

Experts discuss land use

A three-day conference held here through Sunday saw former Secretary of the Interior Stewart Udall and A&M's own economic theorist, Dr. Phil Gramm, taking opposing stands on the need for land use planning.

The two were speakers on different days before the Texas Land Use Assembly, made up of about 100 business and professional people representing industry, education, government and ranching. The group filed a report Sunday with the state recommending legislation in land use planning.

Udall in his talk said national controls over the conservation and control of land and natural resources could be expected from the next Congress. Udall, now an ecology consultant, called Texas one of the more backward states in implementing land use policy because of strong traditions of private property.

Gramm, a free-market advocate, said government land use planning has continuously been "grossly uneconomic." He contended land use could be more efficiently regulated through the balance of supply and demand. He criticized the government's inability to adequately forecast the future, which would further hamper land use planning. He cited population estimates by the U.S. Census Bureau as an example of poor forecasting.

The assembly's report called for the federal government to limit its land use planning, leaving resource management to the state and local governments. The report also asks for a shift of the state's tax burden away from land resources to a state property tax which would penalize the conversion of agricultural land to nonagricultural use.

Drill Team ends second

The Fish Drill Team (FDT) went against six other state teams on Saturday. It placed second for the third straight year.

Other teams in the Gulf Coast Drill Meet had a year or more of experience.

The team commanded by Ken Donnelly of Garland missed winning the championship by 24 points. The fish scored 856, to 880 by Texas A&I. Third-place UT-Arlington had 840.

The regular drill season is during the spring. Whitted and other upperclass advisers will continue preparing the FDT for meets and appearances at Mardi Gras in New Orleans, Laredo, Austin, possibly Tempe, Ariz., San Antonio and the state championship meet here.

Planning is under way to have the national championship meet again this year, in Dallas. The 1963 to 1972 Fish Drill teams won the national title in Washington, D.C. The TAMU teams of 1967 and 1973 were runners-up.

The national championship competition was cancelled last spring.

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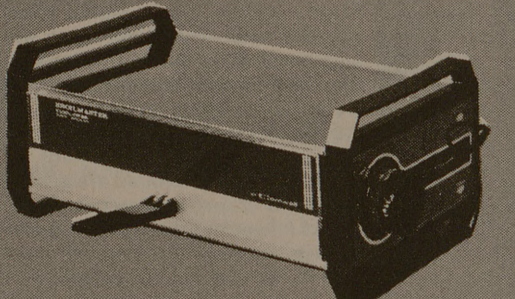
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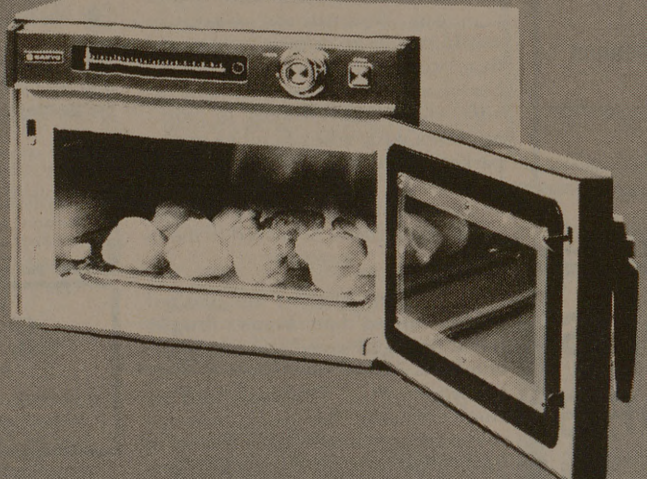
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