

THE BATTALION

House Committee Issues report On Sharpstown Caper

AUSTIN (AP)—The House General Investigating Committee issued its long-awaited report on the Sharpstown scandal Thursday and said it was "regrettable" that Houston promoter Frank Sharp was granted immunity from prosecution.

No conclusions were reached in the 13-page report about whether there was any misconduct in connection with passage of two banking bills sought by Sharp in 1969.

Former Speaker Gus Mutscher,

former Rep. Tommy Shannon, D-Fort Worth, and Mutscher aide Rush McGinty were convicted in Abilene of conspiracy to accept a bribe from Sharp.

Sharp allegedly provided the three with Sharpstown State Bank loans to buy stock in National Bankers Life Insurance Co. as an inducement to pass the deposit insurance bills.

The U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission asserted that the purpose of the legislation was to enable the Sharpstown Bank—

now defunct—to evade regulation by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. by providing an alternate insurer for its deposits.

But the five-man committee disagreed.

"Evidence received from all sources, other than the testimony of Frank Sharp, indicated HB72 and HB73 was intended for protection of bank depositors, 'in addition to' that offered by Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation and not 'in lieu of,' the report said.

Mutscher's prosecutor argued it was irrelevant whether the bills did what Sharp hoped they would.

The committee recommended six "specific improvements" — four of which also have been advocated by Speaker Price Daniel Jr.

Committee members were Reps. Menton Murray, D-Harlingen, chairman; DeWitt Hale, D-Corpus Christi; and Jim Nugent, D-Kerrville; and former Reps. Jim Slider, D-Naples, and Clyde Haynes, D-Vidor.

"Time has settled most of the problems brought to light since January 1971. The district courts have acted on indictments brought back by grand juries, and if they be in error, an appeal will settle the issue. The people

of legislators" to influence legislation.

—That the speaker not have a legislative program of his own but merely preside over the House and administer its affairs.

—That notice of hearings on

bills be posted long enough in advance to "give reasonable notice to all" beforehand.

—That a system of filing bills 60 days ahead of a legislative session be established.

—Legislation making it a crime

misdeemeanor for anyone with official access to information about grand jury proceedings to divulge that information.

Annual Cotton Pageant, Ball Slated For Saturday Night

The Student Agronomy Society will host the 39th annual Cotton Pageant and Ball Saturday.

Friday night will be an informal social for the contestants and their dates. The evening will be highlighted by square dancing, with a local caller leading the activities. The judges will not be present and the evening is to serve as a get-acquainted session for the contestants.

Interviews with the judges will be held Saturday morning and afternoon. Girls will be free to attend Muster at 10:30 a.m. and the Maroon and White football game.

Bryan Civic Auditorium will be the setting for the Cotton Pageant which begins at 7 p.m. The queen will be announced along with eight members of her court.

Included in the entertainment for the evening will be the New Tradition Singers.

The Cotton Ball will follow the Pageant, beginning at 9 p.m. in the Zachry Engineering Center. Music for the formal event will be by the Cavaliers from San Angelo.

Proceeds will help finance an agriculture tour of the state for juniors and seniors majoring in agronomy.

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Fish Drill Team To March At Maroon-White Contest

The state champion Fish Drill Team will march Saturday at halftime of the Maroon-White football game.

Intermission of the 1:30 p.m. game at Kyle Field will also feature presentation of drill team awards.

The Fish missed the Corps of Cadets regular awards program Sunday. They returned Sunday afternoon from the National Intercollegiate ROTC Drill Championships in Washington, D.C.

Their Saturday sequence will be used April 28 at the FDT's final meet of the year, the Lone Star Invitational at Trinity University in San Antonio.

The team placed third at the national meet. Several observers including a Marine officer not associated with A&M thought the drill rated higher.

Presentations after the Saturday drill will include the Tommy Weishaupt Memorial Award to the outstanding Class of 1976 FDT member, the Norman Beard Award for the most outstanding senior Aggie-Marine, and medals,

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TONIGHT

Inter-Varsity Christian Fellowship will hear Mark Peterson, staff team leader, speak at the home of Joe E. Vincent, 607 E. 32nd, at 7:30 p.m. Rides will leave from the All Faiths Chapel and the steps in front of the Corps dormitories at 7:15.

Ponderosa Specials

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TUESDAY

A&M Wheelmen will elect summer officers at 7:30 in Room 2C of the Memorial Student Center.

Pre-Vet Society will elect officers and hear Dr. Beaver speak on Animal Behavior in Room 201 of the Veterinary Medicine Building.

Society for the Advancement of Management (SAM) will elect officers at 7:30 p.m. in Room 202 of Francis Hall.

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If you yearn to fly and don't try the Aerospace Team, you'll miss your big chance.

Let that be a lesson!

Van Pelt Named Placement Head

Louis J. Van Pelt has been named the university's new placement director, announced Robert L. Walker, director of development.

Van Pelt succeeds Robert C. Reese, who resigned from the university to accept the position as manager of Midwest Video Corp. in Bryan.

