



### The Consumer Alert

by John L. Hill  
Attorney General

AUSTIN—Fourth of July celebrations marked the beginning of our nation's 200th year. But that 200th birthday party could be spoiled for some consumers by unscrupulous or uninformed merchants who misrepresent their products or projects as officially sanctioned, either by federal or state Bicentennial organizations.

Our Attorney General's Consumer Protection Division has already received complaints about some abuses of official Bicentennial trademarks and symbols, and about misrepresentations involving the Bicentennial theme.

Some complaints have been about solicited listings in a "Bicentennial edition" of special publications. Others have been about organizations seeking contributions to "Bicentennial scholarship funds."

Bicentennial frauds, like other business frauds, are prohibited by the Texas Deceptive Trade Practices-Consumer Protection Act which makes false, misleading, or deceptive business practices illegal.

Our Consumer Protection attorneys point out, however, that many merchants and manufacturers, as well as consumers, may not be aware of the procedures for becoming officially sanctioned as a Bicentennial product or project.

Congress created the national American Revolution Bicentennial Administration (ARBA) to oversee and coordinate commemorative projects for the country's 200th birthday. ARBA also licenses various firms to manufacture commemorative products which will carry the national Bicentennial symbol and designation as an "officially recognized commemorative of the ARBA." The law passed by Congress to set up the

ARBA also provides federal penalties for unauthorized use of the symbol or designation.

On the state level, the Texas Legislature created the American Revolution Bicentennial Commission of Texas (ARBC of Texas) to help plan and coordinate local and state commemorative projects with the national ARBA. The ARBC of Texas, on which I serve as Attorney General, has approved a state Bicentennial symbol. This copyrighted symbol is a red outline of Texas with blue pinwheeling arrows pointing into a central white star.

Any company or individual wishing to display this symbol or wishing to be recognized as an official Texas Bicentennial product or project must apply and receive the approval of the ARBC of Texas.

Royalties from officially sanctioned use of either the federal or state Bicentennial symbols go into grants to help support other approved Bicentennial projects.

Some local communities also have protected Bicentennial symbols, with royalties from their use supporting local projects.

Information about applying for designation as an approved product or project can be obtained from the state headquarters for ARBC of Texas in Arlington, or from the regional office for the ARBA in Dallas. Local Bicentennial coordinating groups can also supply information.

If you think some use of a Bicentennial symbol is questionable, or if you are dubious about whether a product or project is an approved one, get in touch with one of these agencies. If you have a consumer complaint about misrepresentations involving Bicentennial materials, contact the Attorney General's Consumer Protection Division.

## Metric bill reported out of science committee

WASHINGTON—Rep. Olin E. Teague, D-Tex., announced that the Science and Technology Committee has reported out the Metric Conversion Act of 1975 prior to the July 4th recess.

"This legislation provides for the conversion of the system of weights and measures of the United States to the metric system," Teague said. The United States is the only industrial country not committed to the metric system.

Teague said, "It is vital to the welfare of the Nation, that our products be accepted by other countries. The European Economic Communities have issued directives concerning non-metric imports after 1977 and this could adversely affect our trade if we don't change over to the metric system."

The legislation provides the means to coordinate the conversion process in an efficient and effective manner. Some sectors are already metric, such as the pharmaceutical industry. The automotive industry is also well into the conversion process.

Teague said, "It is important to the consumer and small-businessman that the public be well educated to the use of the metric system in daily life before the change becomes predominant." The bill also provides for the education of the public. All fifty States' educational systems are now committed to the metric system.

Teague pointed out that a board will be established for the changeover period. It will oversee

the successful conversion to the metric system.

"The change is not easy for us who have lived under the old English system of units," Teague said, "but the Australians and Canadians are setting good examples for us to follow."

## Driver program growing for summer sessions

Enrollment in the summer-long driver-education and traffic-safety program at TAMU increases July 13 when about 60 teaching assistants come to campus for six weeks of concentrated study.

The assistants join a group of more than 25 supervising teachers already on campus for summer training.

Training for the supervising teachers and assistants is as "real world" as possible. Area high school and in turn benefit from taking

driver's education at the Texas A&M Research Annex.

Jerry Vinson is coordinating this summer's project.

Texas was one of the first states to make active use of teaching assistants in driver education-traffic safety, largely because of the efforts of Dr. Les Hawkins, TAMU faculty member.

Consequently, Texas became a trend-setter. The current ratio is about four assistants to one supervising teacher.

The supervising teacher charts the curriculum, evaluates his or her plan and generally manages the learning experience.

The assistants, under direct supervision of the teacher, carry out instructional duties including lab work.

Sometimes as many as 50 per cent of the summer enrollees are coming back to upgrade their own teaching or are assistants laying groundwork to become supervising teachers.

Turnover is five per cent or less from the trainees emerging from TAMU.

Cases have occurred in which people sign up for the summer program at part or most of their own cost.

Some Texas school districts which hand-picked future teachers, have sent them to the TAMU program at the district's cost.

## Nelson speaks at education national meet

T. K. "Tom" Nelson will represent TAMU's Association of Former Students at the annual assembly of the Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE).

The national CASE meeting is planned July 8-10 at Chicago.

Buck Weirus, Association executive director, said Nelson will present a paper and represent the TAMU alumni organization in business sessions.

CASE recently came into existence through merger of national alumni, development and college public relations groups.

Nelson, field director of the TAMU association, will discuss "On-Going Programs" before the alumni administration segment of CASE.

## FHA loans available

County Judge Bill Vance announced yesterday that Brazos County farmers who sustained production and physical losses due to excessive rainfall from Sept. 1 to Dec. 31, 1974, may be eligible to receive an emergency loan from the Farmers Home Administration.

Applications for the loans are being taken at the Farmers Home Administration office at 502 Varisco Building, 219 N. Main Street, Bryan. Applications must be entered before 5 p.m. July 14, 1975 for physical losses and Feb. 16, 1976 for production losses.

## Art workshops beginning

Two art workshops emphasizing free-hand drawing, design and composition will be offered this month at TAMU.

Instruction will be tailored to meet individual needs, with participants expected to range from the professionally practicing artist or teacher to persons who have had little or no formal training.

The first session will be conducted July 14-18 and the second session July 28-Aug. 1. The workshops will be conducted from 9 a.m. until noon and 2 to 5 p.m. daily. Costs include a \$75 registration fee and individual purchase of art supplies.

Additional information can be obtained by calling 845-1223.

# The Battalion

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*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.

Mail subscriptions are \$5.00 per semester; \$9.50 per school year; \$10.50 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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