

MEMBER 1983

TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION

THE EAGLE LAKE HEADLIGHT

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Opinion

Speaker Lewis in hot water



STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Lyndell Williams

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LI. Gov. Bill Hobby, the man in the midst of the Legislature's struggle to balance the state budget, last week proposed an innovative budget strategy to avoid a possible tax hike.

Meanwhile, beleaguered House Speaker Gib Lewis found himself in hot water with senators over his chief of staff selection — and Atty. Gen. Jim Mattox filed a multi-million dollar lawsuit against the manufacturer and retailer of a television set which he said was the cause of the recent Capitol fire.

Mattox said experts had determined that the Capitol blaze which gutted the Senate wing was caused by

an internal short in a 3 1/2 month-old television set in Lt. Gov. Bill Hobby's guest apartment.

He is seeking "several million dollars" — the exact sum will be figured at a future date — to repair the damaged Capitol.

Speaker Lewis, who a few weeks ago found himself at odds with the press over his failure to disclose some 21 business interests — including business partnerships with lobbyists — on his financial disclosure report, found himself drawing political fire from a group of red-baiting senators.

Senate anger

Lewis announced last week that he had hired former State Rep. Buddy Jones, Hillsboro lawyer, as his chief of staff. The news set off a wave of anger from Democratic senators — an odd disturbance since each chamber rarely, if ever, interferes with the business affairs of the other.

The group sent two senators to dine with Lewis at week's end and discuss a remedy. Their bone-to-pick includes Jones' ties with the lobby, but more directly they are concerned because Jones lost an '82 senate bid in the Democratic primary

to Sen. C. Edwards, and then crossed party loyalties by campaigning for Republican Gov. Bill Clements.

The confrontation only served to cloud Lewis' future, just when it seemed his controversy-plagued Speakership would find even keel. Instead, Lewis is still hampered by a wide-spread feeling that he cannot keep himself out of political hot water.

Just three weeks ago, he angered senators by warning their bills might run into trouble in the House if they voted against confirmation of his hunting buddy, Lias Steen. Soon thereafter, Hobby countered by refusing to forward Senate-passed bills to the House — a move which eventually led to Lewis' rescinding a new rule hampering Senate bills.

Hobby's budget plan

Hobby's budget plan would offer a compromise for legislators torn over whether to raise taxes or cut spending in the face of predicted dwindling state revenues.

The canny budget leader has proposed an appropriations bill composed of two parts: the first part would allocate funds for a balanced budget based on Comptroller Bob Bullock's revised revenue estimates. The second part would direct how an additional \$1.5 billion would be spent if a tax increase becomes necessary.

Bullock is scheduled to produce yet another revenue estimate revision in early April which is predicted to reduce available monies even further.

Highways, education cuts

Without a tax increase, legislators have to cut some \$900 million from proposed budgets. Hobby's outline reduces pay increases for state employees and cuts public school and highway funding. The funds would be restored if the Legislature raises taxes for part two.

A worried Senate last week passed and sent to the House three bills increasing various state fees and raising more than \$73 million.

The three bills sponsored by Sen. John Leedom, R-Dallas, would increase some state fees which had not been raised in more than 50 years.

Senate action

The Senate also passed bills last week which would:

- ratify the federal-state agreement transferring some 19,000 federally-owned acres on Matagorda Island to the state;

- increase license fees for alcohol beverage permits;

- put "pen registers," or devices which can track incoming telephone calls, under state wispy laws.

Law enforcement officers would have to get a court order to install a pen register.

House action

The House, meanwhile, passed bills which:

- put management of the Battleship Texas under the Parks and Wildlife Dept.

- give mothers of illegitimate children an additional 16 years to file paternity suits.

Clements, EPA, IXTCC

Former Gov. Bill Clements' aides denied last week they knew of an alleged attempt on the part of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to

influence the Texas gubernatorial election.

Recently disclosed EPA documents suggested use of timely allocations of the agencies' "Superfund" cleanup money to help Clements defeat Mark White.

Clements' campaign manager, Jim Francis, denied any knowledge of the plan.

