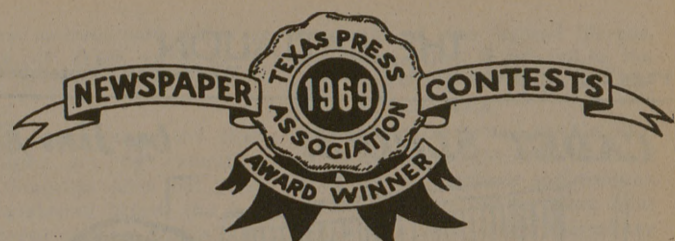


The Battalion



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Ag Officials Here For 'Listen-In'

By Pam Troby
Battalion Staff Writer

The first of a number of state and federal government officials have begun arriving here for the agricultural "listening conference" to be held on the campus Thursday.

The one-day session, called by Secretary of Agriculture Clifford M. Hardin to hear of rural interests and problems, will begin at 9:30 a.m. in G. Rollie White Coliseum.

Governor Preston Smith and A&M President Earl Rudder will be early speakers in the "listen-in," expected to draw from 2,000 to 4,000 persons.

Charles McDougall, assistant administrator of university relations for the Federal Extension Office, said as he arrived Tuesday night that the secretary hopes to find solutions to regional problems by traveling all over the nation to meet farm and rural leaders in conferences such as the one here at A&M.

"These conferences give people a chance to meet the secretary and his senior staff," McDougall noted, "and it also helps the secretary to keep in touch with the people."

"The prime objective of the conference is to obtain new solutions and alternatives to the ag-

ricultural problems of different regions," McDougall said.

Four other conferences have been held in Nebraska, Washington, California and Georgia. More sessions are scheduled for the near future, perhaps one every three months, he added.

Secretary Hardin and his staff will spend the day listening to representatives of almost every major farm organization and agricultural commodity in the Southwest.

Dr. H. O. Kunkel, dean of the College of Agriculture and presiding officer at the session, said other officials attending the conference include Under Secretary Phil J. Campbell; C. D. Palmy, assistant secretary for international affairs and commodity programs; T. K. Cowden, assistant secretary for rural development and conservation; Don Paarlberg, director of Agricultural Economics; Ned D. Bayley, director of science and education, and Donald E. Brock, special assistant.

McDonald said that because of pending action on the House Election Reform Bill, House Agriculture Committee members may not be able to attend.

Farmers and farm industry leaders from five southwestern states—Arkansas, Louisiana, New

Mexico, Oklahoma and Texas—will attend.

Cooperating on arrangements for the conference are administrators, vice presidents and deans of agriculture in the land grant universities of the five states.

The conference is designed to give every person who attends an opportunity, either by oral presentations or written briefs, to express his ideas on an expected wide range of topics.

Subject matter is expected to include opportunities for maintaining and increasing farm income, opportunities in rural America; rural-urban balance, proper nutrition and diets, development of natural resources and conservation and related subjects.

Dr. Kunkel said the conference is open to any person who has an interest in agriculture and its economic well-being.

The program also allows time during the morning and afternoon sessions for unscheduled speakers, provided they register. Any person who does not have an opportunity to speak due to lack of time may file a written statement with the secretary.

Dr. Kunkel said speakers should register in the Lettermen's Lounge in the coliseum beginning at 8:30 a.m. The conference will adjourn at 4:30 p.m.

Seven members of the Secretary's party are to arrive at Easterwood Airport Wednesday night, and A&M President Earl Rudder will host a reception for the officials at Briarcrest Country Club.

Thursday morning an avenue of flags will greet the officials on New Main Drive. The 1st Battalion of the Corps of Cadets will raise 120 of the parade-size flags at 50-foot intervals along the four-tenths of a mile long campus entrance. Another 52 flags will be installed next to World War I memorials around the parade grounds across from the Memorial Student Center.

The secretary and his staff will have breakfast with officials of the land grant universities and then meet with members of the United States Department of Agriculture Club of College Station.

A press conference is slated for 9 a.m., with the conference starting promptly at 9:30 a.m.

Junior and senior students in the College of Agriculture will be dismissed from classes at 9 a.m. Thursday to attend Secretary Hardin's "listening conference."

Dr. R. C. Potts, associate dean in the college, said the junior and senior students are expected to attend the hearings.



