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Terms of regents studied

from staff and wire reports
AUSTIN — Two state senators Monday prefled legislation that would clarify the right of incoming governors to make appointments to the boards of regents of the Texas A&M System, the University of Texas System and the Texas State University System.

The bill, co-sponsored by Sen. Lloyd Doggett, D-Austin, and Sen. Kent Caperton, D-Bryan, would set the terms for members of the boards of regents to expire Feb. 1 of odd-numbered years.

Under the present law, Gov. William P. Clements, who was defeated by Mark White on Nov. 2, can make the appointments.

"The bill prevents lame-duck governors from making midnight appointments to these important posts before the incoming governor can take the oath of office, and ensures that the regent appointees get reviewed by the Senate before starting to serve," Doggett said.

A nearly identical bill won overwhelming approval in the House and Senate in 1981, but was vetoed by Clements.

Caperton said: "This is a reasonable approach regardless of which party the lame-duck governor belongs. This system is preferable because it more accurately reflects the current will of the voters."

Under the current system, three regents are appointed every two years. The regents serve six-year terms.

The terms of three Texas A&M regents expire January 10. H. C. "Dulie" Bell of Austin, who was appointed to the board in 1971, chairs the board's Planning and Building Committee.

John R. Blocker, a Houston oilman, was appointed in 1977. He chairs the Committee for Academic Campuses.

Dr. John Coleman, a Houston physician, was appointed to the board in 1977. He serves on the Committee for Academic Campuses and the Planning and Building Committee.



Getting bigger and bigger

staff photo by David Fisher.

Bonfire construction is continuing and will switch into full gear this Sunday when Push starts. During Push, students concentrate on building the bonfire. Here, sophomores and

freshmen push a log up onto the stack while juniors and seniors are allowed on the stack.

SS requires \$75 billion

United Press International
WASHINGTON — The president's commission on Social Security says the system's old-age and disability funds need at least \$75 billion in cuts or new taxes to pay checks on time through 1988, and they could need up to \$200 billion.

The staff of the National Commission on Social Security Reform said \$75 billion is needed in taxes or cuts to pay checks on time through 1988 under moderate economic projections. Under the pessimistic projections, the report said.

The commission, bipartisan but Republican-dominated, is considering remedies. Among the bigger savings projected under various options, through 1989:

- Covering all federal, state, local and nonprofit organization employees, now exempt from Social Security, would raise at least \$110 billion and trim more than half the long-

- term deficit.
- Accelerating a 1990 payroll tax hike to 1984 — raising the rate from 6.7 percent to 7.65 percent for employees and employers — would raise at least \$133 billion in the short term. A 1 percent tax hike in 2020, a Democratic favorite, would make up more than half Social Security's long-term shortfall.

- Delaying the annual July cost-of-living adjustment until October would save \$23 billion or more; holding it down could save \$66 billion to at least \$103 billion in the long term.

- Adjusting the benefit calculation formula to return a lower percentage of wages would raise more than half the cash needed by the middle of next century.

- Raising the retirement age to 66 in 2002 by gradual steps beginning in 1995, and adjusting it after that according to Americans' longevity would make up the entire projected long-term deficit.

As the commission issued its report, the conservative Heritage Foundation said Americans should be allowed to set up individual retirement accounts. This plan will not win commission support, officials said.

2,700 dead near Kabul, report says

United Press International
NEW DELHI, India — At least 2,700 Soviet soldiers and Afghan civilians died of suffocation in a mountain tunnel in Afghanistan when two trucks collided and exploded, Western diplomats said today.

The diplomats said reports of the mass deaths last week were based on various rumors and could not be verified independently.

The incident occurred in the late afternoon of either Nov. 2 or Nov. 3. A Soviet convoy was rumbling south

through the 1.7-mile-long Salong tunnel, which slices through the Hindu Kush Mountains at an altitude of 11,000 feet, 60 miles north of the Afghan capital of Kabul, the reports said.

Officials said the most accurate accounts agree that the lead vehicle of a Soviet convoy collided head-on with an Afghan commercial truck inside the tunnel, triggering an explosion and fire.

The fire filled the tunnel with smoke and consumed the oxygen in the tunnel.

University winning fight against barriers

A&M helping handicapped students

by Shelley Hoekstra
Battalion Reporter

When Janey Ducote enrolled in Texas A&M University in 1972 she started a revolution — one that continues today.

Ducote was the first handicapped person to live on campus at Texas A&M. At first, everywhere she went she encountered obstacles.

University officials had agreed to cut four ramps before she arrived so she could go from her room in Krueger Hall to the Sterling C. Evans Library, but that was only the beginning.

Today Texas A&M has 300 handicapped students and the number rises each year. The University, in accordance with federal law, is modifying dorms and buildings to accommodate the students.

Section 504 of federal law requires institutions that receive federal funds to provide services to physically handicapped students that are equal to those provided to non-handicapped students.

In addition, the law requires that any new building constructed on a

college campus must be built with modifications to accommodate handicapped students. Any old buildings, when they are remodeled, must be made accessible by building ramps or installing chair lifts.

Several modifications have made buildings and classrooms more accessible to handicapped students. Ramps, curb cuts, handicapped

parking, accessible telephones and water fountains, lowered elevator buttons, braille signs, accessible bathrooms and dorms are changes that have been made at the University.

Programs and activities are provided to all handicapped students at Texas A&M by the coordinator of health and veterans services. The coordinator's main objectives are to

provide support for the handicapped student and to aid the handicapped student while he or she attended Texas A&M.

