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REPORT

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THE Lobbyists won't have to get down on their knees outside the front door of the House any more. The bulletin board which served well for generations to post committee hearing notices is being replaced by a bigger one, now that the number of committees has been drastically reduced. It's the subcommittee postings which overflow the posting board, and the board has been filled down to a few inches from the floor, requiring the bended knees of all who desire to learn who'll be trying to get a quorum where and when. At least, that's the plan, if it isn't an April Fooler. The wider board was delivered, but isn't in use yet.

THIS will be one of the last 3-day weekends for the Senate. They'll start having five days of sessions, stepping up the pace this week with passage or killing of 45 Senate bills and 6 House bills. Among those passed was SB 11, Wolff, moving primaries to the first Tuesdays after the first Mondays of August and September, but leaving the filing deadline at the same kind of Tuesday in March. The Senate refused a unitary primary and a later filing deadline. Filing fees were set at 5% of the first year's salary, up to \$1,000, with a petition of 2% of the governor vote in the district or county getting one on the ballot without a fee. This would, of course, leave a big tab for the State to pick up. Also passed was a revision of HB 3, the open meetings law, in what appears to be a form satisfactory to House Sponsor Carl Parker, SB 129, Longoria, letting Pan-American U mortgage \$15,000,000 worth of tuition; SB 274, Schwartz, ending the \$1-an-acre purchase of school land by navigation districts, and instead allowing them to lease the land needed; SB 348, Ogg, saying that legislator-lawyers who get trial continuances must really participate in preparation and prosecution of the trial when it's held; SB 221, Patman, creating a Little Hoover Cmn to seek economy; SCR 16, Mauzy, repealing Texas approval of the Dirksen amendment convention to repeal one-man-one-vote; SBs 255-256, requiring the Board of Control to sell its wastepaper (which it's doing) and to buy recycled paper if it doesn't cost more than 25% more; SB 36, Traeger, allowing city charter amendments on petition of 10% of voters in last election; SB 386, Her-ring, to allow the Health Dept to buy kidney dialysis machines; SB 392, Snelson, prohibiting optometrists, ophthalmologists and others doing business with the Blind Cmn from serving on the Cmn; SB 419, Jones, allowing life insurance companies to invest in bank or bank holding company stock. The Senate sent back to committee SB 75, Mauzy, the consumer protection act, despite Mauzy's offer to take out four objectional parts, including the Attorney General's rule-making power, and application to insurance.

...A major policy change would be made by SB 303, Jones, passed on an uncontested calendar. It would let cities do what water districts and river authorities do--issue utility revenue bonds without a vote.

SPEAKER Daniel praised House members living up to promises of a full, 140-day working session, saying no one remembers any legislative body which has worked harder or longer hours. Daniel reported he plans to distribute a report next week showing the House is "far ahead of any session in recent history in terms of bills considered by committee and on the floor." Daniel commented that "reform" measures have drawn the most attention, but that other issues aren't being neglected, predicting the House will act "responsively and responsibly" on environmental matters, mass transit, reducing insurance rates, drug law reform, public school finance and other areas of concern. And, he said, the Appropriations Cmte will finish work on its spending bill "by this Sunday night." The Industrial Cmn and Hugh Yantis, Water Quality Board head, are hoping the committee will announce it was only April fooling when it decided to cut out the appropriations for the TIC and to slash Yantis' pay by half to \$13,000 per annum--and to eliminate the position of Yantis' No. 2 man, Emory Long. The committee seems to have been a bit piqued at Long testifying against HB 646, Carl Parker, setting up an Office of Environmental Quality. Parker told the Environmental Affairs Cmte that if State employes had nothing better to do than to oppose legislation, the State had too many employes.

SOME of those long hours were put in on HB 370, Hale, providing three-year contracts for teachers, which took two days to discuss, with numerous amendments being offered and rejected, before the measure was engrossed 109-32. Other bills clearing the House were HB 569, Clayton, increasing interest on some small consumer loans; HB 460, Tupper, control of dangerous toys; HB 116, Cole and Lary, regulation of youth camps by the Health Dept; HB 70, Clark, group auto insurance marketing; HB 91, Kubiak, creating the Advisory Cmn on Early Childhood Education; HB 583, Joe Allen-Doyle, allowing cities to join State suits to collect delinquent sales taxes; HB 277, Von Dohlen, increasing pharmacy fees; SB 130, Moore, permitting railroad security officers to exercise peace officers' powers anywhere in the state; SB 224, Aikin, transferring unused funds for junior colleges to vocational-technical training...SB 87, Brooks, giving the Banking Section of the Finance Cmn power to set reserve requirements for State banks, allowing private mortgage insurance, etc., failed 39-84 on engrossment, even with Rep. Clayton assuring members the bill wasn't another Sharpstown measure. Clayton barely managed to keep the bill alive by having it spread on the Journal, while he tries to explain to members why they should support it. The House postponed HB 628, Lombardino, revocation of licenses of habitual traffic violators; HB 79, Cobb, increasing insurance requirements under the Safety-Responsibility Act; and SB 82, Kothmann, establishing a maximum security unit for the criminally insane at the San Antonio State Hospital. Another bill that provoked lots of furor was HB 188, Thompson et al, setting aside a "commemorative day"

for Martin Luther King, rather than a State holiday as first proposed. The House finally gave grudging consent, after killing amendments to add other folks, including about half the people in the "Handbook of Texas."

