

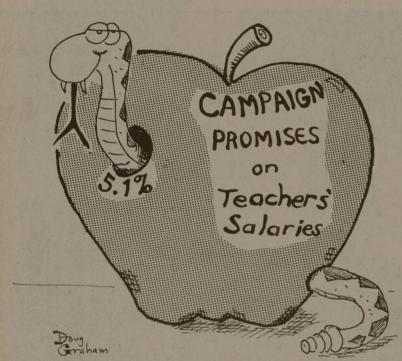
VIEWPOINT



THE BATTALION TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 28, 1979

Clements: the teacher's pet?



False advertising

Teachers are screaming at Gov. Bill Clements after his announcement Monday that he wants to eliminate a proposed 5.1 percent teacher pay raise from his budget recommendations. This is after inflation took a 9

percent bite out of their wages last year.

Small wonder they're mad. Back when Clements was campaigning in November, he paid for advertisements (that also appeared in The Battalion) saying he considered improving Texas' educational system his "number one priority.

To quote from his ad in The Battalion Nov. 3 (four days before the

'Teachers should receive raises so they are on the same pay scale as other state employees

"We must cut back rampant growth in our state bureaucracies and

redistribute these funds in our schools."

Clements' ads said he's "noted for his ability to streamline the bureaucracy and cut away fat.

Clements, however, has been pushing for improvements in the Governor's Mansion — \$2 million worth. One legislator was quoted as saying that you could build four governor's mansions at \$40 a square foot for that

The larger matter concerns the never ending cycle of politicians spouting off campaign promises, then not following through with action.

Clements is now facing the hard reality of trying to own up to campaign promises - but who first?

Education seems to be at the end of the long list of promises he made while running for office.

Educators ought to sue for false advertising.— K.T.

France leaps ahead in building nukes

By ALAIN RAYMOND
PARIS — Without much fanfare, but with a good deal of patience and perseverance, the French have been outpacing the rest of the world in the development of nuclear energy. Six or seven years from now, indeed, no less than half of France's electricity will be generated by nuclear

The French also expect to be a major supplier of nuclear installations to other countries in the decade ahead. Recently for example, France won the approval of the Carter administration to sell two nuclear plants to China, and similar deals have been signed with Iran, Iraq, South Africa, Pakistan and Libya.

A key to French success in the field has been technological innovation in three domains - enrichment of uranium, reprocessing of nuclear spent fuel and the perfection of fast breeder reactors. And this scientific progress has been encouraged by three principle factors.

First, France's lack of oil and dwindling

coal supplies spurred its government to move decisively into nuclear energy. Or as one senior French official has put it: "We

virtually had no alternative."
Secondly, the highly centralized French administration has been able to overcome the kinds of obstacles that exist in federal systems such as those of the United States and West Germany, where the development of nuclear energy has frequently been challenged by local authorities or regional courts.

And among other things, anti-nuclear protests by environmentalists have been relatively mild since a demonstration in July 1977 in which one person died. Surveys show that most French favor nuclear power, even though a majority consider it

As a result, various nuclear facilities have been going up since the end of 1973, when the Yom Kippur war touched off a fourfold increase in oil prices, thus dramatizing the urgency of alternative sources of energy. By 1985, according to present estimates, a total of 40 nuclear power stations will be providing France with electricity

France already has 14 nuclear plants in operation, currently producing close to 30 billion kilowatts per hour, more than 10 percent of the country's electricity.

France also has the world's largest

commercial nuclear spent fuel reprocess-ing complex, which separates plutonium from spent nuclear fuel. Located at Cap la Hague, near the English Channel, it is one

of the two only working installations of its kind on earth. The other is British.

But the most impressive of France's nuclear advances have been fast breeder reactors, which convert burnt uranium into plutonium and can therefore fuel themselves for years without facing the problem of radioactive waste disposal. Breeder reactors also produce 70 times more energy than other nuclear plants.

