

Texas A&M The Battalion

Vol. 82 No. 51 USPS 045360 8 pages

College Station, Texas

Monday, November 10, 1986

Panel calls for effort to double graduates

WASHINGTON (AP) — A national commission headed by former Education Secretary Terrel H. Bell called Sunday for a massive effort to nearly double the number of college-educated adults by the turn of the century.

And the commission took a sharp slap at members of the Reagan administration and other politicians for "unthinkingly abetting an act of national suicide" by trying to cut aid to college students.

Bell's 22-member panel prepared the report for the American Association of State Colleges and Universities, which represents 372 four-year campuses that enroll 2.5 million students and award a third of all bachelor's degrees.

Bell was to address the association Monday at its annual meeting in Phoenix.

The report urged states to keep college tuitions as low as possible, in part to help recruit more minority students and stop the growth of "an American underclass."

"America has far too many people whose abilities are never awakened," said the 22-member National Commission on the Role and Future of State Colleges and Universities in its 16-page report, "To Secure the Blessings of Liberty."

The commission included Arkansas Gov. Bill Clinton and former Mississippi Gov. William Winter, as well as a half-dozen college presidents, the heads of both national teacher unions and the chancellor of New York City's schools.

The pungent language echoed "A Nation At Risk," the 1983 critique of U.S. schools by the National Commission on Excellence in Education, which Bell appointed. That report warned of a "rising tide of mediocrity" in the schools and likened their condition to "a unilateral act of disarmament." It spurred many states to raise graduation standards and boost school budgets.

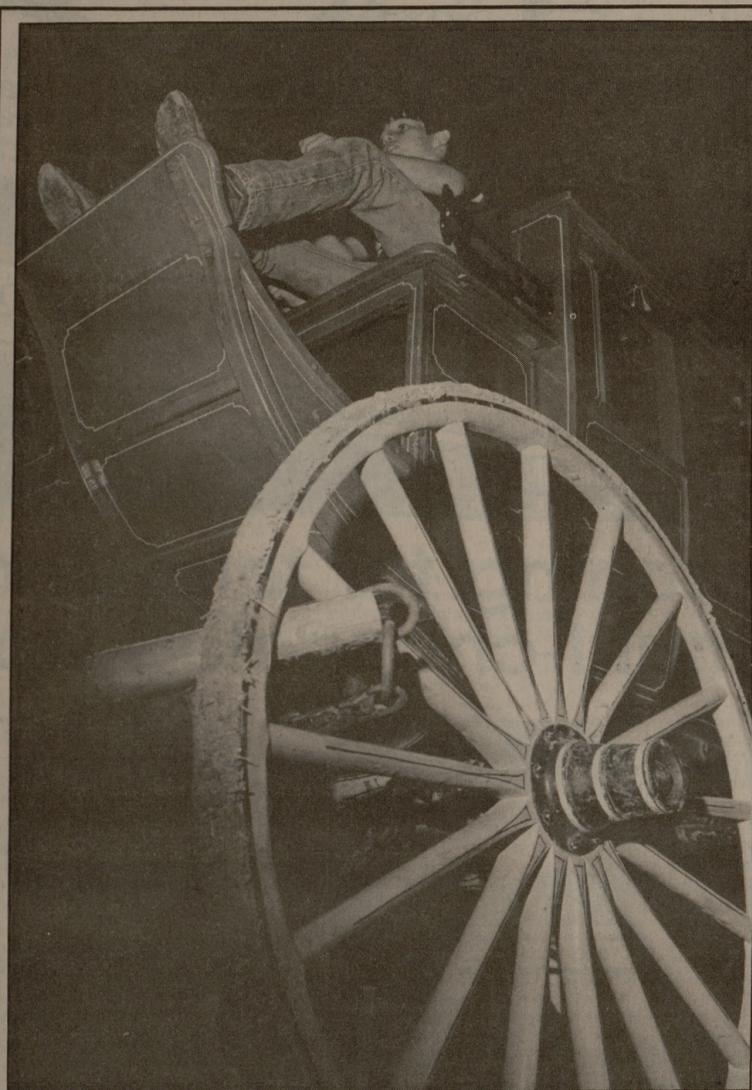
Bell's new report said, "With a high school dropout rate ranging from 25 to 50 percent and with almost 10 percent of our total population functionally illiterate, who can deny that we have a massive population of undereducated people?"

