

Writer Blames Johnson For War

An article appearing in this week's issue of Time magazine states that President Johnson actually made his first "crucial decision on Vietnam" in 1954 "perhaps without realizing it."

It is referring to the fact that the French were fighting the same type of war we find ourselves in today with the Viet Communists, and turned to the United States for assistance. Johnson, then Senate minority leader, was instrumental in blocking the granting of this aid.

It further states that a book written by a French historian claims that if the U. S. had entered into the conflict at that time, "the battle would have been won, and the current war might never have taken place."

The battle mentioned was the final defeat of the French forces in the valley of Dienbienphu. The outmanned, outgunned and surrounded French forces struggled against the communists for more than five weeks in a futile attempt to hold the valley.

It was at this time that the French called on the U.S. to aid them in destroying the communist positions. The move was strongly favored by, then Secretary of State, John Foster Dulles and the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Admiral Arthur W. Radford.

"In fact," Time magazine states, "U. S. military planners considered both conventional and nuclear bombing attacks and warned the Administration that, if the nation intervened, the Air Force should be free to use whatever weapons were needed. No decision was made."

According to the article, the plans were finally "killed" when Dulles and Radford met with eight legislative leaders to plead for Congress' support.

"Johnson, who was among the legislators, reportedly asked how many allies had been invited to join with the U. S.," says Time. "Because of the shortage of time, none had, and the lawmakers told Dulles that Congress would not support an attack without allied support."

Soon afterward the French fell, settled on a peace treaty and left Indochina.

The author of the article and the French historian have left too much to chance. President Johnson should not be blamed for making the decision that may have eliminated the need for today's conflict.

Even if the U. S. had entered that war and defeated the communists there, we would only be fighting them somewhere else today.

Civilians' Dress No Real Problem

With the beginning of a new semester there arises the question about the state of civilian dress at A&M.

It has, in the past, been a touchy subject for some unknown reason. There seems to be a misconception that there is a constant grumbling between the Corps of Cadets and civilians concerning appropriate-campus dress.

But this is not the case. A recent survey (see Page 1) by The Battalion, found very little antagonism about student dress between these two groups.

The majority of students interviewed agreed that the standard is kept relatively high and that with the exception of isolated cases it is substantially better than other college campuses.

Some students said that they have seen some poorly dressed civilians, but one Corps member admitted that he has also seen some poorly dressed cadets.

The question will continue to arise each year concerning civilian dress, but most Aggies have enough pride to keep their appearance up to the socially required standard without being told to do so.

University regulations are set up for the purpose of showing the student, not telling him, how to dress. They are also planned to give the student enough freedom to choose his type of dress without stereotyping him with all other civilian students.

Recently, another nearby university called to affirm A&M's strong stand on clothing regulations. Possibly they are considering such a move, and as we well know, THEY NEED IT!



"You're welcome to use those class notes, but they're incomplete because I had to drop th' course after th' first week!"

Sports Car Club Plans Time Trials

The Brazos Sports Car Club of Bryan and College Station will sponsor a Grand Prix Time Trial Feb. 26, at the Bryan Air Force Base.

"Top cars and drivers from around the state are expected for this event," said club member Jim Ray. "Entries are expected from Dallas, Houston, Austin, Fort Worth and Waco, and will be competing for more than 30 trophies."

According to Ray, a biology graduate student, the trophies alone cost "more than \$100".

The event will be a time trial which is an amateur form of sports car racing.

"This is not a drag race," said Ray, "the course is two miles long and is marked with rubber pylons."

"Drivers will be placed in eight men's and two women's classes," he said. "These classes are determined by power and handling characteristics of the automobile."

Ray said that cars such as Volkswagens will be competing against cars of similar speed and size.

"An MG wouldn't have to compete with a 427 Corvette," he said, "and one car only goes through the course at a time, as it is a race against the clock."

A technical inspection of all cars will be made to insure safe mechanical operation of the car. Also, seat belts are required on all entries.

"This should prove to be an exciting day of competition," Ray says, "since Dallas clubs have challenged the clubs in the Houston area to meet here to compete."

Firemen Make Summer School Plans This Month

Three planning meetings for the annual summer Texas Firemen's Training School at Texas A&M have been announced for February.

Henry D. Smith, chief of the Firemen's Training Division of A&M's Engineering Extension Service, will coordinate the meetings.

Forty industrial safety officers will gather Feb. 18 at A&M to discuss programs for the Industrial Fire Protection School July 23-28. Co-chairmen are Jack C. Methner of DuPont Chemical Co., Beaumont, and W. H. Lauderback of Texas Eastman Chemical Co., Longview.

Smith said 125 fire officials from all areas of the state will meet Feb. 21-22 in Dallas to plan fire field evolutions for the Municipal Firemen's School July 16-21 at A&M.

Training Chief Roy Simmons of the Dallas Fire Department, head of combined operations at A&M's Firemen's Training Field, will speak, as will Richardson Chief Richard Russell and Port Arthur Chief Harry Hebert. Russell has charge of advance evolutions and Hebert heads the basic evolution section.

Also on the program are Ted Felds, director of City Rescue Services, Houston, and Charles Player, supervisor of training and records for the Dallas County Sheriff's Department. They head the rescue evolutions section of the school.

A&M will be the site of a Feb. 25 meeting of 140 fire service administrators for a session concerning general firefighting courses and fire marshalling training programs at the Municipal Fire School.

W. L. Heaton, Austin Fire Marshal, and Charles Meadows, fire marshal for the Texas Insurance Commission, are program chairmen.

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By Charles M. Schulz