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URGENT MESSAGE

The Steel Shot Issue

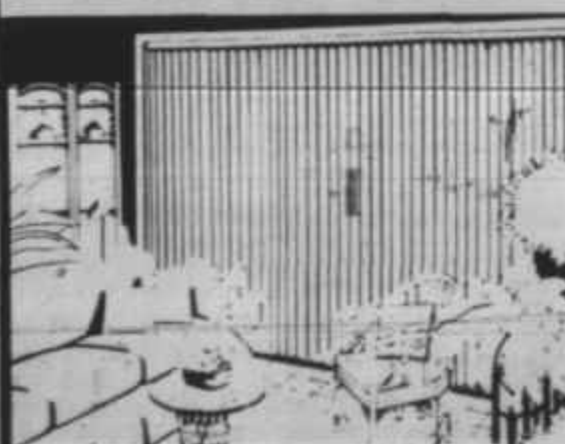
Please call or send Mail-o-gram to Fred Agnich, House of Representatives, Austin, Texas. Ask to Please place a moratorium on the use of steel shot until AFTER the Interim Study Committee makes its report.

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Texas suffers most in federal funding cuts

For two years Texas legislators have known that cuts in federal funds would hamper state government budgeting and last week lawmakers learned the latest report indicates federal aid here fell by more than \$420 million in 1982.

The decline was 50 percent greater than the average loss to all states under the Reagan Administration's cuts.

Also last week, legislators discovered that the fragile \$30 billion proposed budget now in conference committee may still have to be trimmed by some \$220 million.

Lawmakers expect to free up the needed revenues by reducing the state's contributions to the Teachers Retirement System from the present 8.5 percent to 7.1 percent of teacher salary.

Higher taxes?
The scrappy budget yet to be finalized still has some lawmakers, and particularly Gov. Mark White, pushing for a major tax hike, especially to increase teacher salaries.

White has lobbied House Speaker Giv Lewis in several private meetings to relent on his decision to halt



STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Lyndell Williams
TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION

all tax hike bills in the House. Across the rotunda, La. Gov. Bill Hobby, who predicted a hike was needed months ago, has remained publicly silent, perhaps waiting for Lewis to act.

Since by law all tax bills must originate in the House, Lewis' stance is all important in the tax debate. Forecasters see no tax bill coming out this session.

White v. Bullock
Messrs. Bullock, Comptroller Bob Bullock, continued snapping at White's heels last week, criticizing the governor for failing "to put his name" on any tax proposal and failing in leadership.

Bullock, who announced he would run against White in '86 before White even took office in January, would love to see White come out solid for higher

taxes. Bullock would use the issue against him on the campaign trail and White, who will know the trap Bullock is going into, has already made several public statements which make him appear unsure of his course. Some wise heads predict White will wait until a special session to raise taxes.

Veto, gasohol
White is also losing on another of his pet issues, making the Public Utility Commissioners elected instead of appointed. He has gone as far as threatening to veto the bill unless the election clause is included, but lawmakers don't seem to be giving in. In his search to find allies, he has also threatened to veto the Railroad Commission sunset bill.

Other action in the White-Bullock saga

includes:
• White authorized Texas to repay \$50 million in federal loans used for state employment benefits. The state, on former Gov. Bill Clements' initiative, borrowed \$452 million when high unemployment drained the Texas fund.

• Bullock supported a bill to repeal the tax break on gasoline, saying state government could gain \$1.5 million if the tax was reinstated. Bullock immediately drew good-natured but determined fire from Agriculture Commissioner Jim Hightower, who said Bullock "was more fun than a summer picnic," but wrong.

Bullock, however, was backed up by Hobby and, apparently, Lewis.

The water plan
The eight-bill Texas Water Plan package was tabled in its entirety last

week by Midland Republican Tom Craddick, who objects to the plan to protect river flow into coastal bays. The package won't come out of his House committee until it's amended, he explained.

Land Commissioner Garry Mauro said he will oppose any amended package that doesn't include the bays and estuaries.

