

Forecast of climate changes not desirable, scientist says

WASHINGTON—A government researcher says political instability in some parts of the world probably would limit the usefulness of long-range forecasts of impending droughts even if reliable predictions were possible.

As a matter of fact, Dr. Michael Glantz of the National Center for Atmospheric Research says an accurate forecast of climate changes may not even be desirable for some lands because of social, political and economic obstacles to effective action.

Glantz used West Africa's Sahel as an example. This narrow band of land south of the Sahara stretches 2,600 miles, across parts of Senegal, Mauritania, Mali, Upper Volta, Niger and Chad and was hit by severe drought between 1968 and 1973.

An estimated 100,000 people died and large numbers of livestock were lost in 1973 alone.

Meteorologists believe the drought was caused by a persistent shift in a swath of cloudiness across the Atlantic Ocean a few degrees north of the equator. This is called the intertropical convergence zone and when it does not reach far enough north, the rains fail over the Sahel.

If the rains fail for more than one season, Glantz said the result is often widespread destruction of

rangelands caused by an overconcentration of animals near sources of permanent water, widespread migration of people, malnutrition and death.

Theoretically, Glantz said in a report in the Bulletin of the American Meteorological Society that if governments of the Sahel knew six months ahead of time that they were in for a drought, they would be able to take action to minimize its effects.

The capacity of the rangelands could be assessed and steps such as herd reduction could be taken to guard against overgrazing while the cattle were still in good shape.

Better planting schedules could be devised so peasants could conserve their grain and labor. Price controls could be enacted to discourage grain hoarding. Governments could buy grain in advance.

And Sahelian nations could seek international help to lead to orderly relief operations and adequate preparation for grain storage and distribution.

That is what ought to be the case, Glantz said. He said a survey of experts indicated little likelihood that such steps would be taken if it were known in advance that a drought was forthcoming.

For example, he said there would be no assurance that anything could

be done in the field to reduce grazing pressure on Sahelian rangelands. Glantz said it has long been known that too many cattle on the ranges lead to rangeland deterioration "yet following each drought situation there has been a tendency to forget about rangeland reforms."

For forecasts to be of value to grain storage and distribution, there would have to be a major improvement in the way grains are stored in the Sahel. Glantz said relief operations during the last drought were plagued by grain spoilage, loss to pests and corruption.

And implementation of new laws to deal with drought would run into immediate problems and local and national levels, he said, because of jurisdictional, ideological and cultural rivalries, political corruption, low skill levels of bureaucrats and the general slowness of the bureaucracy.



Semester end nearing

Class of 1977 graduating seniors are nearing the close of their final semester. Friday was the seniors last class day. Graduation will be this weekend.

Battalion photo by Jerry Miller

Washington Window

Carter's view of power is unusual

By WESLEY C. PIPPERT
United Press International
WASHINGTON — Power is a way of life in Washington.

The pursuit of it is perhaps more often the third party in marriage-busting triangles than another person is. Its abuse was a central cause of Watergate.

During his visits to the Cabinet

departments recently, President Carter told Health, Education and Welfare employees, "I recognize that I ought to be not 'First Boss' but 'First Servant'."

In some ways, Carter's remark was intended to create rapport and a good working relationship between the most powerful person in the world and his subordinates.

But in other, perhaps more significant ways, it may have provided insight to Carter's view of power — that people who have it should not use it to manipulate or control others but to serve them.

That is radical.

Sen. Mark Hatfield, R-Ore., the most prominent Baptist layman in Washington before Carter came to town, discussed power in these terms in a 1976 book, "Between a Rock and a Hard Place."

Hatfield told how he and former Sen. Harold Hughes, D-Iowa, wrestled over whether to seek re-election.

"We both wondered just how much one could be a truly faithful disciple of Jesus Christ and also be given over fully to the political process, subject to its influences and priorities," Hatfield said.

Eventually, Hughes chose to retire. Hatfield won re-election. But he had learned a lesson.

