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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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THERE's plenty of time for the House to finish its work, Speaker Daniel insisted, as the House continued to sputter along on the second week of debate on the general appropriations bill. Spending \$9.7 billion dollars of the taxpayers' money is not a matter to be taken 'lightly or acted on in haste,' Daniel insisted. While the House continued its Sisyphian labors, the Senate breezed through its appropriations bill in one hour, 22 minutes, with all the five amendments tabled. After eight days, the House decided to limit amendments to the hundred-some-odd pending. Some members felt reform had been betrayed.

THE Senate version is \$169,000,000 lower than the House bill, with the major difference being \$177,800,000 less for welfare, with generally less money for senior colleges but more for junior colleges. The Senate set no money aside for bilingual education, which the House gives \$2,200,000, but puts in \$6,700,000 for additional offices for the Health Dept--which the House decided was unnecessary. Lots of individual items are at odds, of course, so the conference committee will be busy. Sen. Aikin said SB 25 probably will have to be changed in conference committee on welfare. He said HEW changes its mind every few days, and the Senate's view was that the \$9.5 billion budget contains what's needed for welfare as of this reading. It contains 3.4% increases for college salaries, and 10.2% raises for the lowest 7 grades of State workers, with 6.8% for those from Group 7 up. The 8 new universities and centers got hefty chunks of money, ranging from \$10,440,000 at UT-San Antonio to \$1,708,000 for A&I-Laredo. Sens Longoria, Traeger and McKinnon were inclined to be against the bill, but Aikin wanted a unanimous vote, talked with the three about conference committee action, and the vote was unanimous. Sen. Schwartz was the main amendment trier. He wanted to knock out the \$12,500,000 to make tuition grants at private colleges, but got only three votes after his speech.

IF House members could have taken out insurance policies on amendments, companies would have gone bankrupt before the week was out: the mortality rate was incredible. Rep. Finney managed to add \$5,200,000 for the Industrial Cmn, using up all the funds which had flowed back to the spending pool, but Rep. Hutchison pulled out \$1,000,000 from Finney's original request to aid deaf children--if legislation for deaf schools is passed. Otherwise the money goes to the Rural Development Cmn. The compromise came after the House rejected several other attempts to fund the Industrial Cmn out of other funds, including money to "compensate" the Highway

Dept for the money it put into that downtown Austin lot that isn't going to be the site for its new headquarters. The House did approve Rep. Reynolds' truth-in-spending proposal requiring State agencies paying professional fees to file reports on who gets the money. One-vote margins occurred on Rep. Scoggins' attempt to require the TEC to refer job applicants to businesses, even though the business is involved in a labor dispute, and Rep. Rodriguez' attempt to shift \$5,700,000 from the Vernon Center's drug treatment program to various mental health facilities around the State.

REP. Williamson provided the most dramatic moments of the debate, with his attempt to take out \$12,500,000 in tuition equalization grants for students at private schools. Williamson, himself a Baptist, singled out the Baptist leadership for a special blistering, charging they had "exchanged their cross for a cookie jar." The jeremiad drew applause and shouts of "amen" from the floor and gallery--with Rep. Caldwell interrupting Williamson to announce the loaves of bread asked for by the House had arrived. In fact, the bread was there--part of the food ordered by the House, which had voted to work through its supper hour.

PUBLIC schools will have to fly the Texas flag, if they want to get State funds, under a rider added by Reps Willis and Hollowell. Sponsors accepted the amendment, which had been voted down in committee---The \$4,300,000 for purchase of the USAA Building in San Antonio for State offices was knocked out, with \$3,000,000 going for construction and planning at the Ft Worth State School. A coalition of Ft Worth and San Antonio members sponsoring the amendment failed of approval to buy another San Antonio building site, however...Rep. Grant failed on his rider to prevent agency heads from getting a larger raise than top staff members.

THE BIGGEST defeat was achieved by Scoggins, when he only got 6 votes on his amendment to trim funds from the Tiguas to pay for an agriculture experiment station at El Paso. Rep. Howard's attempt to trim funds to UT Austin failed, though he picked up some anti-Frank Erwin votes when he argued that if the Board of Regents could find the money to buy "the favorite watering hole of the Czar himself." The House worked through lunch Friday, hoping to finish up before the weekend. Rep. Carl Parker told the House that all this democracy has really tied things up, with 225 bills waiting in the Calendar Cmte. Virtually every committee report in the House somewhat wishfully recommends that the bill being reported favorably be put on the consent calendar. If they all are, it's going to be a lulu of a day.

A FEW solid bills went through the Senate, including SB 123, Gammage, full rights for 18-year-olds, after long chubbing and a semi-filibuster by Sen. Adams; SJR 4, Herring, unitary civil-criminal court system at both appellate levels, to be voted on in November, if the House agrees; SB 786, Schwartz, setting up disaster program in Governor's office, making it eligible for \$250,000 in Federal aid...HB 340, Gammage,

was gutted, removing the requirement that you graduate from law school to take Bar exams...HB 120, Grant-Gammage, 18-year-olds on juries, was passed, just in case SB 123 doesn't clear the House. Other bills passing the Senate include: HB 158, Atwell-Creighton, raising hunting-fishing license fees \$3,200,000 a year; HB 543, Von Dohlen-Sherman, letting insurance premium finance companies charge the higher rates allowed in the Consumer Credit Code (They've been doing it, but Credit Cmr Kelley decided it isn't legal, so a new procedure for them is being passed); SB 295, McKnight, that long-delayed bill to have the State pay those 13 counties where county and criminal DAs do the State DA's work.

GOV. Briscoe sent an emergency message to the Legislature, asking for legislation to amend the Credit Union Act, citing the recent closing of the Amarillo Air Force Base Credit Union as the need for tightening existing law...Briscoe reported the Greater South Texas Cultural Basin has been included in the Southwest Federal Region Council's work plan for '74...Texas Environmental Coalition Pres. Char White said efforts by Briscoe had killed legislation to put environmental matters under one State agency...Briscoe appointed Texarkanan Buyan Hutchinson to replace late 5th Dist Court Judge Stuart Nunn; and Lynn Darden, Wichita Falls, and Paul Leonard, Ft Worth, to the Mental Health-Mental Retardation Board...Rep. Vick says three letters addressed to him at the Capitol have been opened by the Treasury Dept. House post office employees say about 20 such letters, to various representatives, have arrived recently. IRS Dir R.L. Phinney says the openings were accidental, resulting from the heavy volume of mail to IRS around April 16. IRS accidentally opened 5,000 personal and business letters on that date alone, Phinney says, denying the openings are connected with Treasury Dept investigations...UT-Austin Historian Joe Frantz was named special advisor to the Governor for the American Revolution Bicentennial...Secy of the Senate Schnabel predicts the Senate will spend \$250,000 less in this session than it did last session...House Administration Cmte Chmn Joe Allen says the House is spending \$1,000,000 more this session...Gov. Briscoe will have to take a new route to work when the Legislature goes home, since lawmakers approved making the west entrance to the Capitol a one-way exit.

EFFORTS to get HB 946, the revised school finance bill, stalled in the House Education Cmte when Rep. Kubiak, committee chairman and lead sponsor of the bill, couldn't get members to agree to amendments to the subcommittee substitute. No one on the committee seemed sure what the bill did, so after some thrashing about, the bill was left hanging until the proponents can get back to it after the House completes work on the appropriations bill. Kubiak says Gov. Briscoe wants the Legislature to act on school finance this session. The revised bill provides for districts to assess their taxable wealth, report back to the Comptroller, and have local fund assignments made. Kubiak says the bill leaves up to the district how it raises the funds. The Comptroller would make audits to see that assessments were not put too low...The Senate passed SB 644, Schwartz, giving submerged land management to the School Land Board.

HIGHER pay for legislators, annual sessions, re-imposition of the death penalty, and prohibiting dipping cattle in cold weather were among themes stressed in Amarillo, Lubbock and El Paso as the Constitutional Revision Cm'n opened its round of public hearings. Preservation of private property rights on underground water, election of judges, maintaining constitutionally dedicated school and highway funds and help for counties with land-use planning also were emphasized. Suggestions by the revisors on changing county government to allow more "home rule" by having a county write its own charter got less support, with a general "go slow" approach being urged by witnesses...Speaker Daniel named Reps Hale, Vale, Finney, Caldwell and Joe Allen as the House members of the Joint Constitutional Convention Planning Cmte. Sen. Wolff is chairman.

CITIZENS have until Saturday to comment on the Highway Dept's draft action plan on how human, community and environmental factors will be considered in planning future highway projects. The plan has been prepared by a 25-member team from State agencies and universities...Dates for the '73-74 hunting seasons were set by the Parks and Wildlife Cm'n...Mental Health-Mental Retardation announced a \$400,000 expansion of Kerrville State Hospital...The Industrial Cm'n met, while the House debated whether to fund the agency, to hear requests to send trade missions to Russia, South America and Austria and seminars and trade fairs in Japan and Algeria...The Employment Cm'n held a meeting on developing a Statewide manpower policy...UT Regents approved final plans for the new Houston Medical School, costing \$27,847,000, and a child health center at the Galveston Medical Branch, costing some \$10,300,000, but decided not to be the local sponsor of a new Veterans Adm-sponsored medical school.

SPEAKER Daniel asked Atty Gen. Hill to decide if Sen. Mengden's amendment to HB 7, to prohibit a Speaker from succeeding himself or ever serving as Speaker again, is constitutional. The bill, as passed by the House, was aimed at prohibiting the Speaker from campaigning or using his office to re-elect himself or to elect some other member...Hill said he found no constitutional problems with HB 171, Kaster, requiring "fiscal notes" to show the cost of proposed legislation; HB 169, Kaster, performance audits of State agency programs by the Legislative Budget Board; HB 25, Joe Allen, allowing governing bodies of towns and counties to require subdividers to set aside land for parks and schools, so long as the developers are compensated; HB 1096, Truan, allowing tenants to serve as commissioners of public housing authorities; and SB 499, Gammage, validating actions of the Crosby Municipal Utility Dist.

TO & FRO: A Gidding editor reports that former Speaker Mutscher was making trips to Austin "to make sure the new State schools at Giddings and Brenham are getting proper fundings from the Legislature." Brenham got \$4,661,000 from the House cmte, plus \$3,000,000 for buildings, but Giddings State School doesn't seem to be mentioned...Sen. Aikin opened a Senate executive session for confirmation of Bunyan Hutchinson as judge of the 5th District at Texarkana. Aikin always votes to open sessions.