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\$20.4 million emergency prison bill may not be enough

The Legislature passed a \$20.4 million emergency prison bill last week in an effort to avoid federal contempt of court fines, but it may not be enough.

Gov. Clements decided not to sign the bill, but many lawmakers want to go higher, according to Schluter.

The Texas Supreme Court decided the state could legally test the literacy of teachers, and...

Attorney General Jim Mattox told the Dallas Morning News it may have violated the Texas Deceptive Trade Practices Act.

The \$20.4 million prison bill will expand halfway house programs and parole and probation services to help the prison system speed up the early release of non-violent prisoners.

Prison doors remained closed for most of last week due to overcrowding, and Texas still faces federal court fines of more than \$800,000 daily. Mattox questioned whether the bill was enough.

More tax talk
The Comptroller's proposal to widen the base and lower the sales tax rate isn't finding easy sailing, according to Ways and Means chairman Stan Schlueter, D-Killeen.

Schluter advised that legislators generally agree they won't go through an emotional, perhaps bloody, battle over a new tax plan unless it produces more revenues than outlays.

Comptroller Bob Bullock tailored

his bill to meet a fiscal bid imposed by Clements, but many lawmakers want to go higher, according to Schluter.

The next day, in a speech to lawmakers, Clements retorted to pro-tax lawmakers, "If you want to raise taxes, just say so. Come forward in the full light of day and tell Texans what you mean and don't hide behind flowery oratory."

Lame-duck taps
Clements was considering busting seven last-hour appointments by lame duck Gov. Mark White, but last week he gave up the effort.

Faced with more important items on the agenda and a Democratic Senate which would probably win, he let it go by.

Literacy testing
The Supreme Court unanimously ruled constitutional the 1984 law requiring teachers to take a literacy test as part of the reform package enacted by White.

Ink by barrel
An old political maxim goes, "Don't pick a fight with a man who buys ink by the barrel," but Mattox wasn't fazed when he told The Dallas Morning News he is prepared to file a deceptive trade practices

lawsuit against it for inflating circulating figures.

The newspaper responded by asking a state district judge to declare

it for probably twenty-five years.

The obituary was so impressive, I would like to request that you mail a copy of that issue to the following survivors at the addresses noted and if you will mail me a bill for same, a check immediately.

Sincerely,
Oliver O. Jacobsen Sr.

Sanctions of doctors, hospitals
We're fighting for our doctor, R.D. Schlomach, M.D. and our hospital, Archer County Hospital. I hope you will be equally as concerned because this could also be pertinent to you, your physician and your hospital(s).

The number of hospitals closed January 1, 1986 through December 31, 1986 was 25. A large number of Texas doctors have been sanctioned and many more are waiting official sanctions. If the hospital or hospital in your county and/or town are already being threatened, or any of the doctors are being investigated and/or sanctioned I would like to hear from you.

This letter could be written about "your doctor and your hospital," so please let your voice be heard by writing your legislators in both Texas and Washington along with letters to U.S. Sen. Lloyd Bentsen, Attn: Wanda Garcia, 961 Federal Bldg., 300 E. 8th St., Austin, TX 78701 and U.S. Sen. Phil Gramm, Room 179 Russell Office Bldg., Washington, D.C. 20510.

Sincerely,
A Concerned Citizen,
Linnie Hudson,
P.O. Box 335,
Archer City, TX 76351

State Capitol Highlights By Lyndell Williams



requiring teachers to take a literacy test as part of the reform package enacted by White.

Ninety-one percent of teachers passed the exam last year, but the lawsuit was filed by the largest teachers group, Texas State Teachers Association. TSTA said the issue was settled.

West Texans want the project at the Garden City site, but Clements wants it near a metropolitan area. The project would employ 3,000 people with a yearly budget of \$270 million.

Other legislation
An East Texas lawmaker, Rep.

discovered blood plasma, was black.

In conclusion, Marion Anderson, a concert singer, George W. Carver, a scientist, Mary McLeod Bethune, an educator, Charles, a physician; and 1773, Phillis Wheatley published poems, Paul L. Dunbar, poet; Shirley Chisholm, U.S. Congress; Roy Wilkins and Barbara Jordan, the Rev. M.L. King, the Rev. Jesse Jackson and the Rev. Andrew Young have made Black History through God who strengthen us.

(This was written by J.H. James, minister and instructor in Christian education of the Main Street Baptist Church, 713, Main Street, Eagle Lake, (409) 234-7318.)

Ground beef color, safety
You may not need to throw out that rare ground beef that turned brown after a day or two in the refrigerator. According to Mary Kinney Sweeten, a Texas A&M nutritionist, the color of ground beef is determined by the amount of oxygen with which it has come in contact.

So brown hamburger may be as safe as pink hamburger. However, she says it's a good idea to keep raw ground beef in the refrigerator no longer than two days. Don't use the meat if it has an off odor or was left unrefrigerated for a time.