"Public officials who propose budget reductions in education at a time when the republic is handicapped by the burden of an undereducated populace are unthinkingly abetting an act of national suicide," the Bell commission said.

"Tragically for the American people, the federal student financial aid program today is on the chopping block in Washington," said the report, adding that the real value of federal aid has fallen 25 percent since President Reagan took office in 1981.

Bell's slap at politicians over student aid drew a sharp rejoinder from his successor, Secretary of Education William J. Bennett.

"This is taxpayer money, and we have a right to ask about how it's being spent," Bennett replied.



Wagon, Ho

Boedy Flack, 12, of Bryan, sits atop the driver's seat of a stagecoach in the Brazos County Pavilion. The wagon is part of the Lone Star Wagon Train, which left for Navasota today at 8 a.m.

Photo by John Makely

Reagan accused of covert dealing

Congressmen say they were left 'in dark' on Iran

WASHINGTON (AP) — Congressional leaders accused the Reagan administration Sunday of keeping them in the dark about reported White House deals to send arms to Iran, and some suggested its power to conduct such operations should be curbed.

The criticism came amid speculation that Secretary of State George Shultz, who also apparently knew little about the contacts that reportedly produced arms deliveries in return for hostage releases, could resign over the matter.

Shultz called an unusual meeting of State Department experts Sunday at his suburban Washington home, but officials said the session on Syrian-sponsored terrorism was unrelated to questions about Iran.

A *New York Times* report quoting Shultz aides raising the possibility of a Shultz resignation "is pure speculation, as the story itself says," spokeswoman Sondra McCarty said. "I am not going to have further comment."

Sen. Richard Lugar, R-Ind., chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, said he had spoken to Shultz on Saturday.

"In my judgment, he will not resign," Lugar told interviewers on ABC's "This Week with David Brinkley."

News reports last week said former National Security Adviser Robert McFarlane traveled to Tehran earlier this year and arranged to ship arms to Iran in exchange for the release of U.S. hostages kidnapped in Beirut.

An embargo on arms shipments to Iran, which is at war with Iraq, has been in effect since 1979. The official U.S. position on the war is neutrality.

If the press reports are true, said Senate Democratic Leader Robert Byrd, the arms trade was a blunder that guarantees that hostage-taking will continue, a blunder that could tip the balance of power in the Middle East.

Senate Republican leader Robert Dole, R-Kan., told a conference in Atlanta Sunday that it would be a terrible mistake to cut an arms deal with Iran.

"We all want the hostages home," he said, "but I don't think we want to deal with (Ayatollah Ruhollah) Khomeini in an effort to do that."

But other Republicans defended the reported administration activities, saying it is desirable to improve relations with Iran and attempt to moderate its extremism.

Sen. Orrin Hatch, R-Utah, a member of the Senate Intelligence Committee, appearing on CBS' "Face the Nation," said, "The wider goal here is to try to bring about a more moderate

group of leadership in Iran. . . . We've made some strides in that regard."

Former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger, appearing with Lugar, said improving relations with Iran in general is desirable. But he also said that negotiations make it more likely that other hostages will be taken.

Lugar said he had discussed the administration's activities at length with National Security Adviser John Poindexter, but in his television appearance he did not disclose details.

But Byrd, who is expected to be Senate majority leader next year, told interviewers on NBC's "Meet the Press" that he had repeatedly requested a briefing without success. And other Democrats, including Sen. Sam Nunn, Sen. Patrick Leahy and Rep. Richard Gephardt, said they still had not received any information.

On "Face the Nation," Leahy said, "I would appear the White House is trying to go a back door way to get away from any congressional oversight."

Nunn, a military expert who will head the Armed Services Committee next year, agreed.

"In an effort to cut Congress out, they have also cut out the CIA, the Joint Chiefs (of Staff), the State Department, the Defense Department," he said. "And if so, who is making the decisions?"

