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CITIZENS FOR TEXAS

810 COMMODORE PERRY BUILDING
AUSTIN, TEXAS 78701

JAN 18 1974

January 14, 1974

Dear Advisory Committee Member:

As the Constitutional Convention gets underway, I know that you, like myself, are anxious for continued involvement beyond the completion of the Revision Commission's work with which you were so closely involved. As Chairman of Citizens for Texas, I am writing to invite you to join our organization and continue to be involved in efforts to give our State a new basic document.

Citizens for Texas is a nonprofit corporation which was initially created in December, 1971 for the purpose of "gathering and disseminating information about the Texas Constitution for the benefit of the people of the State of Texas and the government of the State of Texas." Originally, the principal activity of the organization centered around creation of a statewide campaign effort in conjunction with numerous civic and governmental organizations in support of the passage of Amendment 4. With the passage of Amendment 4, the organization assumed a relatively low profile during the tenure of the Revision Commission. Commitment was carried on chiefly by several members of the original Board of Directors who served as Commissioners, Board members who testified at public hearings, and Board members and others who became active on local Citizen Advisory Committees.

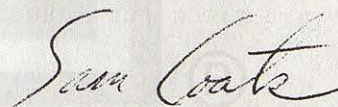
The express intent of Citizens for Texas is spelled out in the "Purpose and Program" which I have enclosed for your information. The overall thrust of the effort simply stated is to formulate a broad-based Citizens organization to support the general principles of the Revision Commission's report, to support Statesman-like conduct in the convention, and to provide a vehicle for public awareness and public involvement in the Convention process.

Our broad-based and distinguished Board of Director membership includes Alvin Burger, formerly Executive Director of the Texas Research League, Harry Hubbard, President, Texas AFL-CIO, Mrs. Vita Winick, President, Texas League of Women Voters, Mr. John Thompson, President, Texas Jaycees, Judge Robert Calvert, Chairman, Constitutional Revision Commission, and many others.

Enclosed also is a membership application for immediate response. Please indicate your willingness to serve and drop it in the return mail. If you need additional information or clarification, please call me.

Thank you for your commitment and dedication to improving State government. I look forward to working with you in the next several months.

Sincerely,



Sam Coats, Chairman

PURPOSE AND PROGRAM OF
CITIZENS FOR TEXAS

A constitution is a bond between the people and their government. The primary objective of Citizens for Texas is to provide a rallying point for all Texans who want a better State constitution.

Citizens for Texas agrees with the many political and civic leaders who over the years have pointed out that the Constitution of 1876 does not meet the needs of a dynamic, fast growing and changing state. The present constitution is too long. Helter skelter organization, poor drafting, and excessive technical detail make it almost impossible for the average citizen to understand the essence of the basic law of Texas.

One of the goals of this effort is to support the soundness of the Texas Constitutional Revision Commission's proposed "New Constitution For Texas." This commitment to the Commission's document is not intended to extend to every detail; rather, the organization recognizes the soundness of the principles set forth in the report, the improvement in organization, the directness and simplicity of language, and the elimination of considerable statutory detail. Certainly as individuals the members of the Citizens for Texas do not necessarily agree with every specific item in the report, but they concur that in the interest of better government for Texas, the proposal of the Texas Constitutional Revision Commission represents a democratically derived product and a significant improvement over the present Constitution.

The program of Citizens for Texas in the ensuing months will include advocating positive action in the public interest by the Constitutional Convention; encouraging serious, statesman-like work during the Convention; disseminating public information regarding constitutional changes; and generally supporting the soundness of the report of the Texas Constitutional Revision Commission. In general, Citizens for Texas hopes to contribute to the revision process by insuring that a new constitution for Texas is a true people's document which speaks to and for them in clear words about the basic principles and structure of a government capable of meeting the needs of the State in the years ahead.

Through actions such as those enumerated above, Citizens for Texas hopes to encourage and assist the Convention in producing a document its members can support; however, this is a judgment which must be reserved for the future when the work of the Convention is complete.