"No longer could I define leadership in terms of holding positions of power," Hatfield said. "Further, power in its truest sense was not

political muscle, influence and public prestige . . .

Service to others, solely for their own behalf and even entailing deep sacrifice, is the true essence of leadership and the ultimate form of power. There is a power in servanthood which transcends all notions of power sought after so vividly in the secular political sphere of life."

The Old Testament prophet Isaiah wrote about servanthood in stirring terms that later were applied to Jesus Christ.

Carter's "common touch" — sending his daughter to a public school, carrying his own baggage, eliminating many of the ceremonial trappings surrounding the White House, and, especially, his emphasis on human rights — stems in part from his own rural Southern background.

But probably even more foundational to Carter's common touch is his interpretation of the essence of power.

During the presidential campaign, Carter expressed a litany of the trauma that Americans have ex-

perienced in recent years: Watergate, Vietnam, Cambodia, the FBI and CIA revelations, the involvement of abuse of power.

All this is not to say that Carter doesn't know what raw power is and how to use it. He does. There is no doubt that he takes charge of everything he does.

But it seemed almost startling to hear a president of the United States say, as Carter did at the National Prayer Breakfast:

"We politicians, we leaders, that excessive degree of paternalistic love of others with which we ourselves. We tend to say that because I am a congressman, because I am a governor, because I am a president, and because I love the people and because I represent them well, then I can justify their love."

Jesus said, "Whosoever would be chief among you, let him be servant." Although we use the phrase, sometimes glibly, "servant," it's hard for us to translate the concept of a President of the United States into genuine servanthood.

UNIVERSITY SYMPHONIC BAND CONCERT

Tuesday, May 3

8:00 p.m. Rudder Auditorium

72-member symphonic band directed by Joe McMullen. Special guest appearance by Robert Boone.

