

Working Legislature . . .

FOR SEVERAL years now, two principal reasons have contributed to most people's waning interest in their state legislature.

First, international affairs have become increasingly important in everyday life. International affairs, of course, direct thoughts toward our federal government and the state department.

Second, our federal government has been increasing its power and jurisdiction at such a tremendous rate that many people have just about forgotten why state legislatures exist.

But this year's Texas legislature seems determined to find its place in the sun. Our local lawmakers seem more energetic and more determined to prove state government's worth than any we've heard of in a long time.

Two recent legislative actions, redistricting and investigation of college spending, have played an important part in the news.

Last Monday, the state Senate passed the first redistricting bill in thirty years. The Senate steamrolled approval of a bill dividing up the state into thirty-one senatorial

districts in line with population changes since 1920. Probably because Gov. Shivers declared it an emergency action, the bill got through the Senate with less than a day of debate.

House action may not be as prompt. Redistricting of House seats is a bigger job since it has so many more members. Rep. Fly of Victoria, chairman of the redistricting committee, said that he expects his committee to have redistricting plans completed by late this week or early next week.

The investigation of college spending, prompted by charges that colleges were using state funds for other than educational purposes, is to be conducted by a House subcommittee headed by Rep. W. R. Chambers of May. His subcommittee wants the charges of extravagance investigated before it recommends an appropriation for 1951-53.

Chambers has declared that since college teachers often are underpaid, taxes are high, and many students must borrow money for college, it has become increasingly important that colleges spend their money wisely.

The redistricting bill has been needed in Texas a long time. Whether or not the college investigation will turn up any faulty spending remains to be seen. But we're becoming more and more proud of our working legislature.

A strong, hard working state government is one good guarantee against further federal encroachment in local affairs.

Minds? Yes, But Not Plugged In

WE HAVE discovered one man's opinion of world conditions that is really worth passing along. The man is John Mason Brown, associate editor of the "Saturday Review of Literature," and former dramatic critic of the "Theater Arts Monthly," the "New York Evening Post," and the "New York World Telegram."

The following gems of observation were presented in his speech to the Dallas Woman's Club:

"The problem now is how can civilized man remain civilized in a world of mechanized barbarism."

"So many people have minds that are not plugged in. The average person we see daily is not necessarily alive. He walks, talks, and indulges in Canasta, but he does not always think."

"Public officials, out of good intentions, I hope, want us to become imitations of the things we loathe, forgetting we are strong enough to keep our liberties."

"To be actually at war is a confession that civilization has failed. To be at peace yet at war is confusing—it gives us a sense of schizophrenia."

"I am convinced that the function of the sizable writer is to see beyond the immediate shadows and to persuade the readers that this cathedral (the world) remains worthy of habitation."

In so many words, Mr. Brown believes that the "iron curtain" really lies under our collective hats. This possibility is admittedly shocking, but "the truth hurts" as the saying goes.

The one note of optimism is that the so called "little man" can and frequently does rise to "heights of heroism," and this in his opinion is the main hope for earthbound bipeds.

The Battalion

Lawrence Sullivan Ross, Founder of Aggie Traditions "Soldier, Statesman, Knightly Gentleman"

The Battalion, official newspaper of the Agricultural and Mechanical College of Texas, is published five times a week during the regular school year. During the summer terms, The Battalion is published four times a week, and during examination and vacation periods, twice a week.

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'Religion is Progressive'

Baha'i Faith is Based On Unity, World Peace

Following up its series on the principles of Mohammedanism, The Battalion today presents a discussion of Baha'i World Faith. Though younger and less eminent than Islam, the Baha'i is founded on principles common to all the older faiths. This discussion of Baha'i was prepared by the writer for publication during this campus Religious Emphasis Week. — The Editor.

By CATHERINE GENT

IN THE MIDST of the struggle to establish a world peace, it seems generally agreed that such can be built only on a solid foundation.

It must be predicated on worldwide human understanding and love, not alone on mere knowledge and tolerance. The true basis seems to be love, but the problem of how to achieve that today in universal scope looks difficult. In fact, it looks downright impossible.

However, there is a farsighted community of optimists scattered throughout the world who are dedicated to one primary objective, that of establishing the oneness of mankind.

They are members of a world religion, the Baha'i World Faith, and their number in millions.

