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Largest state tax hike produced in special session

One lawmaker said the Legislature should let Bob Stagle and George Strake, who respectively lead Texas Democrats and Republicans, mud-wrestle for the tax bill on the House floor.

Another said, the "good of boy" system (non-partisan) died in the House last week, probably never to be resurrected. Instead, the House will one day soon divide on party lines like the U.S. Congress.

In the wake of the fierce special session which produced the largest state tax hike in the nation's history, Texas government and Texas politics will never be the same again.

And the key ingredient is an angry backlash. Does it really exist? Will it rise across the state or just in pockets?

Cooler heads say the voters accepted new taxes long before the drawn-out legislative battle was over.

The state's tax collector, Comptroller Bob Bullock, estimated the average Texan will pay about \$63 a year more in new taxes. But local governments aren't through with their budgets and taxes will probably rise

State Capitol Highlights

By Lyndell Williams

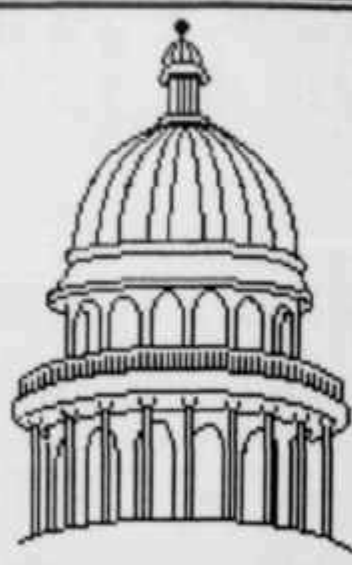
on the local level.

And while lawmakers fear a backlash from angry voters, Texas has only risen from 48th to 43rd among states in per-capita taxation. And that's after what one legislator called "the largest tax bill in the free world, outside of Congress."

Some players tried to claim a victory, but House Speaker Gib Lewis probably summed it up best: "No one got what they wanted."

A tired, wounded Gov. Bill Clements said the GOP had won a victory by stopping growth, even though spending was not reduced.

Clements and White
In a session of bitter pills for all, his was the bitterest. For in the end, he signed the tax bill he promised to veto.



doing just what he had despised his defeated nemesis, former Gov. Mark White, for doing.

On one hand, their fates were not the same. White hadn't been in office two months before he reversed himself on taxes and initiated the fight to raise them.

Clements surrendered to the Legislature only after a bitter partisan fight that lasted seven months.

And on the other hand, both Clements and White learned, like many a governor before them, that under the Texas system the will of the Legislature prevails over the governor's veto.

Republican muscle
The House Republicans flexed more muscle this session than ever before, forcing the Democrats to resort to some of the trickiest maneuvering seen.

Included in the emerging leadership are Gerald Geistweid of Mason, Mike Toomey and Ashley Smith of Houston, and old pros Terrell Smith of Austin, Bill Cevertha of Dallas and Tom Craddock of Midland.

Before it was over, they forced the Democrats to remove the so-called "Doomsday Amendment" which gutted anti-tax districts, and they forced the tax hike to be taken in two votes.

which attempted to camouflage GOP support for the tax.

GOP plan
This, Texas Republicans positioned themselves to maintain their anti-tax posture, and that's how they will run come election time. And they can hardly wait.

Their stated goal is to gain 10 to 12 seats in the '88 election, which brings them in range of electing a speaker from their party.

They particularly want control by '90, when the Legislature will begin to redistrict the state.

Democratic plan

The Democratic plan is not as clearly stated, although they certainly want to re-elect their members by claiming they maintained public education and services.

Many House Democrats are disappointed with their party leadership, which includes Lewis and Lt. Gov. Bill Hobby.

Frankly, party chairman Stagle has never been very popular among House Democrats. And, just as frankly, Stagle has never lost much sleep over it.

The black caucus voted against the tax bill out of anger at Speaker Lewis, and word from the Mexican-American caucus is they're displeased, too.

Wied
Eagle Lake PeeWee Rainbows closed out their season last Thursday night by defeating the Garwood team 14 to 3. Attending the Methodist Camp at Mt. Wesley are Karen Fuers, Robbie Locklier, Kathy Moon, Diane Morgan, Buddie Seaholm, Gus Seaholm and Kathy Scott. Shirley Ann Fajkus celebrated her 6th birthday with a party at the Eagle Lake Recreation Center. Reagan Laughlin, Johnny Meitzen, Leon Simank and Robert Adkins, members of the Eagle Lake Aquanauts, enjoyed a deep sea diving trip at Fort Aransas.

