#### Beaten with bayonets and starved

## Aggie recalls days in POW camp

ionaire T

etimes it would have been er to die than to keep living. John Scott Coleman, a 1927 aduate of Texas A&M University, called his experience as a captive of Japanese in World War II in an erview here Saturday.

Coleman was on campus for an augraphing party for his book, "Banand Beyond: Memories of an ican PÓW," which was pubhed recently. The book describes sexperiences following the nese invasion of the Philippines.

Coleman was stationed on Bataan, island in the Philippines, when ops on the island surrendered to

Coleman said that no reinforcements had reached the island and the men on Bataan had been without food for the four days before the sur-

The troops then made the "Bataan Death March" to O'Donnell Prison Camp in the Philippines. Thousands

At one time during the march, he said he went without food for 13 consecutive days.

of prisoners died en route.

At one time during the march, he said he went without food for 13 consecutive days. Coleman also said that he was beaten until unconscious and said the said they got a serving of rice, about as much as a vienna sausage and barrels for the Japanese army.

the prisoners were never given medical treatment.

After reaching the prison camp, Coleman said he and the rest of the men were shipped to Japan, He said it took them 19 days to reach Japan, and that every day some of the pris-oners aboard the ship died. "They would take the bodies and

tie a weight onto each one and slide them off the ship. This was to keep the bodies from being spotted by Americans," he said.

said they were sent to labor camps. He said they were forced to work in

At first, he said, the prisoners worked seven days a week. Later that was cut to six days a week. The Sometimes, instead of rice, Cole man said they were given soup mad plants were operated around the

He said they got a serving of rice, about as much as a vienna sausage can would hold, three times a day.

clock, but Coleman said his detail

only worked during the day.

Coleman said that he and the rest When they got to Japan, Coleman of the men at the labor camps were given very little food a day. Usually, the only food they received was rice.

Sometimes, instead of rice, Colefrom sweet potato vines.

Coleman was a prisoner for a total of three years and five months. He said his good physical condition and ability to control his temper enabled him to survive.

The men in the prison camps were never given any information about the war, Coleman said, but that during the time he was at the labor camp, he was confident that the United States would win.

On Sept. 8, 1945, Coleman and the men in the labor camps were released. Looking back on the experience, he simply says that it was "Service to his country."

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#### Gonzalez says American politics suffering; eelings of apathy and despair are prevalent

United Press International SAN ANTONIO — Rep. Henry Gonzalez, D-Texas, says Ameris are suffering from a sense of elessness and are trying to ter with a self-centered philos-

It has been said that right now erica is in the political dol-ms," Gonzalez told the Comnications Workers of America, day. "That's a good word, because means a period of inactivity,

sness or depression. There is a kind of despair abroad the land today; there is a feeling of pelessness, a feeling that nothing do really helps, a feeling that wemment can't or won't help; it's ry man, woman and child for

Conzalez said the general feeling apathy and despair was not connized labor also had suffered a back on confidence it could help we problems of inflation. "In the last two years the AFL-

00 has lost a half million in duesying members — while at the me time the number of people

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bers of labor unions. Today only one worker out of four is a union

ember." ternatives for people to think about, argue and decide upon. "We can credit Jimmy Carter with member. criticized pressures brought on law-makers by the so-called "one-issue" "We can credit Jimmy Carter with one thing: he has always said that he and leaders of Congress are not giv-

ing the people clear-cut alternatives. Because the political party structure of Congress is weak, no one can argue that he is following a party pol-icy on this or that issue," Gonzalez said. "Members are left to the mercy of these rapidly growing, ever-more demanding single issue groups." On the presidency, Gonzalez said:

supposed to be entrusted with providing leadership. A president with fuzzy positions or control of the providing leadership. A president stand clearly by his reform call, or will he sign the bill of the president stand clearly by his reform call, or will he sign the bill of the president stand clearly by his reform call, or will he sign the bill of the president stand clearly by his reform call, or will he sign the bill of the president stand clearly by his reform call, or will he sign the bill of the president stand clearly by his reform call the president stand clearly by his reform the president stand clearly by his reform call the president stand clearly by his reform the president stand clearly by his reform call the president stand clearly by his reform the president stand

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working increased by 6 million," he said. "A little over 30 years ago one-third of all wage earners were memto form one way or another, because there are no clearly spelled-out al-

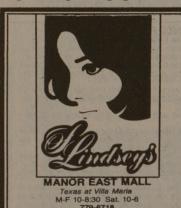
organizations" that refuse to compromise on issues such as the Panama Canal treaties, gun control and abortion. He said the president described in the said the president described in the last analysis and that he would sooner or later produce a balanced federal budget. He has on the other hand never said how he would accomplish this."

Gonzalez credited Carter with proposing a "genuine tax reform" to remedy a situation in which he said individual taxpayers today pay a larger share of the federal tax bill than corporations. He said in 1969, corporations paid about 42 percent as much tax as individuals did, but today they are paying less than one-third as much as individuals.

of us will pay more taxes than before?

Where is that clear and consistent

"I think it would make a real difference if it were there. We would at least know what to argue about; we would at least know whether we are on the winning or losing side. You can't know what side you are on if the captain keeps changing uniforms.





#### WHAT'S AN NSA CAREER?

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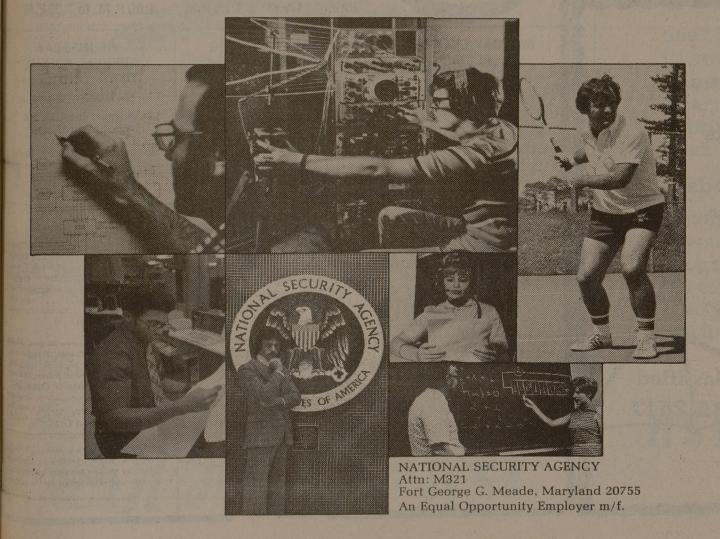
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