

8-3-69

To: Bubis, Martin, Wackerbarth, Herman, SO
From: May
Re: Legislative Briefs

This must be short. I am getting ready for vacation. We will be gone from August 6 - 30.

As I wrote to Barbara, Ruth Martin and Ruth Joor on July 20, I like the idea of Legislative Briefs.

The figures on the number of bills introduced and passed at each Session are easy to get. I can get them for the last week of each session too, but not right now.

I have already given you the 1969 figures. As I recall, the Governor vetoed 50 bills so subtract that total from the 1969 figures.

In 1967 1,991 bills were introduced of which 825 passed the Legislature. However the Governor vetoed 40, leaving 785. 105 joint resolutions were introduced of which 21 passed. However one cancelled out another so we count only 20 as finally passing. ~~There were 50 bills vetoed~~

In 1965 1174 bills were introduced of which 762 passed. I don't have right off hand here the number vetoed, but I can get the figure. 132 joint resolutions ~~introduced~~ *were* of which 27 finally passed.

I liked the list of things you have in mind for the Briefs. On the plane from El Paso last Thursday I noticed an item of interest in the Los Angeles Herald-Examiner. The California Legislature voted final passage on July 30 to a bill increasing the salary of state legislators from \$16,000 to \$19,200 a year. Already the highest in the land, the new rates are even higher!!!

I also have the Beldon Poll published in the Dallas Morning News on July 31, 1969. It shows that nearly 70% of the Texans interviewed could not think of anything they liked or disliked that the Legislature did last session. Also the Texans favored annual sessions although I seem to have lost that clipping -- an overwhelming 75% or so....

®

League of Women Voters of Texas

1841 BINGLE ROAD • HOUSTON, TEXAS 77055 • TEL: A.C. 713 HO 5-3705

MRS. WILLIAM E. JOOR, President

TO: Local League Presidents

FROM: Mrs. Ralph Bubis, Legislature Chairman

RE: Ordering extra copies of LEGISLATURE BRIEF #4

August, 1969

Would your members like to have a copy of the Legislature Brief #4? This new mimeographed publication, devoted to the 61st session of the Texas Legislature, can be ordered in quantity from the state office. You might use it as a VOTER insert, as extra material for a catchup meeting on the Legislature, or for local subscription service.

Cost: Each -- \$0.15
25 copies for 3.50
100 copies for 12.00

Order from the League of Women Voters of Texas, 1841 Bingle Road, Houston Texas, 77055.

* * * * *



To: LL presidents
From: Bubis
Re: Ordering extra copies of
LEGISLATURE BRIEFS

LWV of Texas
August, 1969

Would your members like to have a copy of the Legislature Briefs? This new
~~new~~ mimeographed
A publication, ~~which is~~ devoted to the 61st session of the Texas Legislature, can
be ordered in quantity from the State Office. You might want to use it as a VOTER
insert, as extra material for a catch up ~~of~~ meeting on the Legislature, or ^{for} ~~as~~ Local
Subscription Service.

Cost:

10 copies.....

25 copies.....

100 copies.....

← Order from ^{the} League of Women Voters of Texas, 1841 Bingle Road, Houston, Texas, 77055.

(Enclose with Briefs to LL presidents)



2 copies President
(1 for Legislature Chairman)

LWV of Texas
August, 1969

LEGISLATURE BRIEFS #4

(This Legislature Brief is devoted to the 61st session of the Texas Legislature. As you scan it, you might want to think about some of the League positions--such positions as annual sessions, adequate pay, limitation of conference committees, fewer local bills, and a code of ethics.)

THE NUMBERS GAME

The 1969 regular session of the Texas Legislature produced 2,341 bills and 100 joint resolutions; 944 bills and 16 joint resolutions passed. Added to the workload were hundreds of concurrent and simple resolutions. Subtract 50 vetoed by Governor Smith. Though this was a big increase in volume for Texas, New York state legislators were even busier. They produced 12,913 bills and passed more than 1,500. This was not a record for them.

REPORT CARD

Lieutenant Governor Ben Barnes gave the Legislature a passing grade for its over-all performance this year, despite a "most difficult regular session." He indicated regret that the Legislature did not adopt most recommendations of the Governor's Committee on Public School Education, did not act on constitutional revision, did not pass a code of ethics for legislators and state employees, and did not approve a constitutional amendment to lower the voting age. These were some of the foremost issues which confronted the Legislature at the beginning of the session.

IN THE INTERIM

The failure to pass a number of important issues before the legislature clock ticked its last has led to a record number of interim committees (32 Senate, 48 House, and 17 joint committees). Interim studies are an important link between legislative sessions, carrying old problems from year to year until they are either solved or dropped.

Two of these committees are of special interest to LWV members. HCR 124 creates an interim committee of legislators, with certain legislative employees as ex officio members, to study legislative practices, procedures, and processes. HCR 148 creates a 20-member citizens committee to study the duties of the members of the Legislature.

Other committees include studies of a public utilities commission, the state welfare program, school district organization, legislative and congressional redistricting, and of possible harmful effects of DDT and similar chemicals. Among the 6 interim committees caught in the Governor's veto were consumer credit, Capitol office space, and taxation of farm and ranch lands.

Because of the large number of committees, Lieutenant Governor Barnes said he would use discretion in choosing which Senate committees he would activate. And Speaker Mutscher said he may lump entire groups of study committees into one general topic and ask the Texas Legislative Council to do the work.

COST ACCOUNTING

The cost of 30-day special sessions is usually calculated in terms of half a million dollars. A little under that was the estimate of one mathematically inclined lawmaker. He figured expenses, not including salaries of the legislators, at \$231,560. This includes travel for members, extra employees, legislative per diem, telephone bills, \$80 per day for each Senator's staff members, and one full-time secretary for Representatives. The regular \$500 monthly salary of the 181 legislators runs the bill up to \$303,960.