On the Brinkley program, Nunn said, "Congress is going to be asking a lot of questions. The newspaper reports, and they have not been denied, indicate the Reagan administration is not standing tall on this one."

Veterans Day remembered

Tomorrow's *Battalion* features a special section on the Vietnam War to commemorate Veterans Day. This section includes articles about:

- Plans for a Vietnam memorial in Dallas
- Four former students who were once prisoners of war in the "Hanoi Hilton."
- A veteran who recalls life in Vietnam for the officers.

And on page 1, three enlisted men — Vietnam veterans — and researchers look at the war and its aftereffects.

Personals 'ad' up to romance for A&M couple

By Connie Kenjura
Reporter

Not a glamour girl? That's fine. Are you warm, sincere, between the ages of 19 and 23, looking for a caring, trustworthy man? A senior, 21, 6-foot-2, 170 pounds, enjoys dancing, travel, talking, intimacy. Will answer all; photo appreciated.

As Noel was reading through the personal ads for her daily laugh, she ran across this sincere ad placed by Rob, a computer science major at Texas A&M. She says his ad sounded interesting and straightforward, so she decided to write a response.

"I figured I had nothing to lose, and it meant I'd get some mail, so I took a chance," says Noel, an English major. "But as a safeguard, I didn't give my phone number or last name in case he wasn't who he claimed to be."

This cautious approach to answering a personal ad comes from Noel's insecure feelings about the whole issue.

She wouldn't openly admit to others that she had answered a personal ad, she says. Society looks down on people who place and answer personal ads, and people assume only desperate individuals resort to the personals, she says.

"You never hear that personal ads are the accepted place to meet people," Noel says. "You meet people at clubs, in class, or at church — not in personal ads."

Noel says she doesn't think she maintains a double standard by answering a personal ad and being afraid to admit it. She says she still hasn't yet resolved if she's for or against personals.

Rob, who had gone to the personals because he had tried all other

"I figured I had nothing to lose, and it meant I'd get some mail, so I took a chance."

— Noel, a Texas A&M English major.

avenues, received six replies during the four weeks his ad ran in the *Quicksilver*. He says he answered all of them, but that Noel's was the best. She sounded like his type, he says.

Noel's letter was honest and open, Rob says. He liked the fact that she had not mentioned her last name or phone number in her response. This showed caution and character, he says.

Rob answered Noel's letter, giving

his phone number and more details about himself. Noel called him, they talked for over an hour, then set up a meeting place and time.

Their first face-to-face encounter was like a blind date they had arranged themselves, Noel says. She says she was nervous about meeting him. To give herself a bit of reassurance, she approached their meeting place from a direction that would give her the opportunity to see him first.

"I wanted to make sure that he looked normal," Noel says with a laugh. "I wouldn't have left if he wasn't what I had expected. I just wanted to have a mental advantage over the situation."

Rob canceled his ad after their first meeting, because he had found what he was looking for, he says.

Both Noel and Rob says they thought personal ads eliminate a lot

of wrong first impressions. By first meeting through letters, each person can form a personal view about the other without basing it solely on outward appearances, they say.

Rob says no risk exists with personal ads. The initial contact is by phone, so respondents can be screened, he says.

Noel agrees with Rob. She says she doesn't think meeting someone through a personal ad is riskier than meeting at a bar or nightclub.

Although Noel and Rob are happy with their experience, they still say they think personal ads are thought of in a negative way by their peers. Rob explained:

"Personal ads are usually people's last resort. That's one reason many people have a negative view about personals."

"This was a one-time deal for me, and I would never do it again."

Poll: Americans favor smoking restrictions

NEW YORK (AP) — Most Americans do not believe cigarette advertising should be banned, but they favor broad restrictions on smoking, according to poll results issued Sunday by three anti-smoking groups.

In the poll, conducted for the American Cancer Society, the American Heart Association and the American Lung Association, 62 percent of those questioned said cigarette ads should be permitted in magazines and newspapers.

Nine of 10 people questioned support "no smoking" sections in public, 10 out of three said smoking indoors is harmful to non-smokers in the vicinity, and six of 10 said cigarette advertising causes youngsters to start smoking.