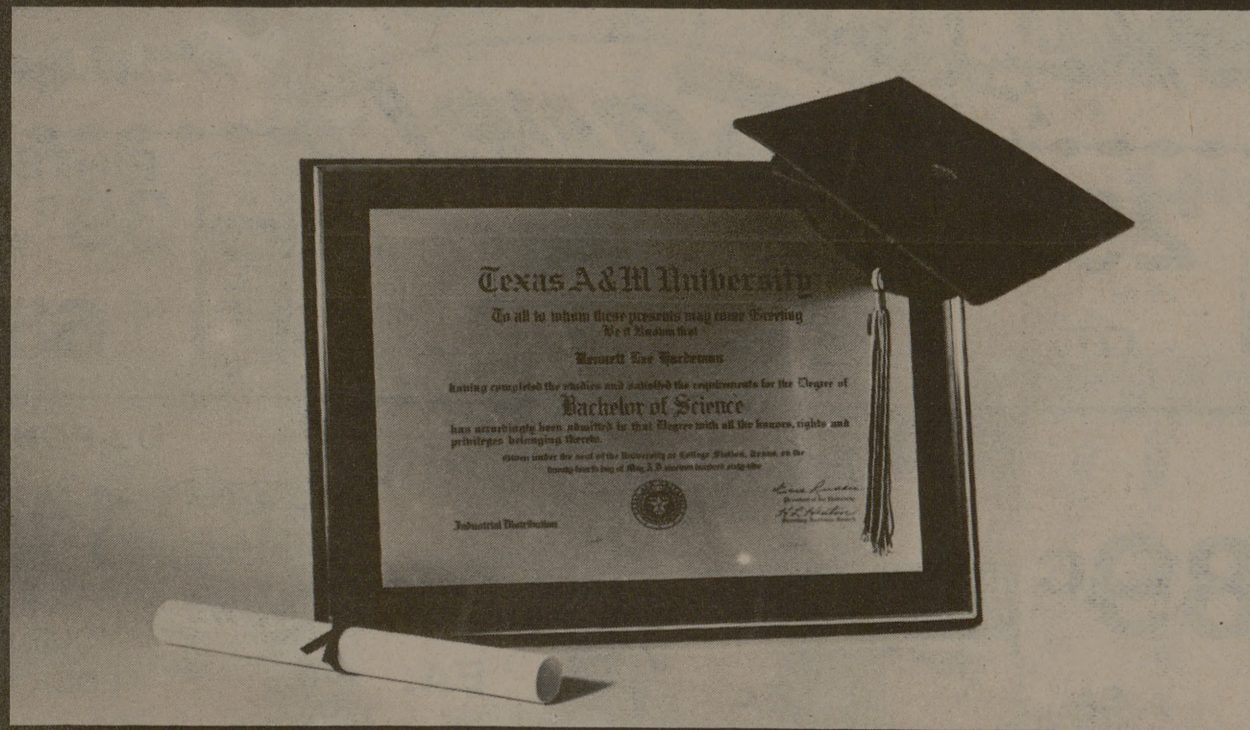
50c Students
\$1.00 Adults

The FABRIC Shoppe Fashion Fabrics For Spring and Summer Sewing

"In Our 30th Year of Selling Fabrics"

822-2433 Downtown Bryan 201 Main St.

AGGIE Graduates



REPRODUCE YOUR DIPLOMA PERMANENTLY AND HANDSOMELY!

Come by OrnaMetal Castings between 8 and 5 Saturday May 7 and let us reproduce your original diploma in metal. Your original diploma will be returned to you in minutes and a beautiful framed reproduction mailed to you shortly. Reproductions are available in two colors, silver or bronze, and various sizes for as little as \$27.50, plus postage and tax.



ORNAMETAL CASTINGS, INC.
Box 4005/Bryan, Tx. 77801/(713) 822-7311
West By-Pass at Carson

Clayton addresses graduates of Prairie View at ceremony

United Press International
PRAIRIE VIEW — House Speaker Bill Clayton Sunday urged spring graduates of Prairie View A&M University to build a solid future by acknowledging America's heritage.

Clayton, who spoke to more than 700 graduates at spring commencement exercises, said, "Here and there scattered across the country are the milestones left behind by men and women in their own search to find America."

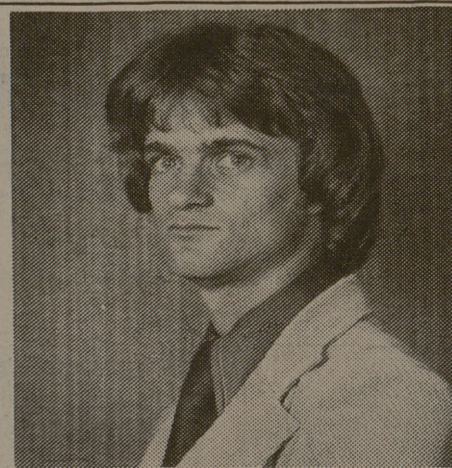
"As you set out to find your own America, I suggest that you reject the proud heritage of your fathers. We must learn the lessons taught by experience — the independence of the young man to spirit and the continuing value of the past, for every future is built by the past," he said.

Clayton emphasized the need for a continuing search to meet the needs of our dynamic society.

"The people of our nation are faced with great decisions and advanced answers require application of special knowledge you have gained through your student days. Through your student days, you have been a part of America's continuing revolution — it has prepared you to discover America today and tomorrow."

"Our Town" now TV production. A new television production of Thornton Wilder's classic "Our Town" has been filmed in Hollywood.

**USED BOOKS —
WE'RE BUYING
NOW!
University Bookstore
At the Northgate**



Steven W. Powell joins the team of professionals at Charles Thomas & Associates.

Protective Life is happy to announce the appointment of Steven W. Powell as Sales Representative with Charles Thomas & Associates. Call on him. He is equipped to serve your personal or business insurance needs.

Charles Thomas & Associates.
520 E. University Drive
College Station, Texas 77840
Telephone: (713) 846-7714

PROTECTIVE LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY
HOME OFFICE — BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA