

Minority Group Advocates Director-General

A&M Administrative Officials Given 'Clean Bill of Health'

A Director General of the A&M College System was proposed in the minority report of the joint senate-house legislative investigating committee submitted to the legislature on Friday June 7.

The minority report was signed by Senator George Moffett, Representative Searcy Bracewell and Representative Edward Hughes, all former A&M students. The report further recommended that the office of the President be concerned with education at the A&M College at College Station only.

The report concluded that no facts had been introduced to substantiate charges promulgated by the Veteran Students Association. Administrative officials were given a clean bill of health on charges of misappropriation of funds, malfeasance of office, and intimidation of subordinates.

Complete Text of Report
June 6, 1947

Sirs:
We, members of your committee appointed to investigate the conditions existing at the Agricultural and Mechanical College of Texas, pursuant to Senate Concurrent Resolution Number 21, cannot concur with the majority report, and beg leave to report as follows:

Preliminary Statement
We have attempted a thorough inquiry into all phases of the present situation at the A. & M. College, as far as the time available would permit. It is indeed unfortunate that this great institution, supported and maintained by the people of Texas, has experienced an atmosphere of unrest, openly

evidenced, during the past few months. It is our sincere hope that such unrest may be overcome with the least possible delay, in order that the school may continue to enjoy the esteem and respect of the citizenship of the entire State and Nation.

We have been aware of the deep feeling of loyalty to the institution, which is personified by all people connected with A. & M. College, and more especially the Ex-Students Associations and Mothers Clubs throughout the State, and herein express our appreciation for their interest, which we know springs from a sincere love for the college. We have further been aware of the intangible elements that have made A. & M. College an institution unique, in that on such campus there exists a "Spirit of Aggieland," which is incomparable to adequate description, but which has through the years been a source of inspiration in cementing a spirit of brotherhood among A. & M. men.

It has been with an earnest desire to be of service to the people of Texas, and especially to those most interested in A. & M. College that we have undertaken this task. It is our hope and prayer that our humble efforts may have contributed in some small manner to the solution of the problems existing at this great institution, in order that it can continue its great service to the State and Nation.

Constitutional and Statutory Existence of A. & M. College

The Agricultural and Mechanical College of Texas is a land grant college created by an Act

of the Legislature passed April 17, 1871. It was, by the Constitution of 1876, made a branch of The University of Texas. It is supported by the people of the State of Texas through taxation. The purpose of the school, as declared by Article 2608 of the Revised Civil Statutes of Texas-1925 and as required by the Land Grant Act of Congress-July 2, 1862, is declared to be as follows:

"The leading object of this College shall be, without excluding other scientific and classified studies, and including military tactics, to teach such branches of learning as are related to agriculture and the mechanical arts, in such manner as the Legislature may prescribe, in order to promote the liberal and practical education of the industrial classes in the several pursuits and professions of life."

The government of the A. & M. College is vested in a Board of Directors composed of nine persons, which is empowered to "appoint the president and professors of the college and such other officers as, from time to time, they may think proper to keep the college in successful operation, and may from time to time abolish any office that is, in their judgment, unnecessary" (Article 2613, Section 1, Revised Civil Statutes of 1925).

The A. & M. College Board of Directors, and the President and Officers working under its supervision, have the jurisdiction and control of the following institutions and agencies:

1. The Agricultural and Mechanical College of Texas, located at College Station.
2. The John Tarleton Agricultural College, located at Stephenville.
3. The North Texas Junior Agricultural, Mechanical, and Industrial College, located at Arlington.
4. The Prairie View University, located at Prairie View.
5. The State Experiment Station and allied activities.

Findings

- (1) The unrest at A. & M. College is primarily a product of the times, born of post-war unset-

tlement, and an impatience in reversion to pre-war conditions.

