

Opinion

House waiting for Senate to pass reform bill

Near the end of last week, one veteran reporter characterized this special session as "the most confusing mess anyone has seen in years." No one disagreed.

But two days later, the House rallied behind its leadership to pass the Texas public school reform bill, and the ball is rolling, indeed.

Since this is a tax session, the House is calling the shots more than in ordinary sessions. The House will not act to ap-

prove a tax bill, until after the Senate has passed the school reform bill and the governor has signed it, its leaders have said.

The bill sent to the Senate last week included a temporary appointed State Board of Education, perhaps the most dramatic of this year's proposed reforms and probably the most politically sensitive.

Other reforms approved were competency testing for all teachers, a salary schedule recognizing teacher longevity, a career

ladder for teachers, and pre-kindergarten programs for four-year-olds with language or learning disabilities.

The pre-kindergarten portion was one item that had been struck down by a committee that had "gutted" the bill, according to one legislator.

Lewis takes over House Speaker Gib Lewis expressed his dismay at the gutting, but after the bill reached the floor for debate, House members were too split to reach a majority.

Even the agreed points seemed to be falling apart.

Finally, Lewis took over and began working for daylight. On the long day of passage, Lewis pushed through a "compromise" reform bill, gaveling the votes section by section until final approval was reached 15 hours later.

"Lewis is getting everything he wants," one labor leader was overheard saying.

The Speaker was aided by at least two other factors: the legislators' desire to avoid dragging out the session, and his own power to make new committee assignments next January, when the Legislature convenes again in regular session.

"Gib took an extra interest in the (reform) bill, and it's hard for a member to ignore his request for support when Gib has the power to make or break him on committee assignments just down the road," one senator said.

Teachers lobby The groups representing teachers gave their approval to the compromise, at least outwardly, even

though they opposed some of the control measures placed on the profession. But when Lewis agreed to leave their salary schedule intact, they gave their support. That schedule gives raises for experience and provides for some merit raises.

Across the rotunda, senators were laboring over their version of the school reform bill, sticking fairly close to the proposals of the select committee.

But it had already rejected some of the reforms which the House approved.

The biggest question remaining on the issue was whether the Senate would go along with the House bill, or whether it would act to significantly alter it.

With time running out on the 30-day legal limit of the session, the Senate appeared willing to maintain the House reforms in order to bring up the tax bill which will pay for the whole thing.

Earlier, the Senate voted to confirm 448 of the governor's appointees.

Farmworkers insurance Meanwhile, waiting in the wings is a bill providing for workers compensation insurance to migrant and seasonal farm laborers.

STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Lyndell Williams
TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION

Governor Mark White has indicated he may open up the special agenda to include this issue, if enough time remains near the end of 30 days, and the bill's sponsor is not taking any chances.

Last week the bill by Sen. Hector Uribe, D-Brownsville, passed out of committee and is now poised for floor action, should the agenda be opened.

The probe reported that Mattox hired 17 more staff than authorized by law. A Mattox spokesman disagreed with the interpretation of the statutes.

Jim Mattox

A newspaper investigation revealed last week that Texas Atty. Gen. Jim Mattox has hired nine staffers to aide special prosecutors, which is three times the number allowed by state law.

Six of the nine reportedly are carried in the budget of another division of Mattox office. Fund transfers between division is not authorized by state law.

Canary Islands, after an extended visit here with his mother, Mrs. Ida Causey and other relatives. Mr. and Mrs. Mevin Hayden and Mr. and Mrs. Vernon Gertson entertained large group of new pastor at Colly Memorial Methodist Church succeeding Rev. McDaniels who is leaving for Llano.

Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Causey and children are leaving on June 8 for the Duddleston and Henry Kreitzschmar united in marriage at Lutheran parsonage Sunday. Miss Nettie Holman won another honor at Mary Hardin Baylor when she posted one of three perfect scores in the Women's Sports Association. A deal consummated in which Dr. J. R. Laughlin purchased Miss Lucille Marie

Letters to the editor

Thanks from Chris Mealy

Dear Editor: Thanks to all of our supporters in my bid for the nomination of the Republican Party to the United States House of Representatives of the 14th Congressional District.

Liz, Clair, Lexi and I want to thank those who supported and in so many ways helped in our campaign. Some helped as "good friends and severest critics," others helped with their volunteer services and still others with the many dollars that it takes to operate a campaign of this magnitude.

Probably, the most frustrating part of being a candidate is knowing that there are so many people who had the same hopes and dreams as I had as a candidate, and that there is no way that I can share their concern about our defeat. However, the people are always the winners in our Democratic process. The people have spoken and have selected their nominee.

