

BATTALION EDITORIALS

Connally vs. Colleges: Who Owns Who?

The State University Reorganization Plan: or How To Live with Your Tensions.

Governor Connally didn't call it this, but he might just as well have in view of the controversy currently raging around his proposed reshuffling of state universities.

Remarks made to the 59th Legislature by Connally could be called courageous—or naive—when the intense local traditions and rivalries of the state's four main universities are considered.

In short, the governor's plan would unite the University of Texas with the University of Houston, A&M with Texas Tech, and put a supreme governing board over the teachers colleges.

Foul! Calls Texas Tech, as their protestors descend upon Austin.

Foul! Calls University of Houston, as their president denounces the plan to the Houston press.

No comment says the University of Texas which stands to gain a virtual stranglehold on future appropriations from the legislature.

Tech claims the governor's system would permanently stereotype the school as a technical college, leaving the rapidly-increasing humanities courses to strangle without sufficient funds. A&M would face much the same situation.

The University of Houston says its needs will not be considered closely enough if aligned with the 40 Acres giant. "We are happy the way we are," Houston's president said.

But Texas is obviously not happy the way it is. The state is rated 31st in per capita years of education, and the best of its universities are rated far down the national list in terms of quality.

It might be well for those educators screaming loudest to remember another comment the governor made about higher education. In effect, he said the state's universities don't belong to their students, administration or former students—they belong to the state.

FIRST OF A SERIES

Higher Education

By MANUEL PINA JR. On August 31, 1964, the Governor's Committee on Education Beyond the High School released to Governor John Connally, members of the legislature, and the people of Texas their report on a one and one-half years study of the stature of Texas educational enterprise beyond the high school level.

The Committee, appointed by the Governor, was composed of 25 junior and senior college presidents, university presidents and chancellors, and individuals from various professions and industry. The Committee studied the present status of public and private education beyond the high school and made recommendations for achieving a standard of excellence for higher education in Texas.

Gov. Connally, using the report made by the committee, proposed

his plans on Dec. 17, 1964, in his two-year budget announcement of 3.6 billion. Among other proposals he asked for \$1,700,000,000 for education and a new coordinating board with greater policy-making authority than the present Commission on Higher Education.

Now it is up to the state legislature whether the standard of education in Texas will be raised or not, Connally said. At the present time, according to the Committee report, Texas has a population ranking sixth in the nation and should show rankings comparable to other states in terms of factors related to quantity and quality of education. However, in a period from 1960 to 1963 the Committee found Texas ranking well below number 10.

Among other ratings Texas ranked 30th in the number of

bachelor and first professional degrees awarded, 21st in the number of doctoral degrees awarded, 31st in the average number of school years completed by persons 25 years of age or older, and the average Texas faculty salary in public senior colleges and universities ranked in the lower half, being 10.5 per cent lower than the average for the nation.

Texas also ranked 32nd in the percentage of selective service registrants passing pre-induction mental tests, 37th in the percentage of total state expenditure devoted to state institutions of higher learning, and 35th in per capita expenditures on higher education from state and local taxes.

Of the college graduates in the next decade, the Committee reports, about 60 per cent can be expected to become gainfully employed in Texas. The fields in which degrees are awarded do not necessarily correspond to the major needs. The number of

expected junior college graduates in the next 10 years represent only about one-third of the needs in this category.

Realistic preparation for the expanding enrollment demands a new look by those in charge, the report says. Unnecessary duplication of educational offerings and senior colleges facilities for geographic convenience represents an expensive luxury. More effective college and university admission policies would increase the opportunity of individual students to succeed and lessen the dropout problem of entering freshmen during their first year of college it continues. The poor public image of technician training encourages too many students to seek degree programs for which they lack interest, preparation, or ability.



"Since you've had a week off between semesters to review this course, I can think of no better way to begin than with this quiz!"

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Advertisement for 'Topkapi' with the tagline 'Where the jewels are!'.

Advertisement for 'CIRCLE' featuring 'YOUNGBLOOD HAWKS' and 'OCEANS 11'.

Sound Off

Editor, The Battalion: Intolerance, illogic and misinformation are the bulwarks of "Reynolds Rap" of Jan. 12, 1965. This article concerned the actions of 21 AFL Negro football players, who refused to play after suffering abuse at the hands of the New Orleans public. The title of the column alone suggests a sophomore quality, and among the analogies of "old mules" and "high horses" one finds evidence of a lack of scholarship.

Mr. Reynolds quotes an Associated Press story as stating that people shouted insults at the players, and shut doors in their faces in the French quarter. From this, he concludes that the players were "belaboring a point as well as harming the movement for racial equality," by their action.

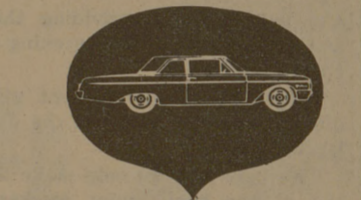
On page 5 of the same issue of The Battalion, we find another Associated Press story that reports that, "some of the players were refused taxicab service and admittance to French Quarter Clubs."

These violations of moral and

legal codes seem to be adequate cause for action on the part of the Negroes. It seems not only justifiable but effective because objective persons will direct their hostility toward the individuals that violated common courtesy and ethics by an act of discrimination.

I suggest you point your blunt pen toward these persons, Mr. Reynolds. Leave the Negroes alone, they have suffered enough.

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