

# Battalion Editorials

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WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 4, 1950

## At Mid-Century, A Look Back . . .

Standing four days past the mid point of the Twentieth Century, we pause a moment to look back before looking ahead. We look back to see where we and this country have been in our lifetimes, and maybe from that we can better tell where we are going.

At A&M we find two generations—the generation whose minds were greatly influenced in a war they helped fight, and the generation whose minds have developed and are developing without any knowledge of war other than newspaper accounts and newsreel shots of it. In both generations, a parallel of thinking is being struck, and within a few years their separate ways of thought will merge into one.

Where have we been? How far back does our memory go, a decade? Even a decade past our memory grows hazy on most points and few experiments remain vivid.

And even if our memory reaches further into the past, does it go beyond 1933 when the Democrats gained power? Can we, then, say we remember any political movement other than one Democratically inspired and Democratically led? The TVA's, AAA's, WPA's, WAA's, PMA's—all the alphabetical agencies that forebode even stronger governmental paternalism and control have fused themselves in our way of thinking about government and the way this nation should be run.

The automobile, airplane, radio, telephone and the many services they and allied equipment render are a part of the only United States that we have ever known.

## Lists of Those Who Voted "Right" or "Wrong" . . .

If you are a laborite, the CIO and the AFL will give you a list of members of the 81st Congress telling you whether each member voted "right" or "wrong" for labor.

On the CIO box score, 14 senators and 111 representatives voted "right" by labor (in 1949); three senators and 28 representatives consistently voted "wrong."

According to the AFL, 20 senators and 116 representatives went the "right" way for labor, five Senators and 62 representatives didn't play ball for labor's interests.

The lists are by no means "black lists",

## Besides Doughnuts and Coffee, News by the Red Cross

A Red Cross man, not bound by Air Force red tape and hush-hush except through official channels, told reporters in Tokyo the other day that reconnaissance planes—believed to be Russian—operate at will over Okinawa and even take sneak peeks of the Ryuku Islands (in the Japanese chain of islands).

Air Force officers said they were not at liberty to comment on the Red Cross man's claims. In the past the Air Force has denied such charges which have leaked out through unofficial sources.

We have gotten used to sleeping with the atom bomb.

And we cannot remember a world in which there has not been war somewhere, wars that either threatened or actually involved this nation.

How, then, can our generations respond to talk of "the good old days"? Were "the good old days" last year, the year before, five years ago, ten? When?

What of the clamor we hear for security? Our hearts still have a bestige of the desire for individualism and free enterprise, but our graduates seek positions of employment with established corporations—security, not businesses for themselves. Is this weakness, or is it being smart?

To work eight hours a day five days a week and then go home to enjoy life and the family and a regular, definite salary, is that better than struggling long hours and on an uncertain income in a business of your own?

"American Telephone and Telegraph doesn't sound very exciting," commented an American college graduate not long ago, "but there'll always be an AT&T."

If the pioneering frontiers of America—geographical and industrial—have been reached, then perhaps the natural steps to follow are more goods produced by mushrooming and cannibalistic corporations and more services rendered by also mushrooming and octopus-like governmental bureaus.

That is the road which brings us to the year 1950. To what worlds will that road lead us beyond this mid-century point?

rather just information to let laborites know who their friends are. Conversely, anti-laborites can use the list as instruction on who their friends are.

Whether the labor vote has yet become strong enough in this country to give the "kiss of defeat" to congressmen who don't toe up to the labor union pressure we'll not know until after the fall elections this year. Should labor's voice be reflected so strongly at the balloting booths that they can "make" or "break" candidates this country will be much farther down the road to the total welfare state than we now imagine.

We welcome the Red Cross man's forthrightness in telling newsmen of this condition which should bring some sort of Air Force reply. Whether true or not, the effect is fundamentally American in that the citizen speaks his piece, and has no fear of suppression by military authorities.

We think it is a good idea for civilians to be around some of our military operations that aren't top secret. Otherwise, we would never know what was going on unless the news passed careful screening by military censors.

## The Battalion

"Soldier, Statesman, Knightly Gentleman"

Lawrence Sullivan Ross, Founder of Aggie Traditions

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 209, Goodwin Hall.

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## Letters To The Editor

(All letters to the editor which are signed by a student or employee of the college and which do not contain obscene or libelous material will be published. Persons wishing to have their names withheld from publication may request such action and their names will not, without the consent of the writer, be divulged to any person other than the editors.)