JAN 8 1974

CITIZENS FOR TEXAS

~~304 Austin National Bank Building~~
~~Austin, Texas 78701~~

810 Commodore Perry Building
Austin, Texas 78701

January 4, 1974

Mrs. Darvin M. Winick
Texas League of Women Voters
Dickinson Plaza Center
Dickinson, Texas 77539

Dear Director of Citizens for Texas:

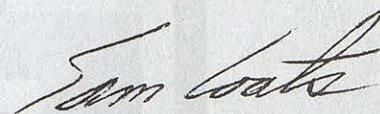
In compliance with the Articles of Incorporation of Citizens for Texas, the members of the initial five person Board of Directors have asked me to serve as Chairman of the Organization. In an attempt to reactivate Citizens for Texas to play a role in the third phase of this revision effort, I am writing to confirm your continued interest in the organization and its objectives.

The role of Citizens for Texas during the Constitutional Convention is spelled out in some detail in the attached "Purpose and Program". Generally, however, we envision a continuation of the broad-based, public information type of organization which you were active in during the Amendment 4 campaign and the early days of the Constitutional Revision Commission. Additionally we intend to extend invitations to join to members of the Commission and leaders of the Commission's Citizens Advisory Committees around the State.

Enclosed also is a post card for immediate response. Please indicate your willingness to serve and drop it in the return mail. If you need additional information or clarification, please call me.

Thank you for your commitment and dedication to improving State government. I look forward to working with you in the next several months.

Sincerely,



Sam Coats, Chairman

*Answer,
Grace or I?*

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CITIZENS FOR TEXAS

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CITIZENS FOR TEXAS

NEWS CONFERENCE
January 10, 1974

Speakers Committee Room
State Capitol
Austin, Texas
9:30 a.m.

Sam Coats, Chairman (10-13 minutes)

--Introduction of self (who am I? and why am I here?)

--Background of citizens for Texas, especially noting role in support of Amendment Four campaign *and groups who participated.*

--Why is Citizens for Texas needed now, as we enter the third stage of the revision process?

-To combat normal special interest forces that routinely participate in the legislative process

-To afford average citizens with an interest in the revision process and seeing that Texas gets a new, up-dated constitution *a collective means of participation*

-To assist the Convention in keeping citizens of Texas informed about constitutional revision

-Also, we recognize that citizen groups such as this (i.e. broad based, without a particular self interest) have been active and constructive participants in revision efforts in other states, particularly those where revision efforts have been successful

--What does Citizens for Texas stand for?

-As Governor Hobby stated the other day in his opening address to the convention, this new constitution would be written in "bold strokes". Citizens for Texas supports a constitution that primarily contains basic law.

-Want to see removal of vast quantities of statutory materials that are in present constitution

-Want a constitution which clearly sets out the placement of responsibility to act in the government

-Want a constitution that is well organized, precisely drafted, understandable to the lay public

- Want a constitution that is as brief and concise as possible
- want a constitution that does not try to solve the problems of today - but rather a flexible document that will allow the government to respond to future problems
- support a constitution similar to that produced by CRC, i.e. support and confirm acceptability to general principles of government as reflected in the CRC document.

DISCLAIMER--adherence to specific ~~xxx~~ items in CRC draft not a strictly binding one.

WHILE CITIZENS FOR TEXAS SINCERELY HOPES THAT THE CONSTITUTION CONVENTION OF 1974 WILL PRODUCE A DOCUMENT IT CAN SUPPORT, IT IN NO WAY PLEDGES ALLEGIANCE TO THE FINAL PRODUCT OF THE CONVENTION.

Veta Winick--President of League of Women Voters (3-4 minutes)
generally touch on league's interest in revision and the Board's position with respect to the CRC document.

Judicial
Executive
Legislative

Terrell Blodgett (3-4 minutes)

Cover some of broad principles relating to specific issues that C for T supports:

- Executive - managerial tools for Governor
- Legislative - some annual session arrangement for Legislature
- Local government - local control of local government, especially continued home rule provision for municipal governments, and the optional home rule and ordinance provisions that relate to county government
- Judiciary - Streamlined court system, opportunity for people to vote on method of selection of judges
- Finance - Simplified taxation and debt procedures, maintenance of pay-as-you-go provisions

Ann S. Chappell - (3-4 minutes)

--role in C for T operation

--where office is 810 Commodore Perry Bldg.
512-476-4006

--status of membership

Gibson Gayle
Judge Calvert
Faye Holub
Jay Barnes
Alvin Burger
CAC chairmen for San Antonio and austin.