Our campaign stood for many things but most of all it stood for a clear and

Flag stealing unamerican

To the Editor: To the person or persons responsible for the obvious misbranding and theft of our United States flag: We are sorry. We are sorry that someone who enjoys freedom would trespass on private property, cut ropes from a flagpole leaving them scattered in the dirt, and steal a United States flag. We are sorry that this symbol of our freedom means so little to you. But we are proudly raising another flag. Schindler, LFG, Inc.

Barth Henry purchases feed supply store

Evidence of an economic upturn and predictions of more prosperous times have prompted local businessman Barth Henry to purchase a feed supply store in Eagle Lake. The store, Henry's General Hardware & Feed Co., formerly owned by Hardware, officially opened March 16 as the area's new supplier of Ralston Purina feeds and health products. "We went with Purina because of its reputation for quality and its extensive product mix," Henry said. "With Purina, we know we have the backing of years of research and access to the latest information on livestock management and nutrition, making it easier for me to help my customers improve efficiency and productivity."

The new dealership offers a full range of both complete and concentrated feeds, as well as a comprehensive line of health and animal care products. "The extensive product line gives us a great deal of flexibility in tailoring feeding programs to customer needs," Henry said. "In addition, there's a constant flow of new

Purina products developed to meet the needs of more prosperous producers." Henry also points out that going with Purina, the nation's largest feed company and the premier company serving the agricultural community, assures us a reliable and readily available supply source. Eagle Lake's latest farm supply enterprise is located at 312 E. Main. "I invite area livestock producers to come in and compare our feeding programs to their own," Henry said. "We'll be happy to help evaluate present programs, or help conduct comparative feeding tests," he said.

The evaluation would only be based on the area of the county that is already mapped which is approximately 70 percent of the area, state officials said. To get the remainder of the county mapped would take some time, since it is done on a priority basis. There are 28 counties in the State of Texas that are waiting to be mapped. It could take three to four years, Wheeler said. A project of this nature is being conducted in Fayette County and the cost for three people working on the project is costing approximately

Twenty-three Eagle Lake volunteer firemen responded to a fire at Kevin Court Apartments, Sunday, June 24 at 12:20 p.m. The cause of the fire was a pan of grease on a stove. The tenant of apartment 19 is Marie Williams. Officer in charge was T.J. Smith.

Colorado County Courthouse Report

DISTRICT COURT SUITS FILED

Alberto Tovar vs. Juanita Tovar, divorce; 6-18-84.

Sandy Taylor vs. Kevin Taylor, divorce; 6-18-84.

Judith Rose Weaver vs. Gary Randall Weaver, divorce; 6-18-84.

Russell Wayne Prouse vs. Carol Dianne Prouse, divorce; 6-18-84.

Kirk D. Glenn vs. Jackie Burnett Glenn, divorce; 6-18-84.

Audrey Ann Mathes vs. Johnny Darrell Mathes, divorce; 6-19-84.

MARRIAGE LICENSES ISSUED

Paul Gonzales, Jr., 17, of Columbus and Tina Marie Luna, 15, of Columbus; 6-18-84.

Patrick Allen Pavu, 21, of Garwood and Suzanne Jane Fakus, 17, of Eagle Lake; 6-22-84.

James Lee Moss, 20, of Eagle Lake and Patricia Rene Bradshaw, 19, of Eagle Lake; 6-22-84.

COLORADO COUNTY COURT ACTIVITY (May 1984)

Luis Truett Pratt, Jr., an address of a Columbus attorney, pleaded guilty to driving while intoxicated charges filed 3-23-84. Court finds defen-

tant guilty. He paid \$540 plus court costs. He was granted one year probation in lieu of a 30 day jail term.

Leo James McGrew, an address of a Columbus attorney, pleaded guilty to driving while intoxicated charges filed 5-1-84. He was fined \$500.

John Montoya Lopez, an address of a Columbus attorney, pleaded guilty to driving while intoxicated charges filed 5-1-84. He was fined \$500 plus court costs. He was placed on one year probation in lieu of a 30 day jail sentence.

Johnnie Joe Hernandez, of Eagle Lake, pleaded guilty to theft by check charges filed 5-15-84. He was granted one year probation in lieu of a 30 day jail sentence.

Sixto Alvarez Vasquez, an address of a Columbus attorney, pleaded guilty to driving while intoxicated charges filed 5-24-84. He was fined \$500 plus court costs. He was placed on one year probation in lieu of a 30 day jail term.

Donnie Edward Crook, an address of a Hallsville attorney, pleaded guilty to driving while intoxicated charges filed 4-25-84. He was fined \$500 plus court costs. He received a one year probation sentence in lieu of a 30 day jail term.

