

The Battalion

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Senate committee approves Coleman Anti-abortionists fail to stop controversial A&M appointee

By CATHY BREWER

The morality of abortion was the basis for discussion yesterday when Texas A&M University's regent nominee, Dr. John Coleman, appeared before a seven-man Texas Senate committee in Austin.

Despite heavy testimony against Coleman's part-ownership of Cullen Women's Center abortion clinic in Houston, the committee voted 6 to 1 for recommending approval of Coleman to the board.

He is scheduled to appear before a full Senate hearing next week.

Sen. Walter Mengden of Houston asked that the hearing, originally set for today, be postponed until he could be present.

Mengden asked Coleman several questions, one of which Sen. Betty Andujar of Fort Worth found objectionable. Andujar said Mengden was "completely out of order" when he asked what was done with the bodies of the aborted fetuses. "The thing we are debating here is whether or not this man is qualified enough to serve on Texas A&M's board of regents," Andujar said. "Questions such as this are irrelevant to the issue at hand."

Coleman told the committee that the clinic did abortions up to 18 to 20 weeks from the woman's last period. "It is our choice not to do abortions beyond 20 weeks," he said.

Witness Ira Early, president of Life Advocates (an anti-abortion group) did not agree with Coleman's statement. "I submit one case where Cullen Women's Center did an abortion at seven months," he said. "Perhaps Dr. Coleman was not

involved, but it does make you question if his morals are sufficient enough to allow him a position on Texas A&M's Board of Regents."

Early was prepared to give a lengthy presentation but was cut short by Chairman Peyton McKnight who said he would like to abstain from any type of emotional appeal.

Sen. Jack Ogg of Houston pushed away a pamphlet Early passed around showing pictures of aborted fetuses. "This is far outstretching the issue," he said.

Houston attorney Lewis E. Berry, another witness, said Coleman was "unworthy of associating with moral and civilized people." He asked that the committee "not consider an abortionist for the nomination just as it should not approve of pimps, prostitutes, Nazis or Communists."

Gertrude Sanja, an anti-abortionist who gave testimony, said that after listening to Coleman for an hour, she was convinced of his "fine qualifications for the job."

A member of Early's group, Mary E. Donovan, said she considered it wrong to honor Coleman with a position on the board. "College students get some sense of morals from those who represent them," she said. "What kind of example would this be to follow?"

Coleman, who resigned his position on Texas Southern University's board upon nomination to the A&M board, said he thought he could contribute something to the board at A&M.

"I've been unusually impressed by the teaching and research done on campus," he said. "I would like to do my best to serve Texas A&M."

Human rights controversy not political, speaker says

By JOHN SNEED

Amnesty International, an organization concerned with human rights, hopes that Jimmy Carter will continue to remain impartial in his intervention into the human rights question, warned Joshua Rubenstein.

Speaking in conjunction with the International Students Association and Political A&M University students last night that it is important to remove politics from the issue of human rights.

"Carter must be careful not to create certain problems. He must see to it that human rights doesn't become a political issue, used as a club to show superiority," said Rubenstein.

A freelance writer and authority on Soviet dissidents, Rubenstein has worked with Amnesty International for two years.

He is a 1971 graduate of Columbia University, and has contributed articles to the New Republic, Commentary and the New York Times Book Review.

Amnesty International is a London based organization founded in 1961, whose main object is to help gain the release of anyone who has been imprisoned for political, religious or racial reasons.

Because of the group's actions, more than 10,000 prisoners have been released from prison, and many thousands more were not arrested because of the watchdog tactics of Amnesty International, said Rubenstein.

He explained that the organization was one that collects information in an attempt to publicize the torture and unlawful detention of people all over the world.

Amnesty International obtains most of

its information from individuals around the world.

"In every country in the world there are people who care about human rights," said Rubenstein.

"They get lists of prisoners, attend trials if there are any trials, and then they try to get the information to us. Amnesty International also tries to send its own observers to political trials when permitted."

Rubenstein said that when the information is compiled on conditions and numbers of prisoners in a country, a conservative estimate of the figures is always given because of the uncertainty of the sources.

In recent months, Amnesty International has stated that between 30,000 and 300,000 persons have been executed in Uganda; 100,000 political prisoners have been held without trial in Indonesia since 1965; and that between 25,000 and 100,000 persons have been jailed in Iran for political reasons.

The strength of Amnesty International publicity, said Rubenstein, because nations are embarrassed and afraid of the truth and become inhibited by it.

Besides publicity through the media, letter writing campaigns to various government officials around the world, gathering petitions and visiting embassies on the behalf of political prisoners are methods used to pressure repressive governments.

