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Lt. Governor Bill Hobby is strongest of conservative Democrats

When gubernatorial front-runner Lt. Gov. Bill Hobby last week decided not to seek any office in 1990, the status quo loomed in Texas politics let loose a resounding "crack."

The fact that other political hopefuls were considering their new opportunities was enough to prompt an amused Hobby to clarify he may run again someday—but not for governor.

His act of acquiescence has set next session's agenda, the overhaul of the tax base to deal with the fiscal crisis.

Hobby's stature is such that for Texas Democrats he is several officials rolled into one. While Republicans occupy the Governor's Mansion, Hobby really has been "the governor" in the eyes of many die-hard Democrats.

Without him, they will have no incumbent running for the top two spots in Texas government. Thus, the door is open for many hopefuls and as officials play musical chairs, more openings will be created throughout the ballot. With the tax hike vote also a factor, the Democratic party will undergo a large-scale change of names.

Change post? With more than three years left in his term, Hobby has not made his last mark on the Capitol scene. Those given to speculation can easily see Hobby in a U.S. cabinet position—perhaps as Secretary of Energy—but Hobby said he wants to keep politics out of the goals he has for Texas in his remaining term.

In his own words, he can be more effective now that the perception of his running for higher office has been removed.

GOP camp pooh
Other camps offered more cynical

State Capitol Highlights

By Lyndell Williams

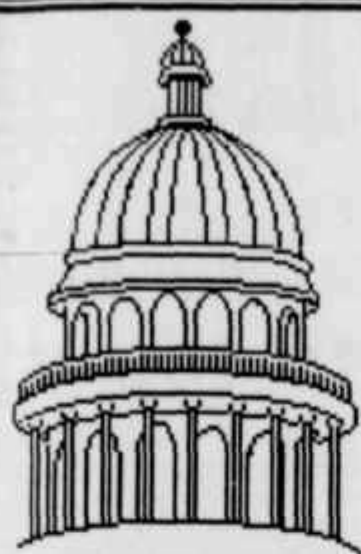
Some Texas Republicans pooh pooh Hobby's stance, saying his latest program for new taxes would sink any election bid.

Indeed, tax bill author Rep. Dan Morales, D-San Antonio, predicted 50 legislators will not run for re-election because of the specter of political defeat or personal financial hardship.

Another view holds that Hobby did not want to endure the sniping of announced opponent Attorney General Jim Mattox, who has already mud-balled him several times this year.

Amid the massive praise of Hobby's service, his most vocal detractor was Texas GOP executive director John Weaver, who thinks Hobby has now lost a lot of leverage around the Capitol.

Anointment power
Fifteen years ago, Hobby's leverage came from family wealth and a



bevy of powerful friends.

If knowledge is power, then note what Comptroller Bob Bullock said last week: "Bill Hobby knows more about state government than any other alive."

Insiders will agree, but some will say under their breath, "except for maybe Bob Bullock." Hobby wouldn't mind that.

And as the reigning conservative Democrat of state government,

Hobby can play a big role in appointing successors and in delivering the Texas vote to an '88 presidential candidate.

End of an era
So, barring massive upheaval in the Senate membership, Hobby is not likely to pass as your average lame duck.

What is passing, however, is the end of an era, for Hobby is the strongest of conservative Democrats at the state level. He will likely be replaced in nomination by an unabashed, unapologetic liberal—such is the Democratic talent pool.

Far-righters will argue that a pro-tax official like Hobby cannot be a conservative. But he enjoys the allegiances of the biggest conservative power brokers in the state, and that makes Bill Hobby a conservative.

Quite likely, some of those conservatives will support more Republicans when he is gone. The realignment continues its own merry way.

Other highlights
• State Treasurer Ann Richards

rewards her staff with a party and huge cake last week for collecting its billion-dollar in non-tax revenue for the state.

• Dallas school superintendent Linus Wright said he will be nominated by President Reagan to the No. 2 position in the Department of Education.

• Texas lost a South Texas political and economic power, and a long-term friend to higher education last week when Corpus Christi attorney Hayden Head died in a plane crash. Head was an informal advisor to President Reagan, U.S. Sen. Phil Gramm and Gov. Clements, and served the University of Texas System in many capacities.

• San Antonio Mayor Henry Cisneros, a '90 gubernatorial maybe, has been appointed to the Baylor College of Medicine board.

• A daughter of the late John and Mary Michalcik, she was born on May 17, 1907 in Holman. A lifetime resident of the Weimar area, she married Willie H. Taylor on November 10, 1925 in a ceremony in Weimar. He preceded her in death on January 22, 1984. A housewife first, her second love was sewing. Many county and area residents called on her for her seamstress talents as she was well-known for the multitude of bridal party gowns she designed and created up until the time of her failing health. At the time of her death, she was still taking on several sewing jobs. In addition to belonging to a sewing club, she was a lifelong member of St. Michael's Catholic Church in Weimar and was a Catholic Daughters.

