

Library Policy Change Planned

Seminar Focuses On Health, Safety

Occupational disease and injury are significant aspects of A&M's Occupational Safety and Health Instructors Summer Institute. The seminar which ends Aug. 17 is funded by a grant from the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare. The professional-level course is directed for college professors from across the country by the

Hygiene and Safety Engineering Division of A&M's Department of Industrial Engineering. Instruction is offered to participants by noted authorities from industry, engineering and medicine in key areas of occupational disease and injury, industrial toxicology, airborne contaminants and perspectives in environmental health. Dr. Dave Discher, M.D., speaking to participants in the seminar, established the predicament brought to working people by modern high-level technology. "Management today focuses upon production and economic problems," he charged. "And, unfortunately, 'people problems' are of lower priority. "The entire scheme of management from executives on down to grass roots supervisors pays minimal attention to the physical and psychological problems of the

people around them." The associate professor of environmental health at the University of Washington noted that insufficient education on the importance of safety and safe equipment is a vital reason why many work environments are unsafe. "Many companies simply believe it is cheaper to financially and economically invest in insurance, rather than insure safe equipment and its operation," he

pointed out. Directing the seminar is Dr. Ralph J. Vernon, professor and head of the Division of Hygiene and Safety Engineering, Industrial Engineering Department. He believes the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970, as well as the Consumer Product Safety Act, have made important contributions to society's awareness of the importance of a safe work environment.

Circulation policy will undergo a major change Sept. 1 at the A&M library to make books most in demand available to more students. Circulation Librarian Mel Dodd announced the general loan or circulation period will become two weeks instead of one month, effective Sept. 1. The change was adopted by university librarians after study

by a subcommittee of the University Library Council of several aspects of library services. A&M students and faculty constitute the Library Council which discussed the subcommittee report in some detail. Dodd also announced a strengthened program to recall for anyone any book on semester loan to a faculty or staff member. Such a policy has been in effect, but efforts to recall materials needed by someone else will be given higher priority. "The change in general circulation period, plus the recall measures, should make all library materials more accessible to users," Dodd said.

Oil, Gas Lease Sale Scheduled

AUSTIN—The biggest oil and gas lease sale on Texas public lands in a quarter century is scheduled October 2. Land Commissioner Robert L. Armstrong said 1,348,610 acres in 1,712 tracts will be offered for lease consideration. Most of the state tracts are submerged acreage in the Gulf of Mexico. Nine hundred and 40 Gulf tracts totalling 998,610 acres have been nominated, plus 563 tracts in Texas bays and inlets including 267,678 acres. Oil and gas firms and individual bidders offer bonus payments via sealed bids on leasing of the state-owned tracts for a period of five years to explore and develop minerals. Armstrong said a record high interest is indicated in potential oil and gas production on state lands. "This will be the largest sale in more than 25 years," said Armstrong. A sale involving nearly one million acres of land in 1965 brought more than \$39 million in bonus payments to the permanent school fund.

Armstrong said the current sale is doubly significant because leases will enable the state to take its one-sixth royalty payment in gas or oil instead of cash. A court case is now pending to determine if this can be done on existing leases. The "in kind" provision, specifically allowing the state to take oil and gas as well as cash, will be written into the October bid propositions. Armstrong said this will permit the state to offer cities the option of buying some of their natural gas directly from the state at fair market value.

Single Member Districts Pushed

First legal move in an effort to have eight more counties divided into single-member legislative districts was launched last week. David Richards, Austin attorney retained by the State AFL-CIO, seeks authority for 10 individuals to intervene in a Tarrant County House redistricting case. If the motion is approved by the three-judge federal court, judges will be asked to split Travis, Lubbock, McLennan, Nueces, El Paso, Hidalgo and Galveston into single-member House districts. Each of the counties now has two or more representatives elected countywide. Richards claims this "unconstitutionally dilutes voting strength of racial and political elements."

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