

# MEMBER

## Texas Press Association

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## Lewis maneuvers Legislature away from session Voice of Democracy program being sponsored by VFW Post

The Texas Legislature, spurred by rumors of a third special session, expects to pass a sales tax increase sometime this week and go home, thanks to an extraordinary maneuver by the Speaker of the House.

Speaker G. B. Lewis, suspicious that the Ways and Means panel meant to bottleneck the tax bill indefinitely, reassigned the tax bill to the State Affairs Committee. The bill cleared the panel vote that afternoon.

Lewis explained the maneuver was needed to protect the state's bond ratings. It also avoided a full-scale blood-bath for legislators who had blood in their eyes the night before.

The anti-tax forces aren't pleased, because they lost out. But Lewis was faced with an angry, pro-tax Senate and a growing number of pro-tax House members who wanted to be done with the teeth-pulling business

of raising taxes in Texas.

Third session rumors

Time runs out October 7 on the second 30-day special session, and last week legislators began to speculate that a third special session might be necessary to pass the controversial tax hike needed to resolve the state's budget crisis.

On the Ways and Means Committee, the traditional gatekeeper of all tax bills, anti-tax lawmakers swapped something of a mini-revolt by keeping the tax bill buried in committee.

The delay had its good side, too: it allowed the anti-tax forces to test the waters of the tax bill, and to see how the anti-tax forces would react to a full-scale blood-bath for legislators who had blood in their eyes the night before.

Certainly, it was clear that a majority of lawmakers wanted to

vote on the tax bill, for better or worse, to quit this bloody business and go back home.

Test vote

A test vote came when the House failed 77-45 to get the two-thirds necessary to suspend the rule on committee hearings. But the test indicated the tax bill probably had more than the 76 votes needed for majority.

At that point, Lewis reassigned the bill to the State Affairs, which quickly popped out a substitute form expected to be much amended on the House floor over the weekend.

"Burden the poor?"

Schlieter wanted a 1.38 cent sales tax increase, a nickel increase in gasoline taxes, and a tax on grossing receipts.

His plan flew directly in the face of Gov. Mark White's call for a one-year "temporary" tax of 1.18 cent, which Schlieter called a "misnomer."

Texas Comptroller Bob Bullock wrote a letter to Schlieter to discourage the higher sales tax, saying it would burden the poor and place Texas among states with the highest sales tax rates.

At that point Lewis stepped in, reassigned the bill, and the avalanche had broken off the mountain.

Income tax ban

Earlier in the week, the House narrowly passed a proposed constitutional amendment to ban a state income tax in Texas, but opponents bragged the bill would die in the Senate.

Some House members wanted to withhold the tax hike until the Senate approved the income tax ban and spending cuts.

Meanwhile, the budget conference committee hammered out a

come to the Lions Club Carnival and Parade 3 p.m. Saturday downtown Eagle Lake

## State Capitol Highlights

### By Lyndell Williams

On Monday, September 15, VFW post commander Wilfred Lueddecke, VFW auxiliary president Helen Supak, Voice of Democracy chairman Jim Ishee and District 16 Voice of Democracy chairman Jerry Wilder met Norton Shifflet, counselor at Rice High School, to introduce the Voice of Democracy scholarship program to 10th, 11th and 12th grade students who are interested in participating.

Increased self-confidence and poise, experience in communicating with others and valuable training of self expression are just a few of the benefits to young people who take part in this program. They are thinking, writing and speaking up for their country and gain a better appreciation of their obligation to maintain our nation's freedom heritage. The theme for this year is "The Challenge of American Citizenship." The school, VFW Post 8783 and auxiliary will work hand in hand on this project.

From among the state winners, six national winners are chosen to receive a total of \$32,500 in scholarships.

Delta Savings elects new president

The board of directors of Delta Savings Association of Texas announced, after its regular monthly board meeting, the election of Morgan Jones Jr. to the position of president of the association.

Jones, who has been interim president since June, joined Delta in April 1985 as senior vice president/growth manager of the Retail Banking Group. Jones has 13 years experience in the banking industry primarily with Texas Commerce Bankshares and Interfirst Corporation organizations.

Delta Savings, with assets of approximately \$300 million, serves various Texas communities with branches in Eagle Lake, Alvin, Marvel, Friendswood, Pearland, Richmond, Gonzales and Shiner.

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## Colorado County Courthouse Report

### MARRIAGE LICENSES

David Gray Webb, 24, and Dana Marie Schindler, 22,  
Charles Lee Isbell, 31, and Linda Marie Schmitt, 24.

### OIL, GAS LEASES

Lucille Green to Weldon B. Hill, 88 acres, J. Cummins Survey, 4-14-86.  
Donovan Street Addition, Patrick Reeh Survey, 9-18-86.

### DIVORCES FILED

Donna Jeanne Crane and Roy Henry Crane.

### REAL ESTATE DEEDS

Gil Deed, Frank Sanders Jr., et ux, to Donald R. Sanders, 40 percent undivided interest in and to 22.90 acres, R. Dowdy League, and 61.08 acres, A. Kelsa League, 8-22-86.

Deed, Clinton L. Mascheck, et ux, to Wayne L. Gorman, et ux, lot 7 Communs Survey, 8-23-86.

Deed, Alan Murray Burton to Great Western Bank, N.A., 10 acres, John H. Dabney League, 8-18-86.

Deed, Carl A. Milante to Milante Mini Mart, Inc., 0.5799 acre, E. Tumlison League, 9-17-86.

Deed, Donald Shokley, trustee, to Ruckel LTD, Inc., 102.20 acres, W.K. Paulding Survey, 9-17-86.

### Deed, Lewis B. Epps, et ux, to Carlos Gonzalez, et ux, 0.325 acre, Donovan Street Addition, Patrick Reeh Survey, 9-18-86.

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