

Battalion EDITORIALS

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Peace-Pipe for Austin, Too . . .

"Something different" was heard in Austin this week, as Professor W. P. Webb of Texas University suggested that J. Frank Dobie and T. S. Painter, instead of making the most out of their feud, should try to reach some compromise. Perhaps Dr. Webb was impressed by the spirit of "give and take" shown when the A. & M. board of directors and five leaders of the Cadet Corps sat around a table for an amicable discussion of cooperation last week.

Webb's statement came while students were preparing to circulate petitions among the TU student body urging that Dobie's connection with the University be retained.

Dr. Webb said there was no rule to prevent Dobie's reemployment on terms agreed to by Dobie and the administration.

Dobie was dismissed by the administration last week when he refused to report for duty after his requested leave had been refused under a new regent rule limiting leaves to one year except under unusual circumstances. Dobie had been on leave four years.

Dr. Webb described the rule as "a trap," into which Dobie had walked "with stubborn unconcern." He said the rule as a whole was a good one and Dobie should not have walked into it.

"Dobie is by nature a maverick, and has always been so," Dr. Webb said. "He wears no man's brand. He runs free and easy with whatever crowd takes his fancy, or if the crowd gets too big or in any way objectionable Dobie separates himself and runs in a herd by himself."

Webb said it was this characteristic of going his own way that had brought about the present impasse.

"That and the further fact that in late years Mr. Dobie has for practical purposes associated himself with the 'wrong crowd' at the University of Texas," he said. "He made the practical mistake of giving his loyalty to a dead king."

Dobie had actively supported Dr. Homer P. Rainey, deposed University president,

both in his fight against the University Administration and in his unsuccessful race for governor. At the same time Dobie had lashed caustically against the University high command.

Rainey is now president of Stephens College, Columbia, Missouri.

Dr. Webb said the administration found itself also in a trap when Dobie refused to return under conditions of the new leave rule, not being able to permit Dobie to run "free on the open range" while the rule was applied to all other faculty members.

"So Mr. Dobie is fired . . . there is no longer any issue . . . the administration is supreme," Webb wrote.

"A new issue takes the place of the old one. How can Mr. Dobie and the University get out of the trap into which they fell together?"

He suggested both could help each other by agreeing on terms—with Dobie teaching only in the spring, since that is what he wants.

"Surely, a great university can be tolerant of personal idiosyncrasies of its great men. The re-employment of Mr. Dobie will make many friends for the administration and will contribute something to healing the wounds of a bitter conflict," he concluded.

The Battalion cannot quite agree with Dr. Webb's remarks about "giving loyalty to a dead king," as they imply that Dobie would have to wield an honorable principle in making a compromise. However, there can be no dispute about the fact that Rainey has left Texas University, presumably for ever. It is doubtful that Rainey would re-accept the presidency of Texas University now, if all the regents went down on their knees to ask him back—which isn't likely.

So it seems to us that Dr. Dobie ought either to make such a compromise as Webb suggests, or specifically resign if President Painter is still "persona non grata" to him.

Why Are We In College? . . .

What are we doing in college, anyway? This is a question which often comes up in built-up sessions. Worn down with work and worry, we rationalize: "Uncle Wilbur didn't get past third grade, but now he's president of the Amalgamated Gravel Co.," or "Uncle Fred went to work right after high school, never even took a correspondence course, and knows twice as much about his business as the graduates he hires cheap from P.U."

All of which makes good talk, but if its true, why are we bothering to attend A. & M.?

We grind along, day after day, with one thought in mind—how to get through certain required courses, indicated by such fear-some symbols as English 210, History 306 and Sco 403.

The reward for all this labor and suffering will be that sheepskin, which we say we

despise, but which we hope will lead us to that "dream job." Is that the be-all and end-all of our college education?

The chief value of a good college education is that it teaches one to think. An employer who hires a college man assumes that he is getting an employee who can think creatively. The graduate who goes into business for himself must think, or fail.

Are we doing ourselves any good as we plunge thoughtlessly through a mire of prerequisites and required courses, with the thought in the back of our minds, "If I can only get through all this jumble, I'll be one heck of a good engineer?"

