

Constitution passes by referendum vote

HAYDEN WHITSETT

The new constitution was approved in referendum Tuesday by a vote of 1,621 for and 1,237 against, announced David Moore, election commission president. Only 2,858 voted in the election, he told the Student Senate. The largest amount of debate at the senate meeting dealt with the recent increase of the Memorial Student Center Complex from \$5 to \$10. The increase was approved by the Board of Directors in its meeting last week.

Senators questioned both the reasons for the increase and the amount of the increase.

Last year Howard Vestal (director of management services), told the senate that this fee would not be increased," said Bill Diebel (Sci-at large), "now the board has doubled it. I'd like

to know why."

Unseen expenditures plus a lack of surpluses and profits made the difference, Clark Diebel, controller, told the meeting. The extra funds from the increase, about \$158,000, would be used to equip, maintain and operate the complex.

In response to questions from several senators asking why \$5 was picked for the increase when the Student Senate had recommended \$2, Diebel would only say that it was an "arbitrary figure" decided upon by the administration.

"This figure has my backing and Tom Cherry's (Vice president for Business)," Diebel said. "I would assume it has the president's and the board's support as well, since they approved it."

"We have to plan ahead for things," he said in explanation. First to ask where the funds

would be going, on an itemized basis, was Spike Dayton, treasurer.

"Frankly, I don't know," said Diebel, "we haven't got a budget worked up yet."

"All the money is going for the operation of the Memorial Student Center complex," he said.

These statements came under attack by Bill Hartsfield, (Sci-at large) who quoted from the Texas Senate bill requiring that budgets be submitted before funds were appropriated.

Hartsfield said he questioned the legality of the board's action in approving the increase without an itemized budget and mentioned that an injunction could be brought against the university.

"I'm no lawyer," he said, "but this doesn't seem legal."

Diebel promised that the Stu-

dent Senate would get a copy of the itemized budget when it was prepared.

"We have to know what is going on though," Bruce Clay, public relations chairman, said. "Students have a right to know about things that are going to mean greater expenditures for them."

At the end of the extended debate Hartsfield proposed a resolution censuring the office of the Vice President for Business Affairs, Tom Cherry, and requesting that the president see that the senate be kept informed on matters pertaining to fees.

"I know censure is a strong word," he said, "but we have protested before about things like this and they are still happening."

"Last year this happened, and we expressed 'extreme disapproval.' What are we to do now?"

The motion, after some discussion of the definition of the word censure, was tabled.

Changes in computer preregistration were reported on by Sandy Eichorn and Stan Friedli.

Eichorn said that the resolution would call for students being able to pick specific sections of courses and professors.

The present system assigns sections to the student to fit into a workable schedule. The student has no choice of sections or professor.

Also included is an easier method for blocking out times for work and study on the schedule.

Friedli said that Registrar Robert Lacey said they had been

(See Constitution, page 6)

New constitution adoption causes mixed reactions

JOHN CURYLO

The approval of the new constitution by a referendum vote of the student body caused mixed reactions after the Student Senate meeting Tuesday night.

The result, the turnout and the constitution itself were hashed over from several different points of view.

Senate President John Sharp reiterated his previous thoughts of the document, but he added that he considered the 2,858-student turnout for the election a good number.

"It's as many as we've had in regular elections," he said. "I was pleased with the turnout."

"The result of this election is that we're becoming an all-Aggie campus," he continued. "The students are to be commended for this. Senators didn't vote for or against the constitution because they were in the corps or were freshmen."

Jack Carey, deputy corps commander, expressed discontent with the constitution itself, but he said he was willing to accept the results of the referendum.

"Apparently, it's what the students and the senate wanted," he explained, "because they voted for it. My main objection is that the limitations are placed on student government. It appears that the senate has put itself on a

pedestal, giving itself all the powers.

"I'm surprised other organizations on campus, such as the Civilian Student Council, the YMCA and the MSC Council didn't object to it," Carey continued, "because they were relegated to purely advisory roles, and that advice is limited to the executive branch."

Gordon Pilmer, president of the CSC, said he was happy with the outcome of the whole constitutional revision process.

"It's been a long time coming," he explained, "I believe the Student Senate has put its interest in A&M rather than in its individual factions."

