

1,734 To Receive Degrees

A record 1,734 students are expected to receive degrees here at two commencement exercises this weekend, with Gov. Dolph Briscoe and Lt. Gov. Bill Hobby sharing the speaking honors.

Briscoe will speak at the university's traditional exercises at 9 a.m. Saturday in G. Rollie White Coliseum. Hobby will address students receiving degrees at 7:30 p.m. ceremonies Friday, also in the coliseum.

President Jack K. Williams said the decision to split the graduation ceremonies into two separate programs was prompted by the record number of graduates and seating limitations.

Friday evening ceremonies will include all recipients of graduate degrees and baccalaureate degree candidates from the Colleges of Architecture and Environmental Design, Geosciences, Marine Sciences and Maritime Resources and Veterinary Medicine.

The Saturday ceremonies will include baccalaureate degree candidates from the Colleges of Agriculture, Business Administration, Education, Engineering, Liberal Arts and Science.

Gen. Creighton W. Abrams, Army Chief of Staff, will be the commissioning speaker for 1:30 p.m. Saturday ceremonies in the coliseum and take salutes at

Final Review at 3:30 p.m. on the main drill field. Approximately 175 commissions will be awarded by the Army, Air Force and Marine Corps.

Kyle Field will serve as a back-up location.

The Doherty Award to an outstanding member of the Corps of Cadets will be presented at commissioning. Established in 1971

by W. T. Doherty, a 1922 Texas A&M graduate of Houston, it includes a \$3,000 award.

Final Review is a unique modification of the standard military review. Troops go around the drill field twice, the first time this year led by Corps Commander Ronald L. Krnavek of Corpus Christi and other 1972-73 commanders.

The second go-around will be led by the 1973-74 corps leadership, headed by Scott Eberhart of Dallas.

Between rounds, new commanders at corps, brigade-wing, battalion-group and company-squadron levels take their posts. Classes also don insignia and other uniform distinctions for the following year.

The occasion is marked by flying caps and other items discarded by freshmen becoming sophomores, etc.

After "Auld Lang Syne" for departing cadets, graduating seniors form a reviewing line for the second pass-by.

Final Review is the Corps' concluding formation of the school year.

'Ma, Pa' Fergusons' Careers Called 'Texas Watergate' Affair

Dr. Ralph W. Steen, president of Stephen F. Austin State University, contended here Tuesday the political careers of "Pa and Ma" (James and Miriam) Ferguson could be called the "Texas Watergate" affair.

Steen spoke at the initiation banquet of the TAMU Chapter of Phi Kappa Phi, a scholastic honor society. Steen was head of the history department at A&M before he went to SFASU in 1958. He had served as a faculty member here since 1935.

Steen discussed the scandal-ridden administration of the Fergusons and touched upon the role Jim Ferguson played in public education in Texas.

He pointed out that Ferguson was completely unknown when he declared his candidacy for governor in 1914.

"He had no platform at all," Steen said. "But he had a fantastic ability to speak to people. And, he was elected governor, to the amazement of practically everyone."

When Ferguson took office in 1915, he had the tenant farmer law passed, which was declared unconstitutional. The taxes he had promised to lower were somehow doubled, Steen said.

Ferguson was very concerned with public education in rural areas of the state, Steen explained. He appropriated funds for

these schools, passed the compulsory attendance law and the free textbook law. "A number of things we take for granted run back to this administration," he pointed out.

Ferguson ran for governor again in 1916. His opponent leveled charges of misdeeds against the Ferguson administration, and though Ferguson won the election, a legislative resolution claimed that he would be investigated, Steen said.

There were charges that Fer-

guson was mishandling state funds. The investigating committee censured Ferguson but didn't impeach him.

Ferguson began to have disagreement with the board of directors of the University of Texas about this time, and Dr. Steen said Ferguson believed the University was responsible for the call that he be impeached.

Steen pointed out that Ferguson believed himself to be a "very powerful man." He told the boards of directors of a San An-

tonio hospital and Texas A&M to fire some members, and they did, but the board at UT refused to do as he asked.

The Legislature was very active during this time, Steen said. They created the Texas Highway Department and eight new colleges, doubling the number of colleges already in Texas.

"They were almost as silly as the present Legislature," Steen quipped.

Ferguson called the board of UT to his office and told them if they did not fire people as he directed, the University would not receive any appropriations from the Legislature that year.