World Peace Aim

This Faith, established now in 2500 centers in 100 countries has world peace as one of its immediate aims. The world is full of societies and movements, some working for peace, some for the advancement of women, some for the solution of the economic problems, some for education, some for a universal language, some for racial amity, some for brotherhood and understanding. But the Baha'i Faith is the only one that combines all these objectives, under the guidance of its Founder, Baha'u'llah, who first compiled the all-inclusive program from which each in turn has sprung.

Young in point of time, this world religion was born in 1844, in darkest Persia, bringing to mankind a faith that, through unreserved acceptance of all previous revealed religions, can weld humanity at long last in a common bond of brotherhood that transcends nationality, race, or creed and is dedicated to the universal worship of one God, just as were all the great religions in their original Teachings.

All Religions Are One

Its writings teach that God has called today for a great assemblage of all mankind, worshipping Him in the knowledge that we are one and religions are one. A Baha'i has no contempt for any other religion, quite simply because he believes in it, too. For Baha'u'llah, the young Persian prince of great wealth who sacrificed everything and endured over forty years of persecution, tortures and exile to bring this Truth to a dying world in volumes of beautiful teachings, taught that all God's Manifestations are as one. Each bringing the measure of God's Truth and Law that suited the capacity and needs of men in the Day in which He came. He taught that to exalt one above another is error.

Why haven't we heard of this before? The answers are many, perhaps. In a materially-minded civilization, word of a new religious teaching is passed over lightly, rarely investigated, and quickly forgotten. (First announcement of this world Faith was made in this country at the World's Fair in 1893!)

A Faith such as this, culminating a cycle of human history, ordained for this day's problems, teaching the same basic principles of God that all other revelations have brought, is not sensational. Its very dignity and simple truth belies the blatant approach. Too, the idea that religion is progressive, not final, is unorthodox, a challenging and disruptive concept to most religious minds today. We accept the idea of the advance of science which is God's own Law, we won't go back to the pump on the back porch, but when it comes to religion we want it to stop.

All the religious writings speak of a "return" and of a "time of the end," and all tell of the Bearer of Truth to come. In the Hebrew Bible, (John 16:12), Jesus, the Son of God, tells His disciples, "I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now. Howbeit, when He, the Spirit of truth is come, He will guide you unto all truth."

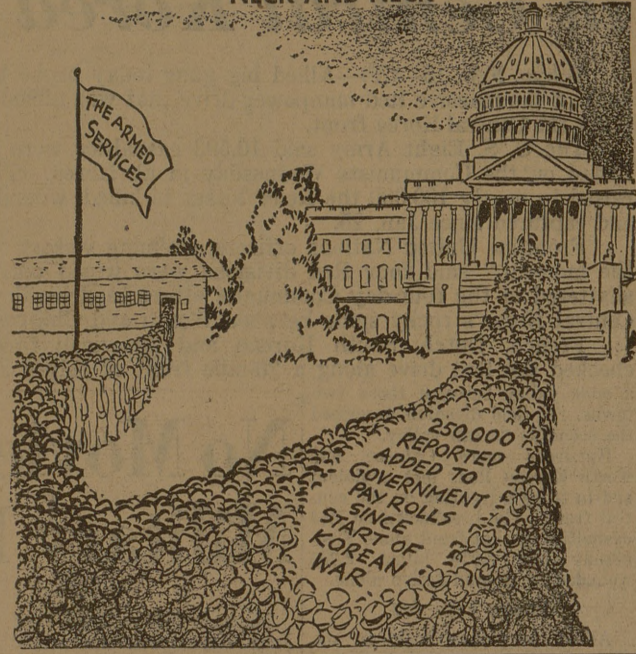
The Baha'i teachings constitute a great university of knowledge in the fields of human social, economic and spiritual relationship. Any short resume is necessarily sketchy and can hardly touch on the main points.

Food for Thought

The timeliness of this unique subject has been recognized in the magazine Common Cause, (September, 1950), "A Journal of One World" published under the auspices of Robert M. Hutchins and the University of Chicago Press, in the lead article last summer in the small magazine, The Emancipator, published by a Christian lay-

man in San Antonio, and more recently in the Dec. 11 issue of Life. The much-read book, The Prophet, by Kahlil Gibran, in Cushing Library, was inspired by the Baha'i Teachings, and there are two books there directly on the Faith and its history and tenet. Prescription for Living, by Rabbani; and Promise of All Ages, by Townshend. They were placed here, not to stir controversy, Heaven forbid, but to offer food for thought in a world at war.