Coordinator Charles W. Powell visits with handicapped students, listens to them and helps them with problems. Some problems Powell solves include fixing broken wheel-

chairs, contacting tutors and rear-

anging class schedules.

"If a student has a class in a building that is not accessible to him — by that I mean he cannot get inside a building to sit at a desk and listen to lecture — we can do two things," Powell said.

"One, we can transfer the class to another building, or two, we can modify the building to make it ac-

cessible to the student."

Powell said he can make requests to University officials whenever ramps need to be built or buildings remodeled, but the actual modification of buildings often is a slow process.

"The money used to construct ramps or remodel buildings comes totally out of the A&M budget," Powell said. "No government assistance in the way of funding is received. Sometimes the money is not available for construction, so we have to wait."

Most of the buildings here are accessible to handicapped students. However, Access, the guide to Texas A&M for handicapped students, reports that 39 still are inaccessible to the 16 students in wheelchairs at Texas A&M.

Most of the older dormitories are inaccessible, as well as such buildings as the Analytical Services Building, the Creamery, the floriculture greenhouses, the Military Sciences Building and the post office.

"In the future all new buildings will be built to accommodate the

(See HANDICAP Page 4)

Reading and writing made clear for dyslexic students

By Dawson Clark
Battalion Reporter

Although hundreds of Texas A&M students have such learning disabilities as dyslexia, or such handicaps as blindness and deafness, only a few are involved in assistance programs offered by Texas A&M University.

This may be because some handicapped students handle their problems well enough to avoid detection. That is especially true of dyslexics, whose disabilities come in varying degrees.

"There are hundreds of students at A&M who suffer from dyslexia to one degree or another," said Dr. Charles Powell, coordinator of Handicapped Services. "But each case of dyslexia is different and many are so minor that the student can

manage without help from us. We only help about 10 dyslexic students."

Dyslexia is the inability to grasp the meaning of what is read. Often the impression of dyslexics is that they don't care or don't try. But dyslexics usually do as well as other students when given the extra time needed to comprehend what they read.

Handicapped Services provides a testing service for dyslexics and other students who need assistance when taking tests, so that the students can have their exams administered under special conditions.

"What we do is determine the individual's need and then meet it," Powell said. "Some only need more time on exams, others need their exams read

to them, explained to them and their answers written by someone else."

Handicapped Services also sponsors programs for blind and deaf students.

"Several volunteer groups provide reading services which make tape recordings of textbooks for blind students and dyslexics," Powell said.

Powell also said he tutors students individually as his schedule permits. When he can't find time, he said, he tries to find a tutor who can.

"Any student who has a problem with a learning disability should not hesitate to contact us," Powell said. "We'll do everything we can to help."

The Office of Handicapped Services is on the first floor of Ramp B in Hart Hall.

Pope to visit Poland in June, PAP says

United Press International
WARSAW, Poland — The military regime and the Catholic church say Pope John Paul II will visit his homeland in June 1983 and both called for peace and "social order" two days before protests by supporters of Solidarity.

Archbishop Jozef Glemp and military chief Gen. Wojciech Jaruzelski met and "reviewed the current situation in Poland and voiced their joint concern for the preservation and strengthening of peace, social order and honest work," the official PAP news agency said.

"They also adopted guidelines concerning the preparations for the second visit to Poland by Pope John Paul next year."

The news agency said the pope would be invited to begin his visit on June 18.

The pope, the former cardinal of Krakow, last visited Poland in June 1979, shortly after becoming pope in 1978.

Police and army patrols were visible on the streets, where rallies are expected to take place Wednesday after an eight-hour nationwide strike to protest the outlawing of Solidarity.

Communist party and government newspapers warned against the protest, which would mark the second anniversary of Solidarity's legal registration as the Soviet Bloc's first free trade union.

The government paper Zycie Warszawy said the strike could step

up tension, "make the stand of the authorities inflexible and therefore prolong martial law, which we are all fed up with."

Another government paper, Rzeczpospolita, calculated a four-hour strike alone would bring as much as \$102 million in economic losses.

"The Communist Party Politburo warned citizens Saturday any protests would be a threat to the nation, and said the government would take any action it deemed necessary to keep the peace.

"The enemies cannot expect anything from us but determination in operation," said the Communist Party newspaper Trybuna Ludu.

Sunday night, citizens grilled the

government's chief Solidarity negotiator and attacked martial law policy in a remarkably frank television program apparently aired to defuse public anger.

The broadcast consisted of excerpts from Deputy Prime Minister Mieczyslaw Rakowski's seven-hour meeting with about 100 citizens who were shown sharply questioning and attacking martial law policy.

"Many people are waiting for (Lech) Walesa," one elderly woman told Rakowski, referring to the banned Solidarity union's interned leader.

She described the outlawing of the union as a "humiliating" move that "did not meet the approval of the will of the people."

The group meeting with Rakows-

ki, the government's chief negotiator with Solidarity last year, consisted of people who had written letters critical or favorable to him over the past months.

More than half the participants in the program appeared opposed to official policy.

A man in his 30s attacked the liquidation of the union and the new grass roots political organizations that officials have set up to take its place.

"Liquidation of the union was a certain political error," he said. "The authorities deprived themselves of a partner."

A number of speakers defended martial law and one woman attacked Walesa and Solidarity as having become "symbols of martyrdom."

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forecast

Today's Forecast: High in the upper 70s. Low in the upper 50s. Southeasterly winds 10-15 mph.