Lissie also had his tonsils removed at the same hospital during last week's session.

Johnston is spending a vacation fishing at Palacios. Mrs. Johnson is a guest of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Pat Cain, at Austin for the week. Next week, Mr. and Mrs. Johnson will visit in West Texas.

Mrs. J.N. Frazar and daughter, Miss Virginia Frazar have been guests of the families of Mrs. Frazar's sisters, Mesdames B.E. Waggoner, W.P. Fitch and W.T. Beard of San Antonio. Miss Pearl Lee Adams was out from Houston for a weekend visit with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Jesse Adams.

Deanne Ann Hodde, three year old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Dallas Hodde, under went an operation for the removal of her tonsils at the Laughlin Emergency Hospital during the weekend. Wesley Causey of Houston is expected Saturday for a weekend visit with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Will Walker. Chas. Edwin

Homemakers Reflections

By Peggy Braden
County Extension Agent-Home Economics

What's in a label?

To attract health and weight-conscious consumers, manufacturers often put all types of claims on labels. In an effort to help consumers decipher food labels, the Food and Drug Administration has come up with the following definitions of these health claims.

"Natural" has no official definition. It signifies nothing more than the product "occurs in nature."

"Sugar-free" products cannot contain any nutritive carbohydrate sweetener, such as sucrose, maltose, honey, fruit juice, molasses, etc.

"Low-calorie" products contain no more than 40 calories per serving and no more than 0.4 calorie "per gram."

"Low-sodium" products must contain less than 140 milligrams of sodium per serving.

"Very low-sodium" products contain no more than 35 milligrams of sodium per serving.

"Sodium-free" products contain less than 5 milligrams of sodium per serving.

"No artificial flavoring" means that the product does not contain any flavors which have been defined as "artificial."

"No artificial coloring" means that any ingredient added to enhance the color of the product is considered "artificial."

"..." may contain one or more of the following: "means the manufacturer will use whichever is available and is cheapest at time of production."

"No cholesterol" means there is no cholesterol detectable by any present analytical methods.

"Cholesterol-free" means that the product contains less than 2 milligrams of cholesterol per serving.

Triangle Reinforced Corners

HEAVY-DUTY TARPAULINS

These rugged tarps will protect a large variety of items... firewood, lawn furniture, bicycles, cars, fishing boats, canoes, lawn mowers, hay bales, power machinery... the list is endless!

Heavy-duty construction gives long-lasting durability! Made of reinforced P.E. 100% denier with a 10x10 weave count. 100% water proof, fade-proof, and rip resistant. Welded seams resist tears and weathering. Double stitched Diagonal woven rope hems. Brass grommets placed at 3 foot intervals.

Your Choice of Thirteen Different Sizes!

SIZE PRICE 10X20 \$18.42

8X8 \$4.89 12X12 \$14.25

8X10 \$6.13 12X16 \$14.56

10X10 \$7.67 12X20 \$18.19

10X12 \$9.24 12X30 \$33.13

10X14 \$10.75 12X40 \$36.67

10X16 \$12.29 20X20 \$73.31

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807 E. Main Eagle Lake 234-3581

Colorado County Courthouse Report

MARRIAGE LICENSES

Clay James Rosewater, 25, and Rosemary Grace Helmkamp, 19.

Bobby Eugene Moore, 46, and Sallie Lee Smith, 47.

Donald Wayne Nelson, 23, and Terri Susan Abel, 23.

Irvin Earl Cryer Jr., 23, and Robyn Lynn Ellis, 21.

Stuart Holmes Clement III, 31, and Kelly Kathleen Carro, 23.

Larry Wayne Sapp, 24, and Kelly Eliza Beth Thrall, 20.

Ronald Michael Smith, 20, and Shelley Lynn Smith, 18.

Such anger may just fizzle out.

Democrats who stood out include Dan Morales, Stan Schluter, Dudley General Jim Mattox included more than 1,000 sponsors, as impressive an array of Democratic supporters seen in a long time.

Not all will side with Mattox in a gubernatorial race against Hobby, but the length of the list certainly gives pause to anyone doubting Mattox's organizational strength.

Mattox fundraising

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