

A Vital Cog in the Machine—Ford's Approval

By RICK BROWN

The Vice-President of the United States of America has resigned; resigned a felon. Spiro Ted Agnew, a man vaulted into the public eyes and seemingly a bastion of integrity, thrust just as swiftly downward in disgrace, has ended a chapter in American history.

Former Vice-President Agnew has never been convicted of any felony. He was given no legal trial, though he was tried by the

nation's press, a body highly biased against Mr. Agnew. And Mr. Agnew has confessed to no crimes, pleading instead no contest to one count of income tax evasion. The no contest plea was, according to Mr. Agnew, to avoid increasing the public's anxieties about their elected leaders. He selected resignation and rapid culmination of the entire affairs rather than drag the nation into another abyss of legal entanglements. Mr. Agnew was never my favorite person.

I felt something of a personal sting from his attacks upon that "effete corps of impudent snobs." But though I have often disagreed with Mr. Agnew, I have never doubted his sincerity. He was and is a man of principle and honor.

We have no way of knowing whether or not Mr. Agnew did in truth commit any crime. Perhaps the no contest plea and resignation are just diversions that forever hide his guilt. Unfortunately incessant "leaks" from a pro-

ceeding supposedly secret, biased over-zealous reporters, and irresponsible officials have all denied Mr. Agnew the right of due process supposedly guaranteed every American citizen by the cornerstone of our society. Guilty or not he is definitely the victim of a great injustice by many others. For that injustice all Americans, all journalists especially, should feel ashamed.

As Agnew's successor Mr. Nixon has

chosen Gerald Ford. Ford, former football hero, graduate of Yale Law School, professional politician, has proven his ties as a good administrator during his years in the House of Representatives. Most of those years have been served as the leader of his party in the legislative body. He is liked, methodically efficient and a Nixon from way back. He has frequently expressed his desire to be V. P. and he should be confirmed.

On the other side Ford is not a charismatic person. He lacks a dynamic presence and is an unimpressive, if not poor speaker. Ford lacks those qualities of leadership necessary should he ever be faced with the task of assuming the Presidency. Despite these shortcomings, Ford is a good choice due to that vital fact, he will be confirmed. Compared to Rockefeller, or Reagan would inevitably set up against strong and vocal opposition in the houses of Congress. The country doesn't want another fight.

Perhaps Ford's nomination is just a thing to provide a cooling off period. Ford will be able to work effectively with both President and Congress. He will act as a palliator to smooth the arguments between the two branches of government. And perhaps most importantly, he will not bring to office the fierce individualistic nature of Spiro Ted Agnew.

Listen Up—

Parking Priorities for Women Said Unnecessary

Editor:

Re: The article "Traffic Panel Has Answers to Krueger-Dunn Parking," in the October 11 issue of The Battalion.

I have read and heard about the parking problems at the Krueger-Dunn complex and the trouble about vandalism when the K-D residents park in the Corps lot. I do not see the reason why the Krueger residents have priority over the Dunn residents in their lot.

The reason given in the article for this priority was that the girls are afraid to walk from the Zachry Engineering Center late at night. I have been walking around the entire campus as late as 2 a.m. and have never encountered any trouble at all. I cannot see that this is any reason for the girls to have priority in the

K-D parking lot.

Also, what about the girls in Keathley, Fowler, and Hughes who have to park on the other side of Kyle Field because of the lack of spaces in the lot near them. Kyle Field is just as far from Keathley, Fowler, and Hughes as the Zachry Engineering Center is from Krueger.

I do not see any reason for any girls to receive special parking privileges. The seniority system seems to be a workable and fair system that has been in existence for some time, so why should it change?

Kathy Allison, '77
Julie Bell, '77
★ ★ ★

Editor:

This letter is in response to a letter published in The Battalion on October 10. I have no idea

where Mrs. Kramer got her proof of the fact that it was the Corps who has been slashing tires and bashing in the sides of those Krueger-Dunn people who are unfortunate enough to have to park in the corps parking lot. I did not notice that she did not include this evidence in her letter. I would suggest that if she has any proof that she turn it in to the proper officials and action would surely be taken to correct this situation.

It should be noted that there are insufficient parking spaces in the Corps lot without the overflow of Krueger-Dunn cars taking space. If lots are not available in their own lot they should park in the engineering lot or in Kyle Field lots. This would solve the problem of slashed tires and bashed in cars as well as leaving the Corps lot open to Corps people.

Another solution would be to turn in a formal request for more parking space to the proper university officials.

It is too bad that Mrs. Kramer is not fair minded enough to at least present her evidence when making such rash accusations. This I feel shows a great lack of maturity on her part.

Daniel J. Weber '75
★ ★ ★

Editor:

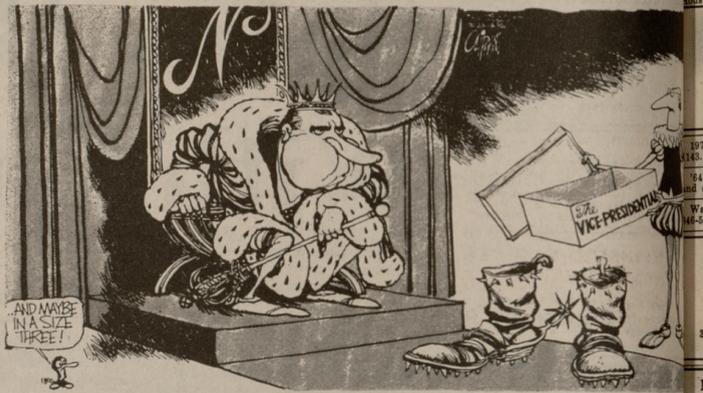
In the past few years, interest in establishing an arboretum in connection with the TAMU System has been expressed. An arboretum is a place in which a collection of different shrubs and trees is cultivated for scientific, educational or decorative purposes. Presently this interest is being revived among some students and faculty members.

