

Battalion Editorials

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WEDNESDAY, MAY 24, 1950

From Veterans to a Grateful Nation, Thanks . . .

With this graduating class, the bulk of veteran enrollment here at A&M passes beyond college gates into the world of making a living. This is true throughout the nation—the last of the large veteran classes is graduating.

Four years ago this nation's demobilization program was at its peak. Divisions of soldiers were discharged daily, and ships were being decommissioned right and left. The war was over, and the boys were being brought home.

A grateful nation, reflecting its gratitude through Congressional passage of Public Law 316, the GI Bill, provided educational benefits to its former servicemen on an unprecedented scale. Books, tuition, and expendables up to a given amount were paid outright so that veterans could continue their education that war interrupted. Given, too, were subsistence allowances—first, \$65 a month; later raised to \$75.

By the millions veterans of World War II and many from World War I flocked to colleges throughout the nation. These men and women were taking advantage

of the opportunity given them through the GI Bill.

For many of these veterans, college was a dream, something they knew about but couldn't afford. The GI Bill made it possible for them to pursue a college education. For others, the GI Bill made the way through college a lot easier.

The foresight demonstrated by men who were instrumental in gaining passage of the GI Bill will be praised by generations to come. The GI Bill has raised the educational level of men within the veteran ages far above what it would have been had there been no war, or no GI Bill.

To the grateful nation who has supported and paid for the GI Bill, those of us who have attended college under its directions offer a sincere, "Thanks."

We are now prepared for a better position in life. We will be able to repay, through our taxes, the costs of the education we have received at governmental expense. We shall never forget that the GI Bill helped us when we needed it.

Now we are ready to re-pay our country.

On Voting 'Panhandle' or World . . .

There are a couple of refreshing notes in the comment of Ben H. Guill of Pampa, Texas, on being the first Republican congressman elected from Texas in 20 years.

One is his hope that his election will be taken in Washington as at least "one small protest" against some current trends. The other is his hope that it may be the beginning of a two-party system in Texas.

We hope, though, that he does not mean all that may seem to be implied by his further declaration, "I'm not going to vote Republican or Democratic—I'm going to vote Panhandle."

As an avowal of independence that is fine; but as a perhaps unconscious expression of localism it is dangerous.

Too many other representatives and senators already have been voting with easy disregard of the interests of the United States. They have not always remembered in Congress even the platform

pledges of their party.

There has been too much tendency simply to vote Missouri Valley, Wabash Valley, Pacific Northwest, cotton states, silver states, New England, Chesapeake Bay, Tennessee, Arizona, Grand River, Pamlico County, My Creek, Horseshoe Cove, or Chippewa Falls.

This can amount in the aggregate to a very insidious and injurious "pan-handling" at the expense of vital national undertakings. As manifested not only in the recent rivers and harbors bill but in other sectional legislation, the argument to "keep money at home" can result in boondoggling while the world burns.

We hope the gentleman from Texas will not merely "vote Panhandle," but—trite though it may sound—will vote American, and will on occasion even vote as if the world were his constituency (which, in a measure, it is).—The Christian Science Monitor.

On Bobby Hats and a Coalition Government . . .

When Winston Churchill declared he did not intend to preside over the liquidation of the British empire, he may have seen this coming and got out. The British policeman, we learn, is on the verge of giving up his helmet!

It is as thinkable that American bobby soxers should give up their Sinatras as that the British people should give up their bobby hats. Yet it is reported (can it be "reliably?") that police officers are stealing home and upstairs to study themselves unobserved (as Bunthorne did) in astonished mirrors. The image that replies to them from the glass is that of a British policeman in a natty, shall we even say "chic," peak cap.

Mr. Attlee should want to do some-

thing about this. Or at any rate Sir Stafford Cripps, who has the dollar shortage so much on his mind. In an era when American tourists are expected to spend their millions in Britain can British authorities permit the policeman's helmet—an 86-year-old institution—to vanish? As well remove the lions from Trafalgar Square, or more appositely the dome from St. Paul's, as to banish the bonnet which "set the world ablaze in good (Queen Victoria's) glorious days" and on which the sun of official fashion has never since set.

Perhaps we have here the issue on which Messrs. Attlee and Churchill can establish a coalition government.

—The Christian Science Monitor.



Veteran's Pay Regulations Changed by VA

A recent change in the interpretation of VA regulations governing the expression "summer session" has been received by Taylor Wilkins, veteran advisor.

"Single summer session" now means the whole of the summer period of instruction, without regard to any division of such a period which may be made by the institution for administrative or other purposes, Wilkins said.

The above interpretation means that a veteran who enrolls for the first summer semester only and does not have as much as 11 days of eligibility remaining when the semester begins on June 1 will be paid only for the time he has remaining when he enrolls in the first half of the semester. He would be paid the entire semester.