The most ambitious breeder reactor being built here is currently under construction near the southeastern town of Creys-Melville, on a bank of the Rhone river between the cities of Lyons and Geneva, in a picturesque setting of pine-covered hills and medieval castles.

Known as "Super-Phoenix," the 1200megawatt reactor will begin to operate in 1983, when it becomes the world's first such nuclear facility generating electricity.

Energy

The \$1.3 billion investment is being shared by France, Italy and West Germany, which will all benefit from its

power. France holds the majority interest, and the technology is exclusively French.

The project had its origin in two experimental prototypes called "Rhapsody" and "Phoenix." The second of these, a 250-megawatt reactor, performed so smoothly for two years that, by the spring of 1977, the French decided to initiate an installation five times bigger.
Since the Rhine River is no longer

navigable above Lyons, engineers had to revise their plan to build the components of the reactor elsewhere and transport them by barge to the site.

As a consequence, the reactor is being constructed on the site itself, and the scene there resembles a futuristic fantasy.

Two structures dominate the landscape a workshop the size of a cathedral in which the reactor is being built, and the vault in which it will be eventually

Nobody here is blind to the potential dangers involved in fast breeder reactors, since the plutonium they produce can be used for nuclear weapons. Some French scientists have also warned that the speed with which "Super-Phoenix" is being assembled could lead to serious accidents.

But fast breeder reactors, when linked to reprocessing plants that yield plutonium, are economical sources of energy, and that prompted the French government to go ahead with their con-

Letters to the Editor

Late Fromholz show only a 'rip off'

This is an open letter of complaint. The complaint concerns the performance of Steve Fromholz at Grin's on Sunday night. I realize that Grin's paid good money to get Mr. Fromholz to appear. However, I am reasonably sure it was anticipated that he would appear in shape to perform.

If he was in shape to perform, he sure fooled me (and many others there, too). To start things off with a bang, he arrived one hour and 15 minutes late. This was not so bad, except that he spent an additional 20 minutes giving an incoherent explanation of why he was late.

My girlfriend was upset. However, she sat there patiently while I clung to the hope that something of value might surface. During the first set (which consisted of four songs, each with 10 minute or longer introductions), Mr. Fromholz politely asked the audience to quiet down.

I realize that noise can disrupt a good performance, but after relecting upon this matter, I feel that Mr. Fromholz's per-formance disrupted the various conversations within the audience. He acted as though he was doing the audience a favor by coming. Perhaps had he come for free it could have been a favor, but this was not

I must admit that I do slightly admire his candid honesty. He readily admitted that he was more drunk than most of the members of the audience. After three songs into the second set we decided to leave. Out of a guilty conscience (for not saying something then), I later returned to verbalize my complaint to the employees

Although the initial reaction to my complaint was that they too were surprised at his behavior, I was ultimately given the explanation that these were some of the reasons Mr. Fromholz was famous. If this is fame, I want no part of it. Some

may feel this is an unjustified opinion, but if more people spoke up about such things, we wouldn't be ripped off so much.

-Kenneth E. Hagin, '79

Delay library move

Since coming to Texas A&M in Jan. 1978, I have witnessed many interesting, odd and sometimes even archaic phenomenon involving the academic, administrative, athletic and social affairs relating to this university and its traditions. I have refrained from comment in the past. However, I can no longer remain silent after reading the Feb. 22 Battalion article regarding the "new" plans for the library

will leave the books on the shelves for the present time, the plan is still highly unresponsive to the needs of the students. A great deal of inconvenience and confusion will be created still. Library users will have to locate their needed material then transport it into the new section for a place

However, once the material is in the new section it will be left there and not returned to the proper location. The library staff will not be able to keep all the books reshelved because it presently takes a long time for much of the library material to be properly reshelved. Therefore, the library user will be forced to spend extra time looking for needed books with a reduced chance of locating the material. This new plan will also greatly increase the chance of library materials becoming misplaced or lost.

The library administration has acted iresponsibly in their decisions concerning the library move. TAMU is suppose to be

an institution of higher learning. Our university is one the country's leading institutions in areas in this regard.