LOST IN THE SHUFFLE
A student appears momentarily confused as he shops in the Exchange Store bookstore along with a large number of fellow Aggies preparing for the long nine months ahead. (Photo by Bob Peek)

In Rotary Series Opener

'Talented Young Conductor,' Houston Symphony To Perform

One of the world's few outstanding young conductors makes an early season appearance with the Houston Symphony Orchestra Thursday in Bryan and College Station.

Antonio de Almeida will conduct the orchestra in the Rotary Community Series' first presentation of the 1969-70 season.

Army Game Flight Has 22 Seats Left

Twenty-two seats are still available on the Senior Class-sponsored charter flight to New York for the A&M-Army football game, according to Jimmy Dunham of Baytown, Senior Class president.

Dunham said that the trip is open to any A&M student, male or female, and the student's wife or husband. This applies to the new freshmen as well, Dunham added.

Dunham stressed that if a student who reserves a seat on the plane does not pay the total cost of

the 1969-70 season. The Bryan Civic Auditorium curtain will raise at 7:30 p.m. on the Houston Symphony's third concert under de Almeida's baton.

The 41-year-old conductor recently took the Houston podium, replacing Andre Previn as conductor of the 92-musician organ-

ization. The symphony makes its Jones Hall debut under de Almeida Tuesday after concerts at League City, Baytown, Bryan and Galveston.

The new conductor, whose 15-year career has placed him in front of 79 different orchestras in 22 countries, will direct three selections for the Rotary Series opener. The program includes the Overture to "Rosamunde" by Franz Schubert, the "Surprise Symphony" of Joseph Haydn and Tchaikovsky's Symphony No. 4 in F Minor.

Rotary series chairman Allister M. Waldrop reminded interested persons that the deadline for obtaining the few remaining series season tickets is Thursday.

De Almeida became the Houston conductor after two triumphant seasons with the San Francisco Symphony. He received extraordinary acclaim in the California conductorship.

Born in Paris of an American mother and Portuguese father, the conductor had public schooling in Paris and Argentina. After beginning professional studies in Buenos Aires, de Almeida studied nuclear chemistry three years at

MIT and earned a degree in musicology at Yale.

He worked under Hindemith, Koussevitsky and Bernstein. His first professional concerts were given in Switzerland in 1954. The conductor won his first permanent post in Oporto, Portugal.

Sir Thomas Beecham guest conducted the Oporto Symphony in 1957 and, impressed with the way de Almeida worked, invited him to conduct London's Royal Philharmonic the following season.

De Almeida returned to London many times, continued to guest conduct throughout Europe and was soon a familiar figure in continent music centers.

Veteran of every concert stage in Paris, he has conducted opera, symphonic and festival performances in Spain, England, Germany, Russia, Portugal, Italy, Sweden, Belgium, Argentina and Uruguay, among others.

His American debut in 1960 was with the American Opera Society.

Married and the father of three children, the Houston conductor has a Wyoming ranch where his family summers.

Policeman Killed, 3 Injured In Near Head-On Collision

A Bryan city patrolman was killed and his roommate and two others injured Tuesday afternoon in a near head-on collision involving three cars on Highway 6

south of College Station. Dead is Patrolman Ben Potter, of 3700 Plainsman, the lone driver of a 1969 Dodge. He was pronounced dead on arrival at St. Joseph Hospital in Bryan.

Funeral arrangements are pending at Hillier Funeral Home.

Seriously injured was Beulah Salley of Houston, the driver of a 1968 Chrysler. She is under observation at St. Joseph Hospital where her condition was listed Tuesday night as "undetermined." Her passenger, David Hill, a Texas Highway Department patrolman from Magnolia, was treated and released.

Another Bryan patrolman, Joe Alvarado, Potter's roommate, suffered bruises and lacerations. He was also treated at St. Joseph and released. He was driving a 1969 Chevrolet.

An investigating officer with the Texas Department of Public Safety said the Salley car was traveling north on Highway 6, when it apparently went left of center and struck the Potter auto traveling south.

The Potter car then flipped backward and came down on the Alvarado vehicle which was following behind. The accident occurred at 4:40 p.m. about 1.4 miles outside of the city limits.

All three patrolmen were off duty at the time of the accident.

Last 2 Days For Rotary Ducats

Deadline for obtaining season tickets to Rotary Community Series presentations is Thursday, officials of the Bryan and College Station cultural program announced.