Rubenstein said that Amnesty International has become increasingly concerned with the widespread use of torture. "It is used mainly to affect society at large—to inhibit dissension from generating among the people," he said.

He added that there is documented proof of systematic starvation of, and complete lack of medical attention for Soviet political prisoners.

While here to speak on human rights, Rubenstein said he would be more than happy to help start a local organization of Amnesty International in the Bryan-College Station area.

Experience important

Proposal may give pay raises to teachers

United Press International

AUSTIN — A House subcommittee has decided experienced teachers are worth more money, but in passing a \$263 million pay increase it also decided new teachers aren't worth much more than they used to be.

"Given the number of dollars we have for teacher pay raises, the legislature has to set priorities," Rep. Dan Kubiak, D-Rockdale, said yesterday.

"We're going to have to give the greatest percentage increases to those who need it most, and that would be those who have been in service longer. They're the ones who have suffered the most from inflation," Kubiak said.

The subcommittee submitted the pay recommendation to the House Education Committee, which scheduled a session today to consider the bill in an effort to get copies of it to the legislators before they leave town for Easter weekend.

Rep. Tom Massey, D-San Angelo, said the bill would cost the state more than the \$200 million he preferred, but he said it was not an unreasonable amount.

"We're still under \$1 billion for the entire school finance package," Massey said. "We're in the neighborhood of \$950 million and that is not an unreasonable

amount for us to be placing in public education this year," he said.

Last week the Education Committee approved a school finance bill estimated to cost the state \$694 million. That proposal was set for consideration next week.

Under the teacher pay raise proposal adopted by the subcommittee, the salary for beginning teachers with a bachelor degree would increase only \$84 a year.

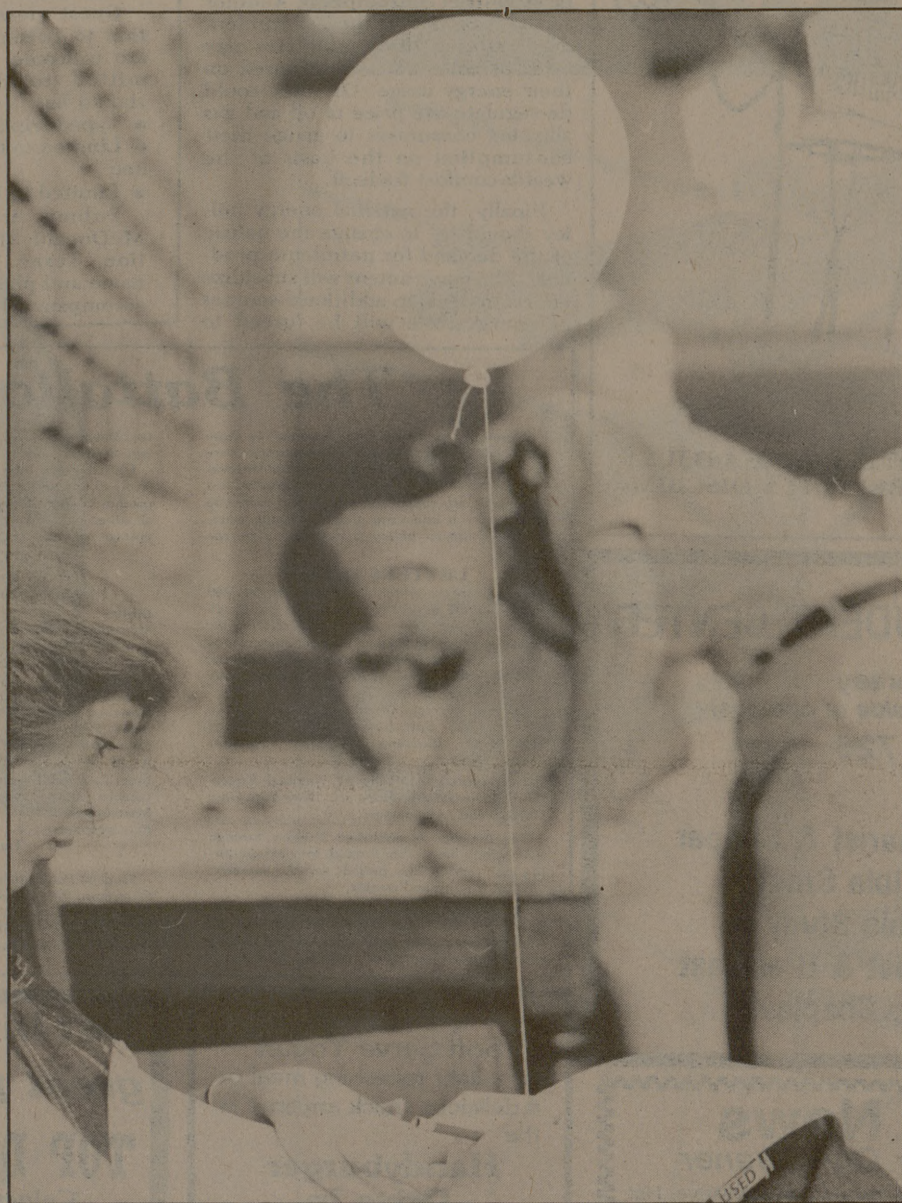
Significant pay increases would begin for teachers with three years experience, and salaries would increase from the present \$8,950 to \$9,400 annually.

