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

STUART LONG, Editor

REPORT

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AS GOV. Briscoe begins to get into the swing of things, he is showing quick decisiveness. He moved quickly and resisted strong pressure from the Harris House delegation in re-appointing Joe Carter to the Water Rights Cmn. He even resisted when Mrs Bill Hobby went with Harris House members to ask a Houston appointee on that commission. Then he proposed a set of reform laws on water districts to arm the commission with more powers over the suburban districts against which the Houston Post has been crusading. Briscoe also moved quickly to get constitutional revision started. He signed SCR 1, and called a meeting for 4 pm Monday of the six men who will name the 37-member commission. SB 1, the \$900,000 appropriation for the constitutional commission, sailed on through, although Rep. Calhoun, who likes to snipe this session, gave House members a chance to vote for economy by proposing to cut it to \$500,000--on 3rd reading when it was harder to do. Briscoe, Lt Gov. Hobby, Speaker Daniel, Atty Gen. Hill, Chief Justice Greenhill and Presiding Judge Onion, the six pickers, have had literally hundreds of applicants and proposed members. The conference committee version of SCR 1, Wolff-Von Dohlen, which finally passed, made two changes: It would take 16 senators and 76 House members, rather than just 91 members, to veto the list of 37; and the use of the "McGovern Rule" for broad representation was modified so it's a desire, rather than an order of the Legislature, that they cover the racial, age, sex and geographical waterfront. The six pickers can meet in public if they want to, or they can close the meeting. After Bob Bullock blasted the closed-meeting idea, Common Cause, the AFL-CIO, the Catholic Conference, Consumers Assn, Baptist Christian Life Cmn, Cmte on Natural Resources, Federation of Women's Clubs and EAT (Environmental Action for Texas) asked that the meetings be open to the public.

DECISIONS of Former Chief Justice Calvert's group to press for judicial revision by regular constitutional amendments this session, as well as in the revision process of '73-'74, was opposed by Sen. Wolff, author of the revision commission bills. Calvert's Task Force would like to be on the ballot this November with their proposals, and thus leave judicial changes out of the constitutional convention. Wolff thinks that's bad, and expensive, too.

"CONTROL the lobby" was the call of the House as it passed HB 2, by a 114-25 vote. The measure requires registration of anyone spending \$150 in a calendar quarter or \$50 a month, or those in the lobbying business, who try to influence legislative or administrative agency actions. It

was close at times, as Speaker Daniel had to cast the tie vote to kill Rep. Hale's amendment to allow people to work their own members without having to register. Finally, Rep. Bigham did have to put an amendment on to say constituents had to spend more than \$150 to be made to register with the Ethics Cmn created in the bill. He also had to take Rep. Sullivant's amendment to let preachers line up their congregations in lobbying efforts. Punishment is a fine on an individual up to \$1,000, a corporation up to \$10,000, and/or two years in jail. Citizens can seek injunctive relief, and enforcement is through district or county attorneys or the Atty Gen. Newspapermen writing editorials are exempt, and lawyers are exempt if they are in an attorney-client relationship before a State agency. Expenditure reports to the Ethics Cmn would have to include lobbyists salaries and fees, as well as itemized expenditure reports. Daniel said it's the toughest lobby control bill ever passed, and after a meeting with Lt Gov. Hobby, Daniel showed the first signs of a split between the dynamic duo. Daniel said he is opposed to delays on action in the Senate on lobby control, ethics and campaign financing.

AFTER approving lobby control, the House came back for a night session on HB 10, the newsmen's privilege or "shield" bill allowing newsmen to refuse to reveal the source of information obtained in confidence. Rep. Allred, newspaper reporter and chief author, led efforts on the floor. The key vote came on an amendment by Rep. Maloney to require disclosure of sources to a "legally constituted body" where there was "probable cause" to believe the information was related to a "specific probable violation of law." That amendment was tabled 101-41, and the bill went on to approval, 135-8. Final passage came the next day.

OTHER measures getting final approval in the House included HCR 9, Nichols et al, requesting Atty Gen. Hill to bring suit to secure all the water pollution control funds appropriated to Texas by Congress; HB 120, Grant, allowing 18-year-old jurors; HB 92, Kubiak, delaying the mandatory quarter system for public schools until the '75-'76 school year; HB 104, Dramberger, protecting axis deer in Bexar County; HB 11, Joe Allen, giving school districts more time to file audit reports with the Education agency; HB 82, Williams, setting up airport security forces; HB 66, Clayton, dissolving the Bailey County Hospital Dist; HCR 29, Thompson, designating Feb. 15 Susan B. Anthony Day.

BLACKS and conservatives led efforts in defeating HB 101, Cavness, to exempt some students from Nicaragua from paying tuition at State colleges and universities. Rep. Senfronia Thompson argued that minority students in Texas have been unable to attend schools because of economic hardship and should be the first to be helped. Rep. Hollowell opposed the measure as "foreign aid." Cavness reported some 25 students from Nicaragua, 18 at UT-Austin, would be forced to drop out of school because of problems arising from the recent earthquake in their country. The Good Neighbor Cmn and Gov. Briscoe had endorsed the bill, estimated to cost \$12,500 over 4 years, as a goodwill gesture by Texas to Latin America.