WARRANTS for the "arrest" of four legislative aides, directing them to appear before a Waller County grand jury, drew the ire of the House, with Rep. Washington taking the floor in a personal privilege speech to call the warrants unconstitutional and an interference with the separation of governmental powers. But, Washington added, the four would appear anyway. The four included administrative aides to Speaker Daniel and Rep. Ragsdale and secretaries of Reps. Kubiak and Johnson. Ragsdale and Johnson are both members of the Black Caucus which pushed the resolution setting up a special investigating committee on Prairie View A&M, with Ragsdale the chief sponsor and witness when the resolution came before the Education Cmte chaired by Kubiak. As it turned out, the four didn't have to go, the warrants were disavowed by Dist Judge Ernest Coker, who said the district clerk shouldn't have issued them. But the four went voluntarily to show, as Speaker Daniel put it, that "the Legislature doesn't have anything to hide," testified for about an hour and a half and came back to Austin. Washington has pledged that the special committee he heads will cooperate with the grand jury, adding he hopes the grand jury will cooperate with the committee.

HB 168, Kaster, giving the governor limited budget execution powers, including withholding approval of expenditures because of changed conditions, probably is unconstitutional, Atty Gen. Hill advised the House State Affairs Cmte. Hill ruled the Legislature could give the governor authority over agencies carrying out functions constitutionally given to the governor, but could not allow him to alter the purpose for which appropriated funds may be spent...Hill ruled employees of hunting clubs may carry firearms on club property, but can't act as peace officers...trial courts can't reduce sentences after convictions are appealed to the Court of Criminal Appeals...county commissioners can't lease part of a county hospital for private medical offices...bonds issued under the proprietary school act cover items other than tuition refunds...law officers can't disclose records of a minor convicted of liquor law violations if the records are ordered expunged...Hill urged HEW Secy Weinberger to reverse HEW's decision disallowing Texas' claims for \$92,731,245 for retroactive social services expenditures.

MASS TRANSIT legislation for Houston was endorsed by Fred Hofheinz, leading unannounced candidate for mayor, at the Harris County House delegation...Rep. Sanchez says he's pulling down his bill for a University of South Texas System, unless the Senate passes Sen. Traeger's companion bill...Rep. Finney says HB 311, compulsory unitization, has a majority in the House--probably...HB 205, Menefee, citizen suits on pollution came out of House Environmental Affairs...HB 290, Cobb, death penalty, was rewritten by Criminal Jurisprudence subcommittee to meet Atty Gen. Hill's opinion and returned to the committee...Human Resources okayed HB 184,

Truan, creating a Human Relations Cmn...Reps Bowers and Lombardino introduced HSR 93, to allow the Business and Industry Cmte to investigate the Banking Board's policies on granting bank charters. Lombardino has said a board member once told him applications had to be cleared with two influential San Antonians before the Board approved them...Allred and Denton are offering HCR 122, continuing a study of the needs of emotionally-disturbed children...HB 1148, Short, providing for "county managers" to handle affairs for county commissioners, cleared an Intergovernment Affairs subcommittee...The water district bill package was heard in House Cmte, and will be up Monday in the Senate cmte.

TESTIMONY on new water quality standards for Texas streams will be heard by the Water Quality Board at 10 am Friday in Austin's Municipal Coliseum. The new standards are to meet Federal requirements. Sen. Tower announced a \$176,100 grant to the WQB to assist in pollution control...Industrial Expansion Award winners for '72 are Stemco Manufacturing, Longview; Redman Mobile Homes, Burleson; Lanchart Homes, Childress; Can-Tex Industries, Mineral Wells; and Weber Aircraft, Gainesville...Several legislators are fussing about the Animal Health Cmn, saying it's not meeting the needs of the livestock industry. They've hinted at fund reductions...Mental Health-Mental Retardation awarded construction contracts for facilities at several State schools, including \$158,000 for three buildings at the new El Paso center and around \$1,700,000 on first phase work at the new Fort Worth State School...Insurance Board Chmn Christie recommended that defensive driving classes be offered in Spanish, saying the courses have helped reduce accidents...Heads of vocational colleges will meet Monday through Wednesday in Austin to discuss legislation...The Industrial Cmn plans to publish a "comprehensive directory" of Texas manufacturers and products.

STILL one short, the Constitutional Revision Cmn got down to work and picked James Ray, Intergovernmental Relations head who's been doing the preliminary work as its executive director. The two-day opener included lots of expert witnesses, domestic and imported, who urged, among other things, annual sessions of the Legislature and higher pay for lawmakers.

TO & FRO: Jimmy Day points out that Shearn Moody's lawsuit in Federal court in North Carolina is against Credit Factoring, Inc., not Day. The suit is because the corporation owes Moody's bank some money. Day is Credit Factoring's president and agent for service...Larry York became First Asst Atty General, replacing Judge John Barron, who resigned due to illness...Gov. Briscoe flew to Washington to protest new HEW regulations on welfare, and was told the April deadline on the changes has been canceled...Lots of folks came to a seminar on managing natural resources at the LBJ School, then came to tell legislators what they wanted done...Some 40 mayors and city officials from Houston, Dallas, Austin and other towns (with some legislators in tow) told Gov. Briscoe to veto collective bargaining for firemen and police...The House has alphabetized lists of lobbyists available.