A college course is not a mental obstacle course. There is no virtue in somehow getting over the hurdles, unless one is learning to think about the race as a whole.

State's Riches Under the Sea . . .

Many have considered the Tidelands Oil Case strictly an issue between the State of California and the national government. When the case began in 1937, it was thought only that the government claimed certain land off the California coast and was suing the oil companies to obtain it.

As analysis of the chronology of events of government action shows that originally former Secretary of the Interior Harold Ickes advanced a claim for the submerged lands, through former Attorney General Biddle, to recover leases several oil companies had bought in a 15-square-mile area from the State of California.

The public was told that this was a suit against the big oil companies. Then the government changed its mind and Attorney General Tom Clark was persuaded to dismiss the local suit against the oil companies and file a new suit in the Supreme Court of the United States against the State of California.

So the issue changed from one contesting the rights of the oil companies to the submerged lands a contest of the rights of the state of California to all of her submerged lands along the coast, some 3000 square miles.

With the decision of the Supreme Court upholding the ruling of the United States, the rights of any state to its coastal territories or to its navigable waterways is questionable.

A possible end of this entire procedure would be for the national government to claim all of the submerged lands of the states and consequently those industries which derive livelihood from these areas. This might mean nationalization of the fishing, chemical, sponge, oyster, and dredging industries.

A solution to avert this action has been proposed by Texas Attorney General Price Daniel. His proposition is contained in two laws he would have the Congress pass:

"1. The right to own and recover resources in and beneath all lands within the territory of the United States is vested in the owner of the soil or the person to whom he has conveyed or assigned such right, subject only to lawful regulatory powers of the local, state and federal governmental agencies.

"2. The ownership of lands beneath the navigable waters within the boundaries of the respective states is and shall continue to be vested in the states.

The Battalion

The Battalion, official newspaper of the Agricultural and Mechanical College of Texas and the City of College Station, Texas, is published five times a week and circulated every Monday through Friday afternoon, except during holidays and examination periods. During the summer The Battalion is published semi-weekly. Subscription rate \$4 per school year. Advertising rates furnished on request.

News contributions may be made by telephone (4-5444) or at the editorial office, Room 201, Goodwin Hall. Classified ads may be placed by telephone (4-5324) or at the Student Activities Office, Room 200, Goodwin Hall.

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Entered as second-class matter at Post Office at College Station, Texas, under the Act of Congress of March 3, 1879.

Member Associated College Press
 Represented nationally by National Advertising Service, Inc., at New York City, Chicago, Los Angeles, and San Francisco.

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How to Feed US and Europe Too Is Truman's Problem

By JAMES MARLOW
 WASHINGTON, Oct. 2 (AP)—This will bring you up to date on the Help-Europe-With-Food program.

Some time ago President Truman set up a special committee to study world food problems. This is what it recently reported to him:

Last year Europe was short of food and needed help from us but this year, because of crop failures there, it will be even shorter and need more help.

But, to make matters worse, crop failure in this country this year mean we'll have less food to ship overseas.

How can we bridge that gap and try to spare more food for Europe? Three things could be done in this country:

1. Rationing.
2. Eating Less.
3. Wasting Less.

All three have been talked about but, so far, nothing has been done except to ask Americans to waste less food. Take them one at a time.

Rationing.—Rationing in this country, a wartime measure to keep prices down and see that everyone had an equal share of food, ended when the war ended.

But can the government set up a rationing program again? If so, how long would it take to get started?

First, congress would have to approve. Congress, now out of session, may not come back until next January.

Even if congress were called back into special session right now (which it won't be) to approve rationing, how long would it take to set up a program?

About six months, according to Paul M. O'Leary, former deputy administrator of O.P.A.

Anyway, talk of rationing right now is just talk. There's no sign of its happening any time soon, if at all.

Eating Less.—Suggestions along this line have had a cool response.

Wasting Less Food.—Of all the ideas suggested for saving food for Europe, this is the easiest to ask Americans to do. It means no sacrifice at all.

President Truman suggested wasting less.

He set up a special committee of 28 citizens to work out a waste-less-food program. You'll hear from this committee later.

And, at this moment, that's all that's been done.

Hollywood Round-Up . . .