--Excerpted from the Dallas Morning News.

"But the special session...will be attended by an incalculable amount of costs in terms of time lost and programs delayed, since some 100 state agencies are having to hold until the legislature decides their futures for the next state fiscal year. This story, possibly, would be the best argument for...annual session of the legislature."

--Corpus Christi Caller Times

LOCAL AND UNCONTESTED

Just for fun we counted the number of bills passed by the House on the morning of May 15. Although no record, we found 105 bills and resolutions passed during the hour between 11:20 a.m. and 12:21 a.m., averaging about 1.7 per minute. During this time the Senate passed 63. Among the bills considered were a number creating local special districts. Other bills concerned county courts. House Bill 1304, regulating squirrel hunting in Chambers County, was also passed during this period.

SPACE RACE

HSR 386 created the House Office Committee and directed it to negotiate for space in the Capitol building. A prior resolution reserved vacant space for Representatives. Things must be operating on a first come, first serve basis despite resolutions to the contrary. When four rooms in the basement became vacant, the Comptroller's Department occupied them. HCR 131 gave them two months to find new quarters.

LEGISLATIVE
PAY

State Representative Jim Clark of Dallas made news at the close of the legislative session when he announced he would not be running again. Representative Clark said, "My family is prosperous, but I can't afford to be in the Legislature for \$310 (take home) a month." He also considered most of the session a "waste of time."

Other Dallas legislators were feeling the salary pinch. Although attorney Senator Mike McKool estimates it cost him \$50,000 in business to serve during the regular session, he feels he can afford it. Representative Dick Reed, a machinist with Texas Instruments, wonders if he can.

Said Representative Reed: "I had to draw out a thousand dollars from our savings in order to meet our needs for the five months. I think there are many who go down there for the first time who are unaware of the pressures which develop because of this and feel that, considering their family and interests, it really isn't worth the price to go back. It can be tough on a man of modest means who is truly independent and attempts to maintain his independence in his conduct and voting record." Representative Reed, who ran in the Democratic primary without party backing, believes people of all economic and social levels need representation in Austin. He doesn't know whether he will run again, but says he can only serve a couple of more terms at the current rate of pay. His savings will then be depleted.

WHO
LEGISLATES?

A surprise to just about everyone was the \$263,500 allocated for planning and designing a new school for the mentally retarded in the Houston area. According to Joe Day, Jr., president of the Texas Association for Retarded Children, the appropriation was not part of the mental retardation budget request and was not part of present plans for combating mental retardation. Lieutenant Governor Barnes and some legislators said they had never heard of the project before it appeared in the final version of the appropriations bill drafted by the House-Senate Conference Committee.

It is interesting to note that the Senators, despite rules to the contrary, approved a resolution before the House-Senate Conference Committee appropriations bill was distributed, permitting 209 deviations from the conferees' basic job of adjusting differences between the two houses.

BATTING AVERAGES

Lobbying groups are claiming more successes than failures in the 61st session. The Texas Farm Bureau reports a legislative batting average of 86 percent; a veto by Governor Smith gave the Texas Good Roads Association, representing oil companies and contractors, no major defeats; AFL-CIO, whose 34 full and part-time lobbyists believe they contacted more legislators more times than anyone, rated themselves at 7 out of 10; and the Texas State Teachers Association batted .875, with 7 of 8 bills passed. The appreciative TSTA, happy with their new pay scale, publicly supported the August legislative pay raise amendment.

In final reports filed by lobbyists with the House Chief Clerk, \$59,000 was admittedly spent in entertaining legislators. Lobbyists privately say that the actual amount was three to ten times this. Statutes only require lobbyists to report expenses when specific legislation is being discussed. Just talking about the industry or getting acquainted doesn't count. Acknowledged spending by industry included: petroleum, \$11,608; liquor, \$6,692; transportation, \$6,877; utilities, \$5,907; insurance, \$2,960. Biggest individual spender was the Texas Brewers Institute, who officially spent \$5,977.

New Mexico's legislature has had lobbying of a different sort. When they reconvened last January, they no longer had an official chaplain. The last House chaplain was accused of lobbying through prayer. One of his typical prayers went, "O, God, grant that the work we do today will not have to go back to committee tomorrow."

LEGISLATING HONESTY

From Supreme Court Justice to Appropriations Committee chairman, the air in Washington and in Austin was full of talk about improving the ethical climate. The press reports about Representative Heatley pointed out the lack of clear definition as to what is ethical conduct by Texas legislators. Despite the obvious need for such legislation, several code of ethics bills died in the Legislature this session. Future chances for passage of such bills remain slim.

ONE MAN DISTRICTS

An Indiana federal judge has ruled that all state legislators must be elected from individual districts. A federal court case in Texas concerning single member districts is pending in Houston.

Legislature Brief #4
LWV of Texas--August, 1969

HOUSE
PLAY

Representative Henry Sanchez of Brownsville was named as the House "rookie of the year" from a field of 31 members. Dallas Representative Ben Atwell presented him with the award, a plastic replica of a plucked chicken.

The Committee on Legislative Modernization of the Council of State Governments has included in its report: Legislatures are advised to act with proper observance of decorum, recognizing that careless conduct makes members fair game for ridicule by mass media. Among their suggestions: Behave when a high school class is visiting, start sessions and hearings on time, and do not "try to create the 'Greatest Show on Earth.'"

