

# The Battalion

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Friday, September 24, 1971

Cloudy and warmer

Friday — Cloudy to partly cloudy. Northerly winds 5-10 mph. High 73, low 64.  
Saturday — Partly cloudy. Easterly winds 10-15 mph. High 77, low 61.  
Saturday — Lincoln, Nebraska, kickoff time—Partly cloudy to cloudy. Northerly winds 10-12 mph. 66°. 40% relative humidity.

845-2226



HOUSTON'S LOUIE WELCH emphasized the importance of good municipal government to the audience at the Memorial Student Center Thursday. The mayor of Texas' largest city spoke for the first meeting of the Political Forum Noon Series. (Photo by Randy Freeman)

## Political Forum series

# Welch talks of city government

By SUZANNE FORD  
Staff Writer

"Municipal government should not try to do everything for everyone", said Louie Welch, Mayor of Houston at the first meeting of the Political Forum's Noon Series in the Memorial Student Center Thursday afternoon.

Welch, speaking on the subject "Problems in City Management" expounded on what he

believed to be the duties and responsibilities of city government in the growing urbanization of Texas.

"Thirty years ago, 70 per cent of Texas citizens lived in rural areas. Today two-thirds of the population reside in standard metropolitan statistical areas. This shift in population demands a growth and maturity in city government to accommodate the passing problems of the urban

community."

"I believe the Mayor-Council form of government, which is unique to Houston is the answer to the problems of municipal government," he said.

"The mayor is elected directly by the people, and although he presides over the city council he is not responsible to the council for his officeship." The Mayor further said that he believed this form of government gave him greater political mobility and a non-partisan outlook, incurring a higher degree of political responsiveness to the electorate.

In a recent Washington survey which investigated the burden of the taxpayer in supporting state and local government, Houston ranked twenty-fifth. To the Houston urbanite, this means the lowest per capita tax, including federal tax, in support of municipal services.

"Houston's non-partisan form of government does not identify with national political parties. It is not responsible to pressure groups but rather to the entire electorate." The Mayor further commented that in not catering to political bureaucracy allows capable employees to fill city jobs rather than using the jobs as the play of elected officials.

"Low cost public assistance programs are responsible for a limited tax burden," said Welch. "Statistics show that in the highly populous metropolitan areas such as Newark and New

York one in every three and one in every seven people respectively receive some form of public assistance." "In Houston these staggering figures are limited to one in every thirty-five, a cost which can easily be absorbed." "While the cost of municipal government has been kept to a minimum, quality has not been sacrificed," commented the mayor.

City Hall's opinion concerning the Wallisville Project was expressed in a brief question and answer period. Welch cited two reasons for the implementation of the project: First, as an efficient water and fowl preserve, second, as an effective salt water regulator in time of drought. The Mayor believed that if the four foot water barrier was not built, the capabilities of the reservoir would be reduced by 50 per cent.

When asked what kind of pressure was placed on his office concerning the ship canal pollution, he replied that he had received none to date, however, such directives would be handled by the Air Control Commission organized in 1967.

The present lawsuit pending against the city as a result of the Compost Plant has not yet been resolved. There have been no plans to overhaul the process. Welch contended that the building would probably be bought in the near future and used to store city equipment. Welch added that his future aspirations for Houston as not merely a product of contemporary urbanization but rather as "a good place to live."

pers are going to fade out, describing the average news article as a "dried-out turd in a cellophane wrapper."

"Advocacy instead of objectivity" was a phrase often used to describe her ideas in new trends in journalism. She said the reporter should become more involved and more involved and more partisan in his reporting of the news.

Hobby rebutted that newspapers are not dying out but merely experiencing a change in structure. "Newspaper circulation is increasing and there are more and more small suburban papers," he said.

He also said that there are many times in "objective reporting" when a writer may indeed inject the "whole truth."

"Suppose Mr. X has said that he will do such-and-such for the fourth time," Hobby said, "then the reporter can say that he has said so three other times and not done anything. It's just as effective."

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

# Mutscher indictment is reached by jury

DALLAS (AP)—House Speaker Gus Mutscher should step aside as speaker until bribery charges against him are cleared up, State Rep. Dick Reed said Thursday.

Reed, a member of the "Dirty Thirty" Ethics minority which opposed Mutscher's iron rule during the legislative session this spring, said "it's in very, very poor taste to have a man who's under indictment serving as Speaker."

Reed said Mutscher has interim powers as Speaker "that I think should not reside in the hands of a person who's under indictment for bribery," Reed said.

"He has appointed himself again to the Legislative Budget Board; he will be in charge again of activating and appointing the membership of interim committees to study the various problems that relate to the Legisla-

ture during the interim, Reed pointed out.

If Mutscher doesn't step down, something may have to be done to remove him, Reed said.

The only precedent for removing members of the legislature for bribery that he knows of was established in 1927, Reed said.

