

State Senator Kent Caperton, representing the Fifth District, has hailed the Education Reform Package passed by the Senate and House of Representatives over the weekend as a "giant step forward" for public education.

"Many of the badly needed reforms are included in this landmark legislation. I believe we have given a clear direction to the current and future teachers of this state that we intend to treat them as professionals, and compensate them accordingly. We have provided incentives for teachers who want to excel, and we have put a limit on the size of classes to help overcome overcrowding in the classrooms. We have returned the class day to academic instruction, while guar-

anteeing that extra-curricular activities not be eliminated," Caperton said.

Another result of House Bill 72 provides for a new State Board of Education. Contentions that the present 26-member Board was too large and unwieldy to be truly effective prompted alternative proposals from both the House and Senate sides of the Capitol. Caperton sponsored the first compromise measure in the Senate. Under the Plan, a 15-member board will be appointed by the Governor for the first four years and then revert back to a purely-elected system in 1989. A "Legislative Education Board" comprised of 10 members from the House and Senate will be selected from each of the 15 geographic districts from which the Governor will choose. Caperton said he realized that while he trusts Governor White to make responsible appointments to the State Board because of this dedication to improving the quality of education in Texas, many would feel more comfortable with the protection of the Legislative Education Board authority to select the primary list of deserving candidates. Caperton added that he had misgivings about both the purely appointed and combination appointed-elected proposals. "I'm pleased with the compromise since I support measures which allow for populist participation," Caperton said. "This plan ensures that the elected system be fully restored in four years so that the citizens of Texas may judge for themselves whether those State Board Members are deserving of their support."

The most difficult part of the package was to address the "equalization" problem. The state was faced with a lawsuit filed in Texas state court by a much more severe equalization plan being imposed. This would have meant that the relatively wealthy districts would have lost significant amounts of state aid. Caperton worked hard for a compromise plan which recognized that equalization needed to take place, but which also recognized that the taxpayers of an area such as the Fifth District also needed to be treated in a fair way. Commissioner of Education Raymon Byrum recognized that the constitution of the conference committee report that this bill will not mandate any increase in any local property taxes.

In the Fifth Senatorial District, 55 out of 70 school districts may receive thousands of dollars in additional state education funds. Many will not have to raise local taxes in order to receive these additional funds. The school districts in Colorado County have a net increase in state funds of \$237,206. In the 10th District, Columbus and Weimar will gain \$219,600 and \$23,400, respectively, while Rice's state aid will be reduced by \$1,190. These reductions in state aid result from the district's low tax rate or its high wealth per pupil as compared to the state average.

Caperton concluded that while he opposed certain segments of the bill, he was enthusiastic about this significant reform.

Mr. and Mrs. Gary A. Cranek of Garwood are proud to announce the birth of their second child, a boy born Thursday, June 28, 1984 at 5:56 p.m. at Gulf Coast Medical Center in Wharton.

Little Garrett Louis weighed 6 pounds 12 ounces.

The baby is welcomed home by a 4-year-old sister, Christie Michelle. Maternal grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Gene Bures of El Campo. Paternal grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Louis Cranek, Jr. of Garwood. Great-grandparents are Mr. Francis Bures of Nida and Mr. and Mrs. L.V. Cranek of Garwood.

The mother is the former Maria Bures.

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Heritage House residents enjoy chili-cookoff

Good food, costumes, and music were all part of the fun as six teams gathered in the hallways of the Heritage House to prepare chili for a cookoff that was held Friday, July 6.

Many of the residents spent the majority of the morning slicing peppers and onions, and adding spices and secret ingredients to their old-time chili recipes. Some teams decided to use venison, rabbit or beef for meat mixed in with their special chili sauce creations.

The Hobos, lead by team captain Helen Perry, won first place for their fantastic chili, which was judged by dietary personnel at Heritage House. Team members include

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Sunday 2:00 p.m.

team of the Chili Cookoff, the Hobos, right, the Kiddie Cookers prepare their chili; and bottom left are the winners of the showmanship category, the Old Timers.

Edith Morris, Lucille Reese and Blanche Kilpatrick. Second place honors were bestowed upon The Kiddie Cookers with Mae Price heading the group. Team members were Walter Padon, Kenneth Riddick and Emma Randolph. Earning third place was Hot Mamas Camp Chili lead by Ann Zbrank, with team

members Mary Villa, Lou Ella Malek and Mary Supak.

The Old Timers lead by Marian Werland received a first place ribbon for showmanship. Team members include Adolphus Dornan, Dee Sopchak, Rosie Hoffman, Dicia Bowen and Lillie Herron. Following in second place was the Kiddie Cookers

followed by the Hillbilly's with team captain Olga Lundquist. Team members include Herbert Hoffman, Ronnie Ingram and Augustine Ramirez.

The final team that entered the chili-cookoff was the Colorado River Gang lead by Carolyn Ferrill. Team members include Anna Kocurek, Raymond Harper and Lizzie Hill.

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