By Peggy Braden,
County Extension Agent

The mortgage, car payment and utility bills still have to get paid, even when money is tight. So for many of us, that major "making ends meet" is a matter of reducing household living expenses for food, clothing and home maintenance.

Take a careful look at your lifestyle and hunt for those things you could cut out or reduce.

First, try trading time for money. Cut up your own chicken, make cookies instead of buying them, prepare a casserole from scratch instead of a box and use slow-cooking methods to cook some less expensive cuts of meat. The same thing applies to many home cleaning products, substitute generic products or make your own all-purpose cleaner from vinegar and water, or ammonia and water, at home.

Trading time for money extends to clothing shopping; making lists, checking ads for the best prices, coupon clipping, comparison shopping and sticking to a budget. However, be careful about using coupons to save money on things you don't need or using up more money on gas than you saved by driving across town to get a "bargain."

Another good strategy is to think in terms of recycling or repairing anything before you consider buying. If you sew, mend or update clothes that can be worn for another season or "handed down" to a younger child.

Rewire your old lamp, repair your own washing machine or fix the cracked plaster yourself. You can get step-by-step instructions on home repairs from Extension publications, library books and free pamphlets on display at many hardware and home improvement stores.

Sharing is another excellent strategy for stretching dollars. Many families commonly share some items, such as baby furniture or maternity clothes, with relatives or friends.

But also think in terms of sharing other infrequently used items. For example, if you and your neighbor both garden, you could share the cost

of a needed tool. Sharing applies to skills too. If you have a friend who knows how to change the oil on a car, you could babysit one evening in exchange for this service.

The last strategy is to simply cut need. If you've got two rented phones, take one back to the phone company. Turn the air conditioner up or the heater down and dress accordingly to cut down on utility costs. Try to work out carpooling arrangements so you won't need a second car.

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that its circulation figures are accurate and that no figures have been falsified.

The newspaper claims Mattox's probe is retaliation for its articles on his office, but Mattox said the facts are there for a lawsuit.

In other action, Mattox said he will send a lawyer to London as part of the probe into allegations of antitrust activities by some in the insurance industry. The Lloyds of London insurance firm has been cited to problems of premiums costs.

Houston Sen. Craig Washington went for humor by filing a bill spoofing the Aggies and pro-choice forces. Washington's bill makes it illegal for a man to have a vasectomy without the consent of his wife and unless he donated to a sperm bank for ten years.

One exception: vasectomies are allowed on students who attended Texas A&M University for four semesters or more.

Speaking of Aggies, they are a much more dominant force in Texas politics, ever since The University of Texas disbanded its student government in the '70s.

With the breeding ground gone for UT politicians, the Aggies filed for vacuum with such elected officials as Land Commissioner Gary Mauro, Railroad Commissioner John Sharp, state Sens. Chet Edwards and Kent Caperton and many more.

The Cotton Bowl isn't their only goal as the Spirit of Aggieland moves across Texas.

Black History relative to divinity and humanity
The following is a brief history of the black heritage beginning with the Bible in commemorating February as Black History Month.

The Bible has the origin of creation (Genesis 1,1). God began his work by forming the earth after the first creative act. The second act was animal life. The third creative act, man was created. Not evolved, this statement has been expressly stated (Gen. 1, 26) God said "Let us (the Triune God) make man in our image, after our likeness."

Man was formed from the dust of the earth. This declaration is confirmed by Jesus Christ (Matt. 19: 4) beginning with the period 1410 B/C to this 20th Century A/D. Would you believe that Adams third son, Seth, was black? From Adams son, Seth, to Noah Ham continues the black lineage. Moses' wife, Zipporah, was a black Ethiopian woman. The most famous queen in history (Queen Sh -) was black.

Ebed-Melech, a black Ethiopian, helped to take major Prophet Jeremiah out of the dungeon. Rahab of Jericho, who hid the spies of Joshua, was a black woman. King Solomon, the wise man in the east, was black. K.-g David (King Solomon's father) and grandmother Ruth was black. Simon of Cyrene, the man who helped Jesus carry the cross up Golgotha Mountain, was a black man from North Africa.

Many converts at Pentecost were black. The first gentile to Christianity Eunuch, was an Ethiopian. Dr. Charles Drew, the man that

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For information about the reserve, contact any local office of the USDA Soil Conservation Service, Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service, or the Texas Agricultural Extension Service.

Growing your own garden transplants
By Leroy Hajdik,
County Extension Agent

Get your spring garden off to a good start by growing your own transplants indoors.

The key to growing transplants successfully is to plant seed at the proper time so the young plants will be ready to set out when your garden is ready and weather conditions are favorable.

For the best survival and quick root after planting in the garden, transplants should be young, sturdy and in good nutritional condition.

Usually four to six weeks is sufficient time to grow most transplants. Vine crops take two to three weeks to develop two to three true leaves while lettuce takes three to four weeks. Tomatoes need five to seven weeks to reach transplanting stage.

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