Sam Coats

Moderate and respond to any questions

Conclude conference no later than 10:15 am

Citiznes for Texas--Groups in Amendment Four campaign

Texas League fo Women Voters
Texas Society of Architects
Texas chapter of American Association of University Women
Texas AFL-CIO
Texas Municipal League
Texas United Community Services
Texas Junior Chamber of Commerce



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512-341-9131

REGIONAL CAMPAIGN CHAIRMAN

The objective of the Regional Campaign Chairman is to provide leadership and coordination, to pick up the ball and keep it in the air when someone else drops it, to be the funnel through which all activities flow, and to maintain sanity when all others around you are losing theirs. To be a campaign chairman is often a thankless task, but it can also be a rewarding experience.

The first order of business will be to organize the Regional Steering Committee composed of 10-15 people representing community interest groups. Be sure that your campaign includes a liaison from each of the following groups that have endorsed Amendment 4: League of Women Voters; Junior Chamber of Commerce (Jaycees); American Association of University Women (AAUW); the Texas Society of Architects; and the AFL-CIO.

In addition, your committee should have broad based support including liberals, minority members, conservatives, lawyers, business, women's groups, Republicans and Democrats (this is a nonpartisan campaign!).

The first Steering Committee meeting should be held no later than the week of October 2 at a convenient early evening hour. Subsequent weekly or biweekly meetings will help you in coordinating activities. Also, deadline dates have been included in the committee descriptions which follow that you will want to make note of to aid coordination. Make committee assignments for the several activities, including (but not necessarily limited to):

- a. Speakers
- b. Media
- c. Endorsements
- d. Advertising
- e. Finance
- f. Direct Mail

Depending on the availability of manpower, you may consider a materials distribution committee to get out bumper stickers and to organize distribution drives at shopping centers, rallies, plant gates, entrances to office buildings, etc.

Another committee you may want to appoint is a letters to the editors committee of one or two rhetorically inclined people. Their job is to see that letters are mailed regularly throughout the campaign to area papers who publish them.

Be sure that the person or persons you ask to head each of these committees has the time to give to the campaign. These lieutenants under your coordination and leadership can be the nucleus of a successful campaign or they can be the bane of your existence. Since time is short, there will be little time to replace an ineffective committee chairman, so choose your "troops" wisely!

In addition to seeing that the steering committee carries out its duties and responsibilities with due dispatch, the coordinator will be recognized as the leading spokesman for Amendment 4 in the community. This will entail such responsibilities as leading a group or going alone to solicit editorial support for Amendment 4; attending political rallies

and speaking for Amendment 4; aiding the Endorsements Committee in securing endorsements for Amendment 4, particularly from groups who prepare "Slate cards" for distribution on or near election day; making the final decision on any differences in priorities arising out of the steering committee and the establishment of a campaign budget; and calling state headquarters for assistance or a speaker for a special occasion.

DIRECT MAIL COMMITTEE

A direct mail campaign can be a highly effective tool in reaching large, homogenous groups. Since the Amendment 4 campaign is one of a relatively short duration, the Direct Mail Committee should probably limit its activities to professional, social, civic and women's groups.

The Direct Mail Committee should begin its work by drawing up a list of local organizations it wishes to reach. (They may want to consult or work together with the Speakers Committee.) After the organizations have been decided upon, it will be necessary to secure the endorsement of several leaders of each group. (This can be done in conjunction with the Endorsement Committee.)

Groups to which you will be sure to want to mail material are those which typically have a high voter turnout. Two groups in particular are teachers and lawyers. In addition, you will want to consider Business and Professional Women's Clubs, Junior League, Life Underwriters Associations, CPA's, County Precinct Chairmen -- to name several examples.