GOV. Briscoe brought the Daniel-Connally adjutant general back to the office. Gen. Tom Bishop has been working in the Office of Traffic Safety Administration since '69...Briscoe's appointment of Joe Carter as chairman of the Water Rights Cmn brought bristling statements from Reps Denton, Blythe and Nichols. The question, of course, is whether the Harris House members can deliver 11 Senate votes against Carter, a former senator...Briscoe said his invitation to visit Pres. Luis Echeverria at his Juarez meeting was on very short notice, that no snub was intended and that he felt Sen. Santiesteban represented Texas very well...The Senate approved 30-0 22 of Gov. Smith's appointees. Held back by Sen. Ogg was Mrs Laverne Dobbs on the Civil Judicial Council. She's had an operation and may decline the appointment...Presiding Judge Onion reappointed Pardons & Paroles Member Charles Shandera, Alvin, to a full 6-year term...Education Cmr Edgar was confirmed for another term to 5-31-77...Briscoe endorsed a permanent Human Relations Cmn. He also admitted that he is already finding some of the frustration of the office...Lt Gov. Hobby named Former Rep. Zan Holmes, El Paso School Consultant Ted Kepple and Harris DA Carol Vance to the Crime & Narcotics Cmn...Speaker Daniel was surprised when Lt Gov. Hobby said he'd like for the Senate to hold up on lobby control until a committee he's setting up meets in March...West Texas Chamber of Commerce directors endorsed Briscoe's budget controls and September-October primaries...Briscoe told county officials he wants county government to modernize to meet people needs, and said he'll try to get them the tools they need to adapt--organizational flexibility, added authority, land-use controls and other constitutional strengthenings. He called his plans a Roadmap for The Future. He cited Lady Bird Johnson's suggestion that instead of sending flowers to LBJ, the people should do something for their own communities.

HOUSE Natural Resources Cmte Chmn Lewis announced subcmte appointments: Land and Forestry, Cobb, chairman, Blythe, vice chairman; Water, Clayton and Cates; and Oil and Gas, Slack and Newton...Several House members, led by Rep. Semos, have offered a resolution to rename the now unnamed former Gus Mutscher Cmte Room for Lyndon Johnson...The House Education Cmte took up Rep. Truan's bilingual bills. Lots of folks appeared in favor, none against. A subcmte will hold more hearings...House State Affairs set up a permanent subcmte on ethics, headed by Rep. Bales...Rep. Kubiak has come under fire for his statements pledging the efforts of the Education Cmte which he chairs to a proposed investigation of Prairie View A&M. Some members of the House "Black Caucus" have said they feel Kubiak's remarks were premature.

FORMER Secy of State, etc., Bob Bullock is sending out letters saying he'll be a candidate for statewide office in '74. He hasn't said what office, but the latest rumors are it's Comptroller...Former Rep. James Cotten of Weatherford is Gov. Briscoe's special legal counsel for crime and drug programs...Atty Gen. Hill is being asked by 58 House members to drop the State's appeal of court-ordered single-member legislative districts. Hill is to argue the suit in Washington Feb. 26.

MOTHER Nature got the blame from the Texas Chemical Council at the Air Control Board hearing on revised rules and regulations on control of pollutants to meet new Federal requirements. A TCC spokesman said vegetation in the Houston area produces so many natural hydrocarbons that the background levels on tests are too high for industrial plants to be in compliance with the regulations. The TCC stopped short of recommending that the trees be removed. Environmentalists criticized the ACB for not working on plans to limit use of autos, particularly in downtown urban areas. The ACB is still waiting for word on how a Federal appeals court decision wiping out delays to 18 states on meeting nationwide clean air standards will affect Texas.

FORMER Sen. Joe Christie, now on the Aeronautics Cmn, says the Federal Aviation Admn is not doing an adequate job of checking aircraft, and he wants the TAC to move more into that field. He asked the Finance Cmte for more funds to do that, and said TAC will start checking scheduling on intrastate flights...The Board of Insurance approved an average 1.1% increase in workmen's compensation rates paid by employers...The Pharmacy Board issued 12 peyote distributor's permits last year, it reports. Only members of the Native American Church can get them, though, in case you planned to apply...The Office of Early Childhood Development, Dept of Community Affairs, issued a report on what's being done for children under six by the State and private agencies. Copies are available: POB 13166, Austin 78711.

ANALYSIS of the Legislative Budget Board budget bill by the Research League shows spending up \$986 million for the biennium, with 87% of that in welfare, education and mental health. Biggest item and biggest increase is State aid to local schools, with higher education rising by a quarter billion dollars--with a large part due to new schools and programs authorized but not funded in '69 and '71...Municipal League Pres. Jamie Clements asked the Legislature for a study of public labor-management relations in Texas, noting some 100 bills in that field are expected to be introduced this session...The School Land Board asked Atty Gen. Hill to intervene in a suit in Pecos County between Forest Oil Corp. and the Railroad Cmn on a forced pooling agreement...Parks & Wildlife is working on the State Railroad, hoping to get its 4-6-0 locomotives hauling tourists by the summer of '74...Small-town police departments are complaining to the Cmn on Law Enforcement Standards that once they get their officers qualified, the officers go off to better-paying jobs in bigger cities...Speculation increases on whether John Connally will go Republican. Connally has said that he "might well do it"...Connally will serve as "commissioner general" for opening of the Dallas-Ft Worth Regional Airport this fall...Sen. Andujar says those gold plated faucets in the Senate's ladies restroom don't work properly...Dept of Public Safety Dir Wilson Speir asked for more "buy money" for his narcotics agents, explaining that inflation has affected drug prices, too...Texas Republicans are planning to bring in Missouri Gov. Kit Bond sometime in March to speak to legislators as a "not-too-subtle" hint of what they hope to do.