French industries face nationalization

early 1978 has already stimulated discussion here about the possibility that some French firms, now in private hands, may be taken over by

the government.
Such a discussion might provoke outcries of alarm were it being held in the United States, where the free enterprise system is deeply entrenched. But here in France, the debate is going on in an atmo-

sphere of relative equanimity.

Slouch

PARIS — The prospect that a co-alition of Socialists and Communists common front in the legislative may come to power in France in elections due to take place 15 private firms. months from now, are themselves divided on the issue.

Secondly, the French know from experience that government takeovers do not automatically spell disaster, since many state-owned com-panies have generally been perform-ing efficiently under skilled direc-

A key question being raised, however, is whether further nationalization will reduce the com-One reason for this lack of passion petitive factor in France's business

by Jim Earle

HILL MINI

Another important question under consideration is whether, with a leftist government in charge, state-owned companies will be permitted to function independently as profit-making firms - or whether they will be compelled to tailor their activities to national planning policies that may be un-

Although the likelihood of a leftist victory is some distance away, talk of nationalization is currently being purred by the scandal implicating the famous French aircraft firm of Marcel Dassault, which has come under investigation for allegedly bribing high government officials. The case promises to become France's equivalent of the Lockheed affair.

It is plausible to expect that Dassault, whose heirs are engaged in other lines of work, may turn over his company to the present conservative government in exchange for substantial compensation rather than risk a settlement with a less sympathetic leftist coalition. But if this occurs, it could accelerate the trend toward nationalization.

The Socialists and Communists have already drawn up a list of ten broad business groups that they in-tend to nationalize. These include steel companies, manufacturers of electrical equipment, and banks along with two American-owned firms, International Telephone and Telegraph and Honeywell-Bull.

The stock exchange values of most firms in these categories have been dropping, since their future is uncertain. Some have been seeking to circumvent government takeovers by diversifying or by cementing ties with foreign corporations that operate beyond the reach of French

Partisans of nationalization emphasize that the public sector in France represents only 11 per cent tion than in Austria, Sweden and Italy, and about the same as in Brit-ain and The Netherlands. State ownership here, however, is heavily concentrated in banking, energy,

DO YOU LIKE MEETING PEOPLE: FROM FAR AWAY AND HELPING: THEM? SCONA-Student Conferences
On National Affairs Has A Deal For
You! Sign up to be a SCONA hosts
or hostess thru Friday, Jan. 28 int the SCONA Cubicle of the Studentt Programs Office in the MSC for an interview. Interviews will be held tities of high-cost fuel.

Monday, Jan. 31 — Wednesday, Feb. 2.

Marker Consumes enormous quantities of high-cost fuel.

Ms. Grapin writes on economic affairs for Le Monde, the Paris daily.

There will be a special

Center.

people.

It's Here!!!

Free University Classes

Registration Tuesday, January 25 9 a.m. - 9 p.m.

2nd Floor - Rudder Tower

There will be a \$3.50 registration fee for each class you take . . . but you will get back \$3.00 of that if you attend ¾ of the class

meetings. Classes denoted by an * are an exception; these classes charge a non-refundable materials fee, the amount of

Call 845-1515 for more information

telecommunications and transporta-tion as well as in the chemical indus-

These partisans also assert that the managers of government-run companies are among the most brilliant figures in the country, and they point to such technocrats as Pierre Dreyfus, who has successfully directed the state-owned Renault Automobile Company.

Other examples of efficiency in the public sector can be seen in the French National Railways, whose trains hold the European record for keeping on schedule, and the French Electric Company, which is a model utility.

Critics of nationalization contend, in contrast, that government-owned firms are not operated on a sound basis, since their staffs are treated like civil servants, with special salary benefits and safeguards against dismissal. Thus, these critics say public companies are not only costly but they tend to tolerate incompe-

Opponents of the public sector further argue that the state-owned companies compete unfairly be-cause they pay lower taxes than pri-vate firms. Moreover, they can borrow at artificially low interest rates or float loans which are attractive to capital markets because of government guarantees.