* * * * *

MEMORANDUM FROM:

League of Women Voters of Texas

1841 BINGLE ROAD • HOUSTON, TEXAS 77055

TO: so

From Bubis

Re Legislature Briefs

Please send out on DPM. This copy has been approved with the changes noted by the Legislature committee.

I asked for advice concerning making this available in quantity orders to LLs. The only response was ~~in~~ from Ruth Martin, who said she approved at the usual cost per page of mimeographed publications, but not to run off too many until we see how the response goes. At this point, I don't know how many is too many, and would like to let ~~X~~ Ruth Joer decide, if she will.

I am enclosing a note for LL presidents if they care to order. You'll need to fill in the price.

MEMORANDUM FROM:

League of Women Voters of Texas

1841 BINGLE ROAD • HOUSTON, TEXAS 77055

August 12, 1969

TO: TO: Bubis cc-Joor
FROM: Martin
RE: Legislative Briefs

It seems I storied to everyone about the length of time I would be away on vacation for the time was more than doubled. It was fun, but I am behind on all LWV matters as well as personal things.

I have just read your draft of Brief and think it is excellent. I like your proposed paragraph to be at top of page. Doubtless other League materials could profit by having a similar beginning statement.

I particularly like your side headings which are not only descriptive but which are also reader catchers.

I for one would approve making copies available to the LLs at the usual cost per page of mimeographed publications. But I do not think SO should run off too many until we see how the response is. If the demand should be heavy, more could be run as needed.

I am looking forward to seeing you August 21.

Hope you had fun in Corpus Christi. It is a beautiful Coastal town.

See you the 21st

MEMORANDUM FROM:

League of Women Voters of Texas

1841 BINGLE ROAD • HOUSTON, TEXAS 77055

TO: Bubis

FROM: Wackerbarth

RE: Legislature Briefs

Monday, Aug 4

Dear Barbara:

As usual, I'm late in answering - but here goes. My immediate reaction was "This is excellent, and I wouldn't change or omit anything." I continue to hold this opinion.

If you think it is too long to be called "Legislative Briefs", could we be a bit facetious and call it, "Legislature not-so-Briefs"?

Enclosed are some clippings which you may not have seen, but which may be of some interest. I'm looking forward to seeing you on the 21st.

Eloise

✓
To: May Herman Wackerbarth, Martin, Duckworth SO
from: Eubie
Re: ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ Legislature Brief
August 4, 1969

Enclosed is the draft for the Legislature Brief. I hope to get it to SO in a couple of weeks, since Ruth Joor says September is going to be busy. So please let me have your comments soon.

This brief is dedicated to the 61st Legislature, since it is so juicy as far as our studies and positions are concerned. Probably the #1 problem is deciding what to leave out. This may still be too long. If so, what would you suggest eliminating? I really didn't intend it to be this long when it was started. Is there anything which has been left out which you feel is significant? Would you make changes in the order of the articles? Are there any editorial changes?

I considered inserting the following paragraph at the top of the page. Do you think it would be good to have it, or do you think it might cut down on the effectiveness by being too obvious?

YES
"This Legislature Brief is devoted to the 61st session of the Texas Legislature. As you scan it, you might want to think about some of the League positions--such positions as annual sessions, adequate pay, limitation of conference committees, fewer local bills and a code of ethics."

Stopped in Austin for a few minutes on my way home to show the children "how it is" with the Texas Legislature. Instead of the usual, almost every member was sitting quietly in his seat, no one was walking around despite the fact it was lunch time, and the whole thing seemed pretty pretty unusual to me. But when I complained to my husband that the children didn't really get to see the Legislature as it usually is, he asked me if I wanted to disillusion them. The trip was glorious to Padre, and mentally at least, I'm still walking the sands.

Hope to see most of you in Dallas in August.

Afterthought: Helen Duckworth had distributed these on DPM with two extra copies for the Legislative chairman. Could we also make them available for sale to the local Leagues if they wished to order extra copies? What would be the cost? Could the office handle it?

Just great! Love your style, very readable, fun,
and still full of good information. Be sure to check
Page 6. Boy, are we lucky to have you in S.R.!
Glenn

LEGISLATURE BRIEFS

THE
NUMBERS
GAME

The 1969 regular session of the Texas Legislature produced 2341 bills and 100 joint resolutions; 944 bills and 16 joint resolutions passed. Added to the workload were hundreds of concurrent and simple resolutions. Though this was a big increase in volume for Texas, New York state legislators were even busier. They produced 12,913 bills and passed more than 1,500. This was not a record for them.

REPORT
CARD

Lt. Gov. Ben Barnes gave the legislature a passing grade for its overall performance this year, despite a "most difficult regular session." He indicated regret that the Legislature didn't adopt most recommendations of the Governors Committee on Public School Education, did not act on constitutional revision, did not pass a code of ethics for legislators and state employees, and did not approve a constitutional amendment to lower the voting age. These were some of the foremost issues which confronted the legislature at the beginning of the session.

IN
THE
INTERIM

The failure to pass a number of important issues before the legislative clock ticked its last has led to a record number of interim committees (32 Senate, 48 House, and 17 joint committees). Interim studies are an important link between legislative sessions, carrying old problems from year to year until they are either solved or dropped.

Two of these committees are of special interest to LWV members. HCR 124 creates an interim committee of legislators, with certain legislative employees as ex officio

members, to study legislative practices, procedures, and processes. HCR 148 creates a 20 member citizens committee to study the duties of the members of the Legislature. Other committees include studies of a public utilities commission, the state welfare program, school district organization, legislative and congressional redistricting, and of possible harmful effects of DDT and similar chemicals. Among the six interim committees I caught in the governor's veto were consumer credit, Capitol office space, and taxation of farm and ranch lands.