### HERE'S THE REASON WHY

**Editor, The Battalion:**  
After reading Chuck Laakso's letter in The Batt on the 19th, I would like to speak a few kind words for the local girls; that is, those who work for the College, since I cannot speak for the Bryan girls.

We are somewhat in the same shoes as women school teachers. You can't win. If you are friendly and speak to everyone, you are a flirt. If you try to maintain a little reserve, you are a snob.

Again, I speak for myself; but I have been here for over two years and only once during that time has any student ever walked up to me and introduced himself or even had a mutual friend to introduce us.

I have never intentionally "snubbed" anyone who has made any effort to be friendly. As a matter of fact, I have often started out walking to my office from the North Gate and made a special effort to speak to each and every one I meet.

Ordinarily, about half of them return the gesture. After a few days of that you begin to feel as if perhaps you are pushing yourself on them.

If we have appeared unfriendly

to you, it is not our intentions. Won't you please tell us where to draw the line?

Phylis Schwarz

### FIRE HAZARD

**Editor, The Battalion:**  
It has been brought to the attention of the Fort Worth A&M College Mother's Club that fires have been made near the Aggie Shelter House South of Fort Worth on the Waco Highway.

We would like to ask all students using the Aggie Shelter House to be very watchful about fires. We realize that the shelter isn't warm, but it does provide some shelter from the weather. Replacing the shelter if it were destroyed would be difficult not only from expense of rebuilding, but permission to rebuild might be refused.

Would you please put a notice in the Battalion so all Aggies may know about this?

Sincerely yours,  
Mrs. George Tinslar  
Corresponding Secretary  
Fort Worth A&M Mother's Club.

## 1950 Farm Prices Going Downward

By Associated Press

WASHINGTON—Agriculture's wartime and postwar boom in prices virtually came to an end in 1949.

Nevertheless, farmers as a whole still were prosperous—even highly so when judged by the relatively unfavorable standards of the '30s when producers were plagued by depressed prices, low incomes and unmarketable surpluses.

Yet the year 1949 saw agriculture lose a price advantage it had enjoyed since late in 1941, the beginning of the war-inspired boom for farm products.

Application of the legal standard of parity—for measuring farm prices shows quite clearly what has happened to agriculture. Parity prices are those which, according to law, the farmer must get in order to be able to buy his fair share of non-farm goods and services.

In the decade before the war, farm prices averaged far below the parity standard. In other words, the farmer was at a price disadvantage in dealing with others.

But outbreak of the war in Europe and this country's eventual entry into the conflict sent farm prices skyrocketing. They reached a record peak of 33 per cent above parity in October, 1946. In other words, agriculture enjoyed a 33 per cent price advantage over others, judged by the parity measuring stick.

This big jump in farm prices was accompanied by a similar increase in farm income.

But farm prices started easing off late in 1946 as world shortages began to lessen and as domestic production, no longer checked by limited labor supplies and machinery, climbed to new heights.

A 12 per cent decline in prices in 1949, added to decreases in the two previous years, pulled farm prices down to parity. Thus, agriculture no longer enjoyed a price advantage.

The year 1950 is likely to see farm prices drop below the parity level, thus again putting the farmer at a buying disadvantage. Government farm economists predict agriculture prices in 1950 will average about 10 per cent below the 1949 average.

Naturally the lower prices have reflected in a reduced farm income. The agriculture department estimates farmers' net income—the amount left after paying production expenses—at about \$14,000,000,000 for 1949 compared with the record of \$18,000,000,000 in 1947.

The department also predicts that net farm income in 1950 will drift down to \$12,000,000,000.

Despite the reduction in income, farm buying power still is high in comparison with the

## From Where I Sit . . .

## Jacques Abram Concert Set For Thursday Night

BY HERMAN C. GOLLOB

Native Texan Jacques Abram, hailed by music critics and public alike as one of the world's foremost young pianists, will appear in Guion Thursday night at eight as Town Hall's third attraction of the year.

Abram strated off on a road to becoming a concert pianist when he was only five. A visit to his grandmother's home at Lufkin, Texas, introduced Jacques to the piano for the first time, and the two have been inseparable friends

ever since. At the age of six Jacques had to have extension pedals put on his piano because he could not reach the regulation ones. By the time he was ten, Jacques was awarded a scholarship to the Curtis Institute.

