

AUSTIN

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REPORT

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

Volume 25, No. 7

December 24, 1972

THE SOUNDS of Christmas couldn't really be called happy or merry in the Capitol, with the four State officials still housed there getting ready to leave. Besides, the fire marshall wouldn't let them put lights on the Christmas tree in the rotunda. Gov. Smith's solemn Christmas talk expressed his gratitude for having been allowed to serve as governor. Speaker Price announced he'll move to Dallas to be law partner of new GOP Rep. Ray Hutchison. Lt Gov. Ben Barnes was already busy at his Brownwood contracting job. Secy of State Bullock said he'll resign Jan. 2 to practice law and be a partner with Travis Democratic Chmn Ken Wender. Bullock also said he'll probably be a candidate, but he'll wait to see who does bad before he decides what to run for. A few hours before the Christmas carol singing, one of Dolph Briscoe's new aides, Roy Coffee Jr of Dallas, said Briscoe had made no decisions as to who will stay and who will go. So some 500 of those carol singers probably were wondering whether they'll be working after Jan. 16.

COFFEE set up in the governor's office and invited all legislators to come and talk with him. He said he'll set up meetings so legislators and Briscoe can swap legislative ideas. Coffee, son of a former legislator and former Lone Star Gas attorney, will be Briscoe's legislative liaison man. He wasn't sure just what Briscoe will propose, but there will be items in the field of crime and drug deterrents, water conservation, mass transit, vocational education and constitutional revision. Details are to begin emerging in a week or 10 days, Coffee said. But he thought the new governor will retain many of the technical people who handle the nuts and bolts of the governor's agencies...The only clear signals from the Briscoe camp were on inaugural. The Democratic Party will have a \$25 a plate dinner Jan. 15. A prayer breakfast will begin inaugural day. Mal Fitch, Faron Young, the Power Glides and Nash Hernandez orchestras will play for the four inaugural balls.

BULLOCK's resignation means that Gov. Smith will name someone else, probably Larry Teaver, to be secretary of state for two weeks, and to open the House session Jan. 9 at which Rep. Daniel is to be elected as speaker 30 years after his father was. Smith named F. Ray McCormick to replace Jack Balagia on the Judicial Qualifications Cmn; B.R. (Pat) Fuller as executive director of the Dept of Community Affairs and Eugene Wilson to replace Robert Keppler, both of Dallas, on the Pharmacy Board...Rep. John Allen has no intention of stepping aside. The Constitution provides that something which happened before he was elected cannot be

held against a member of the Legislature, and Allen pleaded guilty to nepotism charges before Nov. 7.

SOME interim committees are beginning to hatch; others are giving up. The Board of Education left for its new membership recommendations on a solution to school finance, and Rep. Silber's House Cmte decided not to make recommendations, except that hearings be started immediately when the Legislature meets, so voting members will hear the story of school money woes under the Rodriguez decision. The Property Tax Cmte headed by Charles Kirkham of Dallas didn't get its draft bills ready in time to act on them, but it will consider the 44 bills at a January session. It contracted with UT-Arlington for research on taxing intangibles like cash and bonds, with a final report due June 1...Rep. Grant Jones' no-fault Cmte will have no recommendation, just an informational report on what it's learned. Rep. Walt Parker, who attended a conference on the model bill on auto bodily injury with no-fault said no one could assure him that it would save drivers money, and added that this is what's wanted by his folks in Denton...Rep. John Allen's Natural Resources Cmte named a subcommittee to work up its report, and several recommendations will be made to the subcmte rather than the full committee...Rep. Wyatt's Poverty Cmte is finding out that there's a lot of poverty and associated problems. One obvious fact it learned is that too many agencies working on the problems may be duplicating efforts...Sen. Harris' hoss-race betting cmte will meet again in January to make its recommendations, expected to be favorable...Rep.-Elect Luther Jones of El Paso pre-filed a bill for presidential preference election of slates of delegates to the national conventions in presidential years. It should be attractive to those who worried with the McGovern convention rules this year...The Rural Development Cmn wants the Legislature to tell State investment agencies to invest in local rural industrial development bonds to help bring in industry. Other recommendations: a permanent rural development agency, vocational training, and encouragement of medical personnel and facilities in the country (27 counties have no doctors)...Rep. Rosson's Windstorm Insurance Cmte found out where storms hit, and will meet again to recommend rate-changing legislation.

REP. NABER's Cmte urged the House to ban "hold-harmless" clauses in contracts between oilwell contractors and oil companies...Sen. Bernal's Cmte on disadvantaged students proposes that junior colleges install remedial courses so students with poor public-school backgrounds can stay in college. It is a strong report, backed by the junior college people who served with Bernal...Legislators will hear about it when folks find that they have to buy new tires to pass '73 inspections...Thought for thinking over: The Budget Board calculates that the State's contribution on Social Security taxes will be \$102,000,000 in the next biennium, or more than half the "revenue-sharing" Texas will get back...US Reps-elect Barbara Jordan and Alan Steelman are going to Harvard to learn how to be congressmen...Rep. Walt Parker officiated at the Redskins-Buffalo Bills game in Washington Sunday, and was on hand for an interim meeting Monday.