Therefore, the library's primary role and concern should be aimed toward full cooperation in fulfilling the university's goals of research and educational excellence. The students and faculty's needs should be given first priority, not the library's concern for what is least inconvenient to them.

the move until mid-May, as previously proposed, in order to fulfill its responsibility to the students and faculty of this -J.P. Dean graduate student

Th library administration should delay

Wildlife and Fisheries Dept. Good job, SCONA

During my recent visit to the Texas

A&M campus, I derived two unequivocal gains: an invaluable experience from the 24th Student Conference on National Affairs (SCONA), and a superior impression of the Aggie student body

My sincere thanks for the commendable program that your university provided.

Student Body President

Correction

In the Tuesday, Feb. 26 Battalion an article about upcoming MSC Arts Committee film incorrectly stated that a short film, "Bridges Go Round," will be shown later this semester. The film will be shown Monday, Mar. 5 at 8 p.m. in conjunction with a Luis Bunuel film "That Obscure Object of Desire" at Rudder Theatre.

The Battalion regrets the error.

Reader's Forum

Solutions start at home - even at A&M

By JOSEPH E. BEAUDETTE

I would like to respond to an article in The Battalion, Feb. 19, concerning a speech by President Jarvis Miller to the 24th Student Conference on National Affairs. According to the article, Dr. Miller said that the attitudes and inspection procedures of government agencies in areas such as safety and energy are killing the country. I think this attitude bears examination.

The government has done poorly in regulating industry and the products of industry, but industry has done much worse. Government regulations and agencies usually come about because a problem has existed for a long time and the private sector has been unable or un-willing to respond to the problem.

The voice of profit seldom asks for the effects of products on workers and the public at large - just if they

And notice that industries and institutions (whether IBM or Texas A&M) are selective in wanting government to stay out of their busi-

Where is the industry that has refused a government subsidy? Where is the university that has refused the vne of special government support

typified by the Permanent University Fund?

The forces opposing efforts by

government to regulate industry are much better organized and financed than the general populace and are more successful in influencing legislators and in restricting legislation.

In an article in the Dallas Times Herald, Feb. 19, Adlene Harrison, Environmental Protection Agency regional administrator, spoke of the EPA's efforts to reduce automobile and industrial pollution in Texas. She said the effort "has met with widespread opposition from industry ... from citizens who have been reluctant to form carpools or take

She goes on to say that a concen trated effort by industry and lack of interest by environmentalists (oops, dirty word) and the population at large could lead to the clean air act being "gutted" in this session of Congress

Texas A&M is a reflection of this whole concept. We are an insular community with political and physical control concentrated within the University community. This provides an unusual opportunity to deal with the problems of this community, but we blow it, doing little

except what is dictated by our immediate self-interest.

While decrying government in-terference, we seek government favor. While selling our science and technology around the world, we seem incapable or unwilling to apply it to our city and campus. In the face of future certainties and common sense, our master planners talk of more parking lots, two story parking lots, as we struggle to get our two-ton, single passenger vehicles within 20 feet of where we are going, every hour, 8 to 5, Monday

through Friday.

We study how to conserve energy, then throw our aluminum cans in the trash where maybe someone with a different value system will pick them up

You spoke the truth, Dr. Miller, when you said, "We must develop real solutions to these problems. The problems, however, aren't with government agencies and regulations in Washington, and neither need the solutions be.

Both are right here if we are willing to look beyond immediate convenience and self-interest to find

Joseph E. Beaudette is a graduate student in building construction.

TOP OF THE NEWS

CAMPUS

'Sound of Music' tickets on sale

Town Hall will present Rodgers and Hammerstein's "The Sound Of Music" Tuesday at 8:15 p.m. in the Rudder Auditorium. Tickets are on sale in the Rudder Box Office from 9 a.m. Monday through Friday and will be available at the door the night of the performance. Prices are \$4.50, \$5.75 and \$7 for Texas A&M students and their

Show raises money for diabetes

Charli Tight, owner of Charli's Boutique, said approximately \$700 was raised for the American Diabetes Association at a spring fashion show held Sunday at the Ramada Inn. Both professional models and Texas A&M students appeared in the show.