It seems to me that nationalization need not be viewed as cata-strophic — if the governmentowned enterprises are permitted to operate autonomously, providing ef-fective services to the public and showing a profit on their investment while fitting into national planning

That, however, is a tall order. The instances of success in the public sector, such as that of Renault, have been ones in which the staterun companies have put efficiency, profit and service ahead of government planning

But the influence of government planners has caused problems enough under the present conserva-tive regime here. The other day, for example, Air France director Pierre Giraudet openly denounced the government for what he called "excessive interference" in the management of the company, which is losing more money than any other

airline in Western Europe.

According to Giraudet, the gov ernment has leaned on Air France to maintain uneconomical services and to use expensive equipment such as the obsolete Caravelle, which consumes enormous quan-

ATTENTION FOREIGN STUDENTS

SPRING SEMESTER

WELCOME PARTY

for all foreign students and their

families on Tuesday, January 25

at 7 p.m. at the Baptist Student

201 College Main St.

This will be a special time of fun

and getting acquainted with new

846-7722.

For more information, call

Wednesday Night Classes

Thursday Night Classes

How to Trace Your Family Tree

Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) The Ancient Art of Ju Jitsu

Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) Introduction to Planned Parenthood

Bicycling: Maintenance and Techniques

Frisbee Techniques and Principles

Self Defense for Men and Women (WTh)

Basic Interior Design

Plants, Etc.

Folk Dane

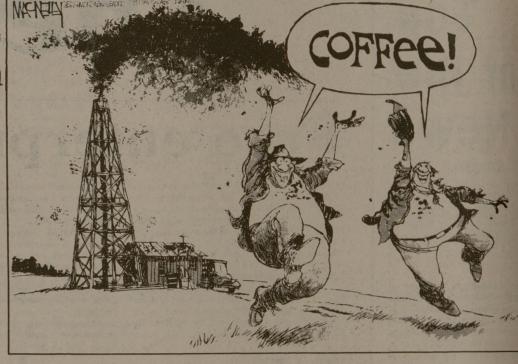
Saturday Class

Wild Edible Plants

Nights Unknown

Basic Mechanics

affairs for Le Monde, the Paris daily.



Students are attending games

Paul Arnett's column in the Jan. 18 Battalion sort of distrubed me. If there have been only five sellouts at basketball games in the past two years, it isn't because the students haven't been there.

I've seen every conference game in that time, and at most the student section was packed and only the reserved section had any empty seats. Even Arkansas' coach Eddie Sutton was quoted in 1975 as saying A&M has the class crowd in the conference, maybe the country.

I think it's great to see somebody coming out for good ol' Aggie Spirit the way Mr. Arnett has, I just wish it could be directred at areas that

LETTERS POLICY

Letters to the editor should not exceed 300 words and are subject to being cut to that length or less if niger. The editorial staff reserves the right to edit to letters and does not guarantee to publish any tter. Each letter must be signed, show the address of ewriter and list a telephone number for verification.

Battalion

Vietnam Communi rule by committee

By PAUL VOGLE United Press International BANGKOK, Thailand — Communist rule by committee has become the way of life in Vietnam, less than two years after the last U.S.backed government in Saigon folded its tents in surrender.

The committee of 492 members the moment. of the National Assembly last summer appointed the government, from the president down to deputy minister for elementary education.

A committee of workers at the

Hoah Thanh lime factory near Hanoi determined the production goal for the year, a figure not made

When the Vietnam Workers party at its congress the week before Christmas determined goals for the —Doug Wright '77 coming year, party Secretary Le Duan read the economic committee report.

Keynote speeches at the bly were read by Truong chairman of its standing com

The new rule-by-comm encouraging to Vietnam Communist neighbors. I cally, it discourages advent hot-blooded leaders on the

Gone are the days who Vietnamese Gen. Van Tie standing on the battlefie Me Thuot in the spring could sense the weak crumbling morale of the Vietnamese army, mobil visions virtually without m to Hanoi and sweep to 11 ictory in 55 days.

All initiative now comes party Central Committee OV by committee is ideal for inward direction, conce the economy, the deve agriculture and indust march toward socialism.