- (2) A minor contributing cause has been the experimental activities of the college authorities in attempting to properly place disciplinary control.
- (3) A principal contributing cause (principally within the cadet corps) has been the renewal of an attempt to abolish all forms of hazing at A. & M.
- (4) A contributing cause has been the encouragement by outside persons, both at College Station and Bryan, of some of the students to resist the constituted authority at A. & M. College.
- (5) A contributing cause has been the lack of opportunity of the Board of Directors of A. & M. College to thoroughly acquaint themselves with current student problems and life on the campus of the college.
- (6) A contributing cause has been the failure of the President of A. & M. College and his administration to command the full respect to which they should be entitled, when taking into consideration the unique nature of the institution. We wish to emphasize that the foregoing statement is in no sense a reflection upon the successful administrative abilities of the President in other fields of endeavor.

Conclusion

- (1) The present regulation of disciplinary control, i.e. administered through the office of the Commandant, appears to be the most satisfactory method, and we wish to take this opportunity to commend the present Commandant for having definitely improved the discipline and morale of the Cadet Corps.
- (2) The attempt on the part of the Board of Directors and administrative authorities at the college to abolish all forms of hazing deserves the applause of the entire citizenship of the State of Texas.
- (3) After a thorough investigation, we conclude that the six (6) charges against the college administration, promulgated by the Veteran's Student Association, have no factual foundation, and the rep-

resentatives of such organization have wholly failed to substantiate them.

- (4) We conclude that there has been no mis-application or misappropriation of funds nor any malfeasance of office on the part of administrative officials of the college.
- (5) We conclude that there is no substantial basis for the charge that the members of the faculty of A. & M. College are in any manner intimidated by the Administration, and there is no widespread unrest, anxiety or dissatisfaction among the members of the faculty of the college.
- (6) We conclude that it would be practically impossible for one person to adequately perform the duties, which are expected of the President of A. & M. College, from both an administrative and educational standpoint.
- (7) We conclude that the present members of the Board of Directors are of the highest caliber and have a sincere and genuine interest in being of service to A. & M. College, and we wish to take this opportunity to commend them for their unselfishness in the full discharge of their responsibilities.

Recommendations

- (1) That the Board of Directors of the college create the office of Director General of A. & M. College (name immaterial), responsible to the Board of Directors and charged with the Administrative Supervision of the entire A. & M. system, divorced from supervision of educational curriculum. That the office of the President be reserved and maintained with its primary consideration, that of education at the A. & M. College at College Station only. This or some similar division of authority, we feel, would relieve a great burden, which is almost insurmountable, i.e. that of providing for the educational curriculum at A. & M. College proper, and at the same time attempting to provide administrative supervision for the other institutions, the extension service, and the experiment station. (See Annex No. 1).
- (2) That an attempt be made

The Battalion

Tuesday, June 10, 1947

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Second Group of Officers Arrive For CE Training

Sixteen regular army Corps of Engineers officers reported here yesterday for a year of postgraduate training in civil engineering. The contingent is the second sent here by the army, a pioneer group of 17 officers having received Master of Science degrees from the college May 30.

The incoming group of officers, all of field grade, includes the following:

Lt. Cols. Thomas J. Bowen, John B. W. Corey, Lawrence M. Hoover, John H. Livingston, Bruce W. Reagan, Charles S. Skillman, Parker O. Stuart, and Francis J. Crown; and Majors Edward C. Bruce, Richard Delaney, Clyde T. Earnest, Herbert Richardson, William J. Talbot, John W. Van Hoy, David H. Woods, and John McClure.

Geology Majors to Tour West Texas

Twenty geology majors will spend the first six weeks of this summer studying land and rock formations in the Marble Falls area, S. A. Lynch, head of the department of geology, has announced. Dr. J. J. Graham and Dr. Carl Lauson, members of the staff, will be in charge of the group.

Marble Falls has been selected by the department of geology as the site for the camp because of the abundance of study material in that locality. Geological mapping, aerial photographs, and the structure and stratigraphy of rocks in that region will be studied by the juniors and seniors selected to make the trip.

Tours also will be made through other parts of west Texas, including Big Bend National Park, Marathon Basin, and the Alpine and Van Horn region.

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