



THE EAGLE LAKE HEADLIGHT

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Gov. Richards lectures agency directors on 'sloppy mismanagement'

On her 100th day in office, Gov. Ann Richards lectured state agency directors on their sloppy mismanagement and told them the people of Texas "don't believe we have their interests at heart."

"And I think they (the people) may be right," she said, giving the agency heads 30 days to report back with a

plan to make Texas a model of efficiency, accountability and accessibility.

With those statements, Richards became the first major Democrat in years to own up to the massive waste in a Democrat-controlled state government.

For a decade, top Democrats have sung only about the hardships of belt-tightening and boasted about their no-fat budgets.

Until now, only the Republicans and a few media complained of the quiet spending orgy that, fueled by record tax increases, pervaded the '80s recession that hit common citizens hardest.

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Hire More Minorities

Gov. Richards is not admitting to a spending orgy — far from it — but she has fired a volley in the right direction, and she's laying the groundwork to resolving a public relations problem the Democrats have in pushing an income tax.

Taxpayers aren't going to be happy with an income tax, but they may not revolt if, along with property tax relief, they can believe state government does not waste their tax money.

Detractors criticized the governor for setting the stage with a "crisis of competence" to replace current agency heads with more women and minorities from her political camp.

In the verbal padding Richards handed out, she ordered agency heads to hire more minorities, something

that could save tax dollars by avoiding discrimination lawsuits later.

Bullock's Income Tax Dare
Speaking of the income tax, a recent poll reported that Texans would

favor a small income tax if it would greatly reduce their property taxes.

Not everyone does. Former Gov. John Connally, who heads the governor's blue-ribbon committee seeking new state revenues, said income tax is not the answer to Texans' problems.

Meanwhile, State Rep. Sam Johnson, R-Plano, who is seeking the congressional seat vacated by Republican Steve Bartlett of Dallas and is touting his opposition to an income tax, challenged Lt. Gov. Bob Bullock to debate the issue.

When asked if he would debate, Bullock jokingly replied, "Who's that? Who's Sam Johnson?... I've been here 16 years, and I didn't know there was a Sam Johnson serving in the Legislature."

The Texas poll also revealed that less than one-in-five citizens agreed to trusting a Texas legislature, congressman, lawyer, pollster, TV or newspaper reporter.

Senate/House Action
On her legislative action:

Gov. Richards endorsed a wide-ranging education bill by Sen. Bill Haley, D-Center, that would create education SWAT teams composed of highly regarded teachers and administrators who could move in and help low-performing schools.

"The Senate unanimously approved a bill that would enable Texas to accept low-level radioactive waste from other states. Sen. Bill Sims, D-San Angelo, said Texas is considering

a contract with Maine, which would help pay for a \$20 million disposal dump in Texas.

"The first personal income tax proposal to come before the House Ways and Means Committee was heard and quickly shelved last week. The proposal by Rep. Garfield Thompson, D-Ft. Worth, would have exempted individuals who earn less than \$50,000 a year.

Other Highlights
"The State Board of Insurance, admitting that supplied data may be flawed, approved an auto insurance rate hike averaging 8.7 percent across Texas.

It may be the last Clements-dominated action; commissioner James Saxton is due to depart next week, giving Gov. Richards a second commissioner on the three-person board.

An Austin jury found in favor of former Southwest Texas State University President Robert Hardesty, who sued residents for firing him in 1988. Hardesty, who claimed the firing was politically motivated, seeks \$1.5 million in actual damages, which will be decided at a later hearing.

Members of the Capitol Lobby threw a \$120,000 reunion for present and former House members last week and House Speaker Gib Lewis blasted reporters for their constant exaggerations of lavish lobbyist entertainment of lawmakers.

Just on the edge of the big picture, former members of the "Dirty Thirty" held their reunion across town to remember the early '70s when they launched their own ethics reform legislation that led to the downfall of several top Democrats. The "dirty" members told reporters their gains were short-lived and today we're back to politics as usual.