Any massive expansionis automatically ruled out, sir cause a committee can vantage of a momentary along, for example, the The with Cambodia or Laos,

troops into action. Prime Minister Tanin Kn of Thailand, an arder of House Communist who rose to p year. U lowing last year's military Thai leaders and people was ret too excited about the vicio attacks launched on Ban Share his interior minister's war still sn Vietnam would invade The football

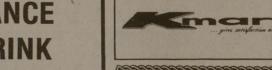
February.
The Vietnamese "are the cerned with their internal zation" to be sending defined a

Subversion can be expe continue. Indeed Viet quently announces that on major exports is "contribu

Angeles. Mail subscriptions are \$16.75 per semester, \$33.25 per school year, \$35.00 per full year. All subscriptions aubject to 5% sales tax, Advertising rates furnished on DANCE DRINK **PLAY GAMES HAVE FUN**

ZACHARIAS GREENHOUSE club & game parlor

HAPPY HOUR 4-7 EVERY DAY 1201 HWY. 30 (THE BRIARWOOD APTS.)



Two Locations

WEE AGGIELAND College Station 693-9900

> **ROYAL TOT** Bryan 846-4503

Now enrolling for spring all day care Private first grade, 5 & 4 yr. old kindergarte 2 & 3 morning a week programs Bus service for after school children Ages 2 thru 9 7:30 to 5:30 Serving Bryan-College Station for over

The Best Pizza in Town (Honest) COME HAVE LUNCH WITH US

Fast lunch, intimate booths, party rooms, draft beer, cozy atmosphere and old movies.

LUNCHEON SPECIAL MONDAY-FRIDAY

Pizzas-Subs-Spaghetti with Salad and Coffee or Tea

> Luncheon Special Also Available At Our Pizza-Mat

HAPPY HOUR DRINKS 2-For-1 Monday-Thursday LIVE ENTERTAINMENT WEDNESDAY-SUNDAY NIGHTS

Call Ahead . . . We'll Have it Ready 846-4809 FOR ORDERS TO GO 5 P.M. TILL-?

IN UNIVERSITY SQUARE

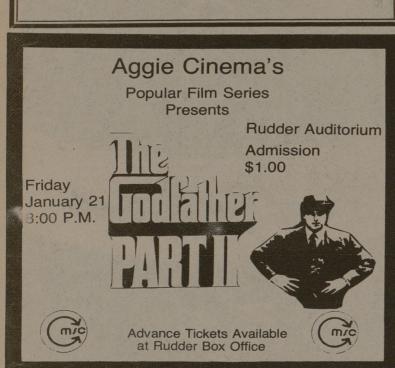
VISIT THE PIZZA-MAT 846-4890

thing, not frozen or canned . . . We call it 'Mexican Food

Dallas location: 3071 Northwest Hwy 352-8570

For Battalion Clas Call 845-2611

po



Monday Night Classes

Introduction to Planned Parenthood

The Czechoslovakian Language (Intermediate) Social and Recreational Dancing

The Czechoslovakian Language (Beginning)

which is noted in the Free-U class brochure for each of these classes.

Bartending First Aid (Twice Weekly - MW)

Hiking and Outdoor Skills Figure Control

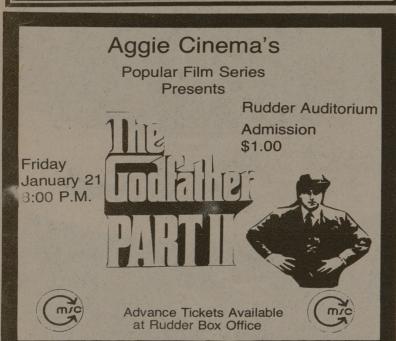
Tuesday Night Classes

French Winetasting
First Aid (Twice Weekly - TTh)
Powder Puff Mechanics

Human Sexuality

Helping the Free U

Library Techniques



"HOW COULD HE HAVE RUINED THE COUNTRY,

Subscribe to the

DALLAS MORNING NEWS

779-6505 after 5

HE'S ONLY BEEN IN OFFICE ONE DAY?'