

State and Local

Hance outlines approach to economy, taxation, crime

By JENS B. KOEPKE
Staff Writer

Overwhelming taxation, government overspending, economic stagnation and crime are the "clouds on the horizon" in the state's future, Republican gubernatorial candidate Kent Hance said Wednesday night.

Appearing in the Gubernatorial Series sponsored by the Memorial Student Center Political Forum committee, Hance outlined how he would approach the four major problems facing the state.

State government spending has grown 246 percent since 1974, he said. To end this spending trend, Hance said he would use the governor's veto power more extensively to thwart spending increases. Over the last 20 years, governors have not used their veto power effectively, he added.

In addition, Hance said that the Governor's Budget Office should

take a more affirmative role in proposing a state budget and planning the state's financial development.

Hance said that his record on taxation speaks for itself: "Kent Hance passed the largest tax cut in the history of the country; Mark White passed the largest tax increase in the history of the state after promising not to raise taxes."

Prison reform is the key to combating crime, he said. Building more prisons and returning to the prison trustee system are better alternatives to prison reform than Gov. White's early parole program, Hance said.

In the trustee system, an inmate is given responsibility for 20 other inmates and rewarded with good behavior if he keeps them in order, Hance said. This incentive causes the trustees to keep the prison disciplined. The state moved away from this system because the courts said that the prisons could not give one inmate power over another.

Gangs have moved into the power vacuum left by the exit of the trustee system, Hance said. If the proper checks and balances on trustee violence are established, he said, the courts may allow the state to return to this system. Fewer guards would be needed with the return of a trustee system, Hance added.

New prison construction could be funded with the help of prison land sales and of the savings realized with the return to the trustee system, he said. When the trustees were used in the late '70s, it cost the state \$7 a day for each prisoner compared to almost \$21 a day without the trustees, Hance said.

To alleviate economic stagnation, Hance proposed to establish economic development centers in Europe and the Far East. The centers would facilitate direct trade relations with the state and will be used to market investment opportunities in Texas to overseas companies.

Japanese sword exhibit in MSC depicts the spirit of the Samurai

By LEN BRILEY
Reporter

Japan has lent to us a romantic image of its Samurai warriors — the sword-carrying feudal knights who cultivated martial virtues — who were indifferent to pain or death and at one time had the right to cut down any commoner who offended them.

With the "Way of the Warrior," a collection of Japanese swords and woodblock prints which opened Wednesday night at the MSC Gallery, Texas A&M students can now catch the spirit of the Samurai warrior. The exhibit will run through November 15.

"Outside those in the Boston Museum of Art or in Tokyo, this is considered the best collection of Japanese swords in the world," L.B. Caldwell, who has loaned the collec-



Photo by GREG BAILEY
14th century Japanese painting are on display in the Memorial Student Center Gallery.

tion to A&M, said in an opening address.

"It represents 25 to 30 years of hard work," he said. Almost all of Caldwell's collection

of swords and about half of his prints are on display, making it the largest gathering of his collection at one show to date. The Kimball Art
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