That year, State Reps. F. A. Dale of Bonham and H. H. Moore of Cooper were overwhelmingly voted out of the House of Representatives for asking for and getting a \$1,000 bribe from a lobbyist for the State Optometric Association.

The lobbyist, however, had told police of the bribe request and they observed the payoff.

That offense, however, took place during a legislative session, and House Speaker Robert Lee Bobbitt took the lead in appointing an investigating committee which recommended expulsion.

The legislature can only be called into special session by Gov. Preston Smith, himself a profiteer in the stock deals. And it is unlikely that Mutscher will appoint a committee to decide whether he should be ousted.

Another legal problem in taking action against Mutscher, Reed said, is that there is some question whether the 62nd Legislature could take any action against one of its members for an offense committed during the 61st Legislature's term.

Dallas County Republican Party chairman Tom Crough predicted the indictments against Mutscher and his top House lieutenant, Rep. Tommy Shannon of Fort Worth, "will have a far-

## A&M scholarship honors Nixons

A \$25,000 endowed scholarship is being established at Texas A&M in behalf of President and Mrs. Nixon, A&M President Jack K. Williams announced Thursday.

Funds for the scholarship have been provided by James M. (Cop) Forsyth of Houston.

"Texas A&M University has contributed mightily to the Lone Star State and to this nation," President Nixon noted in a letter to Forsyth, "and I would be proud to be a part of the dynamic role it will play in the future, especially through the means you have created."

"It is a distinct privilege to accept your offer and be among those participating in the President's Scholars Program at Texas A&M," the President added. "For the kindness you have done me and for tomorrow's students who shall reap the benefits of your goodwill, please accept my heartfelt thanks."

reaching impact on the 1972 elections."

"Most assuredly, these indictments will be an issue in the legislative elections in Dallas County," he said.

The President and Mrs. Richard M. Nixon Scholarship will be part of a program conducted by the university's alumni organization, the Association of Former Students. Its goal is creation of 100 such scholarships to be offered to high school seniors who excel academically and display outstanding character and leadership ability.

Former Students President Leslie L. Appelt of Houston pointed out more than half of the proposed \$25,000 scholarships have already been endowed.

"The entire alumni association is grateful to President and Mrs. Nixon and to the Forsyths for this significant gift, which will have a most salutary effect on our continuing drive for academic excellence at Texas A&M University," Appelt said.

"President Nixon has paid Texas A&M a compliment of the (See Scholarship, page 2)

## University apartment rent will revert to former level

Rent for A&M's student apartments will revert to the 1970-71 level for the duration of the 90-day wage-price freeze as the result of a decision Thursday by the national headquarters of the Office of Emergency Planning.

The rental increases, ranging from \$5 to \$10 per month, had been established by A&M's board of directors in November, 1970, to provide for employment this year of additional maintenance personnel and to meet debt service requirements for enlargement of the utility system.

"For the duration of the freeze," noted President Jack K. Williams, "monies will have to be taken from other programs to meet these obligations."

The action follows resolutions by the Student Senate and Graduate Student Council asking that rents be lowered "in the spirit of the Nixon wage-price-freeze." Married students had asked that the rents be frozen because an expected university wage increase had been frozen.

The reduction, however, comes not from the resolutions but from the decision of the Office of Emergency Planning.

## Editors argue about press and responsibility at seminar

By ROD SPEER  
Staff Writer

Should the New York Times be allowed to decide what is to be classified and what is not was asked Thursday night by Molly Ivins, co-editor of the Texas Observer, to a small Great Issues audience.

"On the other hand, who is John Mitchell to decide?" she said as she discussed the Pentagon Papers with William Hobby, editor and publisher of the Houston Post.

Hobby, in his introductory speech, spoke of the Pentagon Papers in terms of the trial of John Peter Zenger, a colonial newspaper editor tried for libel even though what he had printed was the truth. He went on to talk of the other influential journalists who risked lives and reputations to seek and print the truth.

"God made newsman for digging into the facts and reporting the truth," Hobby said. He emphasized that newspapers should have a "watchdog" influence on society.

Ivins described the Pentagon Papers incident as being the first major attempt by the government to stop a newspaper from printing something. She felt that, with one exception, journalists have been very careful in protecting the national interests.

The exception was during World War II when a newspaper printed that the Japanese code had been broken, before the Japanese had found out that it had.

"It may be hackneyed and overused by newsmen," she said, "but the people have a right to know. Since Americans have been paying for the Vietnam War with limbs, lives and blood, much less money, they should know what brought us into the war, she added.

Ivins also stressed what she called the "fallacies of objectivity" in journalism. Objective writing, she said, frowns on the use of adjectives and adverbs and encourages colorless articles. "The press has blunted their own tools — words," she said.

Ivins said she believed that, in their present form, the newspa-

pers are going to fade out, describing the average news article as a "dried-out turd in a cellophane wrapper."

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Panelists Molly Ivins of the Texas Observer and William Hobby of the Houston Post discuss the freedom and responsibility of the press at a panel presentation by Great Issues. (Photo by Joe Matthews)

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