Because of the large numbers of committees, Lt. Gov. Barnes said he would use discretion in choosing which Senate committees he would activate. And Speaker Mutscher said he may lump entire groups of study committees into one general topic and ask the Texas Legislative Council to do the work.

COST ACCOUNTING

The cost of 30 day special sessions is usually calculated in terms of half a million dollars. A little under that was the estimate of one mathematically inclined lawmaker. He figured expenses, not including salaries of the legislators, at \$231,360. This includes travel for members, extra employees, legislative per diem, telephone bills, \$50 per day for each Senator's staff members, and one full time secretary for Representatives. The regular \$500 monthly salary of the 181 legislators runs the bill up to \$303,960.

--Excerpted from the Dallas Morning News.

"But the special session that will convene Monday will be attended by an incalculable amount of costs in terms of time lost and programs delayed, since some 100 state agencies are having to hold until the Legislature decides their futures for the next state fiscal year. This story, possibly, would

be the best argument for...annual session of the legislature."

--Corpus Christi Caller Times

LEGISLATIVE
XXX
LOCAL
AND
UNCONTESTED

Just for fun we counted the number of bills passed by the House on the morning of May 15. Although no record, we found 105 bills and resolutions passed during the hour between XXXX a.m. 11:20 AMX and 12:21 a.m., averaging about 1.7 per minute. During this time the Senate passed 63. Among the bills considered were a number creating local special districts. Other bills concerned county courts. House Bill 1304, regulating squirrel hunting in Chambers County, was also passed during this period.

X SPACE
RACE

HSR 386 created the House Office Committee and directed ~~it~~ it to ~~negotiate~~ negotiate for space in the Capitol building. A prior resolution reserved vacant space for Representatives.

Things must be operating on a first come, first serve basis despite resolutions to the contrary. When four rooms in the basement became vacant, the Comptroller's Department occupied them. NEEK HCR 131 gave them two months to find new quarters.

LEGISLATIVE XXX
XXX
PAY

State Rep. Jim Clark of Dallas made news at the close of the legislative session when he announced he would not be running again. Rep. Clark said, "My family is prosperous, but I can't afford to be in the legislature for \$310 (take home) a month." He also considered most of the session a "waste of time."

Other Dallas legislators were feeling the ~~xxx~~ salary pinch.

Although attorney Sen. Mike McKool estimates it cost him \$50,000 in business to serve during the regular session, he

feels he can afford it. Rep. Dick Reed, a machinist with Texas Instruments, wonders if he can.

Said Rep. Reed: "I had to draw out a thousand dollars from our savings in order to meet our needs for the five months. I think there are many who go down there for the first time who are unaware of the pressures which develop because of this and feel that, considering their family and interests, it really isn't worth the price to go back. It can be tough on a man of modest means who is truly independent and attempts to maintain his independence in his conduct and voting record." Rep. Reed, who ran in the Democratic primary without party backing, believes people of all economic and social levels need representation in Austin. He doesn't know whether he will run again, but says he can only serve a couple of more terms at the current rate of pay. His savings will then be depleted.

WHO LEGISLATES?

A surprise to just about everyone was the \$263,500 allocated for planning and designing a new school for the mentally retarded in the Houston area. According to Joe Day, Jr., president of the Texas Association for Retarded Children, the appropriation was not part of the mental retardation budget request and was not part of present plans for combating mental retardation. Lt. Gov. Barnes and some legislators said they had never heard of the project before it appeared in the final version of the appropriations bill drafted by the House-Senate conference committee.

It is interesting to note that the Senators, despite rules to the contrary, approved a resolution before the House-conference committee Senate/appropriations bill was distributed, permitting 209 deviations from the conferees' basic job of adjusting

differences between the two houses.

BATTING AVERAGES

Lobbying groups are claiming more successes than failures in the 61st session. The Texas Farm Bureau reports a legislative batting average of 86 per cent; a veto by Gov. Smith gave the Texas Good Roads Association, representing oil companies and contractors, no major defeats; AFL-CIO, whose 34 full and part time lobbyists believe they contacted more legislators more times than anyone, rated themselves at 7 out of 10; and the Texas State Teachers Association batted .875, with seven of eight bills passed. The appreciative TSTA, happy with their new pay scale, publicly supported the August legislative pay raise amendment.

In final reports filed by lobbyists with the House Chief Clerk, \$59,000 was admittedly spent in ~~an~~ entertaining legislators. Lobbyists privately say that the actual amount was three to ten times this. Statutes only require lobbyists to report expenses when specific legislation is being discussed. Just talking about the industry or getting acquainted doesn't count. Acknowledged spending by industry ~~is~~ included: petroleum, \$11,608; liquor, \$6,692; transportation, \$6,877; utilities, \$5,907; insurance, \$2,960. Biggest individual spender was the Texas Brewers Institute, who officially spent \$5,977.

New Mexico's legislature has had lobbying of a different sort. When they reconvened last January, they no longer had an official chaplain. The last House chaplain was accused of lobbying through prayer. One of his typical prayers went, "O, God, grant that the work we do today will not have to go back to committee tomorrow."

LEGISLATING
HONESTY

From Supreme Court Justice to Appropriations Committee chairman, the air in Washington and in Austin was full of talk about improving the ethical climate. The press reports about Rep. Heatley pointed out the lack of clear definition as to what is ethical conduct by Texas legislators. Despite the obvious need for such legislation, several code of ethics bills died in the legislature this session. Future chances for passage of such bills remain slim.

ONE
MAN
DISTRICTS

An Indiana federal judge has ruled that all state legislators must be elected from individual districts. Method of apportionment is divided in Texas with Houston having single member districts and Dallas having district wide races.

