

# Czech Teachers Visit 'Old Country'

Czech teachers in several Texas schools gained proficiency and confidence this summer in a study-travel program in Czechoslovakia.

Fourteen students returned recently from six weeks intensive study in the project organized at A&M.

"The students got more than they anticipated," observed Joseph J. Skrivanek Jr., TAMU Czech professor who directed the program.

The Modern Languages professor said excellent relations were built between the U.S. and Czechoslovakia, students invested their teaching abilities with enriching experiences and Czech officials invited the group back next summer, to complete the 12 semester

hours program.

Students selected for their background in Czech spent six to eight hours a day in class at Charles University in Prague. Spare time was devoted to museum visits, attending the opera and other activities to expand the students' cultural knowledge.

Weekends were crowded too, with bus tours. One event was a

two-day folk festival at Straznice, Moravia.

Supported by the Czech Ministry of Education, the trip led to six semester hours credit in Czech through A&M's Modern Languages Department.

Skrivanek said Czech officials and Charles University went "far beyond agreed arrangements to make the experience an extremely successful one for myself and the students."

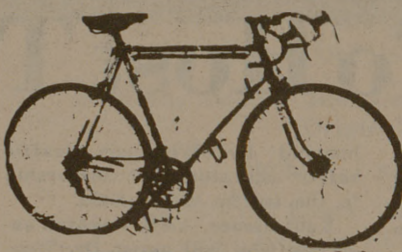
Eleven professors, all specialists in their fields, volunteered to help. They were sandwiched into the program for two-hour lectures each.

On one bus trip, the group stopped to watch repairs being made to a church. Discussion and a party ensued, which one student called "the most educational thing we've done."

A sendoff feast was spread at which the officials "talked to everyone to see how they liked the program and to take sug-

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## A&M Economist Studying Brazos

An A&M economist has started detailed planning for a study to determine the feasibility of making the Brazos River navigable for barge traffic from Freeport to Waco.

Cong. W. R. (Bob) Poage of Waco and Secretary of Agriculture Earl Butz previously announced award of a \$12,000 grant to A&M to explore possibilities for running barges as far as Waco, some 211 air miles from the Gulf port. The funds were provided by the U. S. Department of Agriculture's Rural Development Program.

The study will be directed by Dr. M. L. Greenhut, who holds the title distinguished professor of economics and is internationally recognized for his work in regional economic development.

In establishing general guidelines for the study, Dr. Greenhut met earlier this week with Dr. Lloyd Taylor of Houston, a private economic consultant, and Marvin Leath, director of district development in Congressman Poage's office.

Greenhut said the study's initial phase will be aimed at determining the economic advantages of such a project.

"In the early stages, we will be primarily interested in determining how much economic advantage would accrue to existing interests if the Brazos were navigable," the A&M professor explained.

He said the study will start by determining what exists along the river at the present time—precisely what types of agricultural and industrial activities are conducted within 50 miles, for example, of the river.

The A&M professor said a second-phase economic study—provided the first phase indicates favorable prospects—would involve evaluating "regional economic impact multipliers" stemming from new activities which would be induced to locate in the region.

"In short," he explained, "we would seek to determine what a new agricultural or industrial enterprise might be expected if barge capabilities were available for transportation to the Gulf."

In addition to the studies showing probable effects on the area's economy, Dr. Greenhut emphasized studies also must be conducted regarding engineering feasibility and the environmental considerations.

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## Insurance Board Orders Reduction

True to its promise, the State Board of Insurance ordered an average statewide reduction of 4.3 per cent in private auto coverage premiums, estimating 90 per cent of motorists will save at least \$25 million. New rates are effective August 27.

Further, according to Board Chairman Joe Christie, the competitive rating law September 1 will mean further savings for many. Christie said one company has indicated it will ask authority to cut its rates 15 per cent across the board when the competitive rating law takes effect.

Another law passed by the

legislature this year, however, may cancel out the savings for some and actually bring a slight increase. The personal injury protection coverage of at least \$2,500 for medical expenses and lost earnings or services due to accident, regardless of who was at fault, will be added to all policies automatically unless motorists reject it in writing.

Christie said even rejections written on "brown paper sacks" will be considered valid. P. I. P. coverage costs \$22 to \$44, but many will substitute it for medical coverage which already costs \$15 to \$22 a year.

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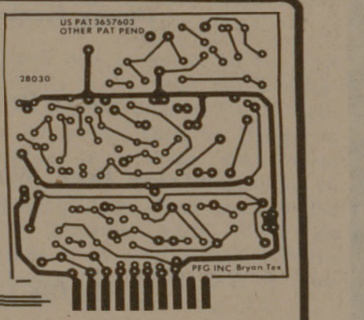
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## Kodak Presents Grant To CE's

The Department of Chemical Engineering in A&M's Graduate College has received a research grant from the Eastman Kodak Company's Educational Aid Program.

A&M is one of 39 colleges and universities throughout the country receiving such a grant. Each grant ranges from \$4,000 to \$10,000 for graduate education and research in fields related to Kodak's own research and development programs.

The Educational Aid Program was established in 1955 and has distributed more than \$30 million to over 500 institutions during the past decade.

The A&M grant is sponsored by the Texas Eastman Company.

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