In 1938, after a study at the Juilliard Graduate School, which he attended on fellowship, Jacques won first prize of the annual Federation of Music Clubs contest and the Schubert Memorial Award. Soon after, he made his formal de-

but as soloist with the Philadelphia Orchestra under Eugene Ormandy in Philadelphia's Academy of Music and then in New York's Carnegie Hall.

Then followed appearances with the New York Philharmonic, CBS Symphony, the NBC Symphony, CBS Symphony, and St. Louis, Chicago, and Houston Symphony Orchestras.

Abram's brilliant career was interrupted in 1942 when he was called to service in the army, where he served for three and a half years. Upon his return in 1948, he presented a recital in Carnegie Hall which proved one of the most gratifying musical events of the entire season.

After his Carnegie Hall program, Abram made a nation-wide tour of this country, Canada, and an extensive tour in the summer of 1947 of Central and South America.

After his American tour this current season, which will include appearances at Carnegie Hall and a nation-wide broadcast with the New York Philharmonic Symphony, Abram will leave on a tour of Europe and a return tour of South America.

## 'Man of the Year' Is Judge Medina

By Associated Press

NEW YORK—Judge Harold R. Medina, who presided at the year-long trial of 11 top U.S. Communists, was "Man of the Year" for 1949. He has been so named by vote of Associated Press newspaper editors.

The court drama started Jan. 17 and did not end until all defendants were sentenced Oct. 21. Defense attorneys helped make headlines by their disruptive tactics. They kept the court in an uproar day after day, refused to heed warnings from the bench and, in the end, won jail sentences for contempt.

Judge Medina won headlines early in the trial for his patience in dealing with the lawyers. But in one hectic session he had to call a recess and retire to his chambers for a few minutes to calm his nerves.

It was not patience alone that got attention for the judge. It was also his firmness in insisting that no one, defendant or attorney, would be permitted to benefit from disorder. Warnings were followed by action. Inappropriate testimony was cut off. Side remarks were stricken from the record.

Before the trial, Medina had not been widely known. When he came to the federal bench in 1947, he gave up a \$100,000-a-year practice for the \$15,000 job. He was known as a lawyer's lawyer and had written 15 books on federal law.

When the editors voted for the leading men in special categories, they found that President Harry S. Truman was first in politics; Dean Acheson, U. S. secretary of state, led in foreign affairs; Philip Murray was top man in labor; Henry Ford II in industry; Vannevar Bush, president of Carnegie Institution, was the leader in science. In literature, Thomas Merton, a trappist monk and author of two best-selling books, was chosen. Ezio Pinza, opera basso turned musical comedy star, got the nod in entertainment.

As head of the Democratic party, President Truman showed it showed new strength in the 1949 elections. He had to deal with no spectacular political problems during the year. But he did face some turbulent disputes between factions. Many observers noted that the President "saw the lid" without major political disruptions.

ACHESON promoted more frankness in dealing with Russia during the year. Sharp comments on matters in the Russian sphere and on the cold war were common.

He took office as secretary of state in January. The Berlin blockade ended in May. The year also saw the Atlantic treaty completed with European countries and later Congress voted arms aid for Europe.

MURRAY won his vote as head of both the CIO and the steel workers. In steel he led the strike

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## Official Notice

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Physical Education Dept.

that won company-paid pensions for the men. In the CIO Murray led the outer of left wing unions. He also started a drive to replace them with groups farther to the right.

This year the Scotland-born former miner was again named head of the CIO, which he has led since 1940.

FORD was forced to shut down his plants briefly during the year when the union struck because it said the company had speeded up assembly lines. But when time came to talk over a new contract, Ford became the first big employer to agree to a company-paid pension plan. It was a similar plan that was won by the steel workers after a strike.

BUSH remained, in 1949, one of the nation's leading spokesmen for science. He has been head of Carnegie since 1938 and has tried to make it an agency to help coordinate U. S. scientific work.

Trained as an electrical engineer, he is also an inventor. He writes on scientific subjects and his speeches get wide attention.

MERTON has written two best selling books and many poems. The first best seller was "The Seven Storey Mountain." The latest, "Waters of Siloe," came out in October. Merton writes about his faith and tells in simple language of experiences which led him to become a monk. He lives in a Kentucky monastery.

PINZA has been popular as an opera singer in the United States since he went to the Metropolitan Opera Company in 1928. He switched to musical comedy with the opening of "South Pacific," April 7, 1949. Here he found a new audience and more popularity.

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