HOUSE
PLAY

Rep. Henry Sanchez of Brownsville was named as the House "rookie of the year" from a field of 31 members. Dallas Rep. Ben Atwell presented him with the award, a plastic replica of a plucked chicken.

The Committee on Legislative Modernization of the Council of State Governments has included in its report: "Legislatures are advised to act with proper observance of decorum, recognizing that careless conduct makes members fair game for ridicule by mass media. Among their suggestions: behave when a high school class is visiting, start sessions and hearings on time, and do not 'try to created the 'Greatest Show on Earth.'"

Houston has 3 State Representative Districts
 # 22 with 7 places
 # 23 " 6 "
 # 24 " 6 "

Candidates run for specific places and are elected by district wide vote.

July 21, 1969

To: Martin, May, Wackerbarth, Herman, SO
From: Bubis
Re: Legislature Briefs

I would like to write a Legislature Briefs to get to the State Office sometimes in the middle of August. Among the items included, I would like to have stories from this legislature which have bearing on our consensus positions. Janice, I particularly would like to have your advice.

Some of the illustrations:

1. Annual sessions: log jam at the end of the year. This could also be used to discuss clerical help. Governor's veto.
2. Legislative pay: A Dallas legislator from a wealthy family quit the legislature because he claims the pay is ~~xx~~ ridiculous.
3. Conflict of interest: Lack of definition of conflict of interest in the Hinson case.
4. Lobby laws: Statement by lobbyists published in Dallas paper about spending ten times as much as lobbyists reported. Describes the loophole.
5. Annual sessions: Large number of bills and resolutions coming before the legislature this year. Do we have a comparison with several previous years?

If anyone has any clippings, or lighter side stories to increase interest, or other ideas of what could go in the Briefs, please let me know. I shall also cull some of the National Civic Reviews. Since I don't get the Observer or Voters from other States, those who do might find something of interest to send. Thank you for any help you might give.

I find I have the summer doldrums, so my family and I are packing up this week. We'll leave Thursday, July 24, and return the 31st. Shall be at the Island House, Padre Island (Corpus Christi end). Address: PO Box 3631, Corpus Christi, Texas 78404. Phone 512 933 8166.

LEGISLATURE BRIEFS #2

Alert!

If you are working for reforms in the Legislature, you are involved in solving the urban crisis, according to Larry Margolis in the June 1968 National Civic Review. In "States on the Spot" he points out that legislative reform is the crucial issue in whether we will maintain our governmental system of checks and balances or whether we will have simplified government in which authority runs from a strong central government to regional administrative units.

Problems

Because of the unwillingness of state government to grapple with urban problems, cities turn directly to the federal government. There is not enough money in federal programs to solve their problems, and they have very little force in dealing with the federal government because they are not organized along political lines. (Many city councils and city officials are elected on a nonpartisan basis.) For these reasons, it is unfortunate to shift emphasis from the job of strengthening state government to direct concentration on city problems, because the solutions will eventually come from state legislatures.

????

The big question: Will changes in state legislatures be made fast enough to keep pace with the growth of the crisis facing state government?

Changes

He lists desirable changes as: longer, more frequent and less restricted sessions; adequate office and other facilities; more or better staff; higher pay in keeping with the importance and dignity of the task; and better sources of information and ideas. "We are talking about.....getting it done within the next two, three or four years."

Now!

During Phase III of our study, we will keep up with Article III - Legislative Department as proposed by the Constitutional Revision Commission. In general, the provisions of the present constitution relating to the legislature are retained, but sections are rearranged and obsolete provisions are deleted. Major substantive changes made in the document presented to the full Commission at its September meeting are:

1. Open sessions extended to executive sessions of the senate.
2. Legislature can set its own salary without requiring a constitutional amendment for each pay raise.
3. Legislative districting brought in line with "one man-one vote" ruling.
4. Requirement for "emergency clause" in order to suspend rules deleted.

CRC

and

Phase III

The proposed Legislative Article, as it now stands, contains a great amount of detail. Until the completion of Phase III study and consensus, we will be unable to support or oppose most of the article. However, the League statement to the Commission, dated August 21, gave our general statement of support of changes in the Texas Legislature and our specific support of annual sessions. The proposed document retains the biennial session provision.

Hands Tied!

Besides examining the Model State Constitution as proposed by the National Municipal League (see Legislature Kit Supplement, October 1967) note the recommendations of the American Political Science Association. Source: Belle Zeller, American States Legislatures, 1954, Page 28. Briefly, they call for (1) repeal of "statutory" provisions on major policy and delegation of such powers to the legislature; (2) retention of initiative and referendum (we don't have this in Texas) only as weapons of popular control when representative action can be blocked; (3) delegation of details of policy to administrative agencies and local legislation to strengthened local governments. The basic assumption is that restrictions, which prevent the legislature from exercising complete power as a representative body, should be removed from the constitution.

Models

for

change

Special

Session

"The best thing that can be said about the 60th Legislature is that it is over," said the Texas Observer in its July 12 issue. This sentiment prevailed among political writers following the June 1968 Special Session. Accounts of this session will be good background for our continuing consensus.

Gleaned from some clippings -

.Senators voted 18-10 to have committee find public address system for \$25,000. It is now being installed.

.Laissez faire was the spirit from the start according to Stuart Long. It took days before everyone even bothered to check in.

.The ten man Conference Committee wrote the Appropriations Bill behind closed doors. News-men inquiring about a meeting in the suite of the absent Speaker of the House were told it was not a formal meeting. The secretaries of those involved "did not know where they were." (Quote from AP.)