This interpretation also means that those who registered for the first six weeks only will not receive any part of the end of the semester, Wilkins said.

Under the new interpretation a veteran with 11 days of eligibility remaining on June 1, 1950, can attend both summer semesters until the 11th day.

Veterans who will be attending at A&M during the first six weeks of summer should report to Room 104, Goodwin Hall, and complete a change of address, he said. Veterans who plan to change their place of training at the end of the present semester should report and make application for a new Certificate of Eligibility.

Veterans who plan to change courses at the end of the present semester should report to their Dean and complete VA form 7-1905a and present this form to 104 Goodwin Hall for a new letter of Eligibility, said Wilkins.

Official Notice

Final examinations are required of all advanced degree candidates. These exams may be scheduled early enough in the week of May 22 to enable all teachers to give the exams by the deadline to the registrar's office by 4 p.m. Friday, May 26, 1950. (Graduate School.)

DRIVE-IN THEATRE

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Air Force Reorganization Closes Out 12th Air Force

Washington, May 24—(AP)—The Air Force today announced a major reorganization that will cut from six to four the number of its regional air forces.

The plan, to be carried out within the next few months, eliminates the air defense command. This will make the Continental Air Command directly responsible for the air defense of the United States.

The reorganization will eliminate the 9th and 12th Air Forces. The 9th Air Force, with headquarters at Langley Field, Hampton, Va., will be renamed the 9th Tactical Air Force and moved to Pope Field, N.C. This headquarters will become the operational field force of the Tactical Air Command.

The Tactical Air Command will remain at Langley Field and will operate fighter-bomber and troop carriers units assigned from Continental Air Command.

Twelfth Air Force Headquarters at Brooks Field, San Antonio, Texas, will be closed.

States formerly in the 12th Air Force District will be attached to the 14th District which has its headquarters at Robins Field near Macon, Ga. The states to be transferred to the 14th District are Louisiana, Texas, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Arkansas.

Interceptor Wings The Eastern Air Defense Force will be assigned all interceptor-fighter and all-weather fighter wings in the area east of the Rocky Mountain slopes.

Eastern Air Defense Headquarters at Mitchell Field will also be responsible for radar installations and air defense control centers in the continental area east of the 103rd meridian. The meridian runs through Nebraska, Eastern Colorado and Texas.

The Western Air Defense Force will similarly direct control over bases and radar stations in the area from the Rocky Mountains to the Pacific Coast.

Western Air Defense Force headquarters at Hamilton Field at San Rafael, Calif.

The Air Force said this internal

reorganization is designed "to increase and strengthen air defense capabilities, and to make available more effective training for tactical air support of ground troops."

The plan will also give the four regional air forces direct responsibility for supervising and training of civilian components including the Air Reserve, the Air National Guard, the Air ROTC and the Civil Air Patrol.

British to Civilize Sudanese Natives

Khartoum, the Sudan—(AP)—The British-run Sudanese government is spending \$2,800,000 to speed up the civilization of an isolated and primitive African tribe.

The Zandes, a simple people who live in the deep south of the Sudan in equatorial province—near the equator and the Belgian Congo.

A government spokesman says that the scheme to make some 200,000 Zandes self-sufficient "may provide the answer for the economic and social development of similarly placed tribes of the African continent."

The scheme, itself, is a simple one with the tribespeople growing crops for local processing.

The Zandes are known to Europeans as the "potbellies." One of the chief elements of their simple diet is ants.

They eat ants in several ways and press them to obtain cooking oil. Ant hills in the Zande country are recognized as private property. One Zande would not move a trespasser on another's ant hill than he would his hut.

Letters

(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 these names will not, without the consent of the writer, be divulged to any persons other than the editors.)

THANKS TO HOSPITAL

Editor, The Battalion: I would like to express my gratitude to Dr. Marsh, Ma (Lagborn), all the nurses and assisting staff of the college hospital for the services rendered and the job they are continually doing.

Last week I underwent an unexpected operation—an appendectomy. The efficiency of diagnosis, operation and subsequent care and attention should be commended.

Many thanks to my friends and acquaintances for showing their concern over my welfare by the many calls and visits. They impacted cheer along the way of recovery.

I am truly grateful,
John D. Shoemaker

Loan Office Stays Open for Summer

The loan office of the Association of Former Students will operate during the summer session this year, according to L. B. Locke, assistant secretary of the association. The office, however, doesn't expect much activity during that period, Locke said.

Loan interviews will be conducted in Room 104, Administration Building, on Monday and Thursday afternoons and on Wednesday mornings.

Bible Verse

But seek ye first the kingdom of God and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you. Matthew 6:33.

Queen

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