Dick Powell Shows How to Come Back For New Career
 By BOB THOMAS
 HOLLYWOOD, Oct. 3 (AP)—Wartime film stars who feel their careers slipping — and there are several lately — can take a lesson from Dick Powell. The ex-crooner has few equals at managing his movie fortunes.

Dick bounced back into the limelight with a tough detective portrayal then played a couple of adventure stories and is now doing a western, "Station West." His next film for RKO lines up as "Mr. Whiskers," a comedy. Then under his own banner, Dick plans "Mr. Miracle," a musical. "My voice is as good as it ever was," he declares.

Mr. Powell knows the value of versatility in preserving one's screen popularity.

Shirley Temple won't be gone from films long. Her baby is expected at the end of January and she will start a film for Selznick in April.

Paulette Goddard is back and Paramount has her for "Hazard." She is the envy of the local gals with her Paris gown which "all have slits in the front, back or side." She also displayed her new fashionable-fancy ribboned garters.

Sick list . . . Jane Powell can't finish her role in "Luxury Liner" until a mosquito bite on her eye heals . . . Bill Holden returned from the "Rachel" location with a sinus infection . . . Rod Cameron goes into the hospital after "Pansy" for an operation on his knee, still ailing from an old rodeo injury . . . Yvonne De Carlo is sitting up these nights with her sick horse.

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Aggie-Exes Crowd Pentagon, Headquarters of U.S. Army

By TEX EASLEY
 AP Special Washington Service WASHINGTON, Oct. 3 (AP)—The War Department currently employs 22,000 persons in the mammoth Pentagon Building just across the Potomac River in Virginia—at one time the number was nearly 40,000.

In numerous other buildings scattered over the Washington Metropolitan area the War Department employs many additional thousands, among them many Texasians, both military and civilian.

As for top Texas personalities in the Pentagon, General Dwight D. Eisenhower heads the list. Of course he claims Abilene, Kansas, as home, but Texans emphasize he was born at Denison.

Others of general rank currently on duty here and who hail from Texas include: Maj. Gen. Howard Davidson, Wharton, who was retired but now is on active duty with the Army Air Forces Aid Society; Maj. Gen. E. H. Leavelle, in the office of the chief of transportation, an ex-Texas Aggie; Maj. Gen. Otto P. (Oppie) Weyland, Uvalde; Maj. Gen. William D. Old, on the general staff, another ex-Texas Aggie, and Brig. Gen. Alvin R. Luedcke, of the class of '32 of Texas A. & M., who, when promoted to his present rank in 1941, was the Army's youngest general.

One of the most colorful war records belongs to Col. John A. Hilger of Houston, on duty at AAF Headquarters. He was next to Gen. Jimmy Doolittle in command on the famous raid on Tokyo at the beginning of the war.

Other Texans of that rank now stationed here include: Colonels Jack E. Finks, Austin, in the military plans division; Earl T. McCullough, University of Texas graduate who later served as commandant at Texas A. & M. between 1928 and 1932, who is now in the memorial division in charge of returning the bodies of soldiers killed overseas; Lloyd R. Garrison of Denton; and T. J. Rampy of Winters.

Among the Lieutenant Colonels are John Maher of Brownville, legislative liaison officer assigned to the House of Representatives; A. A. Robinson, Dallas, assigned to the office of the Joint Chiefs of Staff; Sanford Poole, Jr., of Dallas.

A few of the Majors, their names taken at random from among scores of Texas officers, are: J. B. Batsy, Taylor; C. H. Bergmann, Goldi; W. O. Threadgill, Belleme; O. C. McGrew, Ponderosa; George Nickerson, San Antonio.

Texas A. & M. College, of course is the background for scores of officers of all ranks serving in the Pentagon and other Army buildings in this area. The secretary of the Texas Aggies club

Deer Named Prexy Of Entomologists

James A. Deer was elected president of the Entomology Club at its first meeting Monday night. Other officers are C. B. Bressel, secretary and treasurer, and A. M. Billis, reporter.

Dr. S. W. Billing presided until the election of officers was completed.

Payment of dues, social plans for the fall semester, and the re-organization of the club's annual publication, "The Texas Aggie Entomologist," were discussed by the twenty-two members present.

The club will meet every second Monday.

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