Moody offers new program

A new degree program in maritime administration will be offered this fall at Moody College, the marine and maritime resource unit of the Texas A&M University System. Dr. George Carter, coordinator of maritime administration, said the new program includes instruc-tion in business and science fields in addition to an in-depth study

Students plan to travel to Idaho

A group of 12 Texas A&M University nuclear engineering seniors plan to go to the Idaho Falls Nuclear Engineering Laboratory in Idaho Falls, Idaho March 8-16 for hands-on experience with research reactor simulators. Faculty adviser Dr. Rion Causey will accompany the students. The trip coincides with spring break.

STATE Man arrested for pot planeload

Harris County sheriff's deputies arrested a Dallas man accused of flying a 500-pound planeload of marijuana into Lakeside Airport Sun day. Ernest Lee McComb, 47, was jailed on \$150,000 bond Monday after deputies found \$60,000 worth of marijuana aboard a singleengine plane abandoned at the airport.

NATION Mobil to ration gasoline supplies

Mobil Oil Corp. officials announced in New York Tuesday that it will join the list of several other major oil companies — Exxon, Continental, Texaco, ARCO, Shell and Chevron among them — that have decided to allocate gasoline supplies to retailers because of high demand and the chaotic market situation created by the shutdown of Iranian oilfields. Another reason for the decision to keep gasoline deliveries at 1978 levels is a Department of Energy order forcing Mobil to give up 500,000 barrels of its own crude oil supply to smaller

Ore carrier burns off N.C. coast

The "St. Chris," a 729-foot bulk ore carrier with 40 people aboard, was reported on fire and in danger of sinking Tuesday off the coast of Cape Hatteras, N.C., the Coast Guard in Elizabeth Cith, N.C., reported. A spokesman for the Coast Guard said there were no reported injuries aboard the ship, which radioed a distress call at 9:30 a.m. A C-130 cargo plane was on the scene and a Coast Guard cutter was on its way to the boat. The St. Chris, believed to be of Liberian registery, reported that all holds were on fire and that the crew was on the aft section of the ship.

N.J. pickets move to Houston

Striking members of the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers Union Local 8-638 moved their wandering picket line Tuesday from Texaco's Port Arthur refinery to the company's local headquarters in Houston. A spokesman for the New Jersey group said that the pickets were moved to maintain good will with Texas members of the OCAW. Texas OCAW members signed a new contract with Texaco several weeks ago, but honored the New Jersey picket line. After the picket lines were removed, the 4,200 refinery workers were allowed at Texaco facilities in El Paso and Amarillo also.

WORLD

2 arrested in plane hijacking

Police in Stockholm arrested a man and a woman after they threatened to blow up a hijacked Soviet Aeroflot jetliner in exchange for political asylum. Police Tuesday still were negotiating with two other hijackers on the plane who were believed to be accomplices of the two arrested. None of the 34 passengers or crewmembers of the TU-154 jet were injured in the hijacking. The plane was en route from Oslo, Norway, to Moscow when the hijacking occurred.

Iran cancels foreigners' permits

Iran's Revolutionary Council has ordered police not to renew the work or residency permits of foreigners still in the country in another attempt to purge the country of foreigners, diplomatic sources said Tuesday. The action followed the arrest and subsequent release of an American and three Britons seized by Moslem militiamen Monday.

WEATHER

Cloudy and cooler with a slight chance of showers. High today of 60 and a low of 50. Winds will be South Easterly at 10-15 mph and a 20% chance of rain.

THE BATTALION

LETTERS POLICY

Letters to the editor should not exceed 300 words and are subject to being cut to that length or less if longer. The editorial staff reserves the right to edit such letters and does not guarantee to publish any letter. Each letter must be signed, show the address of the writer and list a telephone number for verification.

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