

A&M receives \$37,000 in grants

J. R. Thompson, president of Warren Electric Co. of Houston, presented a \$25,000 endowment recently to the Texas A&M University industrial distribution program. It was Thompson's second \$25,000 endowment for the program, which now has \$115,000 in endowed giving from various supporters. The latest donation from Thompson was made in honor of his brother, Philip W. Thompson, the firm's vice president. The presentation took place at a morning and afternoon tour of Texas A&M by some 60 industrial distributors who are among 1,000 attending the Southern Region, National Association of Electrical Distributors conference in Houston. Texas A&M Vice Presi-

dent for Academic Affairs J. M. Prescott formally accepted the gift.

The Texas Committee for the Humanities and Public Policy and the National Endowment for the Humanities have given grants totaling \$11,000 to Texas A&M University to plan and develop a series of programs on "Quality of Life in Rural Texas." Project director Dr. Diane W. Strommer, associate dean of liberal arts, explains that the grant will be used to build a series of programs on life in small towns and rural communities and package the programs for use by any interested community group. Typical programs would include such topics as

health care in rural Texas and the cultural heritage of Texas. Such programs focus on contributions that the humanities can make in understanding current issues and concerns. Mary Robertson, formerly with the University of Oklahoma's Economic and Management Research Center, has been appointed project coordinator. Andy Byrd is research assistant.

million which will be distributed this year to educational programs in the United States and its territories by the Gulf Aid to Education Program. J. F. Stephenson Jr., manager of public affairs for Gulf, presented the grant to Dr. Charles Maurice, head of economics at Texas A&M. Gulf's comprehensive program for institutions of higher

education also includes undergraduate scholarships, employee gift matching, capital grants, departmental assistance grants and graduate fellowships.

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Air program set

The Air Force has awarded Texas A&M University \$645,000 to set up a two-year cooperative program of research and teaching on composite materials used in structural designs of airplanes. Despite the dearth of knowledge about these layered materials and how they perform, they could reduce the weight of certain aircraft parts as much as 25 percent, says Heston Cherry, assistant director of the Texas Engineering Experiment Station, part of the Texas A&M System.

The interdisciplinary research and teaching program conducted by Texas A&M could further open the doors on use of composite materials in aircraft design.

Engineers, chemists, physicists, nuclear scientists and mathematicians here will form the team to begin this research. In September, a dozen research assistants chosen from the aircraft industry will join the effort and will also pursue an educational program in the field which leads to a master of science degree.

Gulf Oil Foundation gave \$1,000 to Texas A&M University recently for support of its Economics Department speakers program. The grant is part of approximately \$3

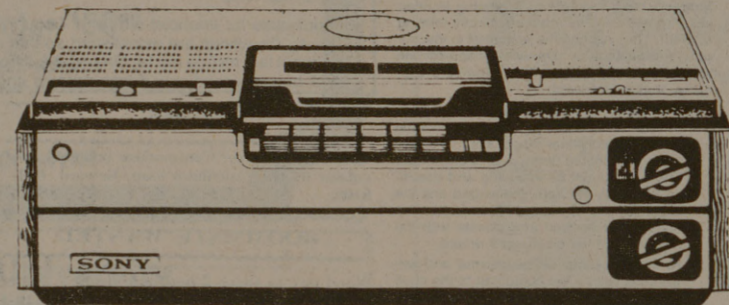
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