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REPORT

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DOLPH BRISCOE left his first footprints in the Capitol when George Lowrance, listed in the '72 San Antonio city directory as "employee, Dolph Briscoe," moved into a vacant office in Gov. Smith's press office at Smith's invitation to begin talks with staff people. Briscoe also announced that Ken Clapp of Killeen will be one of his assistants. It was interesting that the third staffer is Mrs Doris Slaughter, a black who is Lowrance's secretary. Briscoe had a shuffle in Dallas, when his conference with the Times-Herald's editors ran overtime and he got a parking ticket. He canceled his later meeting with the News staff, and the News said it was because he was angry that Dallas police had threatened to tow away his car. Briscoe said it was because the airport at Uvalde was about to close in. He was busy in Dallas that day, telling the Chamber of Commerce that he wants to see close working relationships between Dallas and his office. He went to St Louis to support Bob Strauss as natl Demo chairman at a governors' conference. In West Texas, he said water is a top issue, that the impending water shortage must have priority. He called for crime control legislation, said better budget controls are vital, looked to agriculture to restore the small towns, and of course called restructuring of educational finance a key matter. Otherwise, there was nothing but rumor about other Briscoe appointees.

REP. Daniel is calling "reform" his program priority, and in that he includes constitutional revision. He had suggested revision of the constitutional commission proposal by Sen.-Elect Wolff to add the Attorney General to the board (originally Chief Justice Greenhill, Presiding Judge Onion, Gov. Briscoe, Lt Gov. Hobby and Speaker Daniel) which will name the commission. Also Daniel proposed that the board name the 36 members cooperatively, rather than let each name his own six. This view was agreed to by Tom Vandergriff's Advisory Cmn on Intergovernmental Relations, which suggested 37 members and a \$1,000,000 appropriation. The Commission to be created would make its report by Nov. 1, and the Legislature would meet in '74 to act on it. Daniel drafted 9 bills to put his House reforms into statute, including one to say no person shall be elected speaker for two successive terms. Mass transit, strengthening of pollution control, misdemeanor for first-time marijuana possession are other things he feels should be handled by the session. Daniel thinks there will be good cooperation between him, Briscoe and Hobby.

TO MAKE sure Texans get the "truth" on the Legislature and State government, Rep. Wyatt proposed a State information agency, to write news-

paper stories and make hour-long television programs. Rep. Grant had a different idea for consideration by the House Cmte on Office Space and Public Information. He wants to send "This is your State representative in Austin" tapes to his hometown radio station, and wants the House to provide Senate-like facilities. In its other vein of study, the committee got Building Cmr Dir Nieman to tell them each legislator needs 700 sq.ft of floor space, and that means 50,000 sq.ft more than the Capitol has. Nieman suggested a new office building, but to keep down the need for explanations at home, he wants to move Sam Houston Bldg-based agencies to the new one, and make SHSOB the House Office Bldg. Wyatt wants the committee to look at purchase of the Westgate, and Board of Control Admr Foerster is to find out how big it is and how much it would cost. Nieman said his first priority will be parking garages, to ease the 2,400 name waiting list for spaces. He told the committee that changing from AC to DC elevators could save the State a large part of the 140 man hours lost weekly in the Finance Bldg on elevator waiting.

AFTER hearing Texas OEO Researcher Mary Ann Harvey report that the highest incidence of Texas' poverty (defined as a family of four with annual income of less than \$3,800) is in the Valley, followed by East Texas, the House Committee on Poverty decided to hold two South Texas hearings (Hidalgo County and Nueces or Bexar) and one in Houston. The poverty study that the committee is studying indicates that poverty is most severe in non-metropolitan areas...Sen. Brooks' Cmte To Study Special (Water) Districts is planning a series of hearings, starting here Dec. 19--the same day Rep. John Allen's House water committee will meet...Sen. Schwartz said the Coastal Zone Study Cmte's final meeting will be Dec. 16 at 1:30 in the Flagship Hotel in Galveston...Rep. Lewis is saying he'll sponsor a bill to license and regulate telephone solicitors...Galveston Sheriff J. B. Kline said the Sheriffs' Assn will ask for legislation to require the Dept of Corrections to house county jail prisoners awaiting actions on appeals...Steve Simon, the former Austin stock broker who will be a full-time volunteer marijuana law reform lobbyist, claims that only three of 98 House members polled and two of 29 senators favor keeping marijuana possession a felony...Claiming "North Central Texas has been shortchanged" when it comes to State parks locations, Sen. Mauzy warned Parks & Wildlife Cmr Stone he's going to lobby for one.

IN A MASSIVE opinion covering 11 cases, the Supreme Court upheld Gov. Smith's right to commute death sentences to life in prison. Judge Odom dissented, saying when the US Supreme Court knocked out the death penalty, it didn't leave any death sentences to commute...The Coordinating Board staff thinks the State has some \$8 million a year at stake in the question of whether a student should be classified as a resident when it comes time to pay tuition if he can vote in that state. The US Supreme Court has agreed to hear arguments in a question like that from Connecticut...Norman DePue Radford Jr of Houston was high scorer among the 289 who passed the October Bar exam. The new attorneys will be sworn in Dec. 18...Asked if criminal violations and remedies could be applied when two

males requested a marriage license, the Atty Gen. said false swearing could be charged "where a person swears falsely that they are a certain sex when in fact they are not." He also ruled that a State agency occupying a Board of Control-controlled building may contract with the board for space modifications necessary to the agency's needs and the "efficient performance of its program."...Gen. Martin has been discharged from Johns Hopkins Hospital, where a cataract on his right eye was removed, and is due back in the capital Tuesday...The State Bar Executive Cmte and Texas Legal Protection Plan, Inc. Pres. Franklin Jones Jr of Marshall filed a corporate charter for the Bar-sponsored prepaid legal services corporation...Atty Gen.-Elect Hill named Dallas Atty David Kendall to head up the Opinions Divn; James Bushala Jr, Corpus Christi, staff legal assistant; Lawrence Merriman, Austin, to head tort claims; former Legislative Intern Program Dir Colin (C.J.) Carl, assistant for constitutional and legislative; Frank Cooksey of Houston, to head State-Federal Relations, and Houston Municipal Court No. 6 Judge Thomas H. Routt, assistant chief of Law Enforcement.