"This was the first test of academic freedom in Texas," Steen said. "The board refused to fire anyone, and Ferguson vetoed the appropriations bill for the University of Texas, leaving salaries only for one dean and one janitor."

Steen also described a movement in the Legislature to unite the University of Texas and A&M and locate the school south of Austin near the Colorado River.

"Many of the politicians and UT people were for it," Steen said. "For some reason, the A&M people were violently against it, as was Ferguson. The measure failed, and you have Ferguson to thank for it."

Ferguson was hauled before the Travis Grand Jury on charges of mishandling state funds, Steen said. "He decided he'd rather take his chances before the Legislature, though, and was tried on 21 charges by the House; and convicted by the Senate on 10 of those charges."

Bomb Threat Hits Capitol

AUSTIN (AP)—The Texas Capitol was cleared Wednesday night because of a bomb threat.

"There is three bombs placed in the m...f...r and they is going off in 30 minutes," a man told Capt. James Cowan of the Capitol security guard by telephone at 7 p.m. The caller repeated the same words and hung up.

Officers spread the word for the building to be cleared. They advised persons in the building to go at least 100 yards from the building.

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



MANY A TOOTHPICK adorns Lloyd Morris' Eiffel tower. Morris glued toothpicks together last fall to construct a Golden Gate Bridge replica.

Connally Switch Arouses Republicans, Liberal Demos

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Former Democratic Gov. John Connally's announcement Wednesday that he was switching

to

to broadcast

in fall session

KTAM-FM will be broadcasting over Midwest Video cable before the opening of the fall semester if things go as planned by the Student Government (SG) who station governing board Wednesday.

Mike Gaertner was appointed interim programs director and Steve Gray was appointed interim news director for the student operated station. These two will handle responsibilities for these positions until permanent appointments are made.

KTAM-FM will be located at 115 on the dial and will only be picked up on Midwest Video cable.

Concrete broadcasting and advertising policies will be set this summer by the governing board. Advertising profits will be turned over to the SG and will be used to cover minimal expenses.

Applications for radio staff and disc jockies will be available at a later date. Students interested should contact the senate office or write this summer. The governing board consists of Campus Projects Committee Chairman Jim Cunningham as chairman, Student Services Committee Chairman Steve Wakefield, treasurer David White and subject to the senate's approval, Randy Stephens and Steve Gray.

political parties appeared to pump fresh blood into Texas Republicans and liberal Democrats.

Conservative Texas Democrats seemed more subdued, with some apparently concerned over what one man's decision could mean to the political alignment of 11 million Texans.

There was immediate street-corner talk of the Democrats running Sen. Edward Kennedy, D-Mass., and an old Connally friend, Sen. Lloyd Bentsen, D-Tex., against Connally and Sen. Edward Brooke, R-Mass., for president in 1976.

Lt. Gov. Bill Hobby, a Democrat, dismissed Connally's announcement in a joking manner — "I understand how national political chairmen Bob Strauss and George Bush could have arranged the trade. The Democratic party got New York mayor John Lindsay and the Republicans today get John Connally. Surely, we get next year's first round draft choice and a senator to be named at a later date."

But privately, it was said, Hobby feared Connally's decision might be the first of several which eventually could tip the balance of power in Texas, a bedrock Democratic state since Reconstruction, to the Republicans.

On the cabinet and White House vacancies resulting from Watergate, Connally not only said he had not discussed them with Nixon but added "and I hope there's no likelihood that I will."

"I have not discussed it with him and I hope that your raising the question doesn't trigger the thought," he said.

He said he also had not dis-

cussed Watergate with Nixon but did call the President this morning and told him of the announcement he was to make at the news conference.

Connally said he called the Thursday news conference because he had promised on a number of occasions he would call a conference "when I made up my mind about what I wanted to do."

"And that I have done," he said. "It so happens it comes in the middle of the Watergate, but (See Connally, page 2)

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Connally Sees Dim Future For Political Incumbents

HOUSTON (AP)—John B. Connally, now a Republican after having served three presidents as a Democrat, says he thinks 1974 and 1976 might be bad years for political incumbents.

"I'm referring to individuals in both parties," Connally explained.

"I just think we have a political uncertainty. We have a political concern in this country that might well find itself felt in working to the disadvantage of incumbents at all levels of government."

