

Carl Oglesby talks about politics of the 1960s

(Continued from Page 1.)
country, could not provide a direction or program.

Another thing that was happening is that partly because so many of us were so young, there was a romantic or even a sentimental tendency to

want to be like the people who were real, honest-to-God, grown-up big-league revolutionaries like Che Guevara or Fidel or Ho Chi Minh, people like that. So, since they were into armed struggle, and since nobody could figure out how the powerful were ever going to give up

their power unless they were forced to do it, the Weatherpeople drew the conclusion that they should act like the Cubans or act like the Vietnamese or whoever was making a revolution in an armed way.

It was a totally specious piece of reasoning, and it just didn't hold water. In just the most practical terms, there was an incredible failure in that line of argument to understand the difference between making a kind of conventional political revolution in a backwards pre-industrial country that was suffering essentially from colonial rule from without and, on the other hand, trying to generate changes in a highly developed, well-established industrial democracy. The Weatherpeople lost sight of that difference, tried to impose on a First World situation a politics that had grown in the Third World.

Battalion: Many students during the 1960s seemed to have an intense commitment to what they were doing, most notably in trying to correct social problems. Have students today lost that commitment, and if not, to what do they seem committed?

Oglesby: I think the commitment has been driven out of people by their experiences. I mean people read the newspapers, right? They see how politics works. You've got to have millions of dollars to throw around. You've got to have big companies as power bases. You've got to be able to be a senator or to control a senator.

Ordinary people don't have any role to play in that except as a kind of cannon fodder of the process. There is a slackening of spirit and a kind of sickening feeling in a lot of people's souls about politics now in this country and beyond this coun-

try, too. To look for the reasons is just to look at what's been happening here. The experiences that people have gone through have persuaded them that it's a losing game.

Battalion: Do you think the ideals of the so-called New Left of the 1960s were compromised by the ideals of the old left which doomed the new to the same fate as the old?

Oglesby: That's a good question. We fought the old left, I remember, all the time. The first thing that I got into when I got into SDS was a fight with the organization that used to be our parent — the League for Industrial Democracy. We tried to stay pretty far away from the old left ideas until towards the end when people got discouraged at their own adventures in political thought.

See, like we thought there could be a cross-class movement. We thought that you could appeal to people of upper-class, middle-class, lower-class, black people, white people, all kind of people around certain principles which seemed to be universal. Call them the principles of democracy and constitutionalism.

But then, when a certain amount of time had gone by with politics based on those assumptions, and people didn't think we were getting in far enough fast enough, and people started thinking we were actually falling behind in terms of the agenda of struggle and in terms of reaching the objectives that we started out trying to reach, the result was that people abandoned those assumptions and took on other assumptions — abandoned the assumption that we had to have a non-violent participatory democratic politics and began to think that we had to practice a violent politics determined by cadre groups

or elite groups which would operate by themselves with no direct accountability to any larger membership.

It breaks my heart to think about that. It was a very bitter experience for all of us to have to go through that, especially because the failure was so much our own. And yet our own failures were themselves so much a question of inexperience

'I was a libertarian through it all, and I'm closer to the libertarians now than I ever was.'

and of not having any grownups to believe in.

Battalion: In reading the Port Huron Statement, one notices many statements about the rights of individuals. Would you characterize the early SDS leaders as more libertarian or socialist?

Oglesby: More libertarian than socialist. Like myself, I was libertarian through it all, and I'm closer to the libertarians now than I ever was. I never felt that comfortable with the socialist program. Every-

body who studies any kind of Marxism is affected by Marxism. It's a very powerful philosophy.

But I never thought of myself as a Marxist and in the beginning there was nothing like that. There were Marxists in SDS, but there were a lot of people who were not, too. There were socialists. There were communists. There were also a lot of libertarians and most people were just sort of ordinary Democrats who didn't know how the economic question fit in, but thought that it would be better if the system were opened up to a greater popular participation. And then also there was the black civil rights movement which was very key and had a very strong impact on white students in the North.