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Letter to the Editor

Appalled by lack of respect shown at Talent Show

Dear Editor,

Our family went to the Talent Show at the Middle School Thursday night. All the contestants had worked hard and we were proud of them. What we were not proud of was the conduct in the lack of respect shown by a part of the audience — even worse, nothing was done about it! Is this the type of discipline that goes on at our school? Is this where our tax dollars are being spent?

It is useless to write this letter in hopes that it might make a difference? Were there other parents there who were as appalled as we at the lack of discipline, but didn't think their comments would make any difference either? We don't know, but we as parents have to start somewhere in improving our school system. Not only do we have a right to know what goes on at the school, you have a responsibility as parents to find out what goes on. Our children are our most precious gifts we have and we need to provide the best we can for them. Sometimes that takes effort on our part.

—Candy McCreary
Joe H. McCreary

We would like to see a school where respect is shown to our teachers — not just by the students, but by the administration as well. We need strong leadership in our schools today more than ever. The big excuse seems to be you cannot fire an incompetent teacher or principal. They do it every day in schools. Sure, it may cost some money, but it may be well worth the investment if it means strong leadership for our schools. Other schools shine — why can't ours?

—Candy McCreary
Joe H. McCreary

EDITOR'S NOTE: There has been much discussion in the past month concerning the juvenile problem in our city and now I can see another situation from which it stems.

It has been stated several times that the problem with our young people starts in the home, but with the total lack of discipline I personally witnessed last Thursday night, I can truly tell you it is compounded in our schools.

American Rice Growers Association Report

Thailand prices are off slightly. There seems to be a demand for rice, but Thailand won't pay the prices.

Also Thailand will harvest approximately 3 million metric tons of rough rice which is considerably lower than the past year. The Thai harvest will be completed in one week and officials predict the nation's second crop will be 2.1 million tons short, the lowest since 1982. The short harvest is blamed on insects, drought and heavy rains. There is some speculation Thai exports may be short this year. Thai government predicts higher prices this year due to short supply.

The country of Iraq wants rice badly, but credit and bank bills are a question.

Planting in Arkansas, Mississippi and Louisiana is very slow due to mixed weather conditions.

Heavy rains slow Texas planting to approximately one-half, possibly a second crop in some areas.

Locally, there has been little trading. Texas demand appears to be low.

World Market Price
The World Market Price (\$5-70)

Weather
Unseasonably hot weather persisted across Thailand's rain-fed rice and corn areas, maintaining unfavorable conditions for early planting. Weekly temperatures averaged 2-3 degrees Celsius above normal, with highs of 38-42 common at most locations. Moderate to heavy showers (19-94 mm) improved irrigation reserves in Thailand's northern hills region, but rainfall elsewhere was widely scattered, bringing little relief from high evaporative losses.

In the Philippines, rainfall increased over many eastern grain regions with amounts totaling 10-50 mm or more from southern Luzon to Mindanao. More rainfall is needed in upcoming weeks across Philippines to ensure normal planting of main season crops.

Farther south, rainfall continued to taper off over Java, but moderate to heavy showers (25-146 mm) continued over Sumatra and most of Malaysia's primary palm oil areas.

Let's Look Back... 24 Years Ago

September 29, 1966
A ten-year-old boy was killed last Saturday afternoon when a cotton picker being towed by a pickup truck turned over on him at Egypt community.

Ronnie Lee Ellis, son of Vesta Ellis of Egypt, was pinned under the cotton picker when the driver of the truck, swerved to miss him with the truck. Clifford Wiese and Gordon Birdwell are in the Laughlin Hospital with injuries received when their pickup were involved in an unusual collision on the Old Glen Flora Rd. just northeast of Matthews at 11:30 a.m.

Ernest L. Longoria escaped without serious injury when the truck he was driving hit a Southern Pacific freight train at the Church-Norris crossing at 1:30 a.m. Sunday. Longoria received a cut over the right eye, but the pickup was declared a total loss.

