

Texas A&M The Battalion

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Photo by John Makely

Hold the Line

Dale Roberts, left, Christie Cain and Don Avant participate in a Civil Engineering 201 exercise in

plane surveying between the O&M and Langford Architecture buildings Thursday afternoon.

Use of military in drug fight required by House proposal

WASHINGTON (AP) — The House gave final approval Thursday to a bill providing new weapons for the war on drugs, including expanded use of the military and retention of the federal death penalty for some drug dealers.

The vote of 392-16 sent the bill to the Senate. The legislation also would change the "exclusionary rule," to allow illegally obtained evidence to be used in court.

Because of such measures, what began as a bipartisan bill uniting Democrats and Republicans, liberals and conservatives, has now become bitterly contested. However, it still is expected to pass.

After the "exclusionary rule" passed, House Judiciary Committee chairman Peter W. Rodino Jr. angrily commented that a bill designed to attack illegal drugs is now an "attack . . . on the Constitution of the United States."

The bill would escalate the war on drugs by pouring billions of dollars on enforcement, education, rehabilitation, crop eradication and withholding of aid from recalcitrant producer countries.

The significant changes were added when the House:

- Voted 296-112 to permit imposition of the federal death penalty for people involved in continuing criminal enterprise, who intentionally cause the death of another person. The change was sponsored by Rep. George W. Gekas, R-Pa.

- Decided, 237-137 to force the president to send military forces to the S. borders to stop drug smuggling, and give them power to make arrests in instances where traffickers are under pursuit by authorities.

- Voted 242-171 for an amendment, sponsored by Rep. Dan Lungren, R-Calif., and Robinson, of Arkansas, proposed to change.

- By a 259-153 tally, approved language that would permit use of properly obtained evidence seized in warrantless searches, provided officers acted in good faith. Sponsored by Rep. Dan Lungren, R-Calif., the change is not limited to drug cases.

- Voted 242-171 for an amendment that would give state and local law enforcement agencies a bonanza of federal grants to fight illegal

drugs. The original bill would have allocated \$300 million for the grants in fiscal years 1987 and 1988, but the change, sponsored by Rep. Charles Rangel, D-N.Y., would raise the figure to \$1.3 billion. The state-local matching share would be reduced from 50 percent to 10 percent.

Robert Sims, the Pentagon's chief spokesman, said the Defense De-

partment was committed to assisting in the fight against drugs but could not support proposals to establish "a significant military role in police activities such as interdiction, arrests and search-and-seizure."

Rep. Trent Lott, R-Miss., said the plan was constitutional, adding, "If this is not defending the shores, than I don't know what is."

Financial aid rewrite may affect students

By Charisse Crunk
Reporter

Legislators are beginning to rewrite the Higher Education Act of 1965, which determines what financial aid is available to the nation's students.

The outcome could have mixed results for the federally-funded Guaranteed Student Loan and Pell Grant programs, according to a report by the United States Student Association.

The rewriting, called the reauthorization process, determines what programs will exist and receive funding for the next five years, and could involve major changes in the GSL, Pell Grant and other federally-funded programs. The current law expires Oct. 1, forcing lawmakers to pass into law the various appropriation bills for fiscal 1987 and the 1987-88 academic year, the Aug. 21 student report said.

Both the House and Senate tentatively have agreed to raise CSL loan limits for first- and second-year un-

dergraduates to \$2,625 a year, an increase of \$125 a year. Third- and fourth-year undergraduates would be eligible to receive up to \$4,000, an increase of \$1,500 a year. Currently, undergraduate students can receive \$2,500 a year. Specific amounts are not designated for underclassmen or upperclassmen under the present provisions, the report said.

Alvin Bormann, assistant director of student aid at Texas A&M, said the major change in the GSL program is the proposed increase in the interest rate. The House bill includes an increase from 8 percent to 10 percent during the fifth year of repayment. The Senate bill calls for a 10 percent interest rate immediately upon repayment.

