

Tuesday, September 19, 1989

Hobby slams immigration law

Lt. governor: policy makes criminals of innocents

AUSTIN (AP) — Lt. Gov. Bill Hobby told a federal immigration commission Monday that a law restricting immigrants from Mexico makes criminals of people who are simply searching for a better way of life.

"If you lived in a very poor country . . . and could go somewhere where you could make 10 times the wage, send money home to your family, and make a better living for them and for yourself, would you not do the same?" Hobby asked the Commission for the Study of International Migration and Cooperative Economic Development.

The federal commission will make recommendations to Congress and the president for battling illegal immigration by improving the economy of countries such as Mexico.

The panel was created by the Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986, a law Hobby called "very flawed."

"The act that created this commission, if enforced, would make a federal criminal out of most housewives in South Texas, would make felons of most employers in South Texas, and I don't think that's a good result," he said.

The economies of the United States and Mexico, particularly Texas and northern Mexico, "are all one and always will be, whatever pieces of paper are adopted," Hobby said.

"I'm very glad that that's true, and really we should recognize that truth and rejoice in it and benefit from it," he said.

U.S. Rep. John Bryant, a commission member, acknowledged that the U.S. and Mexican economies are intertwined, but he defended the reform act.

"Those of us who voted for it . . . were responding to the fact that we didn't feel that continuing to allow unlimited illegal immigration from

any part of the world would be tolerated by the public," Bryant said.

However, he said, the commission is the "flip side" to the immigration barriers set up in the act.

"I believe the people who immigrate here . . . would prefer to be in their own culture, would prefer to remain where they are, if they could make a living," Bryant said.

Several state officials offered economic solutions to the commission.

State Comptroller Bob Bullock, saying the Texas border region is growing at twice the rate of the Dallas-Fort Worth area, proposed a border master plan to be implemented by the United States and Mexico.

FACT members personalize A&M for new students

By Mia B. Moody

Of The Battalion Staff

Texas A&M freshmen or transfer students whose phones are ringing during the next three weeks had better answer — it may be President William Mobley or Coach R. C. Slocum on the line.

Slocum and Mobley are part of the First Time Aggie Contact Team, organized by Student Services to help new students adjust to university life.

Jan Winniford, assistant director of student affairs, said this is the second year FACT members have attempted to personalize the University to new students.

"Last year, the team contacted over 1,800 students," Winniford said. "This year we have extended the calling period and have added more callers, so we hope to reach more people," she said.

Callers include faculty, campus celebrities and orientation leaders. Winniford said the calls will take place from 5 to 9 p.m. Monday through Wednesday and from 5 to 7 p.m. Thursday.

Winniford said academics were the main concern of most of the students contacted last year.

"Students asked questions about tutoring, how to change majors and how to improve grades," she said.

"We received positive feedback from students last year," she said.

"They were happy that someone was concerned enough to take time out to call new students."

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Winniford said a call referral faculty list was compiled to help students with problems that the team can't deal with over the phone.

Sigma Chi chapter receives awards at workshop

By Selina Gonzalez

Of The Battalion Staff

The Texas A&M chapter of Sigma Chi fraternity received three honors earlier this month at the International Sigma Chi 42nd annual Leadership Training Workshop held at the University of Wyoming.

The honors include the Peterson Significant Chapter Award, the Legion of Honor Scholarship Award and a public relations citation.

The Peterson Significant Chapter Award is the highest honor an undergraduate Sigma Chi chapter can achieve, Sigma Chi Historian George Guzman said.

"The Peterson is given to the chapters who have shown outstanding ability and leadership in different aspects of fraternity operations, programs and activities," Guzman said.

Areas evaluated by the national council include financial standing, pledge retention, house occupancy and leadership in the community and university.

The Peterson Significant Chapter Award is given to all chapters that show outstanding leadership, he said.

Guzman said each of the fraternity's 210 active chapters nationwide is annually encouraged to apply for the award, which 11 chapters earned this year.

The Texas A&M chapter, founded in 1976, has received the Peterson Significant Chapter Award every year since 1977, Guzman said.

"We have to receive it; if we don't something's wrong," he said.

The A&M chapter works hard every year to earn the Peterson Award, he said.

"We don't take it for granted," Guzman said.

Guzman said the Legion of Honor Award is presented annually to those chapters with outstanding academic standing.

Thirty-seven of the fraternity's campus chapters were honored with the Legion of Honor Award for the 1988-89 academic year.

The fraternity's third honor, a

public relations citation, recognizes "the most significant, extensive and consistent active chapter public relations programs," Guzman said.