The more specialized the letter to the particular interests of a given group, the more effective the letter. If resources are not available to reproduce letters, post cards offer a substitute which is worth considering.

The activities of this committee will extend over the entire five-week span. The first two weeks, until October 13, should be spent deciding on organizations, soliciting endorsees, and drafting letters. The weeks of October 16 and 23 should be spent reproducing letters, folding and stuffing. Letters should be mailed no later than Thursday, November 2

and no earlier than Monday, October 30.

With dedication and organization, the activities of this group can provide a margin of votes which will mean victory for Amendment 4 on November 7. The key will be well written letters to stimulate special interests and careful consideration of endorsees to avoid internal factionalism and to capitalize on a member's good reputation.



SPEAKERS COMMITTEE

The Speakers Committee should be responsible for soliciting and filling speaking engagements before community organizations, groups and interested parties.

The first order of business should be to compile a list of local groups. Often such lists are available with meeting times and presidents' names from your local Chamber of Commerce.

A letter to each organization would be worth the investment of the cost of postage. If someone on the steering committee has access to an MT/ST, a form letter can be sent out in short order. These letters announcing the formation of the local Amendment 4 organization, the availability of speakers on the need for constitutional revision for programs prior to November 7, and the person to contact (Committee Chairman) should be in the mail no later than Monday, October 9.

The Committee members along with the regional campaign chairman, the speakers committee chairman, and other members of the steering committee should share the responsibility of speaking before interested groups, particularly where a given individual may be more effective than another.

The Committee should assign one or two members to draft at least two basic speeches which speakers may adapt to their own style or a particular occasion. These should be available for distribution no later than Wednesday, October 11. Be sure to incorporate numerous examples of constitutional ineffectiveness and excessiveness of detail.

One final word of caution! Be sure that the speakers you send out are articulate and prepared. Be alert to make points answering questions in an informed fashion following the speech. Remember that the days of the campaign are severely limited. If you accept a speaking assignment, take it upon yourself to find a suitable replacement if for any reason you find you are unable to keep the commitment.

The Speakers Committee is perhaps one of the most important committees in a campaign of this nature. You give personality to a strictly issue-oriented campaign. You also provide free advertisement in this minimally financed campaign effort. This committee may want to consider a more extensive range of activities. The sky is the limit --- slide shows, constitutional ballads, etc. Use every resource and talent available for the support of Amendment 4.



ENDORSEMENTS COMMITTEE

The Endorsements Committee is responsible for securing the endorsement of many friends for Amendment 4.

Work must begin immediately to compile a comprehensive and broad-based list of leaders in your community. This list should include from 100-200 names. It should include leaders of business, labor, minority groups, various professions, women's groups, liberals, conservatives, Democrats and Republicans. The more, the merrier!

In order to use an individual's name on any printed literature or in an endorsement ad, you must have his or her permission! Be sure to get written or spoken first hand confirmation of consent before adding a name to the endorsement list. This will eliminate the possibility of any misunderstandings after publication.

The list of endorsees, which can include local organizations as well as individuals, should be finalized by October 20. Uses for this list include newspaper advertisements and campaign literature. These endorsees might also be asked to be alert to opportunities to publicize Amendment 4. They could also provide the nucleus for a fund-raising affair as another example. The extent of use of the endorsees is limited only by the Committee's imagination.



FINANCE COMMITTEE

The purpose of the Finance Committee is to raise the necessary funds to pay the expenses of the local campaign. Obviously, the extent of campaign activities will be directly proportionate to the fund-raising capacity of this committee.

The dollar figure which is the goal of this committee should be established in conjunction with the campaign chairman and other members of the steering committees. The goal should take into account basic campaign expenditures such as postage and printing costs, as well as local advertising in the newspapers and on radio and TV. The extent to which the latter are possible will have to be scaled to local production capacities, local rates, and local fundability!

Be sure that the committee not only solicits funds but that they also see that contributors are properly recognized by receipt of a "thank you" letter from the local campaign chairman or the finance chairman.