Battalion: I've read that the old left had a program but they didn't have any activism to carry out the program, but the New Left had the activism but they didn't have a program. Do you think that's an accurate assessment?

Oglesby: Yes, as accurate as any kind of simplification like that can be. Although, program in that case is a funny kind of word. We didn't have any large-scale program for the

society like the old left did. We didn't think that owing to what we were doing, sometime there was going to result a communist society. And I think the old left thought things like that, and the old left does. The New Left didn't.

The new left was anti-Stalin, cautious and critical about the communist movement, raised questions about socialism and were generally very open as to the large-scale tactical programs to get people active and to give them a sense of engagement in politics. We were really good on that. More time that went by, the more debate there was, the more people that were raising questions, closer to us the people came. Like I said, some people got impatient with that, they thought it was too slow and too uncertain and everything was coming to a head towards the end of the '60s, beginning of the '70s. They thought that it was important for the political front in the United States to develop capability of inflicting violence on the state. So they blew up a couple of bathrooms and then they blew up themselves. A great

TM AGGIES!
AM Douglas Jewelry

offers
Student ID Discounts!

15% off of \$50⁰⁰ or more
10% off of under \$50⁰⁰

CASH PURCHASE ONLY
We reserve the right to regulate the use of this privilege.

212 N. MAIN

822-3119

DOWNTOWN BRYAN

Tower
Dining Room

Top of the Tower
Texas A&M University

Pleasant Dining — Great View

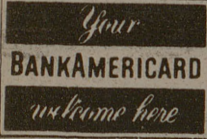
SERVING LUNCHEON BUFFET

11:00 A.M. - 1:30 P.M.

Each day except Saturday

\$2.50 DAILY
\$3.00 SUNDAY

Serving soup & sandwich
11:00 A.M. - 1:30 P.M.
Monday - Friday
\$1.50 plus drink



BankAmericard
welcome here

Available Evenings
For Special
University Banquets

Department of Food Service
Texas A&M University
"Quality First"



TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY TOWN HALL PROUDLY PRESENTS

RONNIE MILLSAP

Town Hall Series Performance #5

Enjoy an evening with the Male Vocalist of the year and one of country music's top performers. Opening the show will be the incomparable

JONNIE BARNETT

MARCH 4

7:30 P.M.

G. ROLLIE WHITE COLISEUM

	REGULAR	RESERVED
	TICKETS	TICKETS
A&M STUDENT	FREE (with ticket)	\$4.50
NON A&M STUDENT DATE	\$3.00	\$4.50
GENERAL PUBLIC	\$4.00	\$6.50

Tickets & information can be obtained from the MSC Box Office, 1st Floor Rudder Tower, 845-2916.
Season tickets honored.

NO CAMERAS ALLOWED!



United Press International

AUSTIN — The Texas Supreme Court, without a written opinion, has turned down Southwestern Bell's request for a full judicial review of the company's plea for a \$298.3 million rate increase.

Bell, however, said it would not stop trying for the full amount of the request.

"We will continue to pursue all legal avenues available to us because our need for additional revenues is real," said Bell attorney Jon Dee Lawrence.

The Public Utility Commission initially studied Bell's request and gave the company only a \$57.8 million boost — one-fifth of what the utility wanted.

The utility company then asked

Travis County District Judge James Meyers for an order halting the action. Bell also asked for an evidentiary hearing which was refused by Meyers.

The Supreme Court refused to let Bell seek an order requiring Meyers to review the utility's case. The court also turned down Bell's plea to let the company go ahead with the increase pending the appeal.

Bell was joined in its plea by six other Texas utility companies, including Dallas Power & Light Co. and General Telephone Co. of the Southwest.

"Each and every day that Bell suffers confiscation under the orders of the commission it suffers losses in excess of \$500,000," the telephone company said in its appeal.

"If these issues ultimately are re-

solved in Bell's favor, as we believe they will be, Bell will then have suffered losses of a staggering magnitude which it can never recover the company said.