Larry Craig Ewald, of Austin, pleaded guilty to driving while intoxicated charges filed 5-15-84. He was fined \$500 plus court costs. He was granted a one year probation sentence in lieu of a 30 day jail term.

Anders Exploration Co. met with council Tuesday to discuss the ordinance. The company is preparing to drill a well near Prairie Ave. in the north eastern part of the city, sometime around July 24.

In addition to the distance change, the company drilling the well must have the site location cleared up within 90 days. This item was extended from the original notation of 30 days when the drillers pointed out that a long rain could make fields impassable.

In other business council: "Discussed the 1983-84 audit with Pierce Arthur. According to councilman Roy Van Nor, we spent more than what we budgeted, but we knew that before the audit." The city was approximately \$25,000 over budget for the fiscal year. Quarterly reports will be submitted by city manager Robert Klockman in the latter part of July.

*Accepted a paving bid from H&C Construction of Shiner, for annual road maintenance and repair. The company bid \$18,000.

*Accepted a proposal from Thomas Software Services, Inc. of Schertz, Texas, for installation of a computer system. The

company bid \$18,000.

*Approved the posting of a notice to citizens informing them of the selling of window air conditioner units from the Walldvogel Center.

ELMS students receive certificates

The following students received the honor roll frame certificates after the close of school at Eagle Lake Middle School: Patricia Lores, Bonnie Bengel, Monnie Noske, Renee Bales, Laurie Abel, Trino Maldonado, Kimberly Garrett, and Yaneth Benavides.

CPR course in July

A CPR course will be offered on July 11 and 12 at the Eagle Lake Ambulance Corps hall (above the Police Station) for anyone who is interested.

For further information call Bobby Johnson at 234-2373.

In other matters

*Certified the third floor of the Colorado County jail as a juvenile detention facility as of May 31. Commissioners also have been in contact with Fort Bend County to facilitate Colorado County juveniles effective December 31, 1984.

*Approved the division of interest among schools in the district for the allotment of the County School Bond Interest. Each unit will receive approximately \$100.

*Approved a road crossing of George Soliday Road by Donald

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Sierk is new plant manager at LCRA

The new plant manager at the Fayette Power Project is Don Sierk, according to an LCRA announcement.

Sierk, 33, succeeds Bob Kuehler who was promoted April 1 to production operations manager, an executive post at the Lower Colorado River Authority headquarters in Austin. Sierk has served as assistant plant manager at Fayette project for nearly 4 years. His appointment is effective July 1.

A 34-year veteran of power-plant operations, Sierk joined the Fayette project in May 1977 as superintendent of coal operations. He was named assistant plant manager in August 1980. Sierk has been acting plant manager since Kuehler's promotion. Sierk and his wife, Phyllis, reside at 280 Reed Circle in La Grange.

City makes changes in well drilling ordinance

The ordinance to control oil and gas well drilling in the Eagle Lake city limits was adopted Tuesday by council, after suggestions were made by drilling companies.

In the original proposal, written after similar ordinances in other cities were studied, council said wells or storage tanks should be 1,000 feet from residences. The ordinance adopted Tuesday night allowed drillers to work within 500 feet of a house, or with permission of the occupant, even closer.

A representative of Anders Exploration Co. met with council Tuesday to discuss the ordinance. The company is preparing to drill a well near Prairie Ave. in the north eastern part of the city, sometime around July 24.

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Stay alert and stay clear—

AVOID POWER LINES

Putting up the antenna for your TV set or for the base station of your CB radio can be dangerous unless you take certain precautions.

Plan the project carefully if you install the antenna yourself. First, know where all the power lines are—then stay well away from them. Any contact between a power line and you or your antenna can be serious.

Make sure you locate your antenna (including the supporting mast and guy wires) at least one and a half times its total height from all power lines. For example, an antenna 30 feet high should be 45 feet away from power lines in all directions.

Don't use a ladder near power lines—during an antenna installation or while performing any other task. The danger from using a metal ladder is obvious. But a wooden ladder can conduct electricity, too, if it's damp or if it has dirt or paint on it.

Electricity brings a more comfortable life to all of us, but it must be treated cautiously. Stay alert—and stay clear of power lines!

Koliba given bridal shower

Elizabeth Ann Koliba, bride-elect of Joe J. Hudson was honored with a bridal shower, Tuesday, June 26, at the Colorado County Federal Savings and Loan meeting room, in Elizabethtown.

Elizabeth Ann was presented with a unique corsage made of kitchen gadgets. Four-year-old Erin Rhodes of Temple, recited a poem written for the occasion by her grandmother.

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