The senate
Measures passed by the Senate last week included:
• A five dollar fee on court costs in divorce cases.
• A five dollar salary for the highest degree that a state can award its members. Applicants from the Rice FFA Chapter were: Joe T. Lang, Albert Thomas Tomchesson, Larry Wayne Taylor, Coby Shorter, III, Thomas Earl Mahalite, and Stephen Arthur Mahalite.

• Increase penalties for catching redfish and speckled trout.
• A bill requiring that the highest bars and other sexually oriented businesses be maintained at

least 1,000 feet from churches and schools.
• A bill to implement the federal brucellosis program and avoid a quarantine of Texas cattle.
• A five percent hike in mandatory liability auto liability auto insurance next year.

The house
Measures approved by the House included:
• A bill making it against the law for JPs to refuse to perform interracial marriages on the basis of race alone.
• Allowing schools to hire non-certified teachers for science and math classes.
• Requiring counties to help pay for emergency medical care of poor Texans. Rural lawmakers opposed this, arguing that rural tax dollars shouldn't be used to bail out urban hospitals.

48 Years Ago

May 18, 1935
Olin Coffey goes with school at Palestine. From fifty-four applicants, Eagle Lake coach is unanimously chosen Director of Athletics in East Texas city. Price drop slows ship shipments. Farmers in lower section discontinue digging when price of \$1.25 at first week drops to 80 cents. Eagle Lake Canning Plant, directed by Mrs. Lloyd Tate, is in readiness for new season's run. Rotarians plan Ladies' Night at new Rotary Hall. Messrs. Arthur Hodde and Tom Carter were San Antonio visitors.

Harry Hoffman was a visitor in Gonzales. Mrs. William Randow entertained with a party in honor of Billy Jeanne's third birthday. Those there to enjoy the occasion were: Joan Davis, Doris Jean Arnett, Shirley Ann Hampton, Marjorie Pophanken, Annette and Ernest Mae Seasholtz, Virginia Mill, Patricia Dee Chambers, Edna Mae Willis, Charlyne Jo and Draper Stephens, Audice Rieger, Mary Catherine Stiles, Kay Kearney, Mary Katherine and Edward Lane Mooney, Dorothy Jean Linke, Betty Joyce Linke, Jeannine Hartwell, Rosalyn Vacek, Pearl Golden, Montie Jo

Ottom and Delores Spaniel.
Mrs. H. W. Graves, Wyatt Graves, Mrs. R. J. Putney and Misses Sallie and Marie Jones spent the day visiting in Houston. Mr. and Mrs. J. H. McCreary and Mrs. Annie Lacey visited Joe Lee at A&M College. Sixty-four mothers and daughters attended the Mother-Daughter banquet sponsored by the adult department of the Methodist Church. Mrs. Albert Pustejovsky and Misses Mable Wade and Alice Mae Thomas motored to

Let's Look Back

Houston on Monday. Ralph Williams was a business visitor in Caldwell. Rev. C. G. Marimon, Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Lenhart, Mesdames B. F. Forrest, Sallie Westmoreland, Louis Hintz, Agnes Drongole, I. V. Duncan, H. C. Fitzgerald, Algernon Harbert and Fannie Wilson attended the Episcopal Richmond. Miss Ruth Causey, home demonstration agent of Livingston, spent the weekend in Eagle Lake and Lissie, visiting relatives and friends.

Letters to the editor

Waiting for viewers

To The Editor:
Saturday, May 14th, there was an art show at the Eagle Lake Middle School gym. The students and I worked a total of 12 hours setting up the show. The display consisted of about 300 pieces ranging from pencils and inks to crocheting and needle point. Two parents and I sat in

the gym for three hours waiting for you to come view what your middle school students had accomplished this year in arts and crafts. Maybe 20 people came by. It was a beautiful show. It is sad you missed it because you missed so much. A teacher who cares, Lois Raabe

Stay alert and stay clear—

Avoid POWER LINES

Have respect for power lines—both those overhead and those underground—anytime you're doing a job that requires you to work near them.