The higher interest rate could increase significantly the total amount owed by students, Bormann said.

Kathy Ozer, USSA's legislative director, said her group is concerned that the increases in CSL loan limits and interest rates could make repayment difficult for students later.

"We're concerned about what it does to people's level of being in debt," she said.

Ozer said the student organization also is concerned that grant programs will suffer with the increased allocations to the loan programs. "Our organization is concerned with what (changes in) GSL does to other federally-funded programs," she said.

Also proposed is that the deferment that can be obtained during repayment of the GSL be changed from one to three years.

According to the USSA report, this proposal would save the government an estimated \$150 million since the provision would keep unemployed GSL recipients from defaulting on the loan. Currently, in the case of default on a GSL, the federal government picks up the tab and reimburses the lender institution the owed amount, the report said.

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No comment from Vandiver on yearbook

By Rodney Rather
Staff Writer

Texas A&M President Frank E. Vandiver will have no comment on the resignation of seven of the 10 members of the video yearbook staff until he gathers more information, Art Blair, assistant to the president, said Thursday.

Vandiver received a letter of resignation from the staff members Friday. Blair said the president wants to resolve the problem if possible, but the earliest he'll be able to discuss possible solutions is Monday afternoon.

The resignation letter said the staff members resigned because of ongoing conflicts between the staff and Educational Broadcasting Services, a broadcast production arm of Texas A&M.

Vandiver authorized Student Publications to produce a video yearbook in March, but it was discovered shortly afterwards that he already had authorized EBS — in June 1985 — to produce a video yearbook.

Instead of terminating one of the projects, Vandiver urged Student Publications and EBS to work out an arrangement whereby Student Pub-

lications would administer the project but rent EBS equipment.

After negotiations, the mini-camera rental rate was set at \$30 per hour. Other rates were set for equipment that would be needed later. In addition, Student Publications was required to pay for an EBS student technician to accompany the staff on local shoots.

Donald C. Johnson, Student Publications coordinator, indicated that under the EBS arrangement, the operational break-even point was probably four or five years away, as opposed to the two-year operational break-even point given in projections to the Student Publications Board when it approved the project last spring.

Ricky Telg, former Video Aggie-land producer, said EBS supplied the video yearbook with poor equipment, which caused the loss of footage from Fish Camp and All-University Night.

However, Dr. Mel Chastain, EBS director, said he was unsure whether the equipment didn't work or if the students weren't familiar with it.

Mubarak, Peres meet at summit

ALEXANDRIA, Egypt (AP) — President Hosni Mubarak and Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres talked privately for three hours Thursday, and Mubarak said Israel's stand on the Palestinian issue is "improving a lot."

"We have concentrated heavily on the Palestinian issue, which is vital and important for the peace process," Mubarak said at a news conference after meeting with Peres in the first Israeli-Egyptian summit in five years.

At a 90-minute working lunch also attended by other officials from both countries, Peres said Palestinians "have a right to participate in the determination of their own future" but he mentioned no changes in Israel's position on the Palestine Liberation Organization.

Peres has insisted that Israel will not negotiate with the PLO, which it considers a terrorist organization. Before his departure from Israel, Peres promised his Cabinet he would make no concessions regarding the Palestinians.

Alexandria was the site of the last Israeli-Egyptian summit, in August 1981 between Egypt's Anwar Sadat and Israel's Menachem Begin.

Banking legislation to affect big cities

B-CS won't be directly hit by bill

By Mona Palmer
Senior Staff Writer

The Interstate Banking Bill passed by the Texas Legislature last month will not directly affect the Bryan-College Station economy, said Bookman Peters, president of the Texas Banking Association.

Peters, who is also chief executive officer of First City National Bank in Bryan, said interstate banking will mainly affect larger cities that have big businesses. Banks in Houston, Dallas, San Antonio and Austin need more capital to handle the loan requirements of big business, he explained.

