

AUSTIN

P. O. Box 12368, Capitol Station, Austin, Texas 78711
Phone 478-5663 Capitol Press Room

STUART LONG, Editor

REPORT

Second Class Postage Paid at Austin, Texas Published Weekly Subscription Rate, \$15 A Year

Volume 25, No. 18

March 11, 1973

GOV. Briscoe's budget message was hurried up at the last moment. He asked at 6 pm Wednesday to be invited the next morning to propose spending plans which would hold \$300 million in reserve against possible public school demands under the Rodriguez decision, or against welfare-need variations which are in the hands of the Lord and the HEW guideline-writers. Briscoe spread the Federal revenue-sharing money around the agencies, but got a lot of his "surplus" over the Budget Board's plan by overestimating Federal aid for welfare, by trimming down on buildings and by laying off half the Welfare Dept staff the second year of the biennium on the theory that the Feds will take over the adult programs in toto. His theme of "no new taxes" sounded good. Lt Gov. Hobby said he only hopes that it is possible. As expected, Briscoe urged stepping up of vocational-technical education spending, \$37,800,000 worth for the junior colleges in that area, and \$26,700,000 more for academic junior college programs. His \$8,500,000 increase in "tuition equalization" for private colleges will be welcomed in that area. Briscoe favored the 3.4% pay raise for State workers and an unspecified raise for university faculty and staff.

BRISCOE'S budget arrived as the Senate Finance and House Appropriations Cmtes wound up hearings and got started on decision-making. Thus it may have a lesser impact than executive budgets usually do, because it was not discussed by agency heads at the hearings.

THE ethics bill was still being thrashed around by the House at press time, after three days and two nights of debate. Disgruntled "reformers" were unsuccessful in an attempt to break a quorum prior to engrossment of the measure when a call was placed on the House. They were peeved at Rep. Agnich's amendment to make secret the financial disclosure required in HB 1. Speaker Daniel may be looking forward to Lt Gov. Hobby's Citizens Ethics Conf, since he voted against engrossment of HB 1. Rep. Bales, committee substitute author, ended up asking members to vote "no," saying the Agnich amendment gutted the bill. Rep. Von Dohlen worked out a compromise of the Agnich amendment which was being debated at press time. It would make public the statement of transactions, but would keep the actual financial statement open only to members of the commission and district attorneys and the Atty Gen. when the commission felt the others had a reason to look at the statements. Rep. Nugent won approval, 123-8, of an amendment intended to make the bill a little more palatable to liberals, by requiring public disclosure of transactions in substantial a-

mounts of real estate, stocks and bonds or "business entities." Rep. Sullivant "took the politics" out of selection of members of the commission by having them chosen by a drawing of names submitted by district judges. Asst Atty Gen. Liz Levatino spent the first two days of debate in the Chief Clerk's office to help members write "constitutional" amendments...Lt Gov. Hobby named former Sen. Jack Strong to head up his Ethics Conf., to look at reform bills that make it to the Senate.

IT JUST seemed like ethics was the only thing happening in the House; there really were some other bills passed: HBs 36 and 37, Kaster, local option elections on urban renewal on a project by project basis and on allowing public housing in UR neighborhoods; HB 619, Cole, waiving Board of Control approval for offices leased or rented by legislators; HB 411, Carl Parker, expanding the Tort Claims Act to take in school and junior college districts; HB 285, Presnal, exempting emergency room doctors from liability for treatment in areas outside their specialties; HB 300, Von Dohlen, allowing pharmacy students to dispense prescriptions under supervision of a pharmacist; and HJR 7, Miller, constitutional amendment to give unmarried persons homestead exemptions...Congratulations went to lots of folks, including Frances Farenthold, Sarah Weddington and the sponsors of National Polka Month.

HB 311, Rep. Finney's unitization bill, went to a to-be-named subcommittee after a lively hearing in which witnesses swore that the measure would save or destroy the Texas oil industry, State and local government and private property rights. House Natural Resources Cmte Chmn Lewis tried to limit testimony but soon gave up. Hearings in subcommittee are promised...Rep. Wyatt won approval of his resolution striking out the requirements that legislators be put under oath, like other witnesses, when they testify to committees. Rep. Simmons asked if it were because the oath "is not working," and offered an amendment to put members under oath during floor debate. That and a suggested amendment on campaign speeches didn't make it.

REP. Fred Head says he did not intend to break a glass door at the Austin Airport, and says he'll pay for the damage. Police reports said Head became angry at having to walk through a metal detector twice and kicked the door...The deadline for filing bills without consent arrived Friday, with some 1,400 measures filed in the House by midday. Rep. Vecchio added the bills revising workmen's compensation laws to meet Federal recommendations (Mauzy's the Senate sponsor); other measures included HB 935, Joe Allen, control of groundwater pumping in subsidence areas; HB 1198, Waters, putting county and state political party committee meetings on Saturdays; and HB 1108, Williams, allowing school bus drivers to file charges against drivers failing to stop for buses loading or unloading children...The number of bills filed was expected to be a new record.

