veterans in the dormitories Wednesday night. The findings were:

	Yes	No
Are you receiving your monthly VA subsistence checks promptly? . . . . .	95.9	4.1
Are you fully satisfied with the present administration and its policies? . . . . .	7.9	92.1
Do you believe the Veteran Students Association should take steps to remedy the situation? . . . . .	98.2	1.8
Will you support any stand taken by the Veterans Association? . . . . .	98.2	1.8
Do you think the A. & M. faculty is adequately paid? . . . . .	4.1	95.9
Do you think the scholastic standards of A. & M. have been lowered during the present administration? . . . . .	79.0	21.0

During the discussion, Col. Frank Anderson, track coach and former commandant, asked permission to address the meeting. He was refused the floor, on the ground that only veterans could speak during the meeting. However, he made a statement to the press that Gilchrist was carrying out orders of the Board of Directors.

After the meeting had been formally adjourned, several outside

See VETERANS, Page 4