Connally, 56, made his observation Wednesday at a news conference at which he formally announced the long anticipated switch in political parties.

After reading a short statement, Connally quickly replied to a request for comment on speculation he will be a presidential candidate in 1976.

"I seek no office, political or appointive," said the former protégé of President Lyndon B. Johnson, Secretary of the Navy

under President John F. Kennedy, and Secretary of the Treasury under President Richard M. Nixon.

The observation about 1974 and 1976 as political years was made when Connally was asked about possible long-range effects of the Watergate scandal.

"By 1974, people will have an opportunity to put into perspective what this incident was and by 1976 I'm sure that will be true," Connally said.

"A great many things will have happened that are of exceedingly greater importance to this country. I think the political atmosphere in this country is a troubled atmosphere. It was aggravated by the Watergate incident. The confusion and concern is not all attributable to that. I frankly think both in 1974 and in 1976 that it might not be a good year for incumbents. This is a political observation, and when I say this I am not necessarily referring to parties."

Auto Lead Reactor Tops Proposed Catalytic Converter

By MIKE RICE

The Pollution Solution Group in Texas has recently condemned Environmental Protection Agency statements concerning lead emissions from autos, saying the EPA was "less than objective" when it took its position "regarding increases in body burden with lead."

The group, one of some 25 similar groups active throughout the country, is a member of the American Institute of Chemical Engineers (AIChE) and is dedicated to aiding in efforts to curb and eliminate pollution of all types.

Clem Best, chairman of the Houston-based group, has sent

statements to President Nixon, Lloyd Bentsen, John Tower, Olin E. Teague and other ranking legislators from Texas and the nation concerning its positive stand on a newly developed combustion system called the lean reactor or thermal reactor system.

According to recent studies, 1976 exhaust emission standards could almost be met now (contrary to what auto makers are saying) and 1974 standards could have been met three years ago using the lean reactor system, plus particle traps on new cars. There would be absolutely no need for unleaded gasoline.

Just what would the new reactor do for car owners and the nation?

Facts are available to show that it does not require low compression engines and can use high compression-high efficiency engines and won't wear out. Parts and installation would be cheap and the lean reactor would not be affected by thermal and mechanical shocks.

The catalytic converter, which Detroit car makers and politicians are pushing, does the exact opposite.

The proposed Detroit engine would wear out after only 25,000 miles, require low compression engines, and would be extremely sensitive to thermal and mechanical shock. In addition its fuel consumption would increase up to 20 per cent, reflecting require-

ments of 20 per cent additional refinery capacity and crude oil supply from sources overseas. It would also require 20 per cent more oil tankers and seaport capacity, or a 40 per cent increase in tankers.

The lean reactor system would only increase fuel consumption and refinery capacities by five to six per cent. The same percentage amount would apply to tanker capacity increases. There would be other positive contributions, from this thermal system, also.

It would not increase dependence on Russia and South Africa for more platinum and would have less affect on balance of payment trade than the catalytic

converter type. Less skilled labor would be required for repair and initial installation would cost significantly less.

Use of the catalytic converter will not eliminate pollution as the EPA wants, as well as not deterring pollution hazards. The aromatics which replace lead have smog forming constituents, eye irritants and contain polynuclear aromatics and phenols which lead to forms of cancer.

Best, in a statement to Nixon, said that use of the lean reactor will accomplish pollution goals at less cost immediately without adding these harmful aromatics.

The sharp reduction or elimination of lead as an additive to motor fuel as proposed by the

EPA will have a direct effect on the auto engine so as to cause an increase in the consumption of gasoline due to the resulting decrease in efficiency of an engine running on unleaded, 91 octane.

This means that while the United States is becoming deeply mired in an increasingly-severe energy shortage, EPA regulations would intensify the energy crisis.

Best has pointed out that equipment required to achieve an average level of 96.5 per cent exhaust cleanup will cost the average motorist about \$1,000 more over the life of his car. By contrast, the cleanup being done presently by new car emission control equipment results in only

about \$225 incremental cost to the average car owner.

Time is growing short for all concerned in the pollution matter as the year nears for compliance with regulations. However, one thing has become clear to many chemical engineers: "a law requiring the expenditure of significant sums of money, but results in little or no environmental benefit, or carries ramifications which may be worse than the environmental problem they are designed to solve detracts from the overall effort to improve the society in which we live."

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