By PAUL BURKA
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Austin—(Spl.) — The Board of Regents at the University of Texas will seek a “final solution” to The Daily Texan problem at a special meeting of the Board in Dallas Saturday.

The Texan, which has sparred openly with the Regents since a March censorship incident, initated Regental wrath last week with a series of editorials parenthetically concerning American involvement in Viet Nam.

A guest editorial by staff writer Jean Etsinger was the center of the controversy. The editorial, appearing while editor Kaye Northcott was in San Francisco delivering a speech about student press editorial freedom, deposed the killing of civilians in wartime.

“The Viet Cong has a lot to learn about the art of eliminating the enemy,” Miss Etsinger wrote. “They’re not likely to achieve any more by killing off innocent ‘G.I. brats’ in this country than American forces will by continuing to fire on villages of women and children in theirs.”

The Regents reportedly interpreted the editorial as a charge that American involvement in Viet Nam was untenable on moral grounds.

Not Texan Policy
Miss Northcott’s position, when confronted by Vice-Chairman Frank Erwin of the Board of Regents, was that Miss Etsinger’s editorial was signed and thus did not reflect Texan editorial policy. Included in the editorial staff box of The Texan is the explanation that “the opinions expressed in the editorial column are those of the editor,” but “guest editorial views are not necessarily the editor’s.”

The Texan has taken no official stand on the Vietnamese conflict, although Miss Northcott and several guest editorial writers have supported the rights of dissenters to protest American involvement.

Through Erwin the Regents insisted that Miss Northcott demonstrate clearly that Miss Etsinger’s editorial did not represent Daily Texan editorial policy. The Board of Directors of Texas Student Publications, Inc., a semi-independent corporation which publishes The Texan, ordered Miss Northcott to print a retraction which appeared in Wednesday’s issue of The Texan.

Journalism Lab
TSP’s action came in a closed door executive session Monday night. Tuesday W. W. Heath, Chairman of the Board of Regents, announced that the Regents would meet in Dallas Saturday following a meeting of the newly-appointed advisory

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Regents Threaten Daily Texan

(Continued from Page 1) committee on student publications, which includes editors of twelve Texas newspapers.

On the agenda, Heath said, would be a proposal to make The Texan a “laboratory for the School of Journalism.”

In many ways, however, the Texan is already a laboratory for the School of Journalism. Although volunteer and paid staff workers supply important news and editorial content, the bulk of everyday reporting is provided by journalism classes.

TSP offices and Texan editorial desks are located in the Journalism Building at the University. Further ties with the school are provided by the presence of two journalism faculty members on the TSP Board, as well as by journalism course requirements for editor candidates.

Something More
Heath and Erwin clearly contemplate something more, perhaps stripping the paper of its editorial voice. This was the fear expressed Wednesday by John Orr, President of the Student Assembly as well as Chairman of the TSP Board of Directors.

Other members of the TSP Board fear that the Regents, instead of censoring The Texan, will simply eliminate its financial support. Although the paper is one of the wealthiest university newspapers in the nation, with a contingency fund exceeding $300,000, it is still dependent upon Blanket Tax resources.

By removing The Texan from the Blanket Tax, the Regents could force the paper off campus and sever its ties with the School of Journalism. Therefore, the journalism professors on the TSP Board cannot afford to provoke the Regents into a showdown.

Nor are aspiring politicians on the board able to battle the Regents, for Erwin is a close friend of Gov. John Connally and former National Democratic Committeeman.

Consensus
The subject matter of the controversy supplies the Regents with still another advantage: the compulsion for consensus rooted in a war psychology threatens to drape the coffin of Texas editorial freedom with the black flag of conformity.

Viet Nam will be the battleground of Saturday’s conflict, the basis of the Regents’ appeal to public opinion. But the controversy did not emanate from Miss Etsinger’s editorial; rather it was culminated by it.

The enmities of the years, accelerated by the events of March, 1965, are ultimately responsible for the current confrontation.

“The Daily Texan is the number one public relations problem of the University.” TSP treasurer Olin Hinkle, associate professor of journalism, said it; the Regents believe it — and both are correct.

Conservatives Outraged
The Texan has outraged legislators, students, and alumni, not to mention Regents maintaining a consistently liberal-orientation despite a consistently conservative public, both on the campus and statewide.

During the Fifty-Ninth Legislative session last spring, The Texan remained in character by criticizing several of Gov. Connally’s proposals.

Fearful that University appropriations might be pared by pro-Connally lawmakers, the Regents acted. Complementary subscriptions to the legislature were forbidden, and alleged Texan fiscal irresponsibility was censured. Minor fiscal harrassments continued through the summer despite The Texan’s lucrative financial position.