THREATS of a filibuster against SB 123, Gammage, the 18-year-olds' equal rights bill, delayed action. Sens Moore, Adams and Creighton got

stacks of lawbooks to dramatize their threat, and SB 123 was put off to Tuesday at 11:30 am. Whether Gammage can get enough senators to hold the opponents feet to the fire and see whether they really will filibuster is the question...Bills passed by the Senate include HB 106, Tupper, making right turns on red lights legal except at intersections where they are prohibited by cities and signs are put up; SB 160, Moore, making insurance companies pay State MH-MR hospitals like they do private ones if they insure against MH-MR illnesses; SB 67, Traeger, exempting the San Antonio Medical Foundation's raw land from taxes; SB 223, Aikin, allowing colleges to transfer unused tuition scholarship funds; SB 273, Schwartz, increasing from 50 to 67% the State matching money for cleaning up beaches...Sen. Blanchard decided that the Property Tax Study Cmte is a good idea, and will keep it going, with his aide, Delwin Jones, taking over as temporary director, replacing Jeff Davis, who resigned. Blanchard and the committee carried out his recommendations, including termination of contracts with Executive Services, Inc., Craig Foster and the UT-Arlington Institute of Urban Affairs. Blanchard found the spending by the committee to be proper, and felt it should be continued to look into school finance...Floods of bills hit the Senate, too.

HIGHWAY Dept officials blamed cuts in Federal highway funds for the condition of that narrow West Texas bridge where seven people died in a bus-truck collision, saying the highway had not been upgraded because it was to have been brought into the Interstate system...Timing the move to coincide with International Women's Day on Thursday, Pam Bates, Public Welfare Dept employe, filed a class action complaint with the Equal Employment Opportunity Cmn charging "pervasive sex discrimination" in department practices...Nominations for five Gov.'s Industrial Expansion Awards are being sought by the Industrial Cmn. Gov. Briscoe will make the presentations at the May 10 industrial conference in Austin...Health Dept radiation specialists took issue with a Consumers Union report saying microwave ovens are unsafe...The Education Agency says the average superintendent works 56.5 hours a week...A Research League look at 50 price-tagged bills showed their first-year cost totals \$136,600,000. Education measures account for lots of that, HB 93 providing additional positions under the Minimum Foundation program adding \$29,750,000. Ten bills would result in reductions in State income of around \$69,800,000...Bonus payments on oil and gas leases on State owned lands brought \$7,451,278 into the Permanent School Fund. High bid was \$1,535,568 by Houston Oil and Minerals Corp. for 394 acres in Galveston County...Atty Gen. Hill and tax experts got together at the State Tax Seminar at the UT Law School.

NOTHING much happened at the Democrats' Rules Subcmte meeting, except lots of talk for, against and about quotas. The consensus is quotas will be around for awhile...The YD's said they ought to get a bigger voice in party councils, and SDEC member Margaret Carter, Ft Worth, opposed any changes resulting in "a delegation composed of all men over 45 who wear the same necktie." More meetings were promised by Subcmte Chmn Gordon Wynne, Jr...Nixon counselor Anne Armstrong will be taking over matters

dealing with "Spanish-speaking Americans"...GOP artists are already designing Connally bumper stickers, but haven't decided what the slogan is to be. "Coming with Connally" has been rejected; "Joining John" may have a chance...George Bush says he won't be a candidate for governor in '74, but may be a candidate for something some time.

HOUSE committees are moving into offices in buildings around town. A part of the State Bar Bldg is being used to office the Judiciary and Revenue & Tax Cmtes. Space in the International Life Bldg provides offices for Insurance, Education and Business & Industry...The House Interim Cmte on Poverty recommended developing a State policy to eliminate policy, establishing multi-purpose service centers in poor neighborhoods and removing the \$80,000,000 ceiling on appropriations for public aid. Too few of the 2,500,000 Texans who are poor are receiving help from present programs, the report concludes.

COORDINATING Board member Wales Madden repeated his views that Texas is on the verge of overexpanding its college and university system to the Senate Education Cmte. Sen. Mauzy had brought out SR 209, declaring a moratorium on creating any new upper-level centers, and SB 408, outlining rules for setting up new schools, sent them back for Blanchard to oppose and then brought them out again to the floor...The CB approved "extension centers" at Uvalde by Sul Ross and Texas Southmost (Brownsville) by Pan American, but said no new law or medical schools are needed. And it asked the Legislature to stop creating new schools until a statewide plan is completed...UT System Regents met and approved the sale of \$8,000,000 in revenue bonds, increased housing fees at UT-Austin and authorized a suit against the LBJ Library contractor if remedial work on the structure isn't carried out. The regents also asked for an Atty Gen.'s opinion on using a mandatory fee to pay for support of the Daily Texan, UT-Austin student newspaper.

TO & FRO: That proverbial black, liberal, Republican girl named Martinez would be an ideal 37th member of the Constitutional Cmn replacing Tom Vandergriff, since all those "minorities" are underrepresented. Only 31 representatives and Sen. Mengden signed protests by the deadline so the Commission can get to work...Former Sharpstown Exec. Joe Novotny pleaded guilty on one count and got the other 11 dismissed, leaving John Osorio and Waggoner Carr to stand trial on some of the security shuffling at Natl Bankers Life...Galveston financier Shearn Moody Jr is suing his former lobbyist Jimmy Day and Credit Factoring, formerly controlled by Moody, for \$609,000 which Moody says is owed him as a result of loans made by Moody's private bank...Houston millionaire John Moran is expected to be named to head a special GOP candidate recruiting committee...Treasurer Jesse James says the reported refusal of his office to let Rep Bowers aide look at bank records on State funds in Harris County was a misunderstanding...The grievance committee of the State Bar is seeking to present Ramsey Muniz, '72 La Raza Unida gubernatorial candidate, from "holding himself out as an attorney at law." He says he isn't.