

# Friends help in Legislature

(Continued from page 1.)  
Sen. William T. Moore is dean of the Senate this session — the man with the longest term. A former chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, he is now chairman of the State Affairs Committee, which controls the flow of legislation through the chamber.

As journalist Byers puts it, "Bill Moore is the key guy. He's the most powerful since Aikin (the previous governor) is gone."  
Another Austin editor, Brenda Leach, of the Texas Observer, writes that it's not unusual for agencies to have lobbyists.

"Of course, Sen. Moore is the real guardian of A&M up here," she adds.  
Moore himself is not modest about his role or that of Bill Presnal, chairman of the House Appropriations Committee — also of Bryan Texas A&M.

"Bill Presnal and I are the ones who bring it about for A&M," Moore said. "I try to look after A&M. I always have."  
He said that although all agencies prospered lately, Texas A&M has been especially favored the last three years — which is about how long he has been in office.

The last 30 years have been good water for A&M, he said. "I modestly think that I've had something to do with it."  
Presnal says the only time he and Moore work face-to-face is near the end of the session, when a bipartisan conference committee reconciles the two versions of the appropriations bill passed by the legislature. Both leaders are on the committee by political tradition.

"We do, you might say, exchange notes across the table at that time," Presnal confides. Otherwise, they are too busy to consult much.

And that's where Cherry comes in.  
"By and large, we work with Presnal and Moore as our representatives," the educator says. "We go through them or do what they suggest (in legislative matters)."  
"We keep them informed," Cherry smiles. "And again, they make our job easy," he says.

With Moore and Presnal, Texas A&M seems to be in fine shape. Cherry also happily lists the five other senators who are Aggies and the 10 or so representatives who attended Texas A&M.

Even though the contacts are there, Cherry's philosophy is to stay out of Austin as much as possible. By the week of Feb. 12, he'd been there only two days.

"The legislative branch of government tends to resent the executive," he says, "which is why we try to keep from overexposing ourselves." He likes to communicate through letters and over the telephone, he explains.

As an illustration, suppose one of the several hundred bills that affects higher education — out of the 3,500 introduced — would harm the Texas A&M System.

The first approach, Cherry says, is to contact the author of the bill, especially "where the author does not realize how it affects us." Cherry writes a letter outlining how it hurts a part of the system, and usually suggests an amendment.

If the legislator adopts the Texas

A&M view, the problem is solved.  
"That's the easiest way to achieve your legislative objective — get the author to agree the bill will be better with a change," Cherry explains.  
Sometimes, however, letters will not solve the problem. Then he uses other tactics. He may ask other legislators, perhaps one of the many Aggies in the Legislature, to talk with the sponsor.

One administrative aide credits this "conversation" as the reason higher education is well-funded.  
"There's a tendency for people to want to support schools in their district," says the aide, who asked for anonymity. He adds:

*With Sen. William T. Moore and Rep. Bill Presnal, Texas A&M seems to be in fine shape. Bob Cherry, the University's liaison in Austin, also happily lists the five other senators who are Aggies and the 10 or so representatives who attended Texas A&M.*

"That's the strength of higher education — everybody has a junior college or community college in his district."  
Is the link trading votes? "That kind of happens," he admits.  
If that doesn't work, Cherry says he may ask leaders in industries that would also be adversely affected to lobby against the bill.

Aggies and friends of Aggies occupy high positions in Texas industry, and often they are willing to help, Cherry says.  
The educator, who taught at the University before moving into the administration, was willing to discuss his method if not his current objectives.

During the two-hour interview, Cherry said half-joking that he didn't want to give away any secrets. He didn't.

# 1 appointment, 1 resignation at Consol meeting Monday

By DOUG GRAHAM  
Battalion Staff  
A&M Consolidated School board settled on a temporary replacement for one of its veterans but was faced with the exit of another.

While board members met in a late night executive session Monday to make Dr. H.R. Burnett acting superintendent on March 1, Olie Grauke, assistant superintendent of business and finance, resigned.

Burnett, who is presently assistant superintendent for instruction and personnel, said he was surprised by the news only in that Fred Hopson was leaving the Consol school system earlier than anticipated.

Other than that, his appointment to acting superintendent was a routine administrative move, Burnett said.  
School board member Rodney Hill agreed. "That's the normal operating procedure; he was next in line," he said.

Burnett will fill in for Hopson, whose secret contract renegotiation is the subject of a Texas Education Association hearing. Hopson signed a new contract after his old one had been prematurely terminated in a \$52,000 settlement, and agreed to stay on at Consolidated until June 30, 1979.

He was, however, given the option of turning in two weeks notice before he left for another job.  
Hopson recently took another superintendent job in Leander, north of Austin.

This left the school board, which is continuing its search for a new superintendent, with a position to fill.  
It also left Burnett with a chance to prove he can handle Hopson's job. Burnett was already an applicant for the job of superintendent. He said that his term as acting superintendent may help his chances.

Burnett, who received his Ph.D.

from Texas A&M, and his Master's and Bachelor's degrees from Stephen F. Austin is in his sixth year with Consolidated.

Grauke, who tendered his resignation during an executive session that dragged on past 1 a.m., said, "I didn't actually resign; I'm actually retiring."

Bad hearing was the reason, he said. "My hearing is getting progressively worse. There are times at the board meetings that I can't hear what is being said," he explained.

Hill said that Grauke was an excellent worker who contributed a great deal to Consolidated.  
"I'm going to move to Fredericksburg and have a peach orchard," Grauke said. "Not immediately, but I have the place and have been working on it. It may be a few years from now."

# Student senate to consider wide range of bills tonight

By DILLARD STONE  
Battalion Staff  
Bills dealing with subjects from parking tickets to the Texas Legislature will come up before the Texas A&M University student senate at tonight's meeting.

However, senate sources say only two bills will be voted upon; many remain in their assigned committee for further consideration.  
The senate will hear the following bills on second reading:

—A bill that would urge the Texas legislature to amend Chapter 3 of the Teacher Retirement Code so that graduate assistants would be included as optional participants in the Retirement System.

—Two bills that would urge the legislature to act on bills currently before it. One recommendation urges legislators to vote for a bill that would establish a Texas Guaranteed Student Loan Program

to enable qualified students to receive a college loan.  
The other recommendation urges legislators to vote "no" on a bill that would abolish the Permanent University Fund, currently a significant source of funds for the University of Texas and Texas A&M University systems.

—A commendation to former Chancellor Jack K. Williams for his "leadership and outstanding efforts for the University."

—A bill to recommend changes in the current method of recognizing honors students within the University. The bill would establish a President's Honor Roll, consisting of the top 5 percent of each class in each college, and a Dean's Honor Roll, consisting of the second 5 percent of each class within each college.

—A recommendation to significantly change the proportion of student to faculty members on several key University committees. The bill

points out that although University administrators allow some students to be members of the committees, the number of student representatives on each committee is small.

—A recommendation that the Traffic Panel not institute a blanket increase in parking violation fines of 100 percent, from \$5 to \$10.  
Instead the recommendation supports a graduated system of fines, with first and second violation penalties set at \$5, and third and subsequent violation fines set at \$10.

No action is expected on the only bill up for first reading. The bill states that it is unfair to require programming fees from students who live in programmed dormitories, but who do not choose to participate in the programs of the dormitory. It urges that programming fees be made optional for the 1979-80 academic year.

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