Also last week, the Clements-built, Dallas-based SEDCO, Inc. agreed to pay \$2.14 million to settle class action claims filed by shrimp fishermen, resort operators and other Gulf Coast businesses.

SEDCO, an oil drilling

firm, was involved in the 1979 Bay of Campeche oil spill which released an estimated 3.1 million barrels of crude oil that spoiled Texas and Mexican beaches.

Mattox, public prayer

Atty. Gen. Jim Mattox, speaking at a Baylor University conference last week, supported the controversial Supreme Court ban on school prayer.

Mattox, a Baptist, said the issue was inflammatory and used by politicians to get money and votes.

Letters to the editor

Editor's Note: Below is a letter from Rick Ferrill, concerning an article in the Houston Post. The article is about government spending and government waste. It explains how the governor of Illinois, Jim Thompson, is living so lavishly that he is now being called the Shah of Illinois.

To The Editor:

Citizens of Eagle Lake, Texas and all America. Is this what our free and democratic country and its way of life has come to down through the years past to present day existence? In our country that is supposed to be free and safe for all, land of opportunity, are we permitting ourselves to be robbed of free enterprise, profit, and most of all the opportunity to earn a decent living for our families? We have to work together and share in the expense of maintaining our government and our countries deficits but not to the point of poverty to the people and riches to the government.

We are being taxed to death to support the Jim Thompsons of our government. We the people, are

supposed to be the government. Are we? I read this article and it made me very angry. People are jobless, families are struggling just for groceries and a Ford over their heads and our self righteous government officials and employees of certain departments and branches are living high on the hog at the expense. Is this the American way? Well if it is, I am ready to try something else!

People of America, wake up before it is too late. Don't sit around and complain about things. Do something about them! Vote, write your governor, congressman, representative, the President. Let them know your views on taxes and government spending of tax dollars, government employee and officials pay and benefits. If I have offended anyone with any of my comments, I do not apologize because only those who are guilty of being a Jim Thompson or those who feel guilty because of not taking a stand against the Jim Thompsons of our country should be offended.

Signed: Concerned and Disgusted Citizen,
J. Rick Ferrill

24 Years Ago

Let's Look Back

March 19, 1959

Sidney Struss, son of Mr. and Mrs. E. A. Struss, celebrated his ninth birthday Wednesday, March 11 with a party given by his parents at the Community Center. Mr. and Mrs. Harry Todd and sons moved to Baton Rouge, Louisiana where Mr. Todd is now associated with the Coastal Transmission Corp. Mrs. Fred Hopkins, daughter-in-law of Mr. and Mrs. J. D. Hopkins and sister-in-law of Mrs. R. L. Lange of this city, is recuperating nicely at her home in Houston following surgery a few weeks ago.

Mr. and Mrs. Alton Smith of Garwood honored their daughter, Sheryl, on her first birthday with a party. Mr. and Mrs. James A. Mathis are the proud parents of a daughter, Patricia Ann, born March 16 in Laughlin Hospital.

Debra Lynn was born March 11 in Laughlin Hospital to Mr. and Mrs. James Brune. Eagle Lake High School track team to run in Boling track meet.

Friday and Columbus track party at her home March 10. Janet's birthday was on March 10. Mr. and Mrs. M. L. Matthews announce the engagement and approaching marriage of their daughter, Joyce Marie, to Melvin Stancik, son of Mr. and Mrs. Joe Stancik, on April 12 in the First Baptist Church.

48 Years Ago

Let's Look Back

March 30, 1935

Eagle Lake's newest industry, the Colly and Thomas Bros. ten-thousand pound capacity killing and meat cooling plant was opened for business this week. Attorney G. H. Miller of Columbus elected president of Colorado County Bar Association.

Honey Grove, known as the "sweetest town in Texas," furnishes the Headlight this week with a new linotype operator, Floyd Thompson. Gracie Spanihel won a pair of Ked's tennis shoes at Frank Stephens Co. for guessing the nearest to number of quarter inches in a rope on display in the window during the past week.

Work which has been underway for many weeks completed this week in converting the Universal Motor Company's plant into an ideal automobile service and repair shop. Sadness and gloom settled upon the people of Garwood when the nearest to number of quarter inches in a rope on display in the window during the past week.