"The turnout was good, considering the notification," he added. "My main objection is that it was drummed into everybody's heads, but then they had a hard time finding out when the election actually was."

Layne Kruse, chairman of the life committee, said that he saw the 1,621-1,237 vote as an indication of the general feeling of the student body.

"The turnout was about what you'd expect for an election of this kind," he said. "I hope this stirs up interest for next month's general election. This vote was a good, representative sampling of all the students."

Bruce Clay, public relations chairman, looked at the responsibility aspect of the new constitution, saying that the involvement and effectiveness of the senate would be improved.

"The new structure facilitates the work of the senate," he explained. "It possibly will increase its output. I hope the new reapportionment plan will encourage individuals to accept more responsibility and activity as student senators."

Barb Sears, recording secretary, pointed out that the number of students voting in the referendum was more than usual for a special election.

"I was happy to see the large student turnout," she said. "The turnout was good, considering the lack of publicity the referendum received."

Sharp emphasized the unity and teamwork of the senate in getting a new constitution into effect. He said the new document had been needed for a long time, and it was a personal victory for him to have it pass the referendum.

"This is a goal I've worked for since I was a freshman," he said. "Ever since I've held any office at Texas A&M, I've wanted to do something to improve student government."



A REFERENDUM VOTE of the student body decided the future of the new constitution Tuesday. The ballot was multiple choice (yes or no), with no right or wrong answer but even with those odds it required a group effort to make the decision at the voting poll in front of Sbis Dining Hall. (Photo by Mike Rice)

Bomb threats, ransom start worldwide search by TWA

NEW YORK (AP) — A threat that one of its planes would be blown up every six hours for a day unless Trans World Airlines paid \$2 million touched off a worldwide bomb hunt of TWA's jet fleet Tuesday. The threat sent one jetliner streaking back to Kennedy airport where two trained dogs sniffed out a powerful plastic bomb in an attache case in the cockpit.

The bomb had been timed to go off at 1 p.m.

The second deadline, 7 p.m., passed without incident and the search was continuing through the night, with two more deadlines impending.

Neither the FBI, TWA nor local authorities would comment late Tuesday on what was being done about the demand for \$2 million.

Airports were searched from coast to coast and some TWA planes made emergency landings for precautionary reasons. An airline spokesman said: "We have 485 flights a day. We are carefully searching every aircraft."

One plane, carrying Democratic presidential hopeful Eugene McCarthy, was searched at Tulsa, Okla., and a flight from Chicago to Hartford, Conn., came down at Dayton, Ohio, for a check.

The bomb found in the plane

at Kennedy consisted of about five or six pounds of C4 explosive that "would have blown the plane apart," said detective William Schmidt of the city police's bomb section, which defused the device.

The plane, a Los Angeles-bound Boeing 707 with 45 passengers and a crew of seven, landed at 12:10 p.m., just 50 minutes before police said the bomb was timed to go off. The plane had been in the air 30 minutes.

TWA incoming flights at both Kennedy and LaGuardia airports here were checked out by the explosives-sensing dogs, who were split up between the two airports after they found the bomb on the Los Angeles flight.

An anonymous caller told TWA officials the bomb was aboard and instructed them to look in locker No. 930 at the airport. In the locker was a note demanding a \$2 million ransom and threatening that a bomb would go off every six hours in one of the company's planes until 7 a.m. Wednesday if the money were not paid.

The note told TWA to put the cash in two duffel bags and be ready to drop them. This was done, according to a TWA security man. The time and place of the demanded delivery were not disclosed.

The airline immediately instituted the international search, but said all flights would continue as near on schedule as possible.

The two dogs, a German shepherd named Brandy and a Labrador retriever called Sally, were acquired by the New York City Police Department in December.

They were already at the airport for a demonstration to Federal Aviation Administration officials of how dogs could be used to sniff out explosives and narcotics.

They went to work in earnest after Flight 7 had taxied to a remote runway and those aboard removed to safety.

Police said the pilot had paid no attention to the black case with the bomb during his pre-flight inspection, because it had a crew tag tied to the handle.

As a precaution, detectives began a check of every locker in the TWA terminal, a separate building at Kennedy, and of the luggage of all TWA passengers.

