



American Engineering Association

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NEWS
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1980's... "The Decade of American Engineers"

MAY 1985

TEXAS FOREIGN STUDENTS

Texas is faced with a budget deficit of over \$1 billion over the next two years due mainly to a decline in the petroleum, chemical and energy related industries.

With the state faced with the alternatives of either raising taxes or cutting services, AEA made several suggestions to Texas Governor Mark White for reducing the deficit. Those proposals included:

- * Raising tuition for foreign students to cover the full cost of their education.
- * Preventing the colleges and universities from recruiting students from overseas.
- * Institute measures which requires the acceptance of Texas residents first, out of state citizens second and foreign students on an as available basis only.
- * Prevent the university system from using foreign student enrollment to justify new or expanded facilities.

In addition to Gov. White, AEA contacted every member of the Texas House of Representatives and the Texas Senate. We received an excellent written response from over 20% of those contacted plus a positive response from Governor White.

Governor Whites' response in part said "In times of fiscal restraint such as we now face, it is critical that we adjust the unnecessary subsidies we now provide to non-Texas students in our tuition structure. These rates, as you suggest, should be implemented for both reasons of fairness and increased revenues."

"Your counsel has been helpful to me as the final budget decisions were formulated over the last few weeks."

It now appears that foreign student tuition will be tripled to cover the cost to the Texas taxpayer and will be maintained at full cost. It is uncertain at this writing whether any of the other proposals will be implemented.

SAM HALL LEAVES WASHINGTON

AEA has lost a friend. Rep. Sam B. Hall, Jr. (1st. Texas) has been appointed to a Federal Judgeship and will be leaving office in the near future. The appointment was made by U.S. Senator Phil Gramm also of Texas.

Representative Hall and his staff have provided many invaluable services to AEA and American engineers everywhere. An amendment to require all foreign students to return to their homelands for two years after graduation was introduced by Rep. Hall on AEA's behalf last year. It was withdrawn at the last minute for an apparent lack of support. He has since indicated that the amendment "had a lot more support than we realized at the time".

Hall was one of only four Congressmen given a special "Certificate of Appreciation" for his efforts on our behalf last year. He is an honorable man, he will be missed.

IMMIGRATION NEWS

As of this writing, there has been three separate new pieces of immigration legislation introduced into the 99th Congress.

Senator Alan K. Simpson of Wyoming has introduced an abbreviated version of the previous Simpson-Mazzoli bill. Senator Simpson's new bill will deal with illegal immigration only and will focus on employer sanctions and amnesty. It was felt that "piecemeal", (i.e. issue specific) immigration legislation has a better chance of passing than a comprehensive package. The foreign student issue is not to be addressed at all in Simpson's bill.

There has been two bill introduced into the House of Representatives, both by Californians. Rep. Dan Lungren has introduced a fairly comprehensive bill similar to that passed last year by the House. Lungren's bill does address the foreign student issue, but only worsens the situation as it exempts nearly all professions. The other version was introduced by Rep. Ed Roybal but is given little chance of going anywhere.

It is not known what, if any, roll Rep. Ron Mazzoli of Kentucky will play in the latest efforts at immigration reform. To date, he has not taken an active public part in any of the efforts.

SECURITY PROBE

The Senate Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations has been delving into the ease with which foreign workers are granted security clearances.

The subcommittee, chaired by Senator Sam Nunn of Georgia, has been told that the Pentagon has given security clearances to "1,400 immigrant aliens and recently naturalized citizens from the Soviet Union who work for military contractors".

"The Pentagon has approved top secret clearances for 121 Soviet emigres, and secret clearances for another 1,349, numbers compiled by the Senate panel show."

"Top secret is defined as information that could cause "exceptionally grave damages to national security" if released. Secret is used for information that, if released, would cause "serious damage to national security."

AAES MOVES TO WASHINGTON

The American Association of Engineering Societies, the umbrella organization for many of the technical societies, is moving their headquarters from New York to Washington D.C..

Some of you old-timers will remember that AAES would have been the American Engineering Association had we not registered the name first.