The Finance Committee may want to consider the possibility of some sort of a fund-raising event, such as a cocktail party, an auction or a dinner. This type of event should be publicized as it gives additional visibility to the campaign; however, the yield from the standpoint of time invested in planning and preparation will be lower than that for direct solicitation from business and political leaders who typically underwrite the costs of various campaigns.

For very obvious reasons, the activities of the Finance Committee must either occur on the first two weeks of the local campaign, or some individual might underwrite a designated cost figure. This would allow a more extended period of time in which to solicit funds.

The watchword of this committee should be never miss a chance to collect for Amendment 4! Ask the speakers committee to have its speakers make a pitch for contributions, include the need for \$\$ in press releases, and remember that every nickel and dime helps.

MEDIA COMMITTEE

The Media Committee is responsible for publicizing the need for constitutional revision and the passage of Amendment 4 through local radio, television, and newspaper sources.

The activities of this committee should include getting a representative either locally or from the state campaign office to appear on every local "talk" show on radio and TV. This, of course, necessitates compiling a list of such shows and the moderator or producer and making contact with each one individually. This should be done no later than October 9.

The person who actually participates in the program should be someone relatively well known in the community, such as the campaign chairman, and one who is well versed in the subject of constitutional revision.

Another function of the committee is to make periodic news releases to local media representatives. The formation and meeting of the first steering committee will provide a cause for immediate release. Be sure to explain in everyday language the purpose of the group, the need for Amendment 4, the name and number of the local chairman for the benefit of interested parties and names of steering members.

Anytime the organization is sending a speaker to some other group, notice should be sent to the media with an invitation for them to attend. This will require coordination with the speakers committee, but it will provide a means of keeping the Amendment 4 cause before the public.

The Media Committee, along with the campaign chairman, will be responsible for soliciting editorial support from local newspapers and radio and TV stations. The relative importance of editorial support varies from community to community, but it should not be overlooked anywhere! Contacts and meetings with editors and station managers should be completed no later than October 23.

These are the three main functions that the Media Committee must do. In addition, it should "court" media representatives encouraging favorable mention of Amendment 4 at every opportunity. Try to find a friendly reporter who will do a feature story on the dismal state of the Texas Constitution of 1876. Other imaginative ideas will doubtless be forthcoming from the committee. The key word -- implement to inform!

ADVERTISING COMMITTEE

The Advertising Committee may be optional, depending on the degree of support it receives from the Finance Committee. The purpose of the committee is to prepare and schedule advertisements in local newspapers and on radio and TV.

The ads should carry out two main ideas: 1) why Texas needs constitutional revision; and 2) the role of the people at the ballot box to initiate the reform process and finally to approve or reject the final product. The logo which appears on the bumper stickers may be useful to duplicate in advertising of all types to add continuity to the campaign in the public's mind.

Unless you are fortunate enough to secure the volunteer services of a professional advertising person (and remember it never hurts to ask!), you will probably want to keep your ads fairly simple in design and content.

Endorsement ads for both newspaper and radio or TV are always popular and are often quite effective. If there is no Advertising Committee, this function can be absorbed by the Endorsements Committee.

A couple of example newspaper ads which may be used as food for thought or duplicated verbatim will be sent to local campaign chairmen in the immediate future.

Design and production of ads for radio and TV will have to be local in origin. If the state campaign office can assist in any way, please feel free to contact us.

SUGGESTED EDITORIAL

"CONSTITUTIONAL REVISION: Another "Moon" Shot"

The State of Texas--modern enough to house the nation's moon exploration headquarters--has a constitution so outdated that it had to be amended to allow the voters of Lamar County to create a hospital district. Now we are being asked to amend the constitution to allow the people of Lamar County to abolish the district.

The almost 100-year-old document which was written in 1875 in reaction to Civil War Reconstruction excesses was so restrictive, so loaded with statutory language, so long and unwieldy that it has been amended 200 times. Now, at the November election, Texans are asked to vote on another amendment, Proposition Number Four, which would halt the strings of amendments and allow a revision of the document to make it flexible enough for a space age.

There would be no change in the Bill of Rights which provides the basic freedoms of speech, assembly, etc., but the remainder of the document would be reexamined and updated to allow flexibility in dealing with problems that were unknown in the horse and buggy age in which it was originally written.

