

# Battalion Editorials

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## Multi-Party Ballot Hurts...

FRANCE'S long-awaited elections are over—and no one seems too sure what the final tally adds up to. With at least seven parties running, the highest single total went to the Communists.

Technically speaking they say it finds a new government considerably farther to the right than its predecessor. The right wing in French politics, of course, is represented by military extremist Gen. Charles De Gaulle whose fledgling party captured at least 112 seats to rank as the majority party in the French Assembly.

Leaving 103 seats for the Communists, the middle-of-the-road parties took 377 of the seats. As they have for the past five years, these center parties seemed destined, through use of their many sided coalitions to retain the controlling hand. DeGaulle's strength, however, will draw that power toward the right.

Now observers see some hope of continuing the work of world affairs laid aside while monsieur and mademoiselle took time to listen to speeches and mark their ballots.

These French voters can scarcely complain about limited selection. Their ballots contained every shading of political belief they could wish to choose from. Encouragingly enough, they showed a 10 per cent decline in their Communist supportings.

And these elections, which give France its usual dubious government, stand as a good example to our own voting populace. Especially should those who always stand to branch out into a new party take note.

Even with his wondrously wide choice, what has the French voter to show for his trip to the polls. If he voted either right or left, he helped to elect a minority representative. And, if he voted for one of the component parties in the middle, he has no real right to claim victory there, either. He couldn't tell through the coalitions exactly what the party of his choice was.

And the highest margin given any party (the Communist) is a mere 22.2 per cent of the vote. Not one of them could claim to hold what power they have through even a near-majority selection.

Yet, even now, many in our own nation are trying to figure out how to dodge this example and plant the seeds for new parties. Dissatisfied with the current policies of the party that tradition bids them uphold, they would find an easy solution in an offshoot of that, rather than swallow a little pride and swing to the other majority party.

In so doing they'll get just the returns from their ballots that the Frenchman got from his.

*Civilization will be far advanced when the statement "there's work to be done" will attract men as quickly as "have you heard this one, etc.?"*

## Make Dope-Peddling A Capital Crime

SHOULD dope-peddling be made a capital crime? Sen. O'Connor (R-Md), new head of the Senate Crime Investigating Committee, indirectly proposed the idea this past week-end.

The Senator, speaking before the Kiwanis International Convention, said, "The Lindbergh Law was invoked to stop kidnaping and a similar measure must be taken to put the fear of God into these outlaws."

And he showed just cause for his wrath by quoting figures showing that the percentage of narcotics users under 21 years of age has increased 600 per cent over the last several years.

A public health official backed up the charge by describing what he called an "Epidemic of Teen-Age Addiction" to drugs. He was speaking to a three-day American Legion "Narcotics Crisis Conference" in New York. That city, he said, was responsible for 50 per cent of the dope cases admitted to federal hospitals. Chicago accounts for 25 per cent.

Another authority cited an instance where a child had been born a narcotic addict because the mother was addicted.

The dope-peddling scandals is far from a light matter. It is operating particularly on the younger generation who smoke for a "thrill" the "reefers" that can be found so abundantly in larger cities.

Considering the effect that drugs have on the victims, we think the senator's suggestion is worth more than a passing thought.



## Air Force Now Has Explosive Greater Than Atomic Bomb

WASHINGTON—June 19—(AP)—Military planners say the U. S. Air Force now has available to it explosive power greater than all the explosions from the invention of gunpowder to the atomic attack on Hiroshima.

These officials, who may not be named, told a reporter today that if the Soviets choose war, the U. S. can hurl down on Russian cities, people and armies destruction frightful beyond comprehension.

Unfortunately, only a relatively few men, none of them Russian, understand the power the U. S. has shaped into its atomic weapons, air force and sea service.

Nor does there seem a way, except for the politically dangerous demonstration of dropping a sample bomb on the Communist enemy in Korea, to convince Russia of this power of retaliation.

### "Deterrent" Effect

American officials, from the highest levels down, have been speaking publicly for five years of the "deterrent" effect of the atomic bomb on Russian aggression plans. Because the phrase has been used so often, with so little elaboration, its meaning has worn thin.

Moreover, it is quite likely the phrase came into existence before the real power was attained. But now officials who make the statement aren't bluffing the Russians. They are telling them.

Military men who must make the plans for any retaliation say the U. S. Strategic Air Command now has available explosive power greater than all the man-made blasts before Hiroshima, in 1945.

This means that packed into the nuclear fission weapons now in arsenals or on production lines is the total force of all the bombs, shells and bullets fired in World War II and the procession of other conflicts back through some 700 years or more.

### Delivered Against Any Country

That force can be delivered now, against one country, in a matter of only hours or days, if the military planners are correct in their estimate.

