

# SCONA Shows Much Progress Since Beginning

The Student Conference on National Affairs at Texas A&M has taken some giant steps since the initial conference in 1955. Organization of the Conference started almost a year earlier when Herbert W. (Bud) Whitney, now marketing manager for IBM in Houston, attended the U. S. Military Academy's Student Conference on United States Affairs. Whitney, then vice president of the Memorial Student Center

Council, was chosen as a SCUSA delegate by a committee on the College of Liberal Arts. Also chosen was Frederick H. Mitchell, cadet colonel of the A&M Corps of Cadets. Inspired by the conference of student leaders from the Northeast and Canada, Whitney studied West Point's conference organization, including their letters of invitation to colleges and universities. He learned how conference

leaders set up roundtable discussions and scheduled nationally known speakers. RETURNING TO A&M, Whitney discussed the possibility of a similar conference at A&M with Dr. D. H. Morgan, then the college president. Dr. Morgan gave his approval and together they gained support of the deans and student leaders. The problem of gaining sponsors for SCONA quickly became

a major issue, so the MSC Council allocated \$300 for brochures to explain the proposed conference to prospective sponsors. It was decided that college students from the South, Southwest and Mexico would be invited to the first conference. Scope of the confab has grown since that time to include universities from Canada. WHITNEY and a planning com-

mittee met with John T. Jones, then president of the Houston Endowment, and explained tentative plans. Eventually, the Houston Endowment agreed to underwrite 25 per cent of the cost of the conference. Other support began to form and SCONA I's \$12,000 budget was realized in advance of the December 1955 opening. John W. Jenkins, deputy corps commander,

was named as the first SCONA chairman. Other student conferences have sprung up across the nation, with many being modeled after SCONA. They include conferences of the Naval Academy, the Air Force Academy, Mississippi State and North Carolina State. The budget for SCONA XIII, set Dec. 6-9, has grown to \$19,000. Theme of the conference is "The Price of Peace in Southeast Asia."

Bob M. Gallaway, Materials and Construction Department head of the Texas Transportation Institute at Texas A&M, is a weekend speaker in Houston for the Texas Municipal Parks and Recreation Association. Gallaway, in his illustrated talk, will discuss "All Weather Surfaces for Recreational Areas," describing stabilizing agents which can be used for inexpensive walkways, golf paths and roads. Also covered will be suggested use of blocks, bricks and texture materials in beautification of park areas.

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