Family and friends joined together Wednesday evening, July 29 at 7 to recite a parish rosary led by Father Hughes in the chapel of Hubbard Funeral Home in Weimar followed by a rosary led by members of the Catholic Daughters.

The Burial Mass was officiated by the Rev. Hughes at two Thursday afternoons, July 30 with Stanley Kucherkar Jr. of Rosenberg, a nephew of the deceased, serving as lector and presenting the eulogy. Favorite hymns were played by organist Mrs. Charles (Mickey) Glock of Cat Spring, Mrs. Taylor's niece.

Mrs. Taylor was placed in a tranquil eternal rest during burial services conducted at St. Michael's Catholic Cemetery in Weimar. Serving as pallbearers were Russell Taylor, Kevin Henske, Walter Taylor, Johnny F. Michalcik, Hilmer Hasse and August Hunsak.

Left to mourn her passing are: a daughter and son-in-law, Dorothy and E.H. "Sonny" Breithaupt of Eagle Lake; a son and daughter-in-law, Billy and Carolyn Taylor of Rockdale; a sister, Adela Fojt of Cat Spring; two brothers, John and Alfred Michalcik of Hallettsville; seven grandchildren, Shirley Seasholtz and Connie Gertson of Eagle Lake, Linda Henske of Agua Dulce, Billy Breithaupt of Rockdale, and Brice,

1987 through August 31, 1988. "The prevention and treatment services provided by this funding are vital to Texas," said the legislators. "We cannot overstate the importance of programs to keep our children safe from succumbing to the perils of alcohol and drug abuse addiction."

The Anti-Drug Abuse Act of 1986 authorized funding for law enforcement prevention/education and treatment in line with the federal mandate to reduce substance abuse.

These funds represent a part of the \$4 million in federal funds awarded for substance abuse services statewide for the period 7/1 September 1,

coordinating a unique regional conference in Bay City on the commercial viability of waterfowl hunting, September 25-26.

Goal of the forum, Payne says, is to take an in-depth look at two of the most essential elements for successful hunting operations—property and business management.

Bay City was selected as the conference site because of its location in the midst of Texas' rich coastal waterfowl belt. Besides the geographical asset, another factor was the community's overwhelming interest and commitment of agriculture and business in development and carefully planned utilization of the area's natural resources.

The conference is designed for farmers and ranchers, property managers, real estate investors and developers, guides and outfitters, hunting and outdoor sports booking agents, wetland property owners, wildlife resource professionals and others intensely interested in the business end of duck and goose hunting in the Southeastern and South Central United States.

A complete agenda and registration materials will be available in early August. To receive a special conference packet, contact Willie Younger, Matagorda County Extension Agent-Marine, Room 326 Courthouse, Bay City, Texas 77414; (409) 244-7650.

For more program details, contact Payne, Extension wildlife specialist, Texas A&M University Agricultural Research and Extension Center, Route 2, Box 589, Corpus Christi, Texas 78410; (512) 265-9203.

Waterfowl conference
set September 25-26

Drug, alcohol abuse council
awarded funds for services

State Senator Kent Caperton and State Representative Robert Saunders have announced that the Texas Commission on Alcohol and Drug Abuse has awarded \$44,200 to the Colorado Valley Council on Drug and Alcohol Abuse of La Grange, to provide pilot primary services. The council serves Fayette, Colorado and portions of Bastrop County.

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Colorado County Courthouse Report

MARRIAGE LICENSES
John Lee Williams, 23, and Ruby Lee Spear, 24

DIVORCES FILED
Dennis B. Young and Diana L. Young

REAL ESTATE DEEDS
Gift Deed, Frances D. Hinson to Beverly and Wayne Bellin, 2,267 acres, S.M. Williams Survey, 7-23-87.

Deed, Kenneth McKenna, Work to Clifford McKenna, lots 2, 3 and 4, block 88, Sheridan, 7-23-87.

Deed, Theresa Wilburn Tietze to Raymond and Carolyn Irving, lots 1 and 2, block 49, Akeleyton, 7-23-87.

Deed, Eunice Leggett to John Steiger, 3.1 acres, J.B. Tens Survey, 7-24-87.

Deed, Joseph B. Trojan Jr. to Linda M. Trojan, 40.2 acres, James Cummins League, 7-24-87.

Deed, Carl Halla Jr. to Carole Bunge Halla, interest in 5 acres, 7-24-87.

Deed, Carl Halla Jr. to Carole Bunge Halla, interest in 1.146 acres, 7-24-87.

OIL, GAS LEASES
Virginia Mill and Walter L. Bauer to The Louisiana Land and Exploration Co., 333.239 acres, James Ross League, 7-22-87.