.The \$2.5 billion one-year state budget contained nearly \$25 million in spending that the Governor did not ask for. Garth Jones, AP writer, said the figures were \$16 million more than the House originally voted and \$10 million higher than the first Senate decisions. House conferees, with written rules not to insert any new provisions or money into the bill, had to go back to their House in the closing minutes to get approval of 86 new provisions and figures added to the bill.

.AP writer, Lee Jones, reported that the Conference Committee's report was passed virtually sight unseen in both Houses the day before adjournment.

.Speaker Barnes, an advocate of annual sessions, may be able to keep the annual session system alive, if he is elected Lt. Governor according to Austin correspondent Ernest Stromberger. Arguments for and against this sort of "loosely knit" kind of annual session arise in many reports from writers covering the session.

The National Legislative Conference, meeting in Miami Beach in August, elected House Speaker Ben Barnes of Texas as president. Legislative staff personnel organized the NLC 20 years ago and expressed unrest over the new rule that future presidents must be legislators. Barnes explained there was difficulty when staff personnel, as officers, would have to rule against their bosses. In his acceptance speech, Barnes said legislators should get involved in federal legislation before Congress acts on laws affecting states.

LEGISLATURE*LEGISLATURES*LEGISLATURES*LEGISLATURES*LEGISLATURES

Published more or less monthly
to bring current items to local
Legislature Study Committees.
Extra copies available from State
Office.

LEGISLATURE BRIEFS

Number 2

LWV of Texas
September 1968

Alert!

If you are working for reforms in the Legislature, you are involved in solving the urban crisis, according to Larry Margolis in the June 1968 National Civic Review. In "States on the Spot" he points out that legislative reform is the crucial issue in whether we will maintain our governmental system of checks and balances or whether we ^{will} have simplified government in which authority runs from a strong central government to regional administrative units.

Problems

Because of the unwillingness of state government to grapple with urban problems, cities turn directly to the federal government. There is not enough money in federal programs to solve their problems, and they have very little force in dealing with the federal government because they are not organized along political lines. (Many city councils and city officials are elected on a non-partisan basis.) For these reasons, it is unfortunate to shift emphasis from the job of strengthening state government to direct concentration on city problems, because the solutions will eventually come ~~xxx~~ from state legislatures.

? / ? ?

The big question: Will changes in state legislatures be made fast enough to keep pace with the growth of the crisis facing state government?

Changes

He lists desirable changes as: longer, more frequent and less restricted sessions; adequate office and other facilities; more or better staff; higher pay in keeping with the importance and dignity of the task; and better sources of information and ideas. "We are talking about.....getting it done within the next two, three or four years."

Now!

During Phase III of our study, we will keep up with Article III - Legislative Department as proposed by the Constitutional Revision Commission. In general, the provisions of the present constitution relating to the legislature are retained, but sections are rearranged and obsolete provisions are deleted. Major substantive changes made in the document presented to the full Commission at its September meeting are:

1. Open sessions extended to Executive Sessions of the senate.
2. Legislature can set its own salary without requiring a constitutional amendment for each pay raise.
3. Legislative districting brought in line with "one man-one vote" ruling.
4. Requirement for "emergency clause" in order to suspend rules deleted.

The proposed Legislative Article, as it now stands, contains a great amount of detail. Until the completion of Phase III study and consensus, we will be unable to support or oppose most of the article. However, the League statement to the Commission, dated August 21, gave our general statement of support of changes in the Texas Legislature and our specific support of annual sessions. The proposed document retains the biennial session provision.

Beside examining the Model State Constitution as proposed by the National Municipal League (see Legislature Kit Supplement, October 1967) note the recommendations of the American Political Science Association. Source: Belle Zeller, American State Legislatures, 1954, Page 28. Briefly, they call for (1) repeal of "statutory" provisions on major policy and delegation of such powers to the legislature; (2) retention of initiative and referendum (We don't have this in Texas.) only as weapons of popular control when representative action can be blocked; (3) delegation of details of policy to administrative agencies and local legislation to strengthened local governments. The basic assumption is that restrictions, which prevent the legislature from exercising complete power as a representative body, should be removed from the constitution.

CRC

and

Phase III

Hands Tied!

Models

for

change



Special

Session

"The best thing that can be said about the 60th Legislature is that it is over." said the Texas Observer in its July 12 issue. This sentiment prevailed among political writers following the June 1968 Special Session. Accounts of this session will be good background for our continuing consensus.

Gleaned from some clippings -

.Senators voter 18-10 to have committee find public address system for \$25,000. It is now being installed.

.Laissez faire was the spirit from the start according to Stuart Long. It took days before everyone even bothered to check in.

.The ten-man Conference Committee wrote the Appropriations bill behind closed doors. News-men inquiring about ~~the~~^a meeting in the suite of the absent Speaker of the House were told it was not a formal meeting. The secretaries of those involved "did not know where they were." (Quote from AP.)

.The \$2.5 billion one-year state budget contained nearly \$25 million in spending that the governor did not ask for. Garth Jones, AP writer, said the figures were \$15 million more than the House originally voter and \$10 million higher than the first Senate decisions. House conferees, with written rules not to insert any new provisions or money into the bill, had to go back to their house in the closing minutes to get approval of 86 new provisions and figures added to the bill.

.AP writer, Lee Jones reported that the Conference Committee's report was passed virtually sight unseen in both houses the day before adjournment.

.Speaker Barnes, ad advocate of annual sessions, may be able to keep the annual session system alive, if he is elected Lt. Governor according to Austin correspondent Ernest Stromberger. Arguments for and against this sort of "loosely knit" kind of annual session arise in many reports from writers covering the session.