REPRESENTATIVES of UT-Dallas and North Texas State U. told a Coordinating Board advisory committee a new State-supported law school is needed to serve the North Texas "metroplex." A&M says it'll take on the task. The Junior Bar Assn says there's no need for another school, since there aren't enough jobs for lawyers now, and UT Law School Dean Page Keeton feels that if there is a need, existing schools should be expanded. Proponents argue legal training is needed for people going into business and industry, as well as for producing more lawyers...Texas asked the US Supreme Court to split the Sabine River down the middle, divvying up those lands 50-50 to Texas and Louisiana...Dist Judge Tom Blackwell enjoined "Dare To Be Great" from using a pyramid sales scheme and awarded \$10,000 penalties to the State...The Board of Education is asking Atty Gen. Martin if Mrs Albert Trevino is eligible to serve since she's a teacher in the Edgewood ISD...Martin says 4,354 Texans will share in \$4.6 million in refunds recovered in an antitrust suit against pharmaceutical manufacturers for overcharges on antibiotics from 1954-66...Martin ruled the Texoma Regional Planning Cmn may contract to assume operational control of the Grayson County Airport...When a State employe becomes a State official, he is not entitled to transfer unused vacation time; and he can't be paid for the time. Highway Dept employes in line item jobs may be paid for accumulated vacation time when they leave the department. The Employment Cmn may do the same thing...14th Court of Civil Appeals Judge John Barron of Houston will be John Hill's new first assistant. Joe Bill Watkins of Houston will be Hill's administrative assistant, and Philip Kent Maxwell, Corpus Christi, will be assistant chief of the Environmental Protection Divn...The 3rd Court of Civil Appeals ordered the release by the Youth Council of some 500 juveniles who were not represented by attorneys at the hearing at which they were judged delinquent. The court overturned a district court decision that releases would have to be made by the district courts in the 95 counties from which the youths were committed...The 3rd Court of Civil Appeals also reversed a district court decision and ruled that a contract by the Austin city council selling park land to the Austin ISD for a new high school was void, and that the ISD could not condemn the land. An election must be held.

ASSISTANT State Highway Engineer Luther DeBerry will succeed retiring State Highway Engineer J.C. Dingwall at the end of January. Dingwall has headed the Highway Dept since '68. Marcus L. Yancey Jr and Marquis Goode Jr will become assistant State highway engineers...Mrs Waldeen Wilson replaces Mrs Marjorie Taber Ogle as Board of Vocational Nurse Examiners executive secretary...Comptroller Calvert mailed over \$45 million in sales tax money to cities for the quarter ending 9-30-72...The Railroad Cmn continued the all-they-can-produce rate for most Texas oil wells through January...The Water Rights Cmn held the shotgun as Corpus Christi reluctantly was married to the Nueces River Authority as co-sponsor of Choke Canyon Reservoir near Three Rivers...The Alcoholic Beverage Cmn is studying the amount of liquor coming into international airports in Texas. At present, there are no ABC officers to collect State taxes at the airports as there are at other ports of entry. The ABC is also checking to see if

any gambling is taking place in licensed establishments under its jurisdiction...Many trucking companies are operating trucks in violation of weight limits, despite the 70,000 weight cases filed annually by the Dept of Public Safety. A DPS memorandum shows a 22.2% increase in cases filed from '68 to '71...West Central Texas COG received a \$47,408 State planning grant. Concho Valley COG got \$28,903 and Heart of Texas COG got \$38,763...Inmates sentenced to the Dept of Corrections as recidivists say incarceration does not deter crime, a Criminal Justice Council study reveals...Rep. R.C. Nichols will offer a resolution asking AG-to-be Hill to challenge Pres. Nixon's withholding of 60% of the pollution control funds allocated to states and local governments by Congress. He wants Hill to sue for the rest...The LBJ State Park may be doubled in size from its 269 acres by the Parks and Wildlife Dept, but affected landowners complain.

TO & FRO: William P. Clements, Jr, Dallas, was no sooner named deputy defense secy than the AP came out with a big story about his South American oil operations and lawsuits involving them...Rep. Kubiak and Carl Parker got a lot of publicity over a civil suit against a furniture store. Kubiak says he sold his interest in the corporation before it ever opened for business in '71...Ex-Rep. Walter Knapp tried for reversal of his 4-year term for buying a used pickup with House stamps...When Rep. and Mrs Daniel move into the Speaker's apartment, they'll find a new \$800 TV. It's been in a warehouse because Mrs Price didn't like its woodwork...KUT-FM made an offer to broadcast all House sessions live for a year for \$4,409.20...The Federal Deposit Ins. Corp sued 22 former officials of Sharpstown State Bank to recover on loans...Natl GOP Cmtewoman Anne Armstrong is becoming a White House counsel, Nixon's top ranking woman appointee so far...Ex-Rep. Jim Segrest, who ran for railroad commissioner as a Republican, died...Republican electors met and cast 26 Texas votes for Nixon-Agnew...Newspaper editors picked the Mutscher-McGinty-Shannon convictions as the No. 1 news story of the year, and the Smith-Barnes-Martin defeats as No. 2...Incomplete recount of Harris's votes for governor showed Briscoe gaining more than Sen. Grover, who had felt there was something wrong...Border Patrol agents told Martin Waldron of the New York Times that Mexican informers, being held as witnesses, are hired out to Texas farmers and ranchers for \$4 a day and board and room. Officials defend it, saying the informers can volunteer for the work assignments, and they get the \$4...Texas AFL-CIO is talking about a high-rise headquarters on its property across from the Governor's Mansion...Sen. Mauzy released a letter from Pres. Walter T. Williams of the Independent Pest Control Operators of Texas, offering to "pay any reasonable amount" to any senator or representative who will help introduce amendments to the '71 pest control law...Trial is set in Amarillo Jan. 15 for John Osorio on misapplication of Natl Bankers Life funds, and for Mar. 5 in Dallas for Waggoner Carr on mail and wire fraud...Rep. Farenthold was named chairman of a group which will lobby for the Kennedy-Griffiths national health care bill. They've got a long way to go. US Rep. Eckhardt is the only Texas co-sponsoring the bill.

MERRY CHRISTMAS!