"There is a growing public awareness of the harmful effects of cigarette advertising and promotional activities on America's young people," said Kenneth Warner, a spokesman for the American Lung Association.

"It is clear that the idea of restricting cigarette advertising and banning free public samples is becoming more acceptable, even though our

public education efforts in this area have hardly begun," he added.

Scott Stapf, a spokesman for the Tobacco Institute, a Washington-based lobbying group, said in response, "They're obviously in the difficult position of putting the best face on what must be some pretty damaging poll findings."

The poll, sponsored by the groups' "Tobacco Free Young America" coalition, was conducted by telephone by Lieberman Research Inc. between June 26 and July 10. The pollsters questioned 1,025 adults in the 48 contiguous states.

The poll report did not list a margin of possible error. Similar polls have had an error margin of plus or minus 4 or 5 percentage points.

Seven of 10 respondents were non-smokers, a percentage conforming to the national average. The poll found non-smokers far more willing to establish limits on smoking, and smokers far more likely to dispute the harmful effects of cigarette smoke.

Dems could make going difficult

Contra aid faces tough road

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Democrats' Senate victory has undercut President Reagan's congressional support for aiding Nicaraguan Contra rebels, but the party realignment does not necessarily mean future assistance is doomed, according to analysts on both sides of the debate.

The analysts also agree that Reagan's weakened position could make Contra aid one of the most closely fought issues in the 100th Congress and potentially an important battleground in the 1988 presidential race.

Last Tuesday's elections ushered in a 10-vote Democratic majority in the U.S. Senate, but that shift does not translate into as big a change on the Contra aid issue because voting did not follow strict party lines.

This year, Reagan lobbied Congress intensively to win resumption of military aid to the rebels. He prevailed 53-47 in the Republican-controlled Senate and 220-209 in the Democratic-dominated House.

According to tallies by both Republicans and Democrats, the new Senate breakdown on Contra aid is virtually even, assuming senators continue to vote as they did earlier or follow positions they took during their campaigns.

Despite last week's victory, Senate Demo-

cratic Leader Robert C. Byrd of West Virginia, in line to be the new majority leader, did not predict an end to Contra aid, but rather said Democrats will seek to redirect the administration's policies toward a greater emphasis on a diplomatic solution to the Nicaraguan conflict.

Peter T. Flaherty, chairman of Citizens for Reagan, a leading lobbying group for Contra aid, acknowledged slippage of the president's position but argued the shift in Senate control might actually put the Democrats "at a bit of a strategic disadvantage."

"If (the Democrats) cut the aid before the Contras are given a chance, they'll be blamed for losing Nicaragua," Flaherty said. "This could be the biggest issue heading into the '88 elections."

The first major battle over Contra aid in the new Congress is likely to come in the spring or summer when the \$100-million aid runs out. To win additional funding, Reagan must win majorities in both chambers and possibly overcome a filibuster in the Senate.

But the president faces new obstacles.

Loss of the Senate strips the Republicans of control of the legislative agenda, making defeat of a filibuster potentially more difficult.

The president will face a Senate Foreign Relations Committee dominated by Democrats opposed to his Nicaragua policy, including the new chairman, Sen. Claiborne Pell, D-R.I., who has called the Contras "our terrorists."

Other opponents, such as Sen. John F. Kerry, D-Mass., expect the panel to be more interested in examining allegations of wrongdoing by the Contras and their backers, including reported drug trafficking, human rights abuses and gun-running.

Investigations could also focus on alleged White House efforts to circumvent a two-year congressional ban on U.S. military aid to the Contras through the creation of a network of former U.S. intelligence operatives. According to administration sources and rebel backers, the network — which included an arms-laden C-123K cargo plane shot down over Nicaragua on Oct. 5 — was secretly managed by the White House.

On the other hand, the new chairman of the Senate Intelligence Committee, which oversees the Nicaraguan operation, will be Sen. David L. Boren, D-Okla., a supporter of Contra aid, instead of Sen. David Durenberger, R-Minn., an opponent.