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PAU Student Government President 'Deplores' Regents' Selections

Pan American University's student government president says he deplores the selection of McAllen attorneys Morris Atlas and Ruben Cardenas as PAU's representatives on a specially legislated State Senate committee.

The Pan Am Board of Regents named Atlas and Cardenas, by unanimous vote, as the university's representatives on a senate interim committee established because, "there is a need to determine whether action should be taken to bring the colleges and universities in the South Texas area within a single sphere of control, planning, and implementation of the educational programs which they provide."

The Senate resolution, authorizing the Lt. Governor to appoint three senators to the committee, was approved by a 29-0 vote.

Lt. Governor William Hobby appointed Senators Mike McKinnon, who introduced the resolution, Raul Longoria and John Treager to serve with two members each from the governing boards of PAU and Texas A&I University.

The resolution calls for the universities' representatives to be "designated to serve on the committee by the full membership of the governing board on which they serve."

McKinnon, of Corpus Christi, Longoria, of Edinburg, and Treager, of Seguin, were appointed by Hobby June 25.

The PAU Regents designated Atlas and Cardenas July 9, at its regular meeting.

Regent Moises Vela, of Harlingen, made the motion naming Atlas and Cardenas and was seconded by Mrs. Allen Shivers, immediate past chairman of the PAU board.

issue.

The resolution establishing the committee specifically calls for the committee to "study the feasibility and desirability of

establishing a University of South Texas System composed of Texas A&I University and Pan American University."

A proposed merger of PAU

and A&I fell apart in the legislature in 1973, as did a move to merge Pan Am with the University of Texas System during this past legislature.

The complete statement of Rutledge, who is President of the PAU Student Association, follows:

"In reference to the subject already, made up their minds not to merge between A&I and PAU, without reviewing the Pro's and Con's of the issue.

This would be like selecting a jury that has already made up its minds before hearing the evidence in court. The second reason is that I deplore the idea of having to realize that they have made up their minds on an issue that has not been presented to students for approval or disapproval. Why are two men making the decision for 7,200 students without considering them first. Why will they make their decision without letting the public know as well, of the Pro's and Con's of such an issue.

I have known of Mr. Atlas's position on the issue. (A&I-PAU Merger) having made public statement about it, previously.

As a representative of the students of Pan American University, I condemn and deplore Mr. Atlas's and Mr. Cardenas's selection for I have great speculation of their decision, for they are part of the defeated U.T.-P.A.U. Merger Bill, having been on the committee, and therefore might have some personal grudge against those people in Austin who represent the A&I System, who took an active part in defeating such a Bill (P.A.U.-U.T.). I will not tolerate such biased opinion.

This statement is based on the talks that went on at the Board of Regents meeting and at least after I had spoken to one of the Board of Regent members."

Hollis Rutledge, in his statement about the Regents' selection of Atlas and Cardenas, said he felt the two board members appointed to the committee had already made up their minds about merger between PAU and A&I in establishing a University of South Texas System and questioned whether or not justice could be done to the