For the past three years, Van Pelt has been assistant director of development. He was previously associated with the Lever Brothers Company.

"The experience Van Pelt has gained through both his university and industry associations makes him ideally suited to head our placement office," Walker noted. "He also has worked closely with Reese in recent months and has an excellent understanding of the unique requirements in helping our students make the proper contacts with potential employers."

Van Pelt, who was reared in Bryan, earned his B.A. degree in journalism in 1963 and master's in English in 1968, both from TAMU. He is vice president of the Brazos County A&M Club and a member of the group's board of directors.

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Abrams Selected To Give Commissioning Presentation

Gen. Creighton W. Abrams, U.S. Army Chief of Staff, will be commissioning speaker at the May 5 ceremony at A&M.

About 200 officers will be commissioned in the Army, Air Force, Navy and Marine Corps, according to Col. Thomas R. Parsons, A&M commandant of cadets.

The spring commissioning will be A&M's first at which new officers for each of the nation's armed forces will be sworn in on

completion of reserve officer programs. The Naval ROTC program was installed last fall.

The U.S. Army's top officer, Gen. Abrams will also review the Corps of Cadets at Final Review following the commissioning exercise in G. Rollie White Coliseum.

Gen. Abrams was recently confirmed as chief of staff after several years as commander of U.S. forces in Vietnam. He succeeded Gen. William C. Westmoreland as chief of staff.

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Mutscher said the day he was indicted that "the big fish are still swimming." A federal judge granted Sharp immunity from prosecution in return for his testimony to a federal grand jury.

Committee members also referred to the defeat of representatives who had not joined in the legislative attack on Mutscher.

It was a pity, the report said, "that the cloak of suspicion was improperly and unfairly thrown over the shoulders of several honorable and hard-working members of the House, resulting in their loss to the State of Texas."

Each of the investigating committee members was appointed by Mutscher and each was a standing committee chairman, selected by the former speaker, in the 1971 legislature.

The committee recommended: — "strong and practical" code of ethics for legislators.

— A lobby control act requiring reports of money spent and services performed "for and in behalf

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OFFICIAL NOTICE

Official notices must arrive in the Office of Student Activities before deadline of 1 p.m. of the day preceding publication.

MAY GRADUATES DEPARTING FROM THE BRYAN-COLLEGE STATION AREA. Full time students who will receive degrees (Bachelor, Master, or Doctor) may apply for a Bertha Pratt Loan not exceeding \$200.00 to assist with relocation expenses. To apply for this loan, contact the Student Financial Aid Office, Room 303, YMCA Building, prior to May 4, 1973. 24919

ATTENTION MAY GRADUATES! You may pick up graduation announcements now, Room 216 A & B, 8:00-4:00, Student Programs, New MSC. Extra announcements go on sale April 17. 24618

REGALIA FOR THE MAY 1973 COMPLETION EXERCISES All students who are candidates for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy or Doctor of Education are required to order hoods as well as the Doctor's caps and gowns. The hoods are to be left at the University Exchange Store for delivery by a representative of the Exchange Store to the Registrar's Office no later than 1:00 p.m., Wednesday, May 2. The Ph.D. or D.Ed. hoods will not be worn in the procession since all such candidates will be hooded on the stage as part of the ceremony. Candidates for the Master's Degree will wear the cap and gown; all civilian students who are candidates for the Bachelor's Degree will wear the cap and gown. ROTC students who are candidates for the Bachelor's Degree will wear the appropriate uniform. All military personnel who are candidates for the Bachelor's or Master's Degree will wear the uniform; Ph.D. or D.Ed. candidates will wear the cap and gown. The candidates will arrange for rental of cap, gowns, and hood at the Exchange Store between Monday, April 9, 1973 through noon Saturday, April 14, 1973. Only Doctor's caps, gowns, and hoods will be available on a rental basis. The Master's and Bachelor's caps and gowns may be purchased at the Exchange Store. Rental fees and sale prices are as follows: Doctor's Cap & Gown \$7.85 (rental), Doctor's Cap, Gown & Hood \$15.75 (rental), Master's Cap & Gown \$7.85 (sale), Master's Cap, Gown and Hood \$15.75 (rental), Bachelor's Cap & Gown \$6.93 (sale), Bachelor's Cap, Gown & Hood \$13.86 (rental). All prices include sales tax. Payment is required at the time of placing the order. 23421

To be eligible to purchase the Texas A&M University ring, an undergraduate student must have at least one academic year in residence and credit for ninety-five (95) semester hours. The hours passed at the preliminary grade report period on March 12, 1973 may be used in satisfying this ninety-five hour requirement. Students qualifying under this regulation may now leave their names with the ring clerk, Room Seven, Richard Coke Building. She, in turn, will check all records to determine ring eligibility. Orders for these rings will be taken by the ring clerk starting March 26, 1973, and continuing through May 4, 1973. The rings will be returned to the Registrar's Office for delivery on or before June 14, 1973. The ring clerk is on duty from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon, Monday through Friday of each week. Edwin H. Cooper, Dean Admission and Records
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