Police Commissioner Patrick V. Murphy arrived to take charge of the investigation.

The explosive device was taken to a police range in the Bronx and defused at 12:48 p.m. — just 12 minutes before it was timed to go off.

A TWA staff member who (See bomb threats, page 6)

Pilot and mechanic wounded by hijackers bound for Cuba

MIAMI, FLA. (AP)—Two men armed with shotguns and revolvers shot and wounded a pilot and an airline mechanic Tuesday and hijacked a two-engine seaplane to Cuba.

They forced the copilot to take off following an exchange of gunfire with policemen on the ground.

Five passengers who had boarded the Chalk International Airline plane for its scheduled flight to Bimini, in the Bahamas, were aboard the craft, flown by copilot Bob Wallis.

A sixth passenger jumped off and sounded the alarm.

The hijackers shot pilot James Cothron, 49, and Douglas MacKenzie, 48, an electrical engineer, in commandeering the craft at the airline's island station, between Miami and Miami Beach.

It landed in Havana two hours later.

Both wounded men were left behind. MacKenzie was critically injured.

FBI agent Kenneth Whittaker said the gunmen jumped aboard the plane as it prepared to take off from Bimini. Shooting began after they met with opposition from crew members, Whittaker said.

Police information officer C. L. Reynolds said Miami police arrived on the scene while the Grumman Goose plane was still on the ground. Officers exchanged gunfire with the gunman and at one point succeeded in blocking the plane's path to the takeoff runway with another aircraft, Reynolds said.

The blockading plane was removed when the hijackers threatened to kill the copilot, he said.

Bette Tumpson, who runs a marine gas station on the dock area of the island, said the passenger who escaped, Harry Davis, ran into her station "hollering that a hijacking was taking place and to call the police."

Davis later told officers he managed to escape when the plane's door was opened and the injured pilot was pushed out.

Jackson Memorial Hospital reported MacKenzie in critical condition. Cothron was listed in fair condition with wounds in the arm and leg.

Davis, from Bimini, later identified the gunmen as "two colored men in long brown coats."



LADIES CONFER AT A TEA held Tuesday for Miss TAMU contestants and judges. From left to right are Fern Hamman, one of the judges and hostess of a local television talk show, Jan Ritchey and Tangia Abernathy, both contestants. The contest, featuring 14 coeds, will be held at 8 tonight in the Zachry Engineering Center. (Photo by Mike Rice)

Muskie departs for Florida without large primary victory

MANCHESTER, N.H. (AP) — Sen. Edmund S. Muskie of Maine, the winner of New Hampshire's leadoff Democratic primary, is heading today for a tough contest in Florida next week without the overwhelming New England send-off that would have strengthened his bid for the White House.

Sen. George S. McGovern of South Dakota enhanced his presidential credentials by polling more than one-third of the vote in a strong second place showing he said would give him a big boost across the country.

Muskie, battling McGovern and three other significant challengers, appeared to have fallen just short of the absolute majority that his managers had set privately as a New Hampshire goal.

The result thus encouraged McGovern and the rest of the large field of Democratic presidential contenders who will face Muskie next Tuesday in Florida's 11-way primary contest.

In the Republican race, President Nixon polled about 70 per cent of the vote in a sweeping victory over two GOP opponents of his bid for a second term.

Nixon loyalists won all 14 delegate races. Democratic returns covering 94 per cent of the anticipated vote gave Muskie 48 per cent to 37

per cent for McGovern with the rest scattered among a long list of on the ballot and write-in candidates.

Backers of the South Dakota senator also were putting up a stiff battle in the contests for delegates to next July's Democratic National Convention. The count running far behind the presidential preference totals showed four McGovern candidates and 16 Muskie delegates in the lead.

The 20 delegates will split up 18 convention votes.

Muskie had contended before the balloting that his chief New Hampshire opponent was a phantom rival in the form of an unwritten percentage—to be determined after the votes were in—which he needed to score regardless of whether he won the primary.

McGovern, Sen. Henry M. Jackson of Washington and a spokesman for Sen. Hubert H. Humphrey, the latter two among Muskie's Florida rivals who shied away from a New Hampshire contest, immediately cited the Maine senator's apparent failure to reach 50 per cent as a sign of weakness by the front-running contender.

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—Adv.