Adoption of Proposition Four would direct the new Texas Legislature elected at the same November general election to establish a "Constitutional Revision Commission" when it meets in regular session in January, 1973.

(MORE)

The Commission would be provided with money and staff to study the need for constitutional changes and would report its findings to the Legislature by November, 1973.

After receiving the findings and recommendations of the "Constitutional Revision Commission," the 63rd Legislature will convene in January, 1974 as a constitutional convention under the temporary chairmanship of the lieutenant governor.

After conferring together, the convention, by two-thirds vote of its members, may submit to the people a new constitution containing alternative articles or sections or revisions of the existing constitution plus possible alternative articles or sections.

The people have the last word since all proposed changes must be submitted to them for approval.

A number of prominent Texans have endorsed the amendment and a group headed by Arlington Mayor Tom J. Vandergriff is actively working for adoption of the amendment.

Lieutenant Governor-elect Bill Hobby has called the need for constitutional revision a "crisis of confidence in our state government, a crisis of pride."

Also endorsing the proposed amendment are former Governors John Connally, Price Daniel and Allan Shivers; Land Commissioner Bob Armstrong; Congresswoman-elect Barbara Jordan; Roy Evans, president, Texas AFL-CIO;

(MORE)

John Gronouski, dean, Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs; Houston attorney and past president of the American Bar Association, Leon Jaworski; plus a number of other civic leaders, educators, business and professional men and women, scientists and news media representatives.

A "Yes" vote for Amendment Four may well be the act that will bring the Texas Constitution up to date with our space age state.

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SUGGESTED EDITORIAL

"A complex sentence is 765 words long."

When the doctrine that prescribes how the citizens of Texas will be governed is too complicated for them to understand, it's time for a change.

The Texas Constitution is almost 100 years old, has been amended 200 times, is so complex that it may be necessary to look in 10 places to understand a single provision, and then part of the explanation may be an overwhelming sentence with 765 words.

It is a big fat bundle of textbook examples of what makes a bad constitution: excessive detail, short-sighted restrictions on the ability to govern and sloppy draftsmanship. There is no systematic development of theory of the distribution of power between state and local governments, only a bewildering collection of overlapping bits and pieces scattered throughout the constitution. When a citizens' group proposes that its local unit of government respond to a major problem, the leaders may age considerably before the local unit, the state and a bevy of lawyers figure out whether the city or county or some other local unit of government has the authority--even if it has the money--to solve the problem.

Amendment after amendment has been added to solve these kinds of crises. So many amendments have been added that voters take them for granted. They do not look at the whole issue (who can study 14 complex amendments

(MORE)

thoroughly?) and sometimes vote against all of them, if they are mad about an issue or a candidate.

Constitutional scholars say it is foolish and harmful to the stability of Texas state government to keep trying to patch up the old document when the real solution is a new constitution. It doesn't have to be completely rewritten. A change in the Bill of Rights which guarantees the basic freedoms is not necessary, but there has got to be restructuring to allow flexibility to deal with urban problems.

Proposition Four--another amendment--could be the last. It will be on the ballot November 7 and would authorize the preparation of a new constitution for consideration by the voters in 1975.

If Amendment 4 passes, a "Constitutional Revision Commission" would be appointed in January, 1973; the Legislature would hear their report by November, 1973, sitting as a constitutional convention in January of 1974.

The Legislature would propose changes to update the constitution; then the people of Texas would vote on each. Their approval would be necessary for adoption.

People talk a lot these days about instilling patriotism and knowledge of their government documents in young people. Maybe Texans will vote to rewrite their constitution so Junior can read and understand it without a law degree and a Ph.D.

SUGGESTED EDITORIAL

"Being Biggest Isn't Always Best"

Texans like to brag about being "Biggest," but having one of the longest state constitutions in the nation isn't anything to brag about. On the contrary, it spells trouble, and Texans are being asked to do something about it.

The November election ballot will include an amendment authorizing the preparation of a new constitution by members of the Legislature chosen at the same election.