The First National Bank of Eagle Lake reported a record high in deposits for the period ending Sept. 20, showing an increase of over \$100,000 for a comparable period in 1965. The bank, in its report to the Comptroller of Currency, listed deposits at \$7,393,586.79. John David Konvicka, son of Mr. and Mrs. Arnold Konvicka returned home Tuesday afternoon following a six day stay in Belaire General Hospital, Houston. He had surgery on a severely injured finger on his right hand. First Baptist Church was the scene of the marriage of Miss Linda Marie Renfrow to Clifford Theodore Wiese on Sept. 10, at 8 p.m.

Chief of Police Buster Semora reported the Eagle Lake Iron Works on W. Main was entered sometime during the weekend. Semora said that the burglars attempted to use a torch to cut the lock of a drink machine but failed. Owner Wilfred Lueddecke (See 24 Years, Page 3)

—We were informed that two Rice High students will be competing at the State U.I.L. Contest. Heather Abel will be in the headline writing competition. Also Darryl Anderson will be competing in current events.

—Ooops! In last week's issue, we published the Little League Report for the 1991 season. We inadvertently left off the manager and coaches name from one of the Boys Major League Teams. Larry Waddell is the manager for the Yanks and David Evers is the coach.

—Your prayers are still needed and appreciated for Florence Morales who is still in critical condition in the Intensive Care Unit at Southwest Memorial Hospital in Houston. Her condition is slowly improving, but there is still a long way to go.

Kevin J. Whitfield, a Rice High School graduate, will graduate from Blinn College on Thursday, May 9 at 8 p.m. While attending Blinn, he was named Outstanding College Scholar at a Junior College, inducted into Mu Alpha Theta and was a distinguished student on the Dean's List during his first semester.

After graduation, Kevin will attend Texas A&M University continuing his studies in accounting and mathematics. Kevin is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Whitfield of Eagle Lake.

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COLORADO COUNTY COURTHOUSE REPORT

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Deed: Hoffman Family Trust to S.T. & Josephine Parr, 70 acres-Joseph Thompson League. 04-15-91.

Deed: Kenneth & Gladys Austin to Johnnie Gonzales, lot No. 1-Austin Estates Subd. P. Roels Survey. 04-15-91.

Deed: Leonard Pilat to Troy Allan and Elizabeth Buck Gall, lot No. 4, b. 26-Weimar. 04-15-91.

Deed: Clarence & Eva Mae Williams to Lottie C. Davis, Estate Part of Subd. lot No. 8, b. 81-Columbus. 04-17-91.

Deed: Robert A. Youens to Willa Youens Jepson and James W. Youens, int. in 40 acres - H. Austin Five League. 04-17-91.

Deed: Resort Recreational Properties, Inc. to James H. & Evelyn M. Stavinsky, lot No. 7, b. 10-Section 1-The Falls Subdivision. 04-18-91.

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Deed: William T. Bass, Estate to Billy Jane Bass Vast, int. in 325.37 acres-Charies R. Duncan Survey. et. al. 04-18.

Deed: Sarah Richardson Dancy, et al to Catherine Land & Mineral Trust, int. in 7 acres-A.B. Kerr Survey. 04-19-91.

Deed: Roy Dean Van Nort to Roy A. Van Nort, 3 tracts-P. Roels Survey. 04-19-91.

Deed: Edward R. Schoellman to Albert Leopold, 23,053 acres and easement-Conrad Edmunds Survey. 04-19-91.

Deed: Edmund Schindler to Elizabeth Terry Borup, 4.138 acres and easement-S.M. Williams Survey. 04-19-91.

Deed: Mary M. Ventura to Elizabeth Terry Borup, 50 acre and easement-S.M. Williams Survey. 04-19-91.

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—Vastene Marie Alley Olier to Murphy H. Baxter, 158.66 acres-Leader Beason Survey. 04-16-91.

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