• Keep away from overhead lines while you're launching your boat or transporting it over land. Metal sailboat masts, outriggers, power boat antennas—and other high-rising equipment—can be deadly conductors of electricity.

• Don't trim or cut down trees near power lines. This is work best left to experts.

• Check your clearance carefully when you're carrying a tall pole or pipe on a tractor, or driving a truck with a raised bed, or operating machinery such as cranes, booms, draglines, hay loaders and well drilling rigs.

• Fallen power lines also are extremely dangerous. If you see a line downed by a storm, high winds, car accident or other mishap, call Central Power and Light Company. Meanwhile, stay away from the wire and anything it touches—and keep others away, too.

• Make sure you know the location of underground power lines before you install irrigation systems or unclog drain or sewer lines. Even routine projects like digging post holes or planting trees can be dangerous if you get too close to power lines.

Stay alert—and stay clear of power lines!

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Rice FFA members are successful at area convention

Friday, May 6, 1983, several FFA members, along with advisors Ronel Roberts and Troy Krenk, attended the Area III FFA Convention held at Katy High School. The purpose of the convention was to elect new officers for the coming year.

Ricky Miller and Kathy Ishee, both 1982 graduates of Rice High School, have also submitted their applications for the American Farmer Degree. The American Farmer Degree is the highest degree that a member can attain while in the FFA. A member must have been an active member, attained the State Farmer Degree, been out of high school at least one year before applying, have in progress an outstanding supervised occupational experience program, and have earned at least \$5,000 from their program. Kathy and Ricky, if approved on the state and national levels, will be the third and fourth Rice FFA members to ever attain the American Farmer Degree. While both members were approved at the area convention, Ricky was selected as the Area III Star American Farmer. In previous years Ricky has been the Star Greenhand, Star Chapter Farmer, and Star Lone Star Farmer on the local, district, area and state levels. Most recently Ricky won the honor of being selected as the local, district, area and state

winner of the Crop Production Proficiency Award. Ricky placed second on the national level.

Deborah Ann Kretschmer, the chapter parliamentarian, was selected to receive a \$5000 Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo scholarship. Other members attending the convention and serving as voting delegates for the chapter were Anthony Williams, Martin Korenek and Marilyn Mahalite.

Those present at the convention got to meet and visit with the national vice president of the Western Region, Wendell Jeffers of Oklahoma. Randy Brady, Texas FFA Association president, was also at the convention. Others attending the convention to encourage the local Rice FFA members were: Rev. and Mrs. Coby Shorter, Jr., Mrs. James Ishee, Mrs. David Mahalite, Mrs. Cheryl Ishee, Miss Lynn Ishee and Paul Korenek.

Congratulations to all members for their outstanding accomplishments at the Area III FFA Convention.

KULM starts using satellite

After a month long delay caused by late shipment of equipment, KULM-FM in Columbus began broadcasting Sunday with a new satellite radio network service.

That change, as well as the sale of 49 percent of the station to James A. Schilling of Garwood, recently were announced by KULM president Steve Hawkins.

Hawkins said Schilling was named general manager of the station on May 15. Terry Wooten will continue day to day response.

Vacation School at Lissie Methodist Church June 20-24

The Lissie United Methodist Church will hold Vacation Church School June 20-24 from 2 to 5 p.m. All children are welcome, however, pre-registration is necessary. Please call Mrs. Mark Anderson at 234-8522.

ability as operations manager, and Judy Barrett has been named office manager. Hawkins said he also said that part-time employee Lynda Appelt, who represents the station in the Eagle Lake area, will assume additional duties this summer, including local news development.

Linda Climent in sales and news, and Becky Martin and Diana Harris recently have joined the staff of the station.

"The decision to sell part of the station was made for two reasons," Hawkins said. "It is impossible to assure the station's local service quality will remain constant and high when you are not within listening range every day," said the Burnett County resident.

"Second, the additional capital generated by the partnership will allow us to make some changes such as the switch to satellite delivered programming."

