

Air Academy Fund Search Under Way

The Times Herald Washington Bureau
Washington, Jan. 16.—The chairman of the House Armed Services Committee went shopping Saturday for funds with which to build the proposed Air Force Academy.

The committee voted unanimously for an Air Force-sponsored measure authorizing expenditure of \$26,000,000 to get the long-discussed project under way. The bill now goes to the full House.

Chairman Dewey Short (Rep.) of Missouri, disclosed that Rep. John Taber (Rep.) of New York, chairman of the House Appropriations Committee, has expressed doubt his group will approve more than \$5,000,000 for the academy this year.

Short began efforts to get the Air Force and the appropriations committee to agree on a plan under which funds from previous appropriations would be reprogrammed for construction of the academy. This presumably would be more palatable to economy advocates.

Under terms of the bill, location of the academy would be decided by Air Force Secretary Harold Talbott. Among sites favored in the past are Grapevine, Randolph Air Force Base and a site near Denison.

Both Air Force and congressional sources discounted reports that the Air Force has chosen the site already. Separate and contradictory reports have had the academy placed at Grapevine, Randolph, Colorado Springs, Colo., and Sedalia, Mo.

The bill, which has the backing of House Speaker Joseph Martin (Rep.) of Massachusetts,

and Republican Floor Leader Charles Halleck (Rep.) of Indiana, is expected to be cleared by the powerful House Rules Committee Monday.

Short said he was confident of House approval, although some opposition from House economy advocates was expected.

The committee chairman pointed to Air Force testimony that some \$25,000,000 would be re-

quired to get work under way on the academy, which may cost as much as \$175,000,000.

Backers of the bill were believed to have enough votes to override expected attempts to revise the measure when it reaches the floor.

Sen. Lyndon Johnson, a member of the Senate committee which will consider the bill after it is passed by the House, ex-

pressed confidence the Senate will "proceed at the earliest possible date" with the academy legislation.

"The air academy is essential for strengthening the security of this nation," said the senior senator, "and Texas is the best place for it."

Johnson said he didn't expect Senate opposition on grounds of economy.



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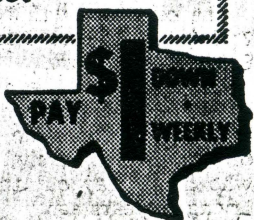
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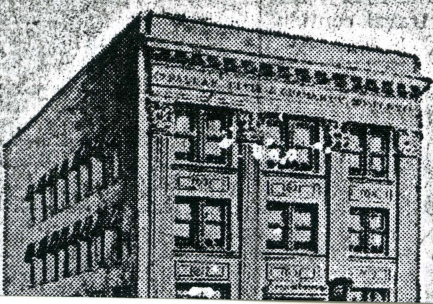
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