In addition to providing a basis for expanding research and education, an arboretum would serve the public interests as well, in exhibiting native shrubs and trees and those adapted to this region. As TAMU is very active in the botanical and horticultural sciences, an arboretum would be a definite asset to the university's resources in these two disciplines. Also, the public's appreciation and

general knowledge of their environment would be expanded through the use and enjoyment of an accessible arboretum.

Seriously consider the long term advantages an arboretum offers to students, the public and the state of Texas. Your support of impending petitions will better the chances for this proposed arboretum to be established.

Torsten Duren '74



Library Servicing

At the time of TAMU's last Self-Study effort in 1962, one of the most crucial problems in the whole range of University functions was the inadequacy of the library, particularly in physical facilities. It was not until July 1968 that a new library building was occupied.

Ten years later the most pressing problem is in adequate space, not only for immediate needs, but more crucially, for the expected demands of the next decade and beyond.

Library services are organized into two broad categories: technical services and public services. The technical services include such major operations as acquisitions and cataloging.

The range of activities embraced by the term "public services" is of more direct infringement on the educational program of the University. They include reference, photocopying, interlibrary loan, basic collection and library orientation services and publications.

The highlights of a survey of student opinion shows that 60 per cent of the students use the library as a place to study, 57 per cent frequently use books and 41 per cent frequently use serials as a source. Those services showing less student use include newspapers, the snack bar and microfilm resources.

In 1962, the library was reported to hold 434,000 items. By contrast, the latest survey shows that the book and periodical collection consists of over 750,000 volumes of printed materials, over 240,000 microforms and over 20,000 maps.

On a broader basis the TAMU collection is relatively small, especially if compared with the other members of the Association of Research Libraries. This was not a serious problem when the University was smaller and graduate studies were limited primarily to fields in agriculture and engineering. The collection was carefully developed to meet these needs. Recent changes in the University, however, have greatly increased library needs and amplified the limitations imposed by the collection size.

At the bottom of the problem are the facts that the University community has grown and the University has changed to a general-purpose university with a much broader selection of academic programs. Total enrollment doubled in the past 10 years, graduate enrollments increased five-fold in the same period.

The decade of 1970-80 is expected to witness further enrollment increases and additional programs, including law and medicine. The library is presumably inadequate because the cross section of scholarly work within the University has more than doubled (43 new programs between 1966-70), and the quintupled graduate enrollment demands greater numbers and complexity of materials.

While graduate enrollment will probably not continue to increase at the explosive rates of the early 1960s, there seems to be no justification to offer Ph.D. programs unless they are competitive and have good-to-excellent library resources.

The case seems clearly made for a major expansion of the collection during the next five to 10 years; two alternatives seem open. One is to seek a budget that would ultimately put the collection in the range now occupied by the 30 or 40 top-rated graduate schools in the country. This would create an excellent library within an excellent university. The second alternative is to maximize funding to the practical administrative limit while minimizing costs by avoiding scarce, expensive materials.

In pursuit of either option, vigorous support should be given at all levels to achieve the goal.

—From Self-Study Overview 1972

The Battalion

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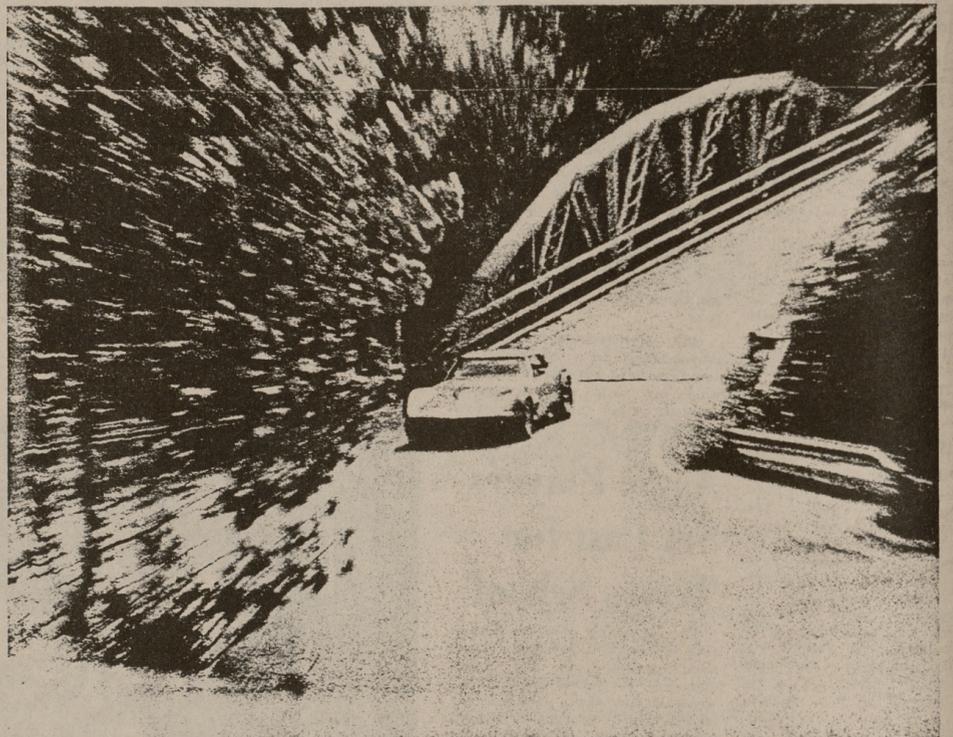
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