THE US Supreme Court heard arguments Wednesday on the question of whether State laws making "willful neglect" of children punishable by jail sentence are discriminatory because they don't provide equal protection for illegitimate children...The Family Law Council of the State Bar has drawn up a bill for paternity suits, as well as a proposed Title II to the Family Code to provide for voluntary legitimation; possession and support; termination of parent-child relationships, adoption, and so on.

GOV. Smith decided to emphasize the Water Development Board's role in planning and encouraging water development by designating Mayor John H. McCoy of New Boston chairman of the WDB...Smith appointed two industry members to the Vending Cmn--Coast Amusement, Inc., Pres. Guy H. Barnett of Freeport (replacing Jack C. Morgan), and Bi-Stone Music Co. Owner R. L. (Jimmie) Bounds of Mexia (replacing L. C. Butler)...The Governor named Tyler Atty William D. Lawrence Jr and Austin Restracteur Jack E. Ray to the Motor Vehicle Cmn...The Senate Nominations Cmte will have to look for a new secretary. Cosmetology Cmn Chmn James McMullen III appointed Bonnie Griebel executive director to the commission...The Governor called a meeting for Monday at 9 a.m. in the Sam Houston SOB conference room to tell State agency chiefs and TSPEA officials why they should work with a State Employee Alcoholism Program. One reason: If the State-employee percentage conforms to the national alcoholism rate of 6%, it could be costing the State some \$5 million a year...Smith designated the Coordinating Board as the agency to receive and administer planning funds available under new Federal education amendments...The CB told Midland College officials to go ahead with an election for disannexation from Permian Jr College District...State Office of Early Childhood Development Dir Jeanette Watson was appointed to a national task force on early childhood.

THEY were to mail the State of Texas a \$122,680,956 Federal revenue-sharing check Friday. If and when it arrives, it likely will go into a

special Treasury fund to await legislative decision as to what to spend it for. Treasurer James said it will go into banks and begin to draw a proportionate share of the 5% earned on time accounts, which at the moment total \$420,000,000...The House will have to be an Indian giver. It helped balance the budget by turning back \$3,000,000 of its appropriation, but if the House agrees to give each member $2\frac{1}{2}$ instead of $1\frac{1}{2}$ employees, it will run out of money about Mar. 1 and need an emergency appropriation for the regular session...House employees are pitching in \$5 each toward the Christmas party Dec. 18 from 2 to 4...Rep. Joe Allen is the key to a lot of House committee appointments. He's apparently getting first choice for a fat chairmanship...Sen. Sherman's Population Cmte drew up a huge list of recommendations for State studies, action and attention to try to "keep 'em down on the farm, after they've seen the Astrodome." Its report will range from subsidizing more osteopaths for a promise of spending five years in a medically deprived area, to increased efforts by the Industrial Cmn to shove more industries out of the metro areas. The report contains the incredible statement that Texas is getting 60% of the national capital investment in new plants. It's just 6%...The American Auto Assn says Texas spent \$652,913,000 in highway-user taxes in '71, of which \$203,756,000 was for non-highway things...The Budget Board will look at additional staff recommendations Monday at 8:30...State Auditor McNiel had a turnover of 12.37% in last fiscal year, compared to 25.72% for all State agencies. That could be because they get a lump-sum appropriation...The House will install computer consoles so members can call the House computer and find out bill statuses...The Nation's top leaders of the civil rights movement will speak and attend the opening of the LBJ Library civil rights papers, including LBJ himself, Chief Justice Warren and US Rep. Gonzalez...Sen. Bentsen urged Pres. Nixon to release the billions Congress provided for clean-water construction...Texas watermen are worried about the Natl Water Cmn draft report that the US should sharply curtail its water construction work.

TO & FRO: Now that Mustang Island's been bought by the State, Parks & Wildlife has launched what it calls "an exhaustive study" on what to do with the 3,570 acres...A late "compromise" candidate for natl Demo chairman is Bill Moyers...The LBJs are giving a big part of the LBJ Ranch to the Natl Park Svce, but will retain a life estate...[The Dallas News surprisingly endorsed single-member districts for the school district and city council, saying the courts will order it anyway.] Beeville Supt Archie Roberts will be assistant to Teachers Assn Exec. Secy L.P. Sturgeon...Rep. Pickens is no longer working on the railroads. He's joined Phil Overton and will lobby for the Medical Assn...Rep. Wayne will lobby for the Mid-Continent Oil & Gas Assn...DWI charges on Rep. Sanchez were dropped. The DA said the officers' allegations of speeding were impossible...Sen. Tower doesn't know which bases in Texas will be closed, but he's sure Fort Bliss, Fort Wolters and Carswell AFB won't be...Ex-Rep. Moyer's theft trial was put off to Jan. 8 because his lawyer quit...A new savings & loan charter is sought by a Palestine group which includes Speaker Price.