The proposed legislation would add three new experience steps to the teacher pay scale, enabling a bachelor degree teacher with 19 or more years of experience to earn up to \$14,382 a year.

Kubiak said he favored larger raises, but he said the state had no more money available.

He said he and other legislators would attempt to attach larger pay raises when the House debates the teacher pay bill. One of his proposals would raise teacher pay 10 per cent in fiscal 1978 and 20 per cent in 1979.

Kubiak said the cost of that proposal would be between \$400 million and \$500 million.



Battalion photo by Cathy Day

Balloons and ballots

The Memorial Student Center was filled with students who were participating in student body elections yesterday.

White cell production method found

United Press International

SARASOTA, Fla. — In a development that could improve cancer care for thousands, a doctor today reported finding a simple way to produce white blood cells often gravely needed to replace body disease fighters suppressed by anti-cancer drugs.

Dr. Isaac Djerassi of the Mercy Catholic

Medical Center at Darby, Pa., said the new method of separating white cells from the blood of donors will expand the capability to small blood banks around the world.

Until now, only about 100 major medical centers in the nation have been able to separate white blood cells from plasma. This required one of two types of expen-

sive and complicated machines requiring teams of skilled personnel. The process is slow and can only meet the needs of a small fraction of cancer patients.

"In fact, with very few exceptions, major cancer centers have priority lists for patients, who should be given the privilege of clearing their life-threatening infections," Djerassi said at an American Cancer Society seminar for science writers.

His technique is simple. A pint of blood is taken from a donor, then clotting agents called platelets are removed from the blood by spinning it in a centrifuge.

The remaining red cells and white cells are suspended in a clear fluid with low

viscosity and a chemical called hydroxyethyl starch is added. In 12 minutes, the red cells fall to the bottom of the container and the white cells float on top.

The white cells are collected and the red cells are given back to the donor.

Djerassi said the method is more than 80 per cent efficient, compared to 20 to 40 per cent efficient for the older techniques. This means far more white cells can be taken from far less blood.

Dr. Frank Rauscher, vice president of the Cancer Society and past director of the National Cancer Institute, called the Djerassi method "quite remarkable." He predicted 100,000 cancer patients would benefit.

Kissinger gives IRS extension on Rocky's \$50,000 'gift' decision

United Press International

WASHINGTON — Henry Kissinger has agreed to give the Internal Revenue Service more time to determine if he should pay income taxes on his \$50,000 "gift" from Nelson Rockefeller in 1969, UPI learned today.

A source close to the former secretary of state said Kissinger signed a waiver necessary to extend the statute of limitations in the case.

Kissinger is one of 27 friends or associates who received gifts totaling \$2 million from the former vice president and who are being investigated by the IRS.

The IRS has ruled in two test cases that the Rockefeller gifts were actually income and therefore subject to income taxes, since the recipients worked for Rockefeller when he was governor of New York State.

Ironically the ruling could mean a \$1 million windfall for Rockefeller.

Rockefeller paid nearly \$1 million in gift taxes on the funds. If the IRS rules the money was income, he will get the gift tax

back. The government then will have to collect the income tax from all the recipients — and the total could be more than Rockefeller originally paid in gift taxes.

Rockefeller said he gave Kissinger \$50,000 in 1969 so he could pay personal debts related to his divorce and the support of two sons, and so he could afford to enter government service.

Weather

Continued fair and mild today, tonight and tomorrow. Winds southerly at 6-12 m.p.h. High today in the low 80s. Low tonight in the upper 50s. Outlook for the weekend is partly cloudy and mild with some early morning fog. No precipitation is in sight.



Battalion photo by Jim Crawley

A new Beauty Treatment?

These residents of Hotard dorm decided that the sunny weather and warm temperatures yesterday were perfect for a frolick in the mud.

The residents placed a "slip-n-slide" behind the dorm and used it to slide into a mud puddle.