

# Senate doesn't act on several bills, approves Williams commendation

By DILLARD STONE  
Battalion Staff

As expected, most of the bills slated for second reading at Wednesday's Texas A&M University student senate meeting were not acted upon.

One of the two bills still to come before the senate, one which would change the allocation of student seats at home baseball games, was not reported out of the student services committee and thus was killed.

Kevin Patterson, vice president for student services, said his committee failed to report the bill because reserve seats have already been sold in the places that the bill would affect.

The other bill, approved by acclamation, recognizes former Chancellor Jack K. Williams for his service to the University.

Several other bills either were tabled, or were not reported out of committee. They included:

—A bill recommending institution of a graduated system of parking violation fines. The first two offenses would cost \$5 per violation with third and subsequent violations costing a \$10 fine. The bill was tabled until the next meeting.

—A bill to change the semester honors system was not reported out of committee. J.C. Colton, vice president for academic affairs, told the senate that further study was needed on the bill, since it would have long-range effects on the University honors system.

The bill would replace the current system of recognizing Distinguished Students — those with 3.25 or better grade point ratio — with an honor roll system based on percentages. The top 5 percent of each class in each college would be placed on the President's Honor Roll, and the second 5 percent would be placed on the Dean's Honor Roll.

—A recommendation to increase student participation on certain University committees, also tabled. George Black, junior business senator, asked the senate to table the bill until further research has been done to see if it is necessary.

Several changes were incorporated into the General Election Regulations in time for this spring's elections.

The senate heard for the first time a bill that would make programming fees in programmed dormitories optional for residents of the dormitory. Several changes were incorporated into the General Election Regulations in time for this spring's elections.

Also heard for the first time were certain recommended changes in senate by-laws.

## U.S. congressmen fly to see Viet refugees

United Press International  
BANGKOK, Thailand — Three members of Congress flew into Hanoi Wednesday to investigate the problem of Vietnamese refugees. Heavy fighting between Vietnam and China forced postponement of

the congressional trip, which originally was scheduled for Monday.

U.S. Embassy officials in Bangkok refused to allow the group to use the embassy plane for the trip. The officials cited "heavy air activity" by warplanes of both sides.

The delegation, led by Reps. Elizabeth Holtzman, D.-N.Y., Hamilton Fish R-N.Y., and Billy Lee Evans, D.-Georgia, rescheduled the trip aboard a commercial Air Vietnam flight today.

The three are members of a House Judiciary Subcommittee on Indochinese refugees who are completing a long-planned tour of Southeast Asian countries to study the problems of Indochinese refugees.

## Tax agencies overlap

(Continued from page 1.)

Under the Texas Constitution, the counties are supposed to assess and collect taxes. That is why the new bill, unlike previous ones, has a provision allowing a county to contract its assessment to the new appraisal board.

The reason the combined appraisal function was not automatically given to the counties is historical, Winn said. Though urbanized counties have no problems, he said, many counties have inadequate tax records.

"In many counties, the smaller towns and school boards have better books and records. They have always depended on more of their money from property taxes."

Most counties will take advantage of the plan, he said, though he did not say if Brazos County would do so.

Combining appraisal functions may save the Brazos area taxpayers quite a bit of money by reducing the number of appraisers, Winn said.

"I think I can take six appraisers and do a good job in the county."

Brazos County employs three appraisers costing around \$40,000 per year, Winn said. The City of Bryan normally has three appraisers, BIRD and Consoil have two each. The other districts did not say how much their appraisal staffs cost.

College Station usually has some part-

time appraisers, Glenn Schroeder, tax assessor for College Station, said. But for the city's present reappraisal program, some temporary appraisers have been hired, he said.

Schroeder doesn't think dollar saving will be too high initially if the appraisal job is to be done correctly.

"My idea would be: combine the present appraisal staff so they can do everything well," Schroeder said. Future savings would increase; the other tax assessors also felt savings would be considerable.

The bill will also save money by keeping appraising up to date, Fine added.

This might seem strange. Since new appraisals are higher than old ones, one might think out-of-date appraisals would mean lower taxes. Not necessarily so, Schroeder said. Good appraisal is the only way to ensure people don't have to pay more than their fair share of taxes.

He cited an example of several acres of land which had been appraised for a few thousand dollars in the sixties. After access roads were built, the land's value rocketed, but because the appraisal remained the same, the property taxes were extremely low.

All the time the appraisal remained too low, the other citizens had to pay more money to make up for it. The inequity was only discovered during College Station's recent program of reappraisal.

## Ag Eco Club seeks sun, credits on trips to California, Mexico

By RICHARD OLIVER  
Battalion Reporter

While most Aggies are catching up on their sleep over spring break,

some will be in Mexico City and California earning credits exploring the aspects of international trade.

Thirty-six members of the Agricultural Economics Club will visit various American firms such as Del Monte, Kellogg's and Ralston-Purina. The students will observe the operations and supervision of the companies and explore innovations in agricultural research and development.

Dr. Vernon E. Schneider, distinguished professor of agricultural economics and organizer of the trip, said, "It gives us a chance to reinforce classroom teachings with the real thing. We take the talk of international trade out of the classroom and see it in action."

Although most of the research on the nine-day trip will be done in Mexico City, the group will visit firms in cities including Bajio, Queretaro and Schapingo.

"At each company the students will be given a chance to ask and learn about the very occupations many of them will pursue," Schneider said.

Schneider said students may earn two credits for the trip.

"Each student going for credit must prepare a research report on a specific area of the trip such as the training of personnel in the companies. They must do a lot of research on their subject before we even leave, so they will be totally prepared when they arrive," he said.

The group will leave College Station on March 8 and go by bus to San Antonio, where they will board a plane to Mexico City.

At the same time, another 30 members of the Ag Eco Club will be on their way to California to research agricultural marketing and food production.

Schneider said this trip has the same purpose — to learn how major producers operate.

This will all complement the work we do in the classroom," he said.

Schneider said the group will visit firms such as Sunkist, Armour and Co. and Lindsey Olives.

Schneider said the trips may lead to jobs for some students.

## Bill to eliminate license plate tax for diesel cars

United Press International

AUSTIN — Senate State Affairs Committee members Wednesday approved a bill that would grant owners of diesel-powered automobiles a tax break.

The bill, sponsored by Sen. Walter Mengden, R-Houston, exempts diesel-powered passenger cars from the 11 percent tax added to the license plate fees of all diesel-powered vehicles.

"I just think that owners of passenger cars powered by diesel should pay the same annual registration fee as other cars, no more and no less," Mengden said.

Committee Chairman Sen. Bill Moore, D-Bryan, said the original law was passed to force diesel truck owners to pay an added registration fee to compensate for damage their heavy trucks did to state highways.

The state would only lose about \$18,000 in tax revenues if the bill becomes law in 1980, and would lose more than \$78,000 by 1984.

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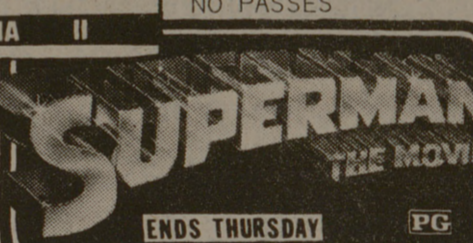


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