

Comment asked on farm controls

United Press International

WASHINGTON-The American public has been asked for comments before final regulations are written to implement registration of foreign purchases of American farms.

Officials said Thursday public comment is sought, particularly on whether foreign owners of small parcels should be required to sign up and if owners of tiny shares of large pieces of land should register.

A public hearing will be held Thursday at the Agriculture Department. Written comments must be received by Jan. 5, just seven days before a congressionally imposed deadline for final regulations.

Once the regulations go into effect, foreign owners of farmland have six months to register with the government. New purchasers will have three months. Reports will be made available for public inspection.

The agriculture secretary is directed under the law to analyze the information and make reports to the president, Congress and state departments of agriculture.

Taught accounting, aided businessmen

Local banker uses skills in Pakistan

By REGINA MOEHLMAN
Battalion Reporter

The country is small, only 55,000 square miles in area. It produces mainly jute and rice.

The climate is savage, given to floods, cyclones and tropical monsoons.

The 73 million people are poor, existing on an average yearly income of \$80.

The country of East Pakistan (now Bangladesh) was overpopulated and underdeveloped when George Blevins accepted an offer by Texas A&M University to participate in a

college exchange program with Pakistan. For two years, 1954 to 1956, Blevins was to teach accounting in the government college at Chittagong, East Pakistan.

He was also to conduct seminars for university professors and work with the presidents of the college to upgrade the overall structure of the business college.

"When I arrived, conditions were awful," Blevins said. "We were upstairs over several stores which used to be barracks in World War II for American fliers in the middle of downtown Chittagong." He said that "on rainy days we couldn't hold school."

Not only were the facilities bad, the students were poorly equipped for college, he said. Because "everyone wanted to be an engineer," he said, he usually got the lowest quality students who had failed in engineering or agriculture.

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Blevins explained that the best education the schools in East Pakistan could offer would barely equal American junior college standards, though the desire for higher education was great.

College entrance depended on marks made in high school, Blevins said.

He says that he blames the high schools for the low level of education in East Pakistan. "Village schools," as they are called, are "large dobe huts with open windows for light and ventilation with only benches to sit on," he explained. The schools, which conduct classes on all levels, are taught in English by one man.

"There are, of course, no women allowed," he said, and attendance is completely voluntary.

Since there are no rules concerning school attendance, harvest sea-

son usually ends village boys' studies. Blevins said the average age of a Bangladesh high school student is 10. By the age of 12, they "have disappeared into the rice fields."

Blevins said that aid on the lower levels of education might be more beneficial than at the college age.

"We tried to instill the idea of adapting better ways, better administration ways, to covering the whole area of education. He added that though changes were slow and difficult to install, "we didn't become exasperated."

After all the slow, hard work, Blevins said, "Our greatest fear was that they would revert back to their old ways."

Returning to its old ways would have been disastrous for East Pakistan, he said. As a young country, it was desperately in need of aid.

Texas A&M offered aid in 1954 when it contracted with the federal government to develop an inter-college exchange program to aid underdeveloped nations. This program sent professors from the colleges of engineering, veterinary medicine and business to foreign colleges.

Blevins was also involved in several other areas besides teaching. At the request of the Pakistan government, Blevins investigated the State Bank of Pakistan to help "streamline internal operations."

He also worked with local officials in the port of Chittagong to "help untangle the red tape" involved in the shipment of supplies for the Texas A&M projects, he said.

Also on the local level, Blevins worked with Chittagong businessmen to help locate and develop raw materials and finished products which they could trade. Blevins said these merchants "were sharp as tacks and interested in building up world markets."

A native of Corpus Christi, Blevins received his B.B.A. in international trade from the University of Texas in 1941.

Following graduation, Blevins worked for several small business firms gaining experience as an auditor and accountant, he said.

Currently, Blevins serves as vice president in charge of credit at First



George Blevins

National Bank of Bryan. Blevins is a member of the University of Texas Ex-Student Association, First Baptist Church of Bryan and is active in the local Democratic Party.

Blevins is married and has one daughter.

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It was the birth of that daughter that ended Blevins' tour in Bangladesh.

"There were no doctors and the conditions were unsanitary," he said.

Conditions were so bad, Blevins said, that people would starve to death on the streets and often their

bodies would be left for days.

The food was not nutritional, Blevins said. "We were horribly underweight and had lost all of our energy."

They returned to Texas, he said, because the country is "hard on women" and they wanted their children to be born in America.

However, it is not the hardships that Blevins remembers. "I did not suffer from cholera or other diseases," he said, but rather from happy memories.

"I would like to go back some day and see what has happened to my friends and to the college."

Computer suggests tough gift

United Press International
MINNEAPOLIS — At Dayton's department store, Christmas shoppers can let the computer help decide what to buy.

As Dayton's, the first department store in the country to install a computer terminal system for customer use, the micro-processor based terminal is encased in the chest of a cartoon character bundled in flaps, snow mittens and boots necessary to fight a Minnesota winter.

The cartoon, which is being used in all Dayton's Christmas advertising, is mounted on the front of an 8-foot-high display piece decorated to look like a bright green package from Santa.

Customers operating the terminal, which looks like a 15-inch television screen, can carry on a conversation with the computer concerning department locations, store hours, where the restrooms are and what to buy Aunt Carol in the Moines.

Visitors to the store's auditorium can view the computer's response on a 7-foot screen.

Four of the touch-screen terminals were installed in Dayton's downtown store in late November, and during the first four days received 71,135 touches — with an average of 336 touches per terminal per hour.

About 40 percent of those touches tackle the computer choose the category of gift suggestions.

After the computer receives input from the shopper on age and price range interest, it suggests several items. On the children's list are such gifts as fancy long johns, Children's Theater tickets, a hamster, a parakeet from the pet shop and a rapidly selling item — Dirty War Paint — for soaping up in the bath tub.

The adult gift list includes items of modest cost and some that will let the buyer back financially until Christmas. Suggestions include plastic laminated ties, a car repair kit for all of 1979, a complete home cleaning service, a trip to Europe, a pair of 14 karat gold eyeglasses.

"We think the computers will be in the store through Christmas Eve, will be fun as well as helpful," said John Pellegrini, Dayton's vice president of sales promotion.

But Dayton's still maintains a personalized customer shopping service and a popular telephone service called "Holly Bell" so customers can deal with people for their shopping needs.

SPECIAL CREATION — OR ORGANIC EVOLUTION???

How did man get to be man? Some say an omnipotent, omniscient God "specially" created mankind "in His image" — ex nihilo creation, fiat creation. Others say man is the result of millions of years of evolutionary development — the accidental product of chance and environment. Sir Julian Huxley once commented that Charles Darwin, through the theory of organic evolution he advocated, had "removed the idea of God from the sphere of rational thinking." The Bible says "In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth." Who is right?

What are the evidences (scientific, philosophical, etc.) for or against organic evolution and special creation? Does either theory purport to substantiate itself with sound evidences which can be investigated by an open-minded person? Or are these "open and shut" cases with little left to be said? If you are a person who thinks organic evolution to be true; if you are a person who thinks special creation to be true; if you are a person who wants to link the two together as truthful through "theistic evolution"; if you are a person who is withholding judgment until more evidence is available — then perhaps this is for you.

On January 17, 1978 (continue)

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