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Hightower: Democrats offer best farm policy

AUSTIN (AP) — Democratic congressmen have offered the only realistic alternative to disastrous farm policies of the Reagan administration, Agriculture Commissioner Jim Hightower said Monday.

"It no longer is alarmist to say that America's system of independent, competitive family farms is on the brink of destruction," Hightower said. "It is now a fact."

Since President Reagan took office, Hightower said, the U.S. farm program has "deliberately busted U.S. farm prices" and "put an intolerable debt load on the backs of our nation's independent producers."

Of the approximately 640,000 full-time commercial farmers still in business nationwide, at least 280,000 are in serious financial trouble, and 120,000 of those could be out of business in two years, he said.

"That system has one foot in the grave and one foot on a banana peel," Hightower said in a speech prepared for delivery to the Texas Corn Growers Association.

Hightower has worked with Democratic lawmakers in Washington on farm policy and was a major author of the farm plank in the party's 1984 presidential platform.

He said that since 1981, more than 500,000 farmers have been forced out of business, but the process wasn't a natural shakeout of bad businessmen.

"Overwhelmingly, these were the fully modernized, full-time commercial operators who have achieved economies of scale and efficiencies necessary to make it," Hightower said.

In Advance

SCONA plans 4-day program on U.N.

By Carolyn Garcia
Staff Writer

"The United Nations: Purpose vs. Politics" will be the topic for discussion as the 32nd Memorial Student Center Conference on National Affairs gets under way Wednesday in Rudder Theater.

Almost 200 university student delegates from throughout the world are expected to attend the four-day international conference.

Sandra Goerking, chairman of SCONA, said the United Nations was chosen as this year's topic to educate the participants and committee members.

"We thought that the U.N. hadn't been examined in the last couple of years, and it is something that affects everyone," Goerking said.

A variety of speakers will address and debate the purpose, actions, inactions and politics of the United Nations.

Ambassador Jaime DePinies, under secretary general of the United Nations, will deliver the keynote address Wednesday at 7 p.m. to begin the conference.

Elliot Richardson, chairman of the U.N. association — United States, will debate with Roger Brooks, director of policy planning of the state department. The topic will be "The Role of the United States Involvements with the United Nations." Moderator for the 9 a.m. Thursday debate will be Betty Unterberger, A&M professor of history.

And U.N. legal officer, Mpazi Sinjela, will address the topic "International Security and World Peace," Thursday at 1:30 p.m. The conference continues on Friday at 9 a.m. with Abram

Chayes, a Harvard law professor and Tex Borek of the state department tackling the topic "International Court of Justice: The Effect of the U.S. vs. Nicaragua Decision." Lt. Col. David Grates will moderate.

John Fobes, president of the Economic Development Foundation, will talk about economic and social development on Friday at 3:30 p.m.

The final speaker will be La Gioffi. Gioffi, the ABC news correspondent at the United Nations, will talk about the outlook for its future Saturday at 10 a.m.

All speeches will be delivered in Rudder Theater and are open to the public.

Speakers such as these have been coming to A&M since 1955 to address issues of international concern.

Each year MSC SCONA brings together students, faculty members, government officials and public figures to discuss such topics.

The student delegates represent more than 70 high schools, colleges and universities throughout the world.

During this year's SCONA, students will be divided into "round table" groups to discuss and exchange ideas and views of the United Nations.

The round-table discussions will be attended by nationally and internationally known speakers who will address a different aspect of the topic.

MSC SCONA is a self-supporting organization. The committee receives no funding from A&M. Its budget — almost \$80,000 — is raised through support from farm students, businessmen, corporations and industrial leaders.

Seat belt use drops in Texas during 1986

AUSTIN (AP) — Texas cities have the highest rates of seat belt use in the nation, but the overall rate in Texas dropped over the past year, according to the state highway department.

A January survey shows an overall usage rate in the state of 59.2 percent, which is a 6.9 percent reduction from the previous year.

The study was done by the Texas Transportation Institute at Texas A&M University.

"We don't feel there is cause for alarm yet," said Bob Hodge, traffic safety administrator for the department. "Preliminary figures for 1986 show that deaths on Texas roads are down, and that we are at an 11-year low."

Capt. Frankie Waller of the Department of Public Safety said about 7,000 tickets are being issued each month for non-belted drivers and front seat passengers.

In January, Corpus Christi showed the highest seat belt usage among Texas cities, while Brownsville had the lowest.

Senate to hear report on service fees

By Christi Daugherty
Staff Writer

The finance committee will present its budget findings and could propose an increase in student service fees at the Student Senate meeting Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. in 204 Harrington.

There have been some indications that the Senate will try to raise the fees if it cannot find a way to lower the fee requests of various departments.

Senate Speaker Miles Bradshaw said A&M, which has a \$61 fee per student, has lower fees than many Texas universities, as the legal limit is \$90.

The Senate also will discuss a bill that could decrease the size of the Senate by one-half — from 80 to about 40 legislators.

The object of the Senate Reform Bill is to tackle the atten-

dance problems that have been dogging the Senate for some time. Approximately 60 members show up at most meetings. At the last meeting of the fall semester, less than the necessary two-thirds of the members appeared, forcing the group without a quorum.

A smaller Senate might lead to more competition for a place on government, and could make senators more dedicated to their roles, Bradshaw said.

Also, the new executive administrative vice president will be sworn in, he said. At the meeting, the chairman of the judicial Board chose not to step them in after a disagreement with Student Body President Mike Sims about the legality of the appointments.

The Senate also will consider a resolution on minority recruitment at A&M.



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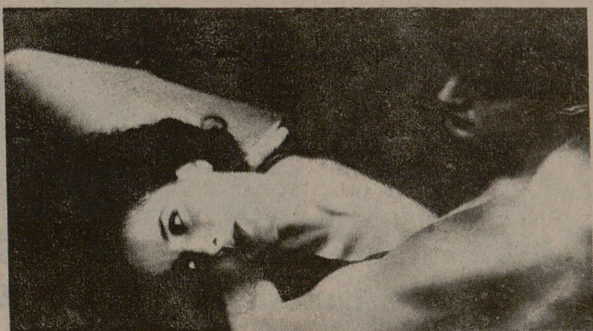
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Tuesday, Feb. 10 7:00pm 701 Rudder
Wednesday, Feb. 11 7:00pm 601 Rudder

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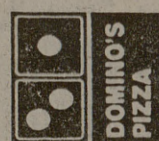
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