Responsible airmen do not say this instant retaliation with atomic weapons would produce instant capitulation of Russia. But they do believe obliteration of key government and industrial targets and

destruction of industrial manpower would shatter the war-making system of Russia as to make her helpless to stop advancing allied armies and navies.

Significantly, the sober, serious, behind-the-scenes military men of the vastly enhanced destructive power in American hands has come within fairly recent months.

### Russia's Success

Equally significant is the fact these men are wholly cognizant of Russia's own success in producing at least one atomic explosion and the probability that she now is manufacturing bombs. Military leaders have warned publicly that the United States should expect that some Soviet bombers would get through the defenses and drop some bombs on American cities.

But it is apparent they believe the measure that would be paid back would be so full, so complete that more Russian bombers would not follow.

Officially, the United States has said little of the new power which

## Olin Teague Reports

# Program to Curb Inflation Offered by Congressman

By OLIN E. TEAGUE  
Sixth District Representative

WASHINGTON, D. C., June 19—Inflation is one of the more dangerous problems facing our country today. As I see it, there are two ways to combat it, either directly, by use of controls or indirectly by trusting in the age-old law of supply and demand.

Herman W. Steinkrus, Connecticut industrialist and chairman of the executive committee of the U. S. Chamber of Commerce recently outlined a seven point program proposed by the Chamber to combat inflation, setting forth the following principles:

### Seven Point Program

1. Stimulation of maximum production and employment by a free price and wage system that will concentrate effort on essential military and civilian needs.

2. Substantial reduction in governmental expenditures, federal, state and local, to decrease the burden on production and restrain inflation.

3. Levying of new and additional taxes to assume pay-as-we-go consistent with necessary expenditures and consistent also with maintaining incentives to work and produce.

4. Establishment of fiscal and monetary policies which neutralize federal debt as a source of inflation—and end to monetization of the federal debt.

5. Limiting the extension of credit to the financing of the defense program and essential needs of agriculture, commerce, and industry in such ways as will increase the strength of our domestic economy.

6. Stimulation of individual savings through remuneration interest rates and other incentives.

7. Prompt termination of all wage and price controls, with the understanding, that if, and so long as, either of these controls continues, both shall be continued.

### Production Act Expires

The Defense Production Act granted authority to the Executive Branch to control prices. This act expires June 30, and President Truman has asked the Congress to extend it for two years, tighten up certain of its provisions and increase its scope. He made the following recommendations:

1. Freeze the parity prices for each farm commodity as of the beginning of its marketing season for price control purposes.

2. Authorize the government to build and operate defense plants.

### Bible Verse

THE LORD is my strength and my shield; my heart trusted in him, and I am helped; therefore my heart greatly rejoiceth; and with my song will I praise him.

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## AF Announces Commissions Open to Women

The Air Force has announced that a limited number of eligible women, with or without prior military service, may be commissioned in the Air Force Reserve for immediate active duty.

Requirements currently exist for qualified women to serve as officers on extended active duty principally in administrative and advisory capacities. Initial assignments after indoctrination training will generally be as administrative officers of WAK squadron commanders.

Applicants must have a baccalaureate degree, must be between the ages of 24 and 32, and must be physically qualified for general service. Three years of work experience, not necessarily paid, and preferably in a supervisory or managerial capacity will normally be required.

Applicants may be either married or single, provided they have no child or children under 18 years of age.

Application forms are available at AF bases and recruiting stations. Anyone interested is urged to contact Captain John Hall Volunteer Air Reserve Liaison Officer, 2410 San Antonio Street, Austin, Texas, Phone 2-8478, 2611



Most people are hunting excuses for postponing work. That's why they have to hunt excuses for not having cash when they need it.

## Grey Area Needs Defining

SOME wags might allude to a "colorless" speech made by Admiral Forrest P. Sherman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff recently. The admiral spends considerable time discussing the "grey area" between what he considered the black area of war and the white area of peace.

In his words, "It's a most difficult area." But, standing in this "difficult area" the admiral advocates neither all-out mobilization nor "unwarranted" disarmament. He seems to prefer the middle course all the way through.

Since he brought up the color of grey we might mention that it has always signified a very dreary idea to us—one that doesn't seem to hold much promise. It's very like the greyness that hints of a storm yet gives not the least assurance that it will come.

From past actions, though, the admiral seems to want us to remain in that grey area. Someone might remind him of a few more of the significant aspects of grey. It's the predominant color of dusk, that part of the day when most of our traffic accidents occur. Therefore, we can call it dangerous.

And it is the sole color seen by those suffering from total colorblindness. Following the road of present world affairs in that state, what, may we ask, will we do when we approach a critical signal light?

We doubt that the admiral can answer.

## The Battalion

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

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

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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. Days of publication are Monday through Friday for the regular school year, Tuesday through Friday during the summer terms, and Tuesday and Thursday during vacation and examination periods. Subscription rates \$6.00 per year or \$5.50 per month. 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 209, Goodwin Hall.

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