

BATTALION EDITORIALS

Interest? Where?

Student participation in student government on the Texas A&M campus is definitely lacking.

This fact was never more evident than at the annual spring elections yesterday when but one out of four students eligible to make the short walk to the Memorial Student Center to cast ballots voted. Only 1,825 votes were cast by a student body of slightly over 6,500.

In the past years, Texas A&M students have complained vehemently that they have no voice in campus affairs and decisions. But student government actually offers the most effective means for expressing the student opinion.

Look back to the actions of the Student Senate and the Civilian Student Council on the name-change issue. The student governors have made their opinion known.

But how many class officers made similar efforts to voice the opinion of their respective classes. For that matter, how many class meetings have been conducted this year?

There are not too many decisions, true, that a class can make. But there is no standard whatsoever prohibiting the students from expressing their desires.

At the close of the runoffs, there will again be another array of class officers. But can any student actually say why he voted for a certain candidate? We are not saying that these new officers are incapable, but we are asserting that few, if any, have made their qualifications known to the student body.

Where do the prospective officers stand on the numerous situations that will be confronting Texas A&M in the near future? Do the candidates you voted for, if you were one of the few that cast a ballot, agree with your thoughts on the name-change? On co-education? On compulsory ROTC? On intergration?

There is no measure in the College Regulations that prevents student candidates from discussing such issues. If the students chose to do so, an assembly could be arranged to allow the various candidates to debate their reasons for running and their qualifications. The administration would be obligated—and probably pleased—to back the students in stronger student government efforts.

The purpose of an election is to choose representatives to express and seek the desires of the public that elected them. But, then, such a situation would probably never exist at Texas A&M, because evidently the candidates themselves are complacent. This fact was noted recently when The Battalion offered to publish campaign statements from student candidates before the election. Out of 177 students that filed for the election, there were but 11 statements received for publication.

That, indeed, makes the election a virtual farce. For that reason, The Battalion did not publish the statements.

Student government could be a most effective organization on the Texas A&M campus. The College Regulations, the instrument that the students seem to think prohibits liberal government, does not offer any obstacles to a strong student government.

The fault lies with the students themselves. Only small interest is shown, by both candidates and voters, in what could become a vital part of student life.

It would be nice, we suppose, to say, "I was president of the Class of XX," even though no efforts were made to represent the student group that elected him.

'Sales Tax' Bill Ready For Debate

By The Associated Press
AUSTIN—The House Revenue and Taxation Committee Thursday sent to the floor for debate a general sales tax bill to raise \$317 million in the next two fiscal years.

The committee chairman, Rep. Charles Ballman, and Rep. George Hinson, the sponsor of Gov. Price Daniel's selective sales tax approach, both said the action is to give the House "a free run" on all tax programs.

"I hope this action is not considered as an indication that the members of this committee are absolutely for this bill," Ballman explained.

Hinson said he opposes a general sales tax bill.

Rep. John Allen of Longview is author of the sales tax bill (HB803) which would levy a two per cent tax on all items sold at retail, with several exceptions.

These include those items already carrying a selective sales tax, such as gasoline and cigarettes but would not exempt food and drugs.

Allen said the \$317 million would cover the state spending recommendations of Daniel's and the \$800-a-year salary increase for public school teachers.

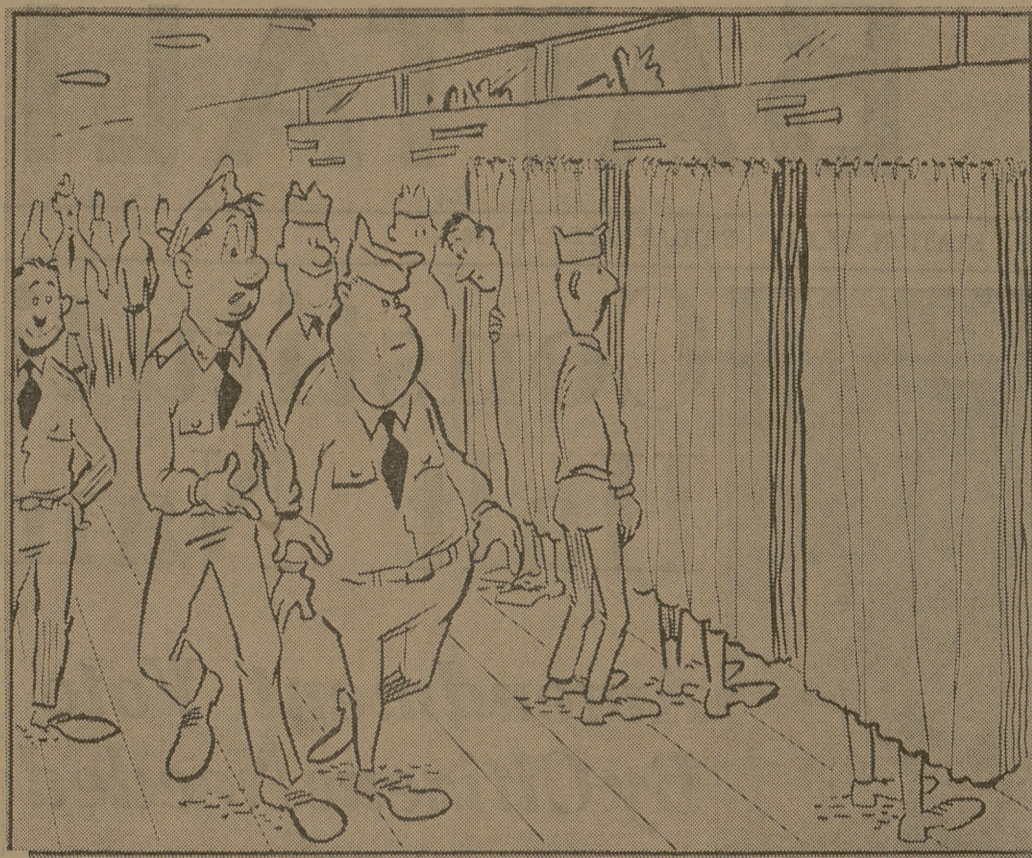
The action came in the midst of consideration of Daniel's selective sales tax plan, including several recommendations of the State Finance Advisory Commission.