The deadline was announced by Allister M. Waldrop, Rotary Club series chairman, and Rex Stewart, Town Hall chairman of San Antonio.

Series presentations are a cooperative effort of the Rotary Club and Town Hall.

Season tickets lose value after Thursday, Waldrop and Stewart noted.

The Houston Symphony Orchestra opens the season with a Thursday concert at the Bryan Civic Auditorium.

Season tickets also cover reserve seats for "Mame," Broadway musical scheduled Dec. 17; "La Traviata" by the Goldovsky Grand Opera Theater Feb. 23; Misha Dichter, March 17, and the Town Hall crossover, Mantovani, Nov. 5.

Season reserved tickets are \$16.50 each and may be purchased at the MSC.

Silver Taps Rite For 2 Tonight

Silver Taps will be held tonight for two A&M students who died during the summer.

The ceremony will be held for Jose Almanza of Bryan, who drowned, and Doyle R. Urban of Rowena, who was killed in a construction accident.

The service was postponed last night due to heavy rain, said Allan M. Madeley, housing manager, but will be held tonight barring further severe weather.

U.S. Lied To Obtain Release Of Pueblo Crew: Hayes



RECALLS EXPERIENCES
Lee Hayes, a former Pueblo crewman who was held prisoner in North Korea for 11 months, pauses for thought as he tells of the capture of the spy ship and confinement of her crew by the North Koreans, and of his experiences while in prison. (Photo by Bob Peek)

By David Middlebrooke
Battalion Managing Editor

The United States lied to obtain the release of the crewmen of the U.S.S. Pueblo last December, in the opinion of Lee Hayes, a former crewman and lead radio-man on the ship.

Hayes gave his opinion Tuesday during an interview with The Battalion. He was in town to speak at the Bryan Civic Auditorium on behalf of the TRAIN (To Restore American Independence Now) Committee.

The former second class petty officer said that he and his fellow crewmen felt "rather bitter" about the United States signing a confession of crimes against North Korea to obtain the men's release.

"They signed a lie and they knew it," he said. "They always knew we were never in North Korea's waters. We could have been out earlier if they were going to lie about it."

University National Bank
"On the side of Texas A&M."

Hayes explained that he had worked with the navigator of the ship and his men and could "state with knowledge" that the Pueblo had never violated North Korea's territorial waters.

"We called for help within a minute of the attack," he said as he described the capture. "We kept asking for help for an hour and a half. We were talking to Japan up until the North Koreans were aboard the ship. The last we heard from Japan was 'good luck.'"

"We were promised before we left port that if we were attacked, and asked for help, it would be available. Help was within 15 minutes of us from South Korea and help an hour from Japan, but it was not sent. I'll never know completely why not."

"Some were treated better than I was, some worse," the crewman commented when asked about treatment while in North Korea. "They hate you over there with a passion you can't realize. I don't care how much you dislike somebody, you don't hate like they do."

God, doubt that our families were thinking about us or writing to us. They told us our government had forgotten us. We had communist ideology classes, and the only reading material was communist propaganda.

"Letters were signed by the crewmen after some 'work' on them (the men)," Hayes went on. "It took six weeks to do a letter. Sometimes you made it in four, but it was usually about six weeks to get a letter the way they wanted it. They would tell us what they wanted us to say, and eventually you would do it."

"They would take the letter, then bring it back and say 'We didn't mail it; we don't like it.' Then we would have to do them over. I didn't want to write any of the four I wrote, but I wanted to stay alive."

Hayes mentioned that during his confinement his jaw was broken. The only medical treatment he received, he said, was to have some iodine painted on the outside of the injury.

"We never tried, but there were three different escape

plans," Hayes continued. "All were worked through the captain (Cmdr Lloyd Bucher). He would have ordered an escape whenever he thought that there was no alternative."

"They told us about the student riots, peace marches that burned down cities, and the general disregard for law and order. We didn't believe most of it until we got home and saw for ourselves," Hayes added.

He also said that he had hoped that the United States would retaliate soon after the Pueblo's capture, and was sorry it did not. He commented that two-thirds of the Pueblo crew was out of the service, with the other one-third staying in for the few more years needed for retirement.

"What happened to me over there woke me up," Hayes said, "and I want other Americans to know what is going on in their government."

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