

Tower urges better defense

by Brian Boyer
Battalion Reporter

The United States must modernize its strategic nuclear capability to deter aggression from abroad and protect its foreign interests, Sen. John Tower told a Texas A&M audience Wednesday night.

"The Soviets are outstripping us in strategic capability," Tower said. "It is incumbent therefore on us to modernize our strategic nuclear force."

Tower, R-Texas, who has been serving as chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee since 1965, said the United States also must improve its Navy and conventional ground forces if it is to compete with the Soviets.

"We have too long failed to do what is necessary to modernize our field forces — to the extent that now Soviet field equipment is superior to ours," he said.

"Considering the fact that the Soviets over the past 25 years have gone from a coastal navy... to a 'blue water' navy that is capable of challenging

our interests everywhere in the world, we must modernize and improve our Navy."

Tower said that improving the armed forces might mean a future reinstatement of the draft.

"I feel that there will probably come a point in time when we will have to go back to the draft, but the time is not now — because right now, our all-volunteer system is working well."

Tower added that the retention of junior officers in the armed forces and an improved recruiting program have made the draft less necessary now than it was in 1980.

Tower also defended the controversial MX missile system as "a good investment." The MX system would be a more effective deterrent to aggression than any of the other proposed "schemes," he said.

"We must dedicate our money and our resources to those things that provide us with the best deterrent to aggression.

Tower talks to student senators

by Beverly Hamilton
Battalion Staff

U.S. Senator John Tower opened Wednesday's Student Senate meeting with a question-and-answer session about U.S. defense.

Tower urged increased defense spending and discussed publicly about the military, saying the media are trying to make the public skeptical about the defense budget. The senator

cited CBS-TV as a media outlet that had presented "errors of omission, some misinformation and some just flat defaults" about defense spending.

Tower, R-Texas, is chairman of the Senate armed services committee.

After the senator's talk, student senators elected a new vice president for finance, introduced four new bills and

approved three senate appointments.

Blaine Edwards, a senior business major, was elected vice president for finance to replace R. Scott Straton, who previously held the position.

Four bills were introduced to the Senate and were referred to appropriate committees for discussion. The bills concern expanded office hours during pre-

registration and drop-add, a book-exchange program for students, updating the Senate bylaws and recommending action for the Senate legislative study group.

Senators approved Senate appointments for Barton Dennis, College of Architecture at-large senator; Dirk Smith, College of Engineering at-large senator; and Jim Rogers, off-campus graduate senator.

Town Hall seats often cheaper

by Lynn Falco
Battalion Reporter

Concert ticket prices for groups that perform at Texas A&M University are often less than big city prices, MSC Town Hall committee adviser Suzanne Becker says.

Big-name groups will usually stop at Texas A&M for very reasonable prices because the location is excellent for a stop between big cities.

Occasionally, Becker said, groups will call Town Hall at the last minute to make arrangements for a show. Last spring, the Commodores called nine days before their appearance. The group was paying \$10,000 to \$20,000 per day for their lighting and sound system whether they were playing or not. They played at Texas A&M for almost half their normal fee.

"We'll offer groups less money," Becker said. "Sometimes they'll take it, sometimes they won't."

She said agencies tend to shy away from colleges because they're afraid their clients will not do well in a college town.

In contrast to big name groups, little-known groups often hold concerts on college campuses to help build an audience, she said.

The committee seldom makes a profit, she said. Their goal is break even for the whole year.

Another factor affecting prices is the number of tickets the concert is expected to sell. The ticket prices for concerts held in G. Rollie White Coliseum, on the average, are based on a 65-percent-full house. The percentage pays for the basic cost of the performance.

If the concert group is fairly new or if a concert is later in the semester, the percentage is lowered.

Ticket prices for Friday night's Motels concert, for example, were based on a 60-percent house. Becker said bringing the Motels to Texas A&M is an experiment, since the group's rock music is different from the type of music Town Hall usually sponsors.

When scheduling concerts and figuring concert prices, Town Hall members take into consideration the part of the semester for which the performance will be scheduled. Darryl Heath, Town Hall committee chairman, said that before an act is scheduled for the latter part of a semester, the committee wants to be sure enough tickets will sell.

Big-name performers are the only acts Town Hall will bring at the end of a semester because many students are low on money, Heath said. A performer who would sell a lot of tickets in September may not break even in December.

Italian ensemble to perform tonight

I Musici, an ensemble that primarily plays music by Italian Baroque composers, will perform tonight in Rudder Auditorium at 8.

The group, composed of 11 string instruments and a harpsichord, has helped promote appreciation of Italian Baroque music, particularly works by Antonio Vivaldi. However, the group also performs works by more contemporary composers

such as Bartok, Britten, Barber and Frank Martin.

Twelve students from the Academy of Santa Cecilia in Italy formed the group in 1952.

I Musici has received awards for its recordings of Vivaldi's "Four Seasons" and "La Cetra."

Tickets for the concert, which is sponsored by the MSC Opera and Performing Arts Society, are \$8.25, \$6.50 and \$5.50 for students and \$9.75, \$7.75 and \$6.25 for others.

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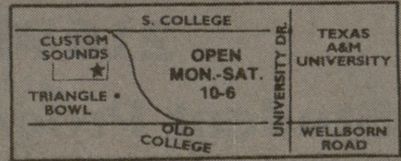
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