The bill, sponsored by Rep. Bruce Gibson, D-Godley, and Sen. O.H. (Ike) Harris, R-Dallas, will allow Texas banks to buy or be sold out of state.

Gibson said the bill, effective Jan. 1, is designed to increase the influx of capital into Texas banks and turn weak lenders into strong lenders. If the banks are stronger and more aggressive, then they can provide the loans to revive Texas businesses, he said.

Peters said, "You don't have any (businesses) that big in Bryan-College Station so there's no shortage of loan funds here. . . . However, if you have stronger economic conditions in those major cities, the (indirect) effect on

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Peters added that it's difficult to know what the local bank officials are thinking or what they're discussing behind closed doors. If any banks are contemplating merging with an out-of-state bank, it's not something they would announce right now, he said.

"But I don't think there's a flood with a bunch of banks . . . waiting to jump in just as soon as the law becomes effective," he said.

Gibson said Texas won't feel the benefits of the bill until the end of 1987 — after the bill has been in effect and mergers are completed.

"I think there's no question that the country is moving to nationwide banking," he said. "For Texas it's not a question of whether or not we have interstate banking, but when."

He said the best time is now so Texas can position itself to be the regional financial center for the entire Southwest.

"By going to nationwide banking . . . we leapfrog all of our sister states and position ourselves to go into these markets and have financial centers in Dallas-Fort Worth, Houston, and San Antonio or Austin rather than in Phoenix, Tulsa, or New Orleans," he said. "Texas will emerge not just as a regional financial center but as an international center because of our access to Mexico."

The Texas bill is parallel to but not on the same track as the Regulator's Bill currently in Congress.

Kim Wallace, education coordinator at the Texas Office on State Federal Relations, said the U.S. bill seeks to empower the Federal Reserve Board and the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. to take over failed as well as failing banks.

Peters said the federal bill deals with emergency situations. But under the Texas bill, banks can merge whether they're in trouble or not, he said.

Gibson added that the Texas Legislature acted on its own bill

because it wasn't sure what Congress was going to do, and because "the (bill) in Congress just doesn't provide all the relief Texas needs," he said.

Gibson worked on the Texas bill for a year and a half, with the support of the Texas Association of Bank Holding Cos., the TBA, and Independent Bankers of Texas.

He explained the three major checks and balances in the bill.

The first important safeguard, he said, is required local control for the banks.

In each county that a bank does business in, bankers must retain a locally managed bank with a local president, separate accounting reserves and a local board of directors to set lending policies. Also, the majority of the board must be Texans who are not officers in the company.

As another safeguard, the Legislature gave the state banking commissioner authority to administer the Community Reinvestment Act, a federal law.

The law says the banks must serve the community they are in and can't take deposits out of a county or refuse to lend money in that county.

Under this constraint a person can take his complaints about a bank to a state regulator rather than going to the federal government.

Mexico may hold armed U.S. officers

LAREDO (AP) — Just weeks after Mexican authorities pledged to cooperate in a U.S. effort to curtail drug smuggling, American law enforcement officers have been told that armed U.S. officers will be detained in Mexico, according to published reports.

Although federal officials are questioning the bulletin, some South Texas law enforcement agencies have ordered their officers to stay out of Mexico.

The order was distributed to American law enforcement agencies along the U.S.-Mexico border, the Fort Worth Star-Telegram reported Wednesday.

Customs sources in Dallas and El Paso verified the existence of the bulletin, but said they are not yet sure whether the information is accurate, the Star-Telegram said.

The Star-Telegram said the bulletin was issued Tuesday by customs officials in Arizona and was based on information from informants in Mexico.

"We have heard the rumor over the past couple of days," Jim Mahan, a public affairs officer with the U.S. Customs in Washington, said Wednesday. "We have noticed no change in the Mexican policy and there's certainly no change in ours."

But Webb County Sheriff Mario L. Santos said he advised his deputies not to go into Mexico.