

Minerals Belong to Texas First, Countrymen Second

By RICK BROWN

Note: This is the conclusion of a probe into a new approach to preventing an energy shortage in Texas.

Sen. Mengden does not propose increasing the price of gas and oil at the well-head or coercing more money out of sales outside the state. Rather, he said, "Congress is considering legislation requiring forced equal allocation of energy resources across the nation to force each state to equally share the burdens of the energy shortage." And he asks, "Why should Texans be forced to bear equally the brunt of a national energy shortage with non-oil producing states when those states have consistently and systematically disregarded the interests of Texans in the past?"

Texans can indeed legally tag oil produced on public land for use, first in Texas, then elsewhere. But, several questions arise. Is enough oil and gas pro-

duced on the public lands to supply Texas. Yes. Would tampering with the flow of oil and gas disrupt the market and price situation? No. The price is already way below market price. Nothing Texas might do would mess it up any more than the federal government has already done. Would any restrictive actions by Texas cause an adverse backlash of resentment by the consumer states? Probably. But the fundamental question is philosophical in nature. Should Texans utilize their own oil and gas when our fellow countrymen are cold?

The argument has already been cited that consumer states have never neglected an opportunity to take advantage of the mineral resources of their sister producer states. But does that justify Texans acting in a reciprocal manner by hoarding our resources. Do two wrongs make a right? Is a "first right" clause morally wrong?

The lands administered by our state government do not belong to some nebulous entity hazily defined as the bureaucracy; they belong to all Texans, me, you, all of us. Our lands are administered by the state, specifically by the land commissioner. Law currently recognizes the legal and moral righteousness of any private citizen to claim first use of mineral resources found on his land under lease to a drilling company. Do we, as private citizens, also have that right when acting collectively in the form of the public as represented by our state government? Is the one merely an extension of the other? Fortunately, we need not concern ourselves too much with the question since the law as written in the annexation provisions recognizes that right.

The question Texans do need to concern themselves with is, do we want to preserve our oil and gas for our own needs first, even

if the needs of other states perhaps be more pressing than our own? The consumer states have in the past disregarded the needs and desires of Texans. Should we now come to their aid? The latest Congressional moves toward mandatory equal allocation accentuate the consumer states' determination to continue to force their majority status down the throats of producer states. Are we to accept their control when we could legislate changes in lease agreements of state land which would free us of a forced and unne-

sary energy shortage?

Next year or the year after Texans will almost certainly face either a reduction in the quality of state services, or accept new taxes in the form of a state income tax or an increase in the sales tax. The added revenues which could be derived from Texas lands were they utilized in the ways herein described would negate any need for a tax increase or a reduction in state services.

I have outlined the potential resources available to the citizens of Texas should we decide to carry

our legal rights to an extreme. Sen. Mengden introduced a bill in the last session of the legislature which makes use of a very tiny portion of that power. His bill would make no change whatsoever to the status-quo conditions. His bill would in no way affect private lands which produce the vast majority of the oil and gas coming from Texas. His bill, if passed, would only affect new wells drilled on state lands in the future. These wells would have as a provision of the lease agreement the "first right" clause. The

emergency needs of Texas hospitals, schools, and homes would have to be met before any would leave the state. The shortage from affecting Texas would alleviate the shortage some extent. If you support Mengden's bill, and his effort call a special session next year during the constitutional convention, I suggest you write the Governor, Lieutenant Governor and all other state officials to feel might be influential in effecting its passage.

Batt Commentary Voter Appreciation

An expounding editorial could be written to express the merits and importance of voting in Tuesday's general election, but we're not going to spin our wheels repeating what's been said a million times before.

When you do vote, make sure you know what the proposed Texas constitutional amendments are concerned with. Voting in ignorance is as bad as not voting at all. The wording of some of the amendments is quite vague and require interpretation. If you've missed the Battalion's five-part series explaining the amendments, come by the office Monday and ask for back issues.

If you're trying to decide whether extra effort should be spent voting Tuesday and you live on campus, remember the voting machines will be located in the Memorial Student Center for registered Brazos County voters.

Last year's turnout at the campus polling spot was meager, to say the least, with less than 125 students voting. The on-campus facility was long fought for by TAMU students. Show them your appreciation by voting Tuesday.

Sexual Inequity

Over the last three years, a phenomenon known most commonly as women's or female studies has appeared on many college and university campuses. Female studies programs have included courses of a wide variety. Some are general interdisciplinary in nature, such as "History and Social Life of Women" (Susan Kleinberg-History, University of Pittsburg), and "Women and Applied Zoology" (Susan Grant-Continuing Education, University of Massachusetts, Amherst). Others are more specific and very academic ranging from "Women as the Subject and Object in English and American Literature" (Frances Barasch-English, CUNY, Baruch College) to "Linguistic Behavior of Male and Female" (Mary Ray Retchie-English, University of California at Irvine). In all cases these courses have examined topics about women which in the past have not merited academic attention.

By the end of the academic year 1972-73, over 900 women's studies courses had been created on college campuses. However, despite the mushrooming speed of development, the women's studies courses are still in the infant stages. Few campuses have any female studies coordination. Rather, a hodge podge of courses often changing from term to term may be found. College administrations and departments have been skeptical of women's studies courses. Staff available for female studies has been mainly of graduate students and junior faculty. Funds, on the rare occasions when they have been available, have been inadequate.

Fewer than two dozen campuses (out of 2,500 colleges and universities in the U.S.) have developed women's studies programs, a program being any coordination of effort which calls itself such. Most commonly, these programs where they do exist consist of people in various departments who come together and attempt to attain some official recognition. Upon receipt of campus sanction they proceed to expand the program in various ways, for example by creating new courses, establishing women's centers, developing academic women's studies majors and minors, setting up graduate programs in women's studies. In a few isolated cases programs have received faculty positions specifically for women's studies.