The National Legislative Conference, meeting in Miami Beach in August, elected House Speaker Ben Barnes of Texas as president. Legislative staff personnel organized the NLC 20 years ago and expressed unrest over the new rule that future presidents must be legislators. Barnes explained there was difficulty when staff personnel, as officers, would have to rule against their bosses. In his acceptance speech, Barnes said legislators should get involved in federal legislation before Congress acts on laws affecting states.

Citizens' Research Foundation in Princeton, N. J., a nonpartisan organization dedicated to gathering and studying information about political finances, estimates that this year's political campaigns will cost not less than \$250 million. Expenditures in 1964 were estimated at \$200 million. Figures are estimates since costs are not fully reported. Electronic advertising, inflation, population growth, and American affluence make this campaign costly.

Educated

Guess!

Key members of congressional committees concerned with a bill to let larger (triple trailer) trucks travel the Interstate Highway System have received at least \$27,000 in campaign contributions from the trucking industry over the past 2 years, according to a copyrighted story in the July 25 Des Moines (Iowa) Register. The committees recommended the passage of the bill but have not acted on a bill opposed by truckers to increase highway use taxes for diesel fuel vehicles.

A request for more information on the itemized reports filed by candidates, prompts the following: Final Report on Primary Campaign Expenses for Governor's Race:

Candidate	Amount Spent	Amount Received	Loans
Smith	\$385,537	\$385,637	\$ 32,500
Yarborough	162,854	165,417	
Locke	678,063	399,282	157,500
Briscoe	696,179	173,917	
O'Daniel	71,141	26,044	31,000
Hill	213,731	146,467	65,000
Carr	100,030	98,438	
Whittenburg	319,561	119,255	debts 10,257
Eggers	83,197	87,061	

The Texas Election Code requires filing of sworn statements with the Secretary of State between 7 and 10 days before the election and within 10 days after. They are to include names and addresses of all persons to donate anything of value to the campaign and of all persons to whom payments are made from these funds. These are public record and are frequently published in newspapers when filed. However, only one candidate of the 7 major ones attempted to give number and street addresses for contributors. All the others listed only towns and cities as addresses.

LWV of Texas
July 1968

LEGISLATURE BRIEFS

Purpose

c	c	q	.helps for Texas Legislature study chairmen
u	o	u	.clues for resource committees
r	n	o	.inspirations for League program action
r	c	t	.facts for reflection on Legislatures
e	i	a	.illustrations for League speakers
n	s	b	.fillers for VOTER editors
t	e	l	.sprinkles of "how to" present study
		e	.ideas to supplement Facts and Issues

Number 1

.about lobbying and the legislative process

lobby
helps

Connecticut legislators, in replies to a questionnaire by the LWV of Connecticut, said they sometimes had to rely on lobbyists for technical data because of inadequate research facilities. The best interest groups could be constructively helpful when they presented concise facts in readable form.

- from March 1968 Connecticut Voter

l
o
o
p
h
o
l
e
s

Felton West in a two-part series in the Houston Post, May 26 and 27, reports that penalties have seldom been invoked for failure to report campaign contributions under the 1951 Texas Election Code revision. He said the law is unquestionably abused and in some instances flatly violated, but nothing is being done about it. Few candidates and few contributors care and the public seems to care even less. Loopholes, according to West, might be:

- . Failure to define what a name is and what constitutes an address in requiring candidates to report contributions.
- . No occupation identity is required.
- . Trustees, committees, or groups are set up to spend money for campaign purposes.
- . Failure to identify to whom payments are made in listing expenses from campaign funds.

keeping up

In McCleskey's The Government and Politics of Texas, pages 70 to 79 on campaign expenses and pages 180 to 203 on the lobby make good reading. Lee Clark's "May the Lobby Hold you in the Palm of its hand" is in the May 24th Texas Observer. Drew Pearson and Jack Anderson "You Couldn't get away with it...but your Congressman can" in June True magazine is a lively discussion of lobbying on the national scene.

Are you clipping? Best way to keep up!

Former President Eisenhower, in an AP release of December 26, 1967, was quoted as saying he favors an annual certified accounting of the financial affairs of all elected officials, "particularly members of Congress." Such disclosure "should be part of the price of public office. If a man has nothing to conceal, why should he object?" In a January Readers Digest article, he urged that U.S. income tax laws be revised to permit the taxpayer to treat a modest political gift as a deduction." Such gifts should be limited to 1% of the donor's adjusted net income. He emphatically disagrees with two other campaign financing plans: one to finance certain top level campaigns directly from the public treasury because it "applies compulsion to political giving, which surely is not the American way."; the other to allow taxpayers to designate \$1 from income tax for the general presidential election fund because it "completely removes the donor's right to an indication of party preference. He would simply be buying a dollar's worth of politics."

Ike on
political
contributions

Like everything else, elections suffer from the high cost of everything. So says an editorial in the Victoria Advocate, August 30, 1967. It goes on to point out that in the 1966 off-year election the cost per vote was slightly more than \$2 each. With a 1/5 to 1/3 projected rise in costs and the presidency at stake, the cost per vote could be between \$4 and \$5 in this year's election.

\$\$\$\$\$\$

A Des Moines Register editorial of June 23, 1968 concerns Iowa's pending vote on a constitutional amendment for annual sessions. The Third House Regulars, a lobbyists' association, has written its member soliciting funds for an opposition group called Iowans Opposed to Unlimited Annual Sessions. "One might think that lobbyists would have a personal interest in more and longer sessions, so their talents would be in greater and more remunerative demand. But on behalf of clients, who fear annual sessions might cost them more money, several prominent lobbyists fought the measure in the Legislature...The opposition of some lobbyists and those they represent bears examination. Annual sessions would tend to create a more informed, professional legislator...better able to weigh the diverse public interests...and much less reliant on the persuasion and pressure of lobbyists."