Some of the rest of you may remember the April 1980 newsletter of AAES where the lead story headlines were "Energy is Highest Priority at AAES Board of Governors Meeting". Perhaps AAES Chairman Kenneth A. Roe also being President of Burns & Roe, a company that designs and builds nuclear power plants, may have colored their priorities. Perhaps it was just a coincidence.

Perhaps this is why some eighteen technical societies including NSPE have dropped their membership in AAES. IEEE of course maintains their membership in spite of many requests from their membership to drop out.

AEA REORGANIZATION

AEA is currently reorganizing to be able to be more responsive to its membership and to operate in the environment that we must in order to accomplish our goals.

While we are making progress, it seems that everything takes far longer to accomplish than it should. We are working very hard in spite of the lack of visible activity. Please bear with us.

AEA GOES TO WASHINGTON

In March the Federation for American Immigration Reform (FAIR) and the Environmental Fund, both Washington based organizations concerned with immigration reform, jointly sponsored a reception for new members of Congress and an immigration briefing. AEA was invited to attend.

Speakers at the briefing included Senators Lawton Chiles and Alan K. Simpson, INS Commissioner Alan Nelson and representatives of both the Environmental Fund and FAIR. The topic for discussion was "Immigration Reform: Proposals and Direction".

Many excellent contacts were made as Bill Reed, AEA's President, attended both functions. In addition, Reed met with several Representatives, Senate aides and interested parties from the private sector.

IMMIGRATION POLL

A recent poll on various immigration issues was taken by Media General and the Associated press. The telephone poll interviewed 1,532 adults across the country in a random, scientific sampling of opinion.

Of particular interest, the poll shows that eighty-eight percent of the respondents did not believe that an immigrants relative wealth should be considered by immigration authorities and sixty-six percent did not think a persons relative skills should be a basis for immigration.

The margin of error was plus or minus three percent because of chance variations in the sample.

VOICES FROM THE PAST

Just to remind engineers and related occupations of what the problem really is, we will occasionally include a few quotes from the past. This editions first quote comes from a letter of rejection received by an American citizen engineer from LPL, a contract engineering firm.

* "At the present time, LPL/Boeing are hiring only U.K. citizens."

Why would they do that, you may ask. Fair question, the answer may be found in another quote taken from a letter of solicitation from Omni Personnel Services Inc.:

* "To top it all, hiring of Filipino technical workers is more advantageous because it means an increase in profit for your company due to the sizeable reduction in their wages."

AEA EMPLOYMENT WATCH

In an effort to counter the myth of a shortage of skilled U.S. workers, the American Engineering Association will maintain files of layoff articles and articles dealing with shortened work weeks, forced early retirements, salary cuts, etc.

Since the main proponent of an engineering shortage is the American Electronics Association, we will also flag those companies who retain a membership in that association, or their parent company or a division etc. is a member. The totals column entry means that 20 of 37 articles for the month were about layoffs, etc. by members of the American Electronics Association.

We make no claims as to the completeness of these files or to the accuracy of the numbers taken from other publications. While the numbers listed below do not represent engineering layoffs alone, we are told that every fifth or sixth job in a "high-tech" industry is an engineering position. We do feel that the files contain an indication of the overall health of the technical job market.

EMPLOYMENT FOR MARCH 1985

CORPORATION	AEA MEMBER	LAYOFFS	FORCED RETIREMENT	PLANT SHUTDOWNS	SALARY FREEZES	SALARY CUTS
Signetics Corp.	Y	400		unstated		
Wacker Siltronic Corp.	Y			835		
Sprague Electric Co.		125				
Burr-Brown	Y	57				
Mostek Corp	Y	620			5400	
Pan American World Airways		10000				
Revere Copper & Brass Inc.		400				
Texaco Inc.		539				
Apple Computer	Y			unstated		
National Semiconductor Corp	Y	400				
Ampex Corp.	Y	160				
Xebec Corp	Y	25				
Raychem Corp		300			10000	unstated
Data I/O Corp	Y	30				
Bechtel Corp.		unstated				
Deere & Co.		600	unstated			
Vuebotics Corp.		34				
Sprague Electric Co.		unstated				
Hamilton/Avnet		700				
Eaton Semiconductor Equipment	Y	100				
MCR Corporation	Y			600		
Inmos Corporation	Y	86				
AVX Corp.	Y	200			5000	
Harris Corp.	Y	200				
Texaco Inc.		140				
Allnet Communications Services Inc		450				
MCI Communications Corp.	Y	65				
Intermedics Inc	Y	unstated				
Anderson Jacobson Inc.	Y	23				
Westmoreland Coal		260				
Harris & Paulson		26				
Quark Inc.		14				
Sprague Corporation		560				
Amplex Corp.	Y	10				
Wang Laboratories				6000		15
Xicor Inc	Y	130				
InteCom Inc.	Y	200				
TOTALS	20/37	16854+	unstated	7435+	20400	15+
YEAR TO DATE TOTALS	50/96	32179+	6500+	15120+	32600	15+

