

Group votes Dr. Williams '78 pres.-elect

Texas A&M University Chancellor Dr. Jack K. Williams is president-elect of the Association of Texas Colleges and Universities. Williams was elected vice president for 1978 at the organization's recent meeting in Houston and will

automatically become president of the association in 1979. The association is the only state organization representing all public and private junior and senior colleges.



The new Animal and Food Science Center was officially dedicated Monday, named in honor of Robert Justus Kleberg, long-time leader of the legendary King Ranch. Viewing the plaque that will be placed in the new

building are, from left, Helen Kleburg Groves, (daughter of R. J. Kleburg), Dr. O. D. Butler, Lt. Gov. Bill Hobby and Texas A&M University President Jarvis Miller. Battalion photo by Bob Swanson

Kleberg center dedicated

Texas' agricultural potential is bright and should be pursued economically and humanitarily, Lt. Gov. Bill Hobby said Monday at the dedication of Texas A&M University's new Robert Justus Kleberg Jr. Animal and Food Sciences Center. The \$9.4 million facility is named in honor of the long-time leader of the legendary King Ranch. Kleberg headed the King Ranch operation for more than a half-century, during which time he developed the Santa Gertrudis breed of beef cattle, and was a major influence on agriculture generally and a powerful proponent of wildlife conservation. "The potential of agriculture in Texas is a major bright spot on the horizon," Hobby said, viewing the situation from a national perspective. "We need to pursue this potential with economic and humanitarian goals in mind." He said everything possible must be done to maintain — and enhance, if possible — this "enviable position." "While not personally an agriculturist, I know a good deal when I see one, and I know the importance of agriculture to this state," said Hobby. The lieutenant governor said that agriculture continues to be the leading source of gross receipts in the economy of Texas. The U.S. Department of Agriculture Crop and Livestock Reporting Service indicates that \$6.6 billion were received

by the state's farmers and ranchers for their commodities last year, he pointed out. "Unfortunately, however, most farmers and ranchers are faced with ever-increasing production costs and diminishing farm prices at the market place, resulting in an economic situation that dominates our interest today," he said. "It would be easy to draw the conclusion that cutbacks should be made in agricultural research, teaching and extension education designed to improve agricultural production and efficiencies, Hobby said. "The longer term analysis, however, presents a very different picture, and I was happy to see that Dr. Jarvis Miller addressed this point when he testified recently before a congressional subcommittee regarding proposed cuts in next year's federal budget," Hobby said. Hobby pointed out that the world has food reserves that are estimated to last only 54 days if a major disaster should occur. "To let our current supply-demand situation deter our long-term needs in food and fiber production would be a major error of judgment," Hobby said. "Most certainly, it would deal a significant blow to our longer term economic well being here in Texas and increase our balance-of-trade deficit even more." The Kleberg Center, which

houses Texas A&M's Animal and Poultry Science Departments, is one of the first two buildings on the new agricultural complex on the west side of the campus. Clyde H. Wells, chairman of the Texas A&M University System Board of Regents, formally dedicated the five-floor building. "It's a building built with the purpose of aiding us as we attempt to make our agricultural efforts even more productive for the benefit of everyone," Wells said. "This is the type facility that represents the ideal use of the Permanent University Fund — providing support for a project that can best be carried out

for the benefit of many at a center of excellence." Miller presided at the ceremonies, which also included remarks by Chancellor Jack K. Williams, Dean of Agriculture H. O. Kunkel and Mrs. Helen Kleberg Groves. Groves is Kleberg's daughter and a member of the board of directors of King Ranch, Inc.

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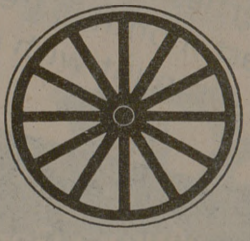
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