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REPORT

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THE HOUSE laid an Easter egg on the appropriations bill, and went off home for a four-day recess after three days of efforts to amend had cut the pile of amendments down from 169 to 100. This demonstrates what we have been saying about how democracy springs eternally, amendment in hand, in the '73 edition of the House. By contrast, four years ago just 13 amendments were proposed, and Chmn Heatly's work was endorsed in less than a day. This time, the Establishment has been winning, too. But Chmn Caldwell cooked up one little ol' twist of spaghetti to make it a bit tougher to alter his bill. Since all the available money was spent by the Appropriations Cmte version, if you want to add something, you've got to find something else to take the money away from. That way, you get opposition from the members who like what you're taking it away from. The first 2½ days of debate on the Judiciary and Health sections of the bill resulted in 9 of 68 amendments being adopted. Some amendments were provincial, of course, with members trying to take care of their home institutions. Mainly the amendments being adopted were conservative in nature, and liberal amendments ~~were being~~ defeated. Thursday at noon, the amendments were still coming in, and the House quit until Tuesday at 11, when they will finish Article II and go on to the big ones. Indications are that it will take all of next week to finish the bill. Morning and afternoon committee meetings will be canceled, on a 9-to-6 House operation, but night committees will meet. A lot of the amending is legislating, particularly on welfare riders aimed at people who are on strike and people who can't find work.

THE Senate got its appropriations bill Thursday, and will take it up next week, probably in less than a day. The Senate passed some big bills including: SB 75, Mauzy, consumer protection, modified, of course (you can't pass anything which isn't compromised this session, a lobbyist confided); SB 721, Brooks, reorganizing the Vending Cmn to take the vendors off; SJR 4, Herring, combining the Supreme Court and Court of Criminal Appeals, and giving criminal jurisdiction to the Courts of Civil Appeals, but leaving the JPs alone (engrossed, 24-5, but not finally passed); SJR 29, Traeger, giving cities tax bond authority up to 10% of assessed values; SB 180, Hightower, giving the Welfare Dept supervision of child-care homes; SB 109, Moore, raising to \$2,500 a day penalties on phone companies which don't provide service when a commissioners court says to (engrossed); SB 283, Mauzy, the AFL-CIO-TMA compromise on workmen's compensation; SBs 190-875, Snelson, prohibiting standees on school buses after 9-1-74 and putting training and examination requirements on

bus drivers; SR 472, McKnight, directing the Land Office and UT System to collect market value on their gas royalties (McKnight estimates somewhat optimistically that it will increase permanent fund income by \$30 million a year; SB 872, Traeger, allowing State and local employees to be put under deferred compensation insurance-annuity plans as a fringe benefit; SB 638, Longoria, legalizing Gov. Smith's designation of cultural basins to attack poverty and other problems unifiedly. Lt Gov. Hobby used the calendar to lay out SB 123, Gammage, 18-year old rights, but a 15-14 adjournment left it pending business Tuesday...HB 158, Creighton, doubling hunting-fishing license fees, and SB 821, Creighton, tripling auto certificate of title fees, were engrossed. Hobby announced a policy of committees acting on no SBs where HBs are in the Senate, and on no HBs when SBs are in the House.

WHETHER to give the service of "one breeding age bull" to the "lonely milk cows" of a creditor or debtor was debated by the House as it took up, but didn't finish, HB 617, Grant, extending homestead protection to single people and modernizing language in the statute. Grant said an amendment by Rep. Wilson to exempt a bull polled the House on the horns of a dilemma--and argued it would be unfair to provide the cows a bull unless a rooster and drake were provided for the chickens and ducks exempted under the law. Rep. Sullivant challenged the constitutionality of the amendment, saying it discriminated on the basis of sex. The bill was postponed on the motion of Rep. Williamson, who said it discriminates against families...In other action, the House engrossed HB 620, Kubiak, eliminating ballot stubs; HB 369, Hudson, advertisement of sales of forced sales of real estate with notice to the person foreclosed on; and HB 128, Cobb, branch offices for absentee elections. A few local bills got final approval, but work on the appropriations bill stymied other actions. Several measures were postponed, including Rep. Clayton's bill for a "Texas Ranch" in Washington...Speaker Daniel said he hopes single-member districts will be drawn in all areas, but wants court-drawn Dallas and Bexar County districts and Rep. Kaster's section of El Paso like they are now...The official House investigation of the Sharpstown matters, chaired by Rep. Murray, issued a final report declaring that the Mutscher, Shannon and McGinty convictions had made House action on the improprieties moot. The report charged that the investigating committee was "maligned and condemned" and that it had to work "under most trying circumstances." It expressed regret that "the Big Fish (Sharp--the committee's words) was granted immunity from prosecution" and that innocent House members had "improperly and unfairly" been the targets of the electorate's wrath. It made recommendations tracking much pending and passed legislation: a "strong and practical" ethics code, "strong and practical" lobby control, pre-session filing of bills, "reasonable notice" of committee hearings, no legislative program for the speaker and a misdemeanor penalty for leaking grand jury actions to newspapers...Gov. Briscoe declined to get involved in the skinny-dipping issue which is burning Lake Travis residents, who say nudes are showing up in both public and private parts of the lake. Sen. Herring and Rep. Cavness want cover-up-in-public laws.

