

Resonance by Steve Grayson

The Fighting Texas Aggie Band was awesome as it took the field Saturday night. From the depths of the shadowy end zone the band moved into the light like a Roman legion entering the Roman coliseum. Leather legs flashing, the band filled the center of the field and paused briefly in its splendor. Over 60,000 screaming Cajuns filled LSU's Tiger Stadium, but when the opening notes of Tchaikovsky's "March Slav" rumbled into every nook and cranny in the stadium, the crowd grew silent, and understandably so.

It is impossible to hear and see the Aggie Band without realizing that something is different about it. The music's raw volume and its intricate, forceful drills combine to communicate a stirring, electrifying sense of power, and in the howling bowl of Tiger Stadium, that is no small accomplishment.

Later when LSU's band began their show, I was reminded of the SMU game in the Cotton Bowl, two years ago. After a spectacular halftime performance, the Aggie Band had just left the field when the SMU band was introduced. "Ladies and gentlemen," President Nixon said, "the group you are about to see is the most exciting college band in America." This would have been a fine introduction at any other game, but that night it was ridiculous. The Mustang Band trotted onto the field and launched into their act, which was indeed exciting, but it was too much for the crowd to take, as thousands broke out in laughter not because the SMU band since had it not been for the khaki-uniformed boys climbing back to their seats, that might really have been the most exciting college band in America. But nobody follows the Aggie Band and looks like anything but highschool.

Though the Fightin Texas Aggie Band took the pulse of Aggie-land to Baton Rouge, I heard a

little girl say something that expressed the feelings of Aggie-land in Baton Rouge after the game. Like most other children of former Aggie students, she had evidently heard the story of the 1970 A&M-LSU game many times, for as she walked down the exit ramp, she turned to her day and said, "But Daddy, the game can't be over. Hugh hasn't caught his pass yet."

Sargent Shriver said Thursday that Armco Steel Corp. of Houston received a stay from President Nixon on an order to stop pollution shortly before officials of the firm donated \$14,000 to the Nixon campaign.

The Democratic vice presidential candidate, speaking on the Galveston County Courthouse lawn, said Armco officials obtained the stay through the services of former Texas Gov. John Connally who is chairman of the Democrats for Nixon Committee.

Shriver said Armco officials were under orders from the Environmental Protection Agency

to stop dumping pollutants into the Houston Ship Channel when "the president of Armco went to John Connally . . . and was able to get a stay."

At a news conference a few minutes later, Shriver said that the chairman of Armco, whom he did not name, was "so grateful for this special favor he wanted to name his son for the man who did the favor, John Connally."

Asked if he meant in his speech that Armco obtained the stay in exchange for the campaign donation, Shriver said he did not because "all I have is

circumstantial evidence."

He said, however, that the same situation occurred in the Soviet grain sale, IT&T and the milk producer controversies.

"It's no longer one isolated incident," Shriver said. "It's becoming a pattern."

Sweating, shouting and waving his arms, Shriver evoked screams of laughter and cheers time after time.

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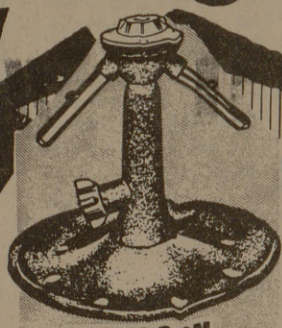
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