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Colorado County Courthouse Report

MARRIAGE LICENSES ISSUED

T. L. Rueswald, 21,

Garwood, and Shannon Faith Harden, 20,

Whitehouse, Texas.

Lloyd Ray Zahradnick,

35, Eagle Lake, and Alicia Ray Janus Starnes, 25,

Houston.

Charles Paul Marx, 19,

Columbus, and Debbie Kay Richs, 21, Columbus.

Robert Arthur Sheppard,

23, Houston, and Debra Lynn Cooper, 23, Eagle Lake.

3-24-83

DISTRICT COURT SUITS FILED

Alice Lynita Chavarria

and Fernando Gonzales Chavarria; divorce, 3-22-83.

Pandora Cecil Allen and Dyde Allen Jr.; Divorce, 3-22-83.

Hill Bank and Trust Co. vs Nick Mata; suit on note, 3-22-83.

Frank Cummings vs Bonnie and Marilyn Evans; damages, 3-23-83.

Harry D. and Rae Lobripes vs Omni Drilling Co., aka Omnex; rental fees, 3-23-83.

Boyce-Fore vs Earl Williams as trustee for Nick Rinaldi; writ of garnishment, 3-23-83.

Yessa M. Mitchell and Thurman Mitchell; divorce, 3-23-83.

Dorothy Williams Houston and Nelson Houston; Divorce, 3-23-83.

Coastal Plains, Inc. vs Anderson Manufacturing; suit on note, 3-23-83.

REAL ESTATE

Deed, Mary Elizabeth Mecon, Trustee of the Mary Elizabeth Mecon Irrevocable Trust No. II, undivided interest in 160

acres, S.A. & M.G. RR Co. Survey, 1-31-83.

Deed, The First National Bank of Eagle Lake, Texas to Jimmy Ward et ux, all Lot 25 & SE 1/4 Lot 26 Blk 59, Highland Park Addition.

Deed, James E. Yearwood et ux to B. R. Schmidt et al, 5.00 acres, James Cummins Survey, 3-11-83.

Deed, Steve A. Svetik et ux to Thomas C. Brown, Lot 20 Blk 18, Weimar, Texas, 3-14-83.

Deed, Fred F. Lyle Jr. to Alma E. Lyle, 7240 acres, Martin Ramsey Survey, 3-8-83.

Deed, Ronald Alfred Wick et ux to The State of Texas, 0.119 acres, J. Tunison Survey, 3-15-83.

Deed, Jerry L. Greak et ux to Sharon Potter McClendon et al, parcel of land in town of Sheridan, Texas, 3-23-83.

Gift Deed, Marie F. Krotky to Frank J. Krotky et ux, 0.500 acres, J. Thompson League, 2-28-83.

Deed, Robert L. Stanley Jr., Trustee to Robert L. Stanley Jr., Trustee of Original Lots 2 & 3 Blk 42, Columbus, Texas, 3-11-83.

Deed, Robert A. Harrison et ux to Ron Christopher, Trustee various tracts of land in James Ross League et al, 3-11-83.

Deed, Arthur Mahalite to Arthur Mahalite & Sons, Inc., 1.54 acres, James Nelson Survey, 3-17-83.

Deed, George M. Cason Jr. to Arthur Mahalite, 1 acre, James Nelson League, 3-14-83.

Gift Deed, Malcolm P. Tiggitt et ux to Joe Ray Tiggitt, undivided interest, 80.27 acres, Thomas Matthews Survey et al, 2-13-83.

Gift Deed, Malcolm P. Tiggitt et ux to Joe Ray Tiggitt, undivided interest, 32.97 acres, Thomas Matthews Survey et al, 2-13-83.

Deed, Gary Lee Tiggitt to Joe Ray Tiggitt, 80.27 acres, Thomas Matthews Survey et al, 2-13-83.

Deed, Willie Schroggins Jr. to Timothy John Strunk et al, 94.847 acres, James Bowie Survey, 2-24-83.

Deed, E. T. Preston Jr. et ux to Stella Preston Fuchs S. one-third of 3.136 acres, W. B. Dewees Survey, 3-14-83.

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