

# Communications System Studied To Reduce Poverty

A communications system that could reduce poverty and encourage entrepreneurial activities in India is the result of a design study undertaken by graduate students in A&M's Graduate College.

The system, called "Indifax" by the student design team, would consist of a communications network offering entertainment and educational material through radio and newspaper media.

Three of the five-member design team are citizens of India, according to Dr. Charles A. Rodenberger, TAMU aerospace engineering professor and faculty advisor in the design course.

"The students decide what project they want to work on at the beginning of the course," Dr. Rodenberger explained. "With three of them from India, the team members decided on a project that would not only feed hun-

dry people through increasing job opportunities but also create entrepreneurship in the people of India."

The comprehensive study undertaken by the students included news distribution procedures, financial problems, printing and broadcasting technology and newspaper recycling for more economical operation.

The network would consist of a central office, probably in New

Delhi, 20 state agencies and 8,000 local broadcast and printing centers.

News of national and educational information and international interest would be transmitted to the state agencies from the central office utilizing facsimile transmission. The state agencies would then re-broadcast the information, along with regional news, to the local centers.

The local centers would print

the information for distribution, combined with local news and educational material and possibly transmit the information on standard broadcast frequencies.

The students feel that an expansion of advertising base for the publications would expand business in both the rural and urban areas. The presence of written material will improve the skills of the literate population and promote literacy among the

remaining community.

In addition, the students feel the system would provide jobs for skilled and semi-skilled people at higher than average salary, as much as double the present wage rate. These higher salaries and new jobs created by the local printing and broadcasting facilities would have a multiplying economic effect on the community, raising the economic level of the entire country.

Each printing and distribution center would be privately owned and operated but would be licensed by the national headquarters. The center would promote entrepreneurial activity on a local level as one of the major requirements in developing a nation's full economic potential. The organization would make a profit so that needed government funds might be directed elsewhere to better serve the population. Support for the local centers would come primarily from advertising sales.

The Indian students on the design team are Balvant L. Kapadia, Chirra Ram Linga Reddi and Urmila H. Tivedi. They are joined by Vaughn Paul Addams and Richard Lanier Good.

The design team made a formal presentation of their proposed system to print and electronic media representatives from Houston, Dallas and the Bryan-College Station area. The presentation was video-taped for possible showing to government and banking officials in India.

## Inspection Not Required For Birds

Game birds can still be processed and shipped in-state without government inspection.

They also can be processed and shipped to other states—if the laws in the states to which they are sent do not require inspection.

However, says Dr. David Mellor, Texas Agricultural Extension Service poultry specialist, national legislation is in the mill which could change the whole situation.

Speaking during the annual Texas Game Bird Conference Saturday (May 26) at A&M University, he said a bill for mandatory rabbit inspection has passed the U.S. Senate and gone to the House Agriculture Committee. A California congressman has offered an amendment to current poultry inspection laws to include pigeon, quail and pheasant.

In addition, the U.S. Department of Agriculture is currently trying to replace the word quail with quail in the congressman's bill, the specialist said.

"If this bill is changed and passed, it would then provide mandatory federal inspection for pigeon, quail and pheasant equal to present poultry inspection," Mellor pointed out.

The speaker emphasized that lack of inspection does not relieve the processor of the "moral and legal obligation and responsibility to provide a clean, wholesome, sanitary product."

There is the possibility, he said, that no processing facilities inspection will take place unless a problem or outbreak is traced back by health department people to a specific product or plant.

The game bird conference was sponsored by the Texas Agricultural Extension Service and the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station.

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## McCoy Battles

Col. Jim H. McCoy has shown improvement after a mid-May operation, but attending physicians say he has a battle ahead.

The retired commandant of cadets at Texas A&M University is in Brooke General Hospital at San Antonio. He left intensive care recently and is now in ward facilities.

Brooke doctors told Mrs. McCoy Sunday that the colonel has "a long, long recuperation ahead." She stressed that he is making some progress.

The former TAMU official suffered a stroke May 6. The May 10 surgery had complications from hemorrhaging.

A 1940 Texas A&M graduate, Col. McCoy was commandant and professor of military science. He retired in August, 1971. His wife is a College Station realtor.

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