AEA MEMBER "Y" INDICATES A MEMBER OF THE AMERICAN ELECTRONICS ASSOCIATION

* PLANT SHUTDOWN CATEGORY INCLUDES REDUCED WORK WEEKS AND FORCED VACATIONS

LAYOFFS AT ROCKWELL??

Some kind soul sent a Rockwell International internal letter dated March 31, 1985 and carrying the title "Peller's Pen for Engineering Management" which contained the following statements:

"While we have not experienced the precipitous decline in employment that accompanied the end of Appolo, we will have some areas which have non-trivial reductions in staff levels. These reductions along with the frustrations of working under a monthly headcount constraint tempt many of us to reduce the priority of excellence in our performance. However, this is precisely the time at which we have to demonstrate the stuff we are made of. If this job were easy, somebody else could do it. By performing with excellence, we set the stage for getting future business at a time when we need to set that stage. And by doing it during a difficult period, we separate those of us with the "right stuff" from those who can only demonstrate excellence when it's easy to. I think I know what all of you are really made of, and now is the time for you to prove it."

Some Rockwell trivia from 1982: The minutes of the Engineering Technical Staff Meeting #223 contained the following new business.

"Communications Course for Foreign Born Engineers (B2-31)"

"An issue was raised" (raised) "to the Panel regarding the english communicating abilities of foreign born engineers (i.e., from non-English speaking countries). While these employees may speak English, many do not have the skills of communicating technically both orally and in writing. It was felt that the Training Dept. should offer specific courses to help resolve this problem."

AEA IN THE NEWS

The American Engineering Association has been in the media several times during the last few months. We received television and radio coverage in the Dallas/Ft. Worth area for our efforts to increase the tuition of foreign students in Texas. (See Texas Foreign Students page 1.) The program was aired by KDFW-TV Channel 4 Television on December 12, 1984.

In addition we were interviewed extensively by the Washington Times during the recent trip to attend the FAIR/Environmental Fund functions in March. (see AEA Goes to Washington page 2.) It is not know if anything has appeared in the paper or not.

Also we have appeared in the Electronic Engineering Times many times over the last few months and have provided leads or names for several other stories. The most recent was coverage of some of the material from our AEA Employment Watch column which appeared in the Monday April 8 issue. I don't want to give away any trade secrets but I understand that our column has planted a seed for yet another article or two.

TIDBITS & HEARSAY

We have heard from a reliable though unnamed source that the U.S. Attorneys office in Houston will be trying a case of interest to all who is interested in immigration/labor problems.

Some time in mid-May according to our sources, several of the pillars of the immigration community, the immigration attorneys, will be tried for mail fraud for "making fraudulent statements on labor certification forms and transmitting them through the U.S. mails." It's about time someone attacked this problem.

INVEST IN YOUR FUTURE! If you have enjoyed this newsletter, help us continue to produce it. Each dollar received will allow us to reach several new people with the next edition. If you agree with our activities as outlined in this edition, please help us with your dues and donations. We are the most cost effective engineering association in existence today that is fighting to protect your job and future. PLEASE SEND US YOUR CHECK TODAY.

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**          THE AMERICAN ENGINEERING ASSOCIATION          **
**          P.O. Box 18473 Ft. Worth, Texas 76118          **
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**  Yes, I want to invest in my future, please accept my dues/donation: **
**
**  Annual Dues $100.00_____ Other $_____ Donation $_____ **
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