

# TRC's 'sunset' goal of candidate

By BOBBY SWANSON  
Battalion Reporter

David Hutzelman is the un-candidate. He is not running for the Texas Railroad Commission; he is running against it. If elected, Hutzelman said he will work to sunset (abolish) the Railroad Commission.

Hutzelman, Libertarian Party candidate for the Texas Railroad Commission, said his name will be on the November ballot.

Hutzelman held a press conference Wednesday afternoon at Texas A&M University to outline his reasons for running "against" the commission and answer questions about his alternative party views.

Wednesday evening Hutzelman spoke in Harrington Education Center about the failings of the Railroad Commission.

Hutzelman is running for the commission seat currently held by democrat Jim Nugent.

Hutzelman said the Railroad Commission spends \$19 million each year to do work that could be done by other agencies more closely related to a particular field.

Conservation of natural resources, environmental pollution standards, and water quality are three areas Hutzelman said could be handled more economically by other agencies.

Hutzelman, one of 32 Libertarian candidates to appear on the Texas ballot this November, said he is the only candidate with any serious new ideas about the commission and its anti-consumer programs.

"In the past, the commission has worked to limit the importation of cheap foreign crude oil. They did this so that Texas energy producers could stay in business. That was fine but what we never heard about was the effects on Texas and U.S. energy consumers. They had to pay artificially high prices for Texas crude when foreign crude was available for much cheaper prices," Hutzelman said.

Hutzelman said his campaign to "sunset" the agency is not being taken seriously because many people still believe the Commission is good for the consumer.

Abolition of the Railroad Commission would allow for the deregulation of the trucking industry, which he said would increase competition and lower rates. He said the same would be true for the busing industry.

Removing production regulations from the oil industry would allow for increased production and lower gas and oil prices, Hutzelman said.

"In the name of conservation, the Railroad Commission has used the power of law to limit the amount of oil production which private energy producers could produce in the state of Texas.

"This conservation program was so effective that it now serves as a regulatory model for OPEC. Railroad Commission trained employees went to Venezuela to tell them how they could go about controlling production.

The 39-year-old telecommunications manager from Houston said myths keep the Commission alive.

Hutzelman said, "If these myths were understood by the voters and my critics, I would not have to defend the 'seriousness' of my campaign.

# Center to help Small businesses

By MARK TRIESCH  
Battalion Reporter

The American economy is sagging, and the reason appears to be a lack of good old American ingenuity, says a Texas A&M University management professor.

Dr. Jack Reynolds says a decline of innovation among American businesses in the last several years has caused productivity to fall off, enabling other industrial powers, such as Japan and West Germany, to outsell the United States in the world marketplace.

In an effort to help Texas businessmen overcome these problems, the Department of Business Administration and the Department of Engineering have jointly proposed the creation of a Small Business Innovation Center at Texas A&M.

The proposed center, which will provide counseling services to small and medium sized businesses, will be funded by the National Science Foundation.

"We have requested approximately \$1 million from the National Science Fund to fund our first eighteen months of operation," Reynolds said, "but we may not get as much as we asked for."

Reynolds said there are basically two types of projects the center would be involved with. The first would be to help a small company that has an innovative product but lacks the capital or expertise to successfully market it.

The second would be to help a company that has an innovative idea but lacks the technical skill to make it a reality.

The services of the center will be free to small businesses, providing that they contribute personnel and time to the project. Reynolds said that each company would have to put in its "sweat equity" towards the completion of the project.

"We plan to spend approximately \$25,000 to \$100,000 per project," Reynolds said. "This expenditure will cover market tests, building prototypes, and paying University personnel who contribute time to the project."

The center plans to charge a royalty fee from each project that is marketed, in order to break even financially.

"We want to become self-supporting eventually," said Reynolds. Reynolds said the center would deal mainly with small businesses.

"Large companies usually have their own research facilities, so they won't need us," Reynolds said. "Besides, it's not in our interest or one of our goals to compete with private enterprise."

The center would also provide data for University use in studying the process of innovation and provide materials to bring into the classroom.

"In a university setting such as this, we have a vast reservoir of expertise from which to draw," he said. "Why not put it to work to help the economy?"

Several other colleges in the country, such as the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, have programs similar to the proposed project.

"Most of their work deals only with innovations that come from the school itself," Reynolds said. "We want to try and bring the business world and the academic community together."

The proposed Small Business Innovation Center plans to open the semester after it receives funding from the National Science Foundation. Reynolds said he is unsure when the foundation will act on the proposal.

"We hope it will be soon. We're very excited about the possibilities of this project," he said.

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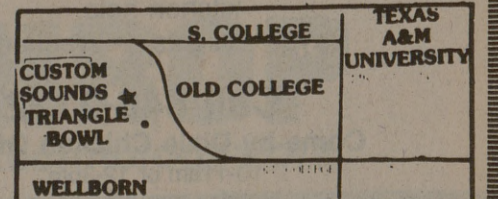
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