Although the way has been difficult, both women's studies programs and courses, once they have gotten underway, have enjoyed an impressive success. Many touch on non-traditional subjects which do much to enliven departmental offering. Some have drawn students in the hundreds. Most people come away from women's studies courses with a feeling of raised consciousness to the problems faced by both women and men as a result of a sex-ruled society.

Clearly such courses and programs could make an overwhelming impact in the move to understand and remedy sexual inequity.

—Jennifer Ryan
National Student Lobby Intern

The Battalion

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Represented nationally by National Educational Advertising Service, Inc., New York City, Chicago and Los Angeles.

The Battalion, a student newspaper at Texas A&M, is published in College Station, Texas, daily except Saturday, Sunday, Monday, and holiday periods, September through May, and once a week during summer school.

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The Associated Press, Texas Press Association

Mail subscriptions are \$3.50 per semester; \$6 per school year; \$6.50 per full year. All subscriptions subject to 5% sales tax. Advertising rate furnished on request. Address: *The Battalion*, Room 217, Services Building, College Station, Texas 77843.

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Listen Up— GPR Report to Parents 'Unethical'

Editor:

I was under the impression that with the passage of the 18 year old rights bill, I was entitled to the responsibilities as well the privilege of adulthood. It seems that the University refuses to respect certain rights of mine as an adult. I am referring to the University's proposed policy of mailing GPR's to the parents of the freshmen enrolled at A&M. While this is legal under the law, it is also unethical. I consider this act to be a breach of confidence. It is not the University's place to be sending grade reports to parents.

In grade school, report cards should be sent to parents. After all, how else will parents know how well they did on their children's homework assignments? However, the grade reports of col-

lege students should be sent only to the students since their parents are not doing the work.

The real issue at stake is that while 18 year olds are considered adults under the law, many facets of society refuse to recognize us as adults. We have been given our independence, now let us join the league of adulthood.

I consider the mailing of GPR's to parents to be an artificial means of keeping us from our responsibilities as adults. I will please ask the University to leave my business to me, and my parent's business to them.

Dan Daugherty Jr. '77

The University has not authorized mailing of reports to parents unless parents request them. This is legal according to public documents law. The University Academic Programs Committee is

studying a proposal to send reports automatically to parents of freshmen.—Ed.

Editor:

I would like to express the basis for opposing liquor on our campus by pointing out some factors of consideration:

1) As a dorm student, I have the right to a favorable environment conducive to studying. I have already found that this has been interrupted as a direct result of congregations in a nearby room to drink beer and "raise a stink." It seems like the lax, current policy has already been abused and often the R.A.s aren't around to enforce restrictions.

2) The second factor of consideration is that A&M is a place to get an education (not have a

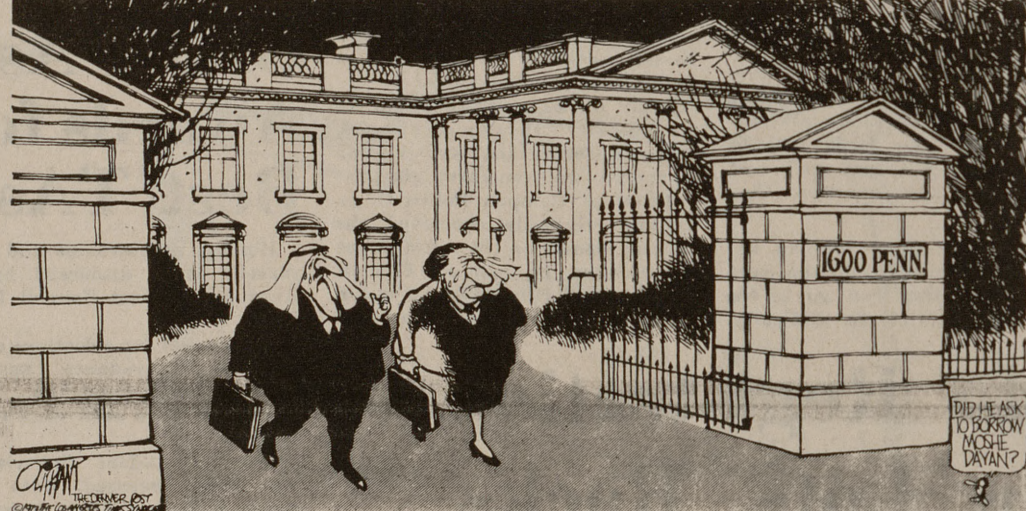
good time). For those students who want to have a good time there are better places. If the policy is formally permitted, it will only make it easier for the student to neglect his grades especially for the first year student adjusting to college life. The policy and the current academic environment will not mix. Any who thinks so is receiving his/her self.

3) The third factor of consideration is our school's reputation. What will become of our academic standards at A&M? Will we downgrade the reputation of our school? Would we be looked at as a "party" school? This is an important consideration.

4) The fourth factor is the reputation of the Corps of Cadets. What will become of the Corps in terms of discipline? The purpose of the Corps of Cadets is to train leaders for military service. This policy could drastically affect discipline to the extent of making the Corps look like a "joke."

It seems more is at stake than the privilege of exercising civil liberties. The Student Senate can push this policy, but I can help but think it is detrimental to the interests and reputation of Texas A&M. I praise those individuals who have voted against this policy and would hope that the Board of Directors takes non-compromising stand to strict liquor on campus and request students to exercise the civil rights off campus for A&M sake.

Danny T. Moore '74



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