

# A&M Regents can alter forced retirement at 65

**By PHYLIS WEST**  
Around 30 Texas A&M employees will be forced to retire this year because they are 65 years old, predicted H. Ray Smith, director of personnel.  
The figure is based on last year's fiscal statistics.  
However, the Texas A&M Board of Regents can extend retirement for A&M employees to age 70 in certain cases, said state Senator Bill Moore.  
Last Friday House of Representatives passed a bill raising the retirement age to 70 for most employees nationwide.  
Last summer the Senate had proposed a similar retirement bill to raise the mandatory age to 70 for both federal and private employees.  
According to an article in the September edition of "The Chronicle of Higher Education," opposition to the retirement bill has come from many college and university presidents and officials.  
Administrators said they were concerned about "the impact of a higher retirement age on younger persons, particularly women and members of minority groups." They said they also feared the "financial burden" that the bill would pose for some universities and colleges.

"Last year in the session before last, a report of the House Social Services Committee recommended that this issue be looked at," said Bill Prenal, state representative. Prenal, who was on the committee at the time, said the issue wasn't taken seriously.  
"If too many people took advantage of the new (retirement) age, it would create many problems," he said. People who are inefficient could stay on, Prenal said.  
Approximately 22 million Americans are at least 65 years old, and of those people more than one-fourth have remained working.  
Dr. John Sperry, former A&M professor of biology who was forced to retire this summer, said that mandatory retirement should be a matter of health.  
Sperry has remained active at A&M this fall as an advisor in clubs, organizations and research.  
It isn't a case against retirement, Sperry said, but a case against mandatory retirement based on age. "It's humiliating because life is one continuous flow of young to old," he said. "There is not a point when you jump off the cliff and suddenly you become old."  
Sperry explained the difference between appearing old and feeling

old. "My hair was turning white in my late 20's. People were shouting in my ears. My hair was old, I wasn't," he said.  
Dr. Tim Stinnett, professor emeritus in the educational administration department, retired 10 years ago.  
Stinnett said that he believes retirement should not be mandatory until age 70. "I believe that most teachers would become more tolerant, understanding and wiser in dealing with students as they get older," he said.  
Stinnett is currently writing a book that involves research of a retirement court suit. He said that Thelma Davis, who recently won a suit against the Georgia school board that arbitrarily fired her on the basis of age, received around \$17,000 in back pay. After around five years in court, she is teaching again at 70 years old.  
Ninety per cent of the teachers across the country are winning cases where boards rule on age rather than for medical reasons," he said.  
Dr. J.F. Peirce, professor of English, said he believes he will retire at 65. "There comes a time when an older man should step down to let a younger man have a chance," he said.  
"What I'll miss about teaching is my association with students," Peirce said. The students keep him young in spirit, he said.  
Dr. Paul Hensarling, professor emeritus in the department of educational administration, said retirement should be optional at age 62. But an individual's performance should be evaluated at age 65.  
Hensarling chose to take two-thirds retirement at 62. "But I decided to retire because I got further and further behind in the things I aspired to do," he said.  
"If I had everything to do over I wouldn't trade any of it off, but I wouldn't give a dime for any of it now," Hensarling said.



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# Gas deregulation okayed by Senate

**United Press International**  
WASHINGTON — Senate approval of legislation to phase out federal price controls on natural gas ended one battle enlivened by anger and accusation, but signaled the start of another.  
A two-week filibuster broken, the Senate Tuesday approved, 50 to 46, a measure to gradually lift federal price controls and hike the controlled price on natural gas almost 10 percent in the meantime.  
The fate of the bill now rests in a House-Senate conference committee where vast differences in the House and Senate versions of the legislation will be negotiated.  
The House approved the Carter energy plan to boost the federal price 29 cents to \$1.75 per thousand cubic feet (mcf) and to impose federal controls on intrastate gas — that which is produced and sold within the same state.  
The Senate's Bentsen-Pearson bill would eliminate federal price limits in two years on newly pro-

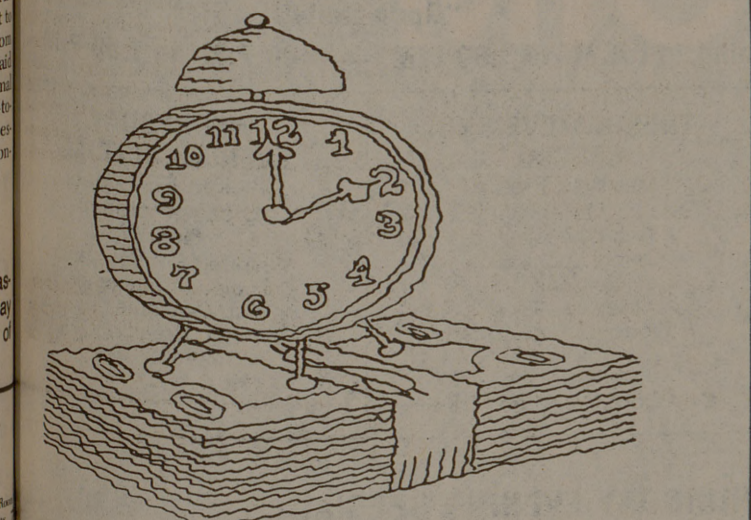
duced gas from onshore wells, hike the federal price per mcf from \$1.46 to \$2.48 and free offshore gas from controls in five years.  
Senate approval of the deregulation legislation sparked quick reaction as both sides rallied for final negotiations.  
The bill is "an injustice to the working people of this country," President Carter said, labeling it "unacceptable" and vowing, "I will not sign an unfair bill."  
Backers say the higher price and end of controls will give producers enough money to find hard-to-get gas in deep wells and distant fields. Opponents say lifting federal controls will cost consumers billions of dollars and provide unfair profits to the oil companies, who would get a big increase on gas that is costing no additional money to produce.  
Sens. James Abourezk, D-S.D., and Howard Metzenbaum, D-Ohio, who blocked Senate action on the legislation with a 13-day filibuster, joined 100 steelworkers from Cleveland, Ohio, and about 300 other persons outside the Capitol to challenge the Senate decision with song.  
As Abourezk strummed the guitar, Metzenbaum and others and sang:  
"All I need is just a little bit more; just a penny here or three or four; I'll give you all the gas you need if you'll tolerate just a little greed."  
Predictably, business groups and natural gas producers praised the Senate vote. Richard L. Leshner, president of the Chamber of Commerce, called the decision "a positive step...20 years of regulation has provided conclusive evidence of the folly of price controls."  
David H. Foster, vice president of the Natural Gas Supply Committee, said the Senate measure "took a giant step forward in providing consumers with the maximum assurance of a future supply of natural gas at reasonable prices."

# 'Li'l Abner', Capp retire

**United Press International**  
NEW YORK — Say good-bye to the Yokum family and Dogpatch, U.S.A.  
Cartoonist Al Capp is retiring and his satirical comic strip, "Li'l Abner," will end next month.  
The strip, which began in 1934, will be run in daily papers across the country for the last time on Nov. 5 and in Sunday papers on Nov. 13.  
Nothing was sacred in Capp's cartoons, which rapped everyone and everything from corporate chiefs to the institution of marriage.

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