Deed, James Ross League, 315,989 acres, James Ross League, 7-22-87.

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Mixed drinks netted almost \$200 for city

State Comptroller Bob Bullock sent checks totaling \$10.9 million to the 219 counties and 430 cities as their share of the state's 12 percent mixed drink tax collected during the second quarter of 1987.

The total tax revenue collected from mixed drink taxes for Colorado County for the second quarter (April, May and June) was \$9,615.18 with the county receiving \$1,201.90, their 12.5 percent share of the amount of taxes derived from the sale of mixed drinks.

Eagle Lake's tax revenue on mixed drinks totaled \$1,547.73 giving them \$193.47 for their 12.5 percent share. Columbus' share totaled \$633.85 out of the \$5,070.77 total tax revenue, and Weimar netted \$90.33 from \$722.63 in total tax revenue.

Bullock said the state collected 45.3 million in mixed drink taxes for the second quarter, compared to 50.7 million collected during the same period in 1986. Of the total 45.3 million in state collections, counties received 5.6 million, down from 6.3 million received in the second quarter of 1986. Cities received 5.3 million, down from 5.8 million received in the second quarter of 1986.

The 34.4 balance was deposited in the state's general revenue fund, down from 38.6 million collected in the second quarter of 1986.

The mixed drink tax is collected by the Alcoholic Beverage Commission. City and county rebates are sent out quarterly by Bullock's office.

Also, Gary, Susan, Kyle, Kevin and Kaylee Pionitzsch from Columbus; Stanley and Magdalene Kucherkar from Rosenberg; Charles and Mickey Glock and family from Cat Spring; Gordon, Jo Ann and Cindy Maertz from Alletton; Glenn, Shanna and Debbie Michalcik and the Alton Michalcik family from Hallettsville; Joe and Irene McKoon from El Campo; Billy, Carolyn and Russell Taylor and Billy, Robbie and Justin Breithaupt, all from Rockdale; and Victor, Carol, Melissa and Clarissa Michalcik from Houston.

The gathering is held annually the last Sunday in July.

East Bernard High School
registration set August 12

Registration for all new students, grades 9-12, at East Bernard High School will be held at 9 a.m. on Wednesday, August 12 in the high school library. New students are those who did not attend East Bernard schools during the 1986-87 term.

The seniors will register at 1 p.m. on Wednesday, August 12 in room 413, the agriculture room. All other high school students will register on Thursday, August 13 in room 413. The juniors will meet at 10 a.m. and the sophomores at 11 a.m. The freshmen will register at 1 p.m.

It is important that all students meet at their designated times to check schedules and take care of other necessary details.

If any student cannot attend at the time designated due to extenuating circumstances, it will be necessary for him/her to call the principal or counselor at 335-7519 and make an appointment.

The largest known outbreak of tornadoes will be a 24-hour period, "48, 17 the United States April 24, 19, killing 315 people, says National Geographic.

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Pink Ladies

This is the most hours served by any member and Letha is to be commended for her faithful service. She can be seen in the gift shop or helping in other areas of the hospital each Tuesday morning and Sundays following church services. Mrs. Luevenia Chavis, unable to attend the meeting, has earned a 2,500 hour pin and Mrs. Jimmie Scott a 500 hour pin.

Mrs. Betty Wilcox and J.K. Davidson were commended for their services by the president. Betty is in charge of volunteer services and recently, J.K., the memorial book.

In late September the Hospital Auxiliary will be observing its 20th anniversary. For this occasion a silver tea is planned with donations going toward the Chemistry Auto Analyzer.

Pink Ladies earning hour pins at this time were Mrs. Letha Lundquist (pictured in the photo at right) who received a 5,000 hour pin.

Mrs. Letha Lundquist

Sweeney pledges
POW reward fund

United States Congressman Mac Sweeney and 17 other members of Congress are backing a \$2.4 million reward to any citizen of Laos, Vietnam or Kampuchea (Cambodia) who safely returns an American listed missing in action in Southeast Asia to an official U.S. facility.

As long as even a shred of evidence exists that Americans are still alive in Southeast Asia, we owe it to their families to make every effort to bring them home," said Sweeney.

Sweeney said his involvement in the national POW reward fund stems from the "large volume of evidence and numerous reports that American prisoners of war still live in Southeast Asia."

Publishing of the reward offer in Southeast Asia will begin soon, explained former North Carolina Congressman Bill Hendon, director of the American Defense Institute, which organized the reward effort. "I've been beating my head against this wall for six and a half years," Hendon said, referring to his involvement with the MIA issue both in and out of government. "We tried some things with Ross Perot, ran a mission in 1981 and I traveled to Southeast Asia six times as a freshman Congressman—but I'm more excited about this program than anything I've seen before."

The Defense Department lists 2,413 Americans as officially missing in action due to U.S. involvement in Southeast Asia.

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