"The next major project will be an engineering study to try to raise the station's antenna and increase our effective range," he said.

The equipment the station has added includes a satellite dish antenna, meaning the station has become a part of the Satellite Music Network, and has started its "Country Coast to Coast" programming.

That means KULM now will receive a good portion of its music live via SATCOM III satellite. The programming originates in Chicago. "It's an investment of tens of thousands of dollars," Hawkins said.

The members will then travel to Weimar Country Inn for a business meeting and a dutch luncheon.

Two members of the local chapter were candidates for officers at the convention. Kathy Ishee, Area III vice president and former chapter and district president, was a candidate for State officer. Susette Bason of the New Caney FFA Chapter was elected to represent Area III as the state officer candidate. Coby Shorter, III, the newly elected Rice FFA chapter president, was elected as president of the AREA III Association for 1983-84. It will be Coby's duty to provide leadership for the 10,000 FFA member area for the coming year.

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Deborah Ann Kretschmer, a senior at Rice High School received a Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo Scholarship for \$6,000 at the Area III Convention on May 6. Deborah has been involved in the FFA for four years. She is eleventh in her senior class, and is the highest ranking vocational ag student. She has participated on the FFA Quiz team, Dairy judging team and chapter conducting team. She was the junior secretary and now holds the office of parliamentarian. She has placed her bags both at the local show and at Houston. Deborah received her Greenhand Degree, Chapter Farmer Degree and her Lone Star Farmer Degree. She plans to attend Wharton County Junior College for one year and then transfer to Texas A&M University where she'll be majoring in Agriculture Economics. She has also won the Garwood Lions Club Scholarship.

Stephen Mahalite, the 1982-83 chapter president of Rice Future Farmers of America was given a plaque by the senior vocational agriculture class. The plaque stated "we thank you for making our chapter a success." The plaque was presented for the continuous service and hard dedication to the Rice FFA chapter as this year's past president.

from
Greg & Margie Brian Robyn & Virgil
Jeff & Maggie



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Let's talk.

Information about your changing telephone service from Paul Johnson, Community Relations Manager

The Future of Telephone Rates

As Southwestern Bell prepares itself to be a stand-alone company in 1984—separate from AT&T—many of you, no doubt, have been wondering what's going to happen to telephone rates.

Will they go up? How much? Will you have to pay twice as much for phone service as you now do?

While it's impossible to answer those questions definitively, it is possible to give you an idea of where rates are headed... and why.

Local service rates will probably go up

For example, the rate you presently pay for local service will—in all probability—go up. This is primarily due to the fact that local service, for the most part, has been priced well below its cost. The average statewide cost to Southwestern Bell for keeping a residential line in service is about \$30 per month. On the other hand, the average monthly rate our customers pay ranges from \$7.95 to \$10.75. This \$20 or more difference between cost and rates has been made up primarily by revenues from long distance service and telephone equipment.

However, since most of those revenues will be lost when Southwestern Bell after divestiture, local service will have to be priced more closely to its cost. In turn, though, the rates of long distance and other services which have subsidized local service may go down.

Other factors which will contribute to higher local rates include our need to more quickly recover our investment in equipment and facilities, and the effects that are still being felt from past inflation.

To help offset the rise in local rates, Southwestern Bell wants to offer customers more pricing plans so that they will have more control over what they pay for local service. We are working closely with regulators not only to develop pricing options that will fit almost every pocketbook, but also to keep telephone service one of the best consumer values around.

Effects of divestiture to be studied by PUC

As you may be aware, the Texas Public Utility Commission next month will begin general hearings to examine how divestiture will affect Texas ratepayers. There are a lot of questions and potential problems to be solved. But by cooperating and working together with regulators, we feel we can work out the best solutions, in the long run, for all concerned.

*** If you'd like additional information on this topic or have any questions, I'll try to help you find the answers.

Paul Johnson
Southwestern Bell
2200 Avenue A
Bay City, TX 77414

Southwestern Bell