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REDUCTIONS in rates for two companies on fire and extended coverage insurance has been approved by the Board of Insurance--following up on Chmn Christie's promise. One reduction is for 20% on all fire and extended coverage classes...Gov. Briscoe called in Credit Union Cmr Bruce Gibson, Securities Cmr Roy Mouer, Deputy Banking Cmr Chester Baker and Dept of Public Safety Dir Wilson Speir and asked for a complete investigation of irregularities at the Amarillo Air Force Base Credit Union. The credit union, with some \$3,700,000 in assets, was liquidated because of illegal loans, worthless collateral and losses totaling \$1,250,000, Briscoe said...Col. Speir issued a reminder that motorists have to stop for school buses with flashing lights, saying school bus accidents are causing increasing concern...Sale of oil and gas leases brought \$3,559,300 into the Permanent University Fund, which now stands at \$616,601,026...The Alabama-Coushatta Indians got a \$2,000,000 Economic Development grant...Gov. Briscoe urged State agencies to work with the Rehabilitation Cmn in providing jobs for the handicapped...The Water Quality Board approved a new set of water quality standards aimed at cleaning up pollution by 1985, although the WQB agrees that's "ambitious."

MULTI-COLORED feral pigeons are a variety of wild pigeons and are game birds, Atty Gen. Hill ruled. Hill also held that hospital districts organized under constitutional provisions may engage in only those activities specified by the constitution; railroads can't be forced to contribute to the cost of warning devices by a rider in the general appropriations bill; SB 183, McKinnon, validating the bonds for A&I's upper level school at Corpus Christi, is constitutional; ambulance attendants may give limited medical care to an injured person when a doctor is not around, if the care falls within "the functions of a nurse;" the Inter-local cooperation Act doesn't allow conservation and reclamation districts to contract for fire protection, public interest research activities may be part of educational activities and financed by voluntary student fees; where the interest of a minor in a recovery exceeds \$1,500 there is nothing allowing a "next friend" to withdraw part of the recovery.

COMPTROLLER Calvert came in for a grilling from House members looking into State hiring practices, with Rep. Ragsdale labeling the Comptroller's Office "the most discriminatory agency in State government." Calvert countered by saying he just doesn't get qualified applicants...UT Chancellor LeMaistre was called in to explain why he had placed a white male in charge of a program to provide equal employment opportunities for women, chicanos and blacks. LeMaistre said the choice of John Fasolino, former Peace Corps recruiter, was made on the basis of Fasolino's record.

NOV. 1 is the target date set by the Constitutional Revision Cmn for completing its draft of a new constitution--but the commission indicates the date is only something to shoot for...Mrs Ann Chappoll of Fort Worth was sworn in as a member, promising, as did the other members, to "preserve, protect and defend the Constitution...of this state"--a somewhat paradoxical situation, the members noted...The commission has added Waco

to other public hearing sites, and substituted Texarkana for Longview as a site...Five new staffers for the revisors were announced: former Senate parliamentarian Frank Elliott, research director; Jerry Hall, Gov. Smith's press secretary, publications director; Jay Stanford, UT-Arlington researcher, research; Carnegie Mims Jr, Exxon attorney and aide to former Sen. Barbara Jordan, research; and Thomas Adams, Concho Valley COG, administrative staff.

TWO new medical programs were okayed by the Coordinating Board--one allowing A&M U. to offer the first two years of doctor's training, and one of basic health services to be offered by North Texas State U. under an agreement with the College of Osteopathic Medicine at Fort Worth. The A&M program would be completed at Baylor College of Medicine in Houston. Action was deferred until June on whether to build a new medical school in cooperation with the Veterans Administration; UT, A&M and Texas Tech are all interested in being cooperators...The Board of Education approved a new migrant education program and endorsed an Education Agency request for \$187,772 in Federal funds to continue desegregation programs through '74. Jane Wells, member of the Board, announced a May 19-20 conference will study sex discrimination in public schools. Mses Briscoe and Hobby and Reps Miller and Weddington are among the advisory committee members. Areas to be looked at include counseling, textbooks and "the nature of school athletics"...The Advisory Council for Technical-Vocational Education met to consider a \$173,200,000 budget for fiscal '74.

DOCTORS decided Sen. Blanchard was suffering from "extreme exhaustion" and after keeping an eye on him for several days, released him from the hospital with instructions to rest. The long hours got another legislator: Rep. Jimmie Edwards III, who was taken to the hospital from a late night committee meeting, with exhaustion and a low-grade infection.

ADDRESSING a joint session, U.S. Sen. Bentsen criticized Pres. Nixon for not allowing White House aides to testify on the Watergate investigation--later telling a press conference he doesn't think Nixon was personally involved. Bentsen said the worst feature of the affair is that it confirms the suspicions of the public that politics is a dirty, vulgar business. Bentsen also touched on the need for Congress to reassert its power; predicted wage and price controls will have to be reinstated; said he is not a candidate for Senate majority leader; and said mail service should improve if more regional distribution centers are set up in the state...Texas' other Senator, John Tower, said in Washington he thinks Nixon's aides should testify in the Watergate case.

TO & FRO: Rep. Preston says he is considering running for speaker... Rep. Bales says he's considering running for senator, if Sen. Herring decides to retire...Midland attorney Emil Rassman is the new West Texas CofC head...Sen. Mauzy was Gov. For A Day in Dallas Saturday...Gubernatorial Asst Ken Clapp resigned from the Killeen ISD to stay in Austin. He's been on leave since October...Former Sen. John Redditt died.