What's wrong with the Texas Constitution in addition to the fact that it is five times longer than the U. S. Constitution and longer than most of the other state constitutions? The same things that would be wrong with an 1875 house that had been superficially "patched up" for 97 years instead of being completely remodeled to suit the needs of a modern family.

The angry, frustrated Texans who wrote the 1875 constitution were reacting to the excesses of Reconstruction when they wrote what is still our basic document. They overreacted with limitations that were too strict and too inflexible to adjust to the changes of time.

For example: they inserted a provision saying, "no law shall ever be enacted requiring a registration of voters in this state," because they were angry over an act by the Reconstruction legislature which gave the Reconstruction governor control over voter registration.

(MORE)

Amendments have made voter registration possible, but other restrictive provisions have resulted in submission of 317 amendments to the voters. New demands on government created by increased urbanization have required amendments to deal with problems no one dreamed of in 1875. The result is that adopted amendments are doubling every 30 years. At this rate, another 230 amendments would be adopted by the year 2,000.

Facetiously, it might seem that if this continues, Texas is going to need a new building to hold the constitution or put it on computer tapes (if there isn't some provision in the constitution that would prevent it) and what computer, let alone man, or men, could interpret it?

A constitution scholar has suggested Texans have lost respect for their constitution and appreciate it less because they are faced with deciding on as many as 27 amendments every other year.

There is no question of revising any basic freedoms in rewriting the Texas Constitution. The Amendment specifically provides that the Texas Bill of Rights will be retained as it is. The purpose of the change is rebuilding the structure of the constitution so that it will be suited for today and also have enough flexibility for tomorrow.

A vote for Proposition Number Four is a vote to substitute simplicity, quality and practicality for complexity, inflexibility and embarrassing "bigness."

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UP-DATE TEXAS'
CONSTITUTION

Committee Hears Hobby On Constitution Reform

By CAROLYN BOBO
Staff Writer

Lt. governor-elect Bill Hobby kicked-off a state-wide campaign for constitutional reform Friday, commenting that the most vital function of state government are responsible to no elected official.

Hobby spoke at a meeting of the Citizens for Texas committee, which launched their campaign for passage of Amendment Four to the Texas constitution on the November general election ballot.

The committee, chaired by Mayor Tom Vandergriff of Arlington, met in the Capitol to begin their state-wide efforts to pass the amendment, which if passed, will provide for a constitutional revision committee and constitutional convention to rewrite the state document.

Hobby told some 40 people that Texas government "doesn't really have an executive branch," and that in a survey of 100 governments Texas "tied it."

Hobby said vital functions of the "such as welfare and

industry are "handled by boards and committees, either elected or appointed, but not responsible to the governor."

Hobby cited the welfare department, which spends about \$1 billion annually, second highest expenditure among state agencies, as an example of a large segment of government not directly overseen by the executive branch.

"The commissioner of public welfare is not responsible to any elected official," Hobby said, "and this is the kind of anomaly we need to set about changing."

Hobby also said a constitution should express a basic philosophy of society, freedom and protections of that freedom, a distribution of responsibility and indicate who should try to solve problems that arise.

Also at the kick-off meeting was Rep. Price Daniel, who is currently unopposed for Speaker of the House.

Price told the committee he supported their efforts, and said, "If we are to fully carry out the legislative reform mandate expressed so resoundingly at the polls in May and June, the people of Texas



Staff Photo

LT. GOV.-ELECT HOBBY
Asks for reforms

must give us the tools to work with by passing the revision amendment on Nov. 7."

Austinites on the committee's board of directors include Mrs. Deane Armstrong of the Communications Workers of America; architect Jay W. Barnes; Terrell Blodgett of Peak, Marwick and Mitchell; Texas Municipal League executive director Dick Brown; Texas AFL-CIO president Roy Evans; LBJ School of Public Affairs dean John A. Gronouski; Bob Honts of Christian, Miller and Honts Inc.; Vernon McGee of Management Services Associates Inc.; Texas Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations executive director Jim Ray; Hogg Foundation for Mental Health consultant Robert L. Sutherland; and Dr. J. Neils Thompson, University of Texas Balcones Research Center director.