NECK AND NECK



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Editor, The Battalion:

An impetus has come to our campus from the plan of a group of visiting students from Austria. They have organized a troop of amateur student performers, who are spreading good will in this country by entertaining with their national songs and dances.

We, in turn, plan to visit European Universities this Summer and present typical American programs. The party is to be limited in number because of transportation. It will be directed by Mrs.

Monroe Carroll of the Baylor English Department, who is an experienced travel director.

Won't you please furnish us with names of students interested in such a project and the particular talents of each, such as singing, dancing, or playing a musical instrument?

We should like to have this information as soon as possible so that we may contact them and expedite preparations for the tour. Pedro L. Barba 1004 South Sixth Waco, Texas

Advertisement for Ball-Band Footwear. Features an illustration of a basketball player and a large shoe. Text: 'Better Shoes mean a Better Game. Faster — Safer — Easier footwear is often the margin that wins the game. That's why we recommend and sell genuine BALL-BAND Basketball shoes — they're built for the game. Come in and try them on—they even feel speedy on your feet. Look for the RED BALL on the sole. BALL-BAND FOOTWEAR.'

THE EXCHANGE STORE

"Serving Texas Aggies"

Some Things Considered

Needed: An Office For Student Senate

By CLAYTON L. SELPH

THE PRESIDENT of the Student Senate. He is presiding officer of the one all-student organization that maintains representation for every student.

He is one of the top four student officials on the campus, but he is the ONLY one of these four who has no working headquarters, no convenient filing space. He doesn't even have a desk. Yet he must attend to a great volume of correspondence, legislation and other business—business that is concerned with the entire student body.

Business majors and engineers know that such an arrangement is not good business. They know that man cannot do his best work if he must run from one place to another to find what he wants. They know, too, that good businesses do not, cannot, operate without properly maintained records, that are available when needed.

The Student Senate has none of these. Student governing bodies at other schools have not only a desk and office, but many of them have an adjoining meeting space for their governing body. Adequate filing space is maintained so that minutes of the organization, its correspondence through the years, and records of its activities are available to the student legislators.

The lack of such space and equipment has hampered our Senate since its beginning in 1946. Many of the early minutes and records are gone.

Progress in student government has been greatly retarded. Instead of beginning where the old group left off, each new Senate has been forced to start over again since they have no available records of what has or has not been accomplished.

Several steps to improve the Senate's situation should be taken. We call them to the attention of the dean of men and his assistant for student activities.

Our recommendations: That a separate office be set aside in some central location for the Senate.

That all Senate committee meetings be held there when possible. That the president be provided with a desk that will also be available to the other Senate officers.

That a filing cabinet be provided and all available back records of the Senate be placed there and current records maintained. Each committee should have separate space or a folder for filing their records. We should like very much to see some of these steps taken before this school year is out.

Advertisement for Perez Casuals silk-like Tissue Shantung. Features an illustration of a woman in a dress. Text: 'put up a pretty front! silk-like TISSUE SHANTUNG with tucked bib-front \$17.95. You'll love the fabric of this new Perez classic... rayon tissue shantung lovely as silk... and you'll love the beautiful detailing: "jewel" buttons, short sleeves, fly-front closing and a daintily tucked bib-front. Navy, iced coffee or green mint frappe. Sizes 10 to 20. BUDGET SHOP 2nd Floor. Lester's Smart Shop Bryan.'

Comic strip by Al Capp. Panels show a woman talking to a man about a door, a man scratching his head, and a woman talking to a man about a door. Text: 'L'L ABNER • Ladies' Home Companion • By Al Capp. NEVER OUR DOOR FO' HUNDREDS O' YARS, AN' MAMMY DONE KEPT IT POLISHED EVERY DAY SINCE SHE PUT IT UP. THAR'S SOME SCRATCHES ON IT!! PERADDDON HOPE ALL YE WID ENTER NANCY O' IS HERE AN' WASHEN SHEER!! GOT L'L COMPANY, MAMMY?'