The bill (HB918) sponsored by Hinson would raise \$156.5 million a year, enough to cover the Senate-passed state appropriations bill and provide \$800 a month increase for teachers, Hinson said.

Hinson said his tax bill would derive 45 per cent of its revenue from business and 55 per cent from individuals.

CADET SLOUCH

by Jim Earle INTERPRETING



"... I'd like to have an election to vote for or against having elections."

Job Interviews

The following firms will interview graduating seniors in the Placement Office:

April 10

The Seguin Independent School District will interview seniors majoring in physics in the Placement Office. A position is available in the science department which could eventually lead to head of the department.

★ ★ ★

April 11

The Ceco Steel Products Corp. will talk to seniors majoring in civil engineering or architectural construction. Employment in detailing, estimating and designing of steel bridges is available.

★ ★ ★

Kendavis Industries, Inc., will interview seniors majoring in business administration, electrical engineering, mechanical engineering or petroleum engineering. Positions as sales trainees leading to management are now offered.

★ ★ ★

April 13

The Fairchild Camera and Instrument Corp. will talk to seniors majoring in electrical engineering, mechanical engineering, or physics. Openings in the industrial products division, the semiconductor division, the defense products division, the components division and the aerial surveys division are available. Summer employment is also available.

Bridge Meet Saturday

The A&M Invitational Bridge Tournament will get off to a start at 7:30 p.m. Saturday with schools from four states competing. The annual tournament, which this year is larger than ever before, will offer prizes and enjoyment to those who enter.

Registration will begin at 2 p.m. Saturday and continue through 5 p.m. in order to give the entrants time to settle down after they get here.

The actual play will be conducted in Rooms 2-A, B, C and D of the Memorial Student Center and the public is invited to attend.

Students will be coming from Louisiana, Arkansas and Oklahoma as well as Texas. The contestants will be eligible for master points and trophies if they win.

Morris E. Tittle of the Department of Mathematics is serving as tournament director, with Layne Turner as chairman, John Ratcliff as housing chairman and Wiley Bunton as registration chairman.

A&M students who would like to enter the contest may do so by registering with Miss Gladys Black in the Food Department of the MSC.

THE BATTALION

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Downtown and Townshire

UN Faces Money Crisis—Some Members Won't Pay

By MAX HARRELSON
Chief AP United Nations Correspondent

Stripped of diplomatic trappings, the current U.N. financial crisis boils down to a single basic problem: Some member nations won't pay their assessments on costly undertakings such as those in the Middle East and the Congo.

So far the General Assembly has concentrated on stopgap measures to meet day-to-day bills. It has not come to grips with the broad question of how to collect from reluctant members. As a result, the organization continues year after year to spend more money than it collects. It has been getting along by some fancy juggling—the judicious transfer of money from one fund to another or by use of reserve funds.

Since 1956 the United Nations has been running a deficit of \$4 million to \$5 million a year on the U.N. Emergency Force in the Middle East. This is caused by the refusal of the Soviet bloc, the Arab countries and some others to pay assessments.

On this operation alone, the deficit has mounted to more than \$21 million not counting this year's expected arrears.

A major crisis came with the U. N. entry into the Congo last July. To date, the United Nations has collected less than half the \$48 million which members were assessed for 1960. Of the 99 countries only six have paid anything at all.

The Congo costs are continuing at about \$10 million a month. The assembly likely will approve a

pending proposal for assessments to raise the 1961 budget of \$120 million, but the prospects for collecting all that money is dim.

The Soviet bloc and France already have ruled out any payments whatsoever. Other countries are expected to follow their lead.

U. N. officials hope that a substantial part of the deficit will be liquidated by voluntary contributions, but member countries have shown no great enthusiasm for such contributions.

The United States is the only country which volunteered a cash contribution to 1960 Congo costs, although some others, including the Soviet Union, wrote off the cost of services such as the airlifting of troops. Up to now, the

United States is the only one which has offered a voluntary contribution toward 1961 costs.

Now and then a delegate raises the possibility of invoking penalties against delinquent members. But there is virtually no chance of action at this time.

The only penalty provided in the U. N. Charter is the denial of voting privileges under certain circumstances. Important legal issues are involved in special assessments like these. Apart from this, many countries would have serious reservations about taking harsh action against any of the big powers.

The United Nations seems able to avert bankruptcy for a while, but eventually it will have to find a way to bail itself out.

AGGIES—

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ACTIVATED CHARCOAL inner filter



Pure white outer filter

DUAL FILTER Tareyton

Product of The American Tobacco Company—Tobacco is our middle name © 1961

PEANUTS



By Charles M. Schulz