Att. Gen. John Hill opposed Bell's attempt for a court review of the rate case, saying the Supreme Court had no jurisdiction to enjoin the district court to block enforcement of the commission order.

"It is important to keep in mind that we had not asked the Supreme Court to rule on the merits of appeal of the utility commission rate order," Lawrence said. He said the court's decision yesterday had no bearing on merits of the appeal, and the company will seek a ruling from the district court in Austin.

The Arts Committee Presents
Winner of the 1967 Academy Award as Best Foreign Language Film

Jiri Menzel's

CLOSELY WATCHED TRAINS

Monday, March 7 Admission One Dollar
8 p.m. Rudder Theatre

Discussion led by Dr. Larry Reynolds

CPPC
HOW TO CONDUCT A JOB SEARCH
TENTH FLOOR
RUDDER TOWER

FRESHMEN

If you are a freshman interested in becoming involved in Texas A&M and its student programming, the Memorial Student Center Council and Directorate is opening applications for Council Assistantships. Council Assistants aid Council officers in the areas of administration, finance, programs, projects operations, and public relations.

Any freshman in any field of study that is interested in the above areas is urged to apply. Talented people are needed in all areas, so don't be afraid to drop this application by Room 216, Student Programs Office, MSC. Applications close Friday, March 11, 1977, at 5:00 p.m.

TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY
MEMORIAL STUDENT CENTER
COUNCIL & DIRECTORATE

Application for MSC Council Assistant
(Please Print)

Name _____ Classification _____

Major _____ GPR Last Semester _____

Telephone _____ Mailing Address _____

Are you on (Conduct, Scholastic) Probation? Yes _____ No _____

Activities and Honors in High School (use back if needed) _____

Experience with MSC Activities _____

Other Campus Activities _____

Other Time-Consuming Activities Next Year _____

Magazines and Newspapers Read Regularly _____

Books Read in Last Year _____

Why are You Interested in Becoming Involved in Campus Activities (especially as a Council Assistant) _____

Your Concept of a College Education _____

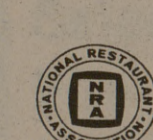


Now Better Than Ever. You Will Be Pleased With These Carefully Prepared and Taste Tempting Foods.
Each Daily Special Only \$1.49 Plus Tax.
"Open Daily"
Dining: 11 AM to 1:30 PM — 4:30 PM to 7 PM.

MONDAY EVENING SPECIAL
Salisbury Steak with Mushroom Gravy Whipped Potatoes Your Choice of One Vegetable Roll or Corn Bread and Butter Coffee or Tea

TUESDAY EVENING SPECIAL
Mexican Fiesta Dinner Two Cheese and Onion Enchiladas w/chili Mexican Rice Patio Style Pinto Beans Tostadas Coffee or Tea One Corn Bread and Butter

WEDNESDAY EVENING SPECIAL
Chicken Fried Beef Steak w/cream Gravy Whipped Potatoes and Choice of one other Vegetable Roll or Corn Bread and Butter Coffee or Tea



THURSDAY EVENING SPECIAL
Italian Candle Light Spaghetti Dinner SERVED WITH SPICED MEAT BALLS AND SAUCE Parmesan Cheese - Tossed Green Salad Choice of Salad Dressing - Hot Garlic Bread Tea or Coffee

FRIDAY EVENING SPECIAL
BREADED FISH FILET w/TARTAR SAUCE Cole Slaw Hush Puppies Choice of one vegetable Roll or Corn Bread & Butter Tea or Coffee

SATURDAY NOON and EVENING SPECIAL
"Yankee Pot Roast Texas Style" Tossed Salad Choice of one vegetable Roll or Corn Bread & Butter Tea or Coffee

SUNDAY SPECIAL NOON and EVENING
ROAST TURKEY DINNER Served with Cranberry Sauce Cornbread Dressing Roll or Corn Bread - Butter - Coffee or Tea Giblet Gravy And your choice of any One vegetable

"Quality First"