He said the Sigma Chi chapter is involved in community service work, such as the Adopt-a-Highway program, the Bryan Boys Club picnic, and a center for underprivileged children.

Homelessness moves man to walk to Washington

AUSTIN (AP) — Eldred "Jake" Reaney started off on a long journey Monday to publicize the plight of the homeless.

He took his first step from the state's capitol and then stopped by a local hamburger joint.

Then it was on to Washington, D.C., by foot, on a trek he wants to complete by mid-December.

Reaney, 40, of Austin, said he hopes to walk about 20 miles per day toward the nation's Capitol.

"I want to arouse public awareness about the homeless," Reaney said as he stood outside the Texas Capitol building at the beginning of his approximately 1,500-mile journey.

"We're the richest country in the world," he

said. "It's unacceptable to let people who are mentally ill sleep under bridges."

Reaney, who is currently unemployed, said he has worked as a television journalist and most recently as a media specialist in the state attorney general's office.

He said he decided to make the trip because he was saddened by the sight of homeless people rummaging through trash containers for food.

"I'm tired of the lip service by politicians, both the Republicans and Democrats," Reaney said. "Someone who is not homeless needs to do something."

"People know this situation (of the home-

less) exists, but it's a problem that seems to get worse and worse," he said, adding, "I don't have the solutions."

Reaney said he will carry a petition on behalf of the homeless and hopes to deliver it to federal officials at the end of his trip.

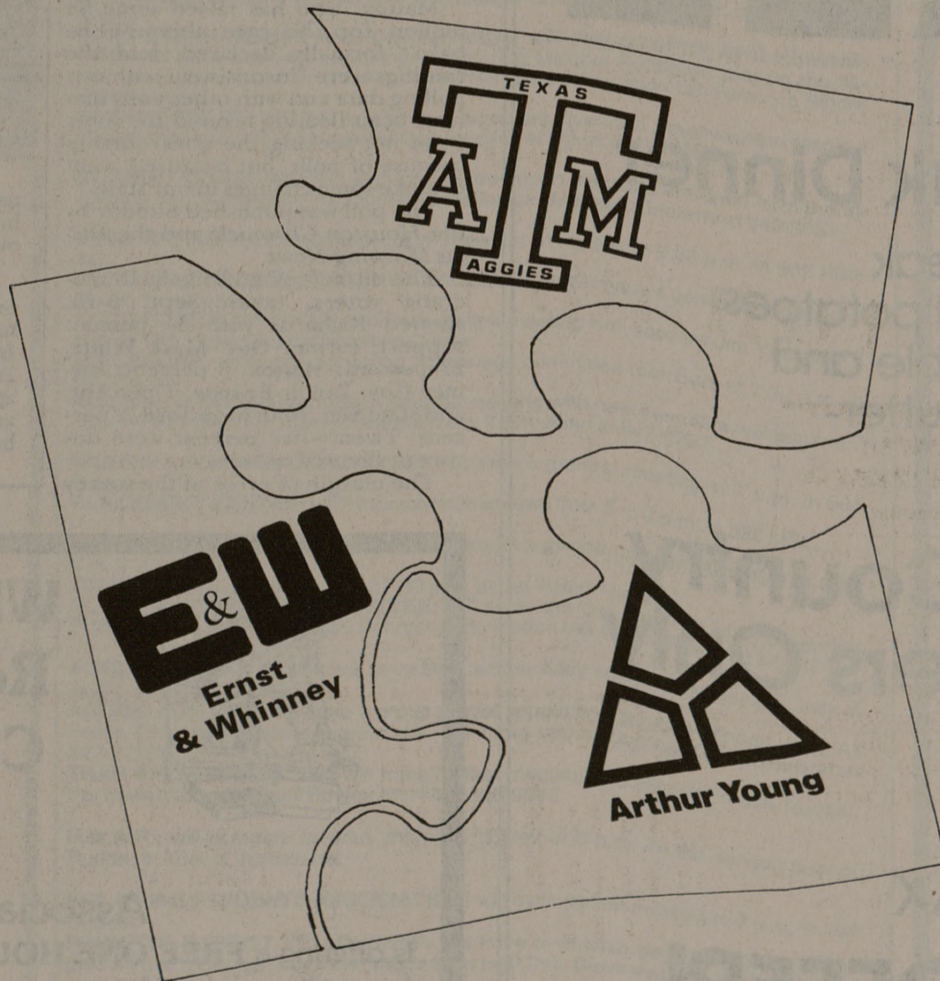
The trip should take him through much of Texas, Arkansas and Tennessee.

He says he believes he can make the trip spending \$5 per day.

But his first stop was a restaurant near the University of Texas campus for a hamburger, he said.

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