Gimmick-free charter group revived

Post State Capital Bureau

AUSTIN — Revival of the Citizens for Texas organization to push for a new constitution free of special-interest gimmicks and statutory detail was announced here Thursday as the Texas Constitutional Convention began its third day of deliberations.

Spokesmen for the organization, which successfully worked for adoption in 1971 of the constitutional amendment calling the constitutional convention, said it will busy itself marshaling convention committee witnesses to speak for the public interest and counter testimony of special-interest spokesman seeking protection in the new constitution.

Sam Coats, a Dallas lawyer and vice president of Texas International Airlines and former state representative, is chairman of the board of the revitalized organization.

"We will seek full disclosure of both sides of the issues," Coats said.

Mrs. Ann Chappell of Fort Worth, who serves on the 37-member Texas Constitutional Revision Commission, will run the group's state headquarters office at 810 Commodore Perry Building in Austin.

Coats said the non-partisan organization includes leaders of various groups which have long worked for constitutional revision.

Citizens for Texas will take no particu-

lar stands on constitutional issues as a group, but will work for "a high level of citizen input" into the convention, he said.

"There are enough special-interest representatives in Austin to take care of themselves," he said.

League of Women Voters State President Mrs. Veta Winick of Dickinson, a member of Citizens for Texas, said her league will cooperate with the group in keeping citizens informed about the convention and in working for a good revision of the constitution.

"If we don't like the document that comes out, we will work very diligently to defeat it," she said. "If we like it, we will support it just as vigorously."

October 28, 1972
OCT 30 1972

To: Winick and Conner cc: Braunagel

From: Brasher

Re: Citizens for Texas Meeting Sept. 22

Gee, I apologize for not sending this stuff sooner, but the past few weeks have really been hectic and then I got sick. Anyway, I put in a brief report in my pre-board. I talked to Veta right after the meeting also.

I am enclosing a kit for Veta and Betty that was distributed to a few chosen few - and I took a huge bundle of bumper stickers. I brought some back to Nancy to use in Austin this past week. In case you hadn't seen their stickers, I had to hold up the packet so I could^{get} a couple of them back from our TCR chairman!

Of course the cameras were on Bill Hobby and Vandergriff and Daniel at the meeting. The newsmen left as soon as they had made their speeches for the newspapers, so nothing the rest of us said was reported. I feel they are only using this thing as a political forum to put themselves before the public. There was a packed room with legislators, visitors, Austin and San Antonio League members, etc. Peg Birkland was there from San Antonio and she didn't even say hello until I went up to speak to her, then this guy Bill Henslee, C of C. president-elect of San Antonio spoke, then I gave my piece, starting off with the old cliché "never underestimate the power of a woman" and went on to give them an idea of what wide publicity and dissemination of materials that Leagues across the state had been involved in....starting off with the workshops, the slide presentations, the bumper stickers and flyers, the TV shows, radio messages, Speakers Bureau talks, forming of "Citizens ~~of~~ for Texas" groups in all of the League areas...and I named them....the skit, contacting high school and college civic and government classes, men's civic organizations, women's clubs, convention publicity, precinct resolution kits, press releases and letters to editors, candidate interviews, unit and general meetings on TCR, Voter articles and editorials. I told them I could stand there for another hour telling them about individual clever ideas that have carried out throughout the state, all done with volunteer help and ingenuity by League members. It was quite impressive. So Nancy said.....But that damned Austin paper just will not give the League an inch of space that is not handed to them. I am enclosing the article that came out in the Austin-American....it listed only the Austin people on the committee's board of directors. I am sending this to Veta....you can bring it to Board meeting, Veta, to show Betty and others if you wish.

The luncheon was O.K. Bill Hobby made some snide remarks about McGovern, which Roy Evans overheard at the next table and called him on. I sure like him. And the Chamber of Commerce guy was doing most of the talking at our table, saying it would be a good idea to get a ~~horse~~ horse and buggy to go through the major towns to the Capitol getting signatures along the way. Other than that they couldn't come up with any solid ideas of how to promote Amendment 4. I think they realized the League had done it all, but they would be the last to admit it or give us credit for it!