Regulars
alerted

"With the change of circumstances institutions must advance also to keep pace with the times..."

- Thomas Jefferson

LWV of Texas
July 1968LEGISLATURE BRIEFS

Purpose

c	c	q	.helps for Texas Legislature study chairmen
u	o	u	.clues for resource committees
r	n	o	.inspirations for League program action
r	c	t	.facts for reflection on Legislatures
e	i	a	.illustrations for League speakers
n	s	b	.fillers for VOTER editors
t	e	l	.sprinkles of "how to" present study
		e	.ideas to supplement Facts and Issues

Number 1

.about lobbying and the legislative process

lobby
helps

Connecticut legislators, in replies to a questionnaire by the LWV of Connecticut, said they sometimes had to rely on lobbyists for technical data because of inadequate research facilities. The best interest groups could be constructively helpful when they presented concise facts in readable form.

- from March 1968 Connecticut Voterl
o
o
p
h
o
l
e
s

Felton West in a two-part series in the Houston Post, May 26 and 27, reports that penalties have seldom been invoked for failure to report campaign contributions under the 1951 Texas Election Code revision. He said the law is unquestionably abused and in some instances flatly violated, but nothing is being done about it. Few candidates and few contributors care and the public seems to care even less. Loopholes, according to West, might be:

- . Failure to define what a name is and what constitutes an address in requiring candidates to report contributions.
- . No occupation identity is required.
- . Trustees, committees, or groups are set up to spend money for campaign purposes.
- . Failure to identify to whom payments are made in listing expenses from campaign funds.

keeping up

In McCleskey's The Government and Politics of Texas, pages 70 to 79 on campaign expenses and pages 180 to 203 on the lobby make good reading. Lee Clark's "May the Lobby Hold you in the Palm of its hand" is in the May 24th Texas Observer. Drew Pearson and Jack Anderson "You Couldn't get away with it...but your Congressman can" in June True magazine is a lively discussion of lobbying on the national scene.

Are you clipping? Best way to keep up!

Former President Eisenhower, in an AP release of December 26, 1967, was quoted as saying he favors an annual certified accounting of the financial affairs of all elected officials, "particularly members of Congress." Such disclosure "should be part of the price of public office. If a man has nothing to conceal, why should he object?" In a January Readers Digest article, he urged that U.S. income tax laws be revised to permit the taxpayer to treat a modest political gift as a deduction." Such gifts should be limited to 1% of the donor's adjusted net income. He emphatically disagrees with two other campaign financing plans: one to finance certain top level campaigns directly from the public treasury because it "applies compulsion to political giving, which surely is not the American way."; the other to allow taxpayers to designate \$1 from income tax for the general presidential election fund because it "completely removes the donor's right to an indication of party preference. He would simply be buying a dollar's worth of politics."

Ike on
political
contributions

Like everything else, elections suffer from the high cost of everything. So says an editorial in the Victoria Advocate, August 30, 1967. It goes on to point out that in the 1966 off-year election the cost per vote was slightly more than \$2 each. With a 1/5 to 1/3 projected rise in costs and the presidency at stake, the cost per vote could be between \$4 and \$5 in this year's election.

\$\$\$\$\$\$

A Des Moines Register editorial of June 23, 1968 concerns Iowa's pending vote on a constitutional amendment for annual sessions. The Third House Regulars, a lobbyists' association, has written its member soliciting funds for an opposition group called Iowans Opposed to Unlimited Annual Sessions. "One might think that lobbyists would have a personal interest in more and longer sessions, so their talents would be in greater and more remunerative demand. But on behalf of clients, who fear annual sessions might cost them more money, several prominent lobbyists fought the measure in the Legislature...The opposition of some lobbyists and those they represent bears examination. Annual sessions would tend to create a more informed, professional legislator...better able to weigh the diverse public interests...and much less reliant on the persuasion and pressure of lobbyists."

Regulars
alerted

"With the change of circumstances institutions must advance also to keep pace with the times..."

- Thomas Jefferson

September 10, 1968

To: State Office c.c. Martin, Noe, Prashner
From: Duckworth
Re: Enclosed final copy of Second Legislature Briefs

This is to be typed on the stencil with the spacing just as it is here. I did not double space this copy because it would have been impossible to do so and still convey to you the unusual make-up of the piece that I wish to have. It should be on both sides of two sheets of yellow paper.

It should go out to local League Presidents, with at least 2 copies for her to give the the Legislature Study Chairman. Then it should go out on the next DPM whenever that scheduled mailing time would be.

I believe we decided that the regular publications charge should prevail for the first Legislature Briefs and for all the ones to follow.

The number which should be printed should be determined by the number of #1 that we have sold. There were originally 500 of #1. It would be a help to me to know just how much demand there is for these Briefs. Could you drop me a note in the next mailing and let me know how many of #1 are left? We should not "over-produce" on these because they are for current use and should be in demand for only a period of a year or less.

MEMORANDUM FROM:

League of Women Voters of Texas

1841 BINGLE ROAD • HOUSTON, TEXAS 77055

TO: Bubis CC: Martin, May, Herman, SO
From: Wackerbarth
Re: Legislature Briefs

Dear Barbara:

Your suggestions for the content of a Legislature Briefs sound interesting. As usual, I don't have any further ideas to contribute, but if I see anything in the Star-Telegram within the next several days, I'll send it along.

Concerning the number of bills and resolutions which have come before the legislature, ~~in past sessions~~ at one time there were in the files some figures on past sessions, but these may have been discarded. If so, perhaps Janice can help you out on this.

I hope you are having a fine vacation, and look forward to seeing you at the Regional Conference next month.

Eloise