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REPORT

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PRESIDENT Lyndon B. Johnson's death stilled State affairs this week, as officials joined in the three days of funeralizing, including a Thursday of mourning on burial day at the LBJ Ranch. It was noteworthy that the Black Caucus in the House introduced and passed a resolution paying tribute to LBJ's civil rights work and making his birthday, Aug. 27, a State holiday. There weren't any black House members before LBJ, as the resolution put it, allowed them "to enter the mainstream of American life." Others recalled his education, conservation, or poverty programs with equal fervor. But mainly, Texans felt they had "lost a good un," who left a big LBJ brand on the hide of history. AR lost a charter subscriber, the subject of thousands of its words these 25 years, and the editor lost a fine friend who'll always be missed. The thousands who, in chilly night, stood in line to pass by his casket at the LBJ Library must have had the same feeling. John Connally described them as "the people who understand who he was and what he was and how he thought, because he was one of them." Judge Homer Thornberry told a joint session of the Legislature that LBJ was compassionate beyond belief, a friend to every man. But tears tell it better than words.

THE HOUSE will take up HB 3, amendments to the Open Meetings Act, on Monday, along with HB 5, restricting conference committees on tax and appropriations bills. Action on HB 3 was delayed by a 72-70 vote when it came up last Monday, and delayed again by Pres. Johnson's death. Opposition to the bill developed from various governmental entities, with the Municipal League pushing for a number of amendments to allow officials to talk about public business "informally" as long as a quorum is not present.

SEVERAL House members have introduced bills to restrict use of legislative continuances, by either allowing a judge to decide if the continuance is justified, by restricting use of continuances to cases accepted within a specified time period prior to a session, or by simply abolishing continuances all together. Speaker Daniel is sifting through the bills, and will announce a stand on them "or portions of them" in the future. He plans to send all the bills to the Judiciary Cmte, and has asked Chmn Hale to set an early hearing on them.

THE SENATE adopted SCR 1, Wolff, setting up the 37-member constitutional revision commission, 30-0. Wolff will now try for passage of his bill funding \$900,000 to the commission, so it can start working.

LEGISLATION introduced includes SB 69, Mauzy, lobby registration and control; HB 177, Tupper and Bowers, five-year license plates; SB 65, Adams, life with no parole; HB 127, Cole, Legislative Information System; HBs 145, 146 and 147, Truan, bilingual and adult education; HB 155, Joe Allen, consumer education in public schools; HB 163, Nowlin, abolishing straight-party-ticket voting; HB 183, Truan, Human Relations Cmn; HB 188, Hollowell, extending the Torts Claims Act to property damage; HB 194, Hollowell, presidential preference primary; HB 200, Cobb, death penalty; HB 205, Menefee, class-action pollution suits; HB 207, Denton, approval by the Legislature of auto insurance rates. Aggies are reported to be organizing against HB 108, Hubenak, requiring hunters to wear day-glow orange outfits.

PROTESTS from members over the House Administration Cmte decision to fire the House pages and hire older aides have resulted in a meeting to hear the complaints. Chmn Joe Allen feels that the hiring may have been in violation of State laws on school attendance and hiring of minors as messengers...Rep. Cole said he will be asking the Administration Cmte to restrict members to either perforated stamps or use of postage meters, to prevent possible abuse of legislative mailing privileges.

TEXAS' abortion law was struck down by the U.S. Supreme Court, 7-2, and Rep. Sarah Weddington, who argued the class action suit before the court, said she doubts now that she will push for passage of the bills she had introduced liberalizing Texas abortion statutes. Gov. Briscoe called on Atty Gen. Hill to look at "alternatives open to Texas" as a result of the court decision...Atty Gen. Hill got out his first three opinions, telling the Alcoholic Beverage Cmn a 1949 law on consolidation of entities holding ABC permits does apply past '49; that judgments nisi, relating to forfeiture of bail bonds, may be signed at a court term after the time the judgments are rendered; and telling the MHMR Board that official committees of governmental bodies must comply with the notice and open meeting provisions of the Open Meetings Act...The Court of Criminal Appeals upheld the probated sentences of three persons convicted of defiling the U.S. flag at Rice U. on 5-1-70. The court also held a Killeen man given 30 years for selling marijuana to an undercover agent working for local police and the Army could not invoke the protection of an 1874 Federal law against use of soldiers in posses...The Texas Supreme Court reversed lower court decisions and awarded \$25,000 damages to Lloyd Billings, Houston independent oil lease purchaser, against a telephone repairman who wiretapped Billings' home phone.

WHETHER to build a new Gov.'s Mansion came up as the Senate Finance Cmte looked over the Building Cmn budget request, with Sens Snelson and Hightower taking sides: Snelson arguing the governor "should be provided with a home." Hightower argued the present Mansion is good enough, but, Snelson sniffed, "the horse and buggy were good enough for people." The Building Cmn recommended the State purchase the United Services Automobile Assn Bldg in San Antonio for a State office building in Bexar Coun-

ty, saying the building could be had for \$4.3 million, while it would cost \$10 million to build such facilities.

CATTLE losses from snow and ice storms are probably closer to 150,000 than 100,000, Ag. Cmr White reports. The Texas Cattle Feeders Assn estimates 154,000 cattle were lost in 39 counties since Nov. 1. Concentration in feedlots in the Panhandle may have increased the losses...The Industrial Cmn released a study saying its national advertising program has produced 5,826 new jobs in 46 industries with annual payrolls of \$53 million, in the last four years. The commission also announced a joint program with the Education Agency for an "industrial start-up training program" to train persons for jobs created by new industry...The Board of Insurance is continuing efforts on territorial gradation on windstorm and extended coverage insurance, which it hopes will reflect more accurately losses and rates by counties. Rep. Rosson's interim committee had been looking at such plans, to meet growing unhappiness over rates in the Northwest Texas area...Texas water agencies will go to New Orleans Feb. 5-6 to protest the report of the National Water Cmn, which has recommended restriction of Federal participation in dam-building and other water projects.

TEXAS school kids are getting lousy, the Health Dept reports, with outbreaks of lice reported from various schools. The lice include pediculus humanus capitis, phthirus pubis, and, of course, old pediculus humanus humanus...The Criminal Justice Council is funding a \$104,500 program with the State Bar and Criminal Defense Lawyers Assn. The project is to train lawyers to meet the growing number of criminal cases involving indigent defendants...The Water Quality Board is wondering when it will find out what it will have to do to meet Federal Environmental Protection Agency requirements to issue permits for wastewater discharges into navigable waters. Ten states have gotten EPA certification, but Texas is still waiting. In the meantime, the WQB has indicated it plans to continue a hard-line policy in its "call 'em on the carpet" sessions with polluters...The Board of Insurance will hold its workmen's compensation hearing 9 a.m. Feb. 8 in the Highway Bldg.

MUCH of Texas' \$320 million in revenue-sharing funds probably will be channelled to construction on college campus, Lt Gov. Hobby told a Legislative Forum audience. Hobby echoed other officials in saying that the uncertainty of such funds being continued makes it dangerous to use them in on-going programs. Revenue-sharing funds may also be used to provide the State some working capital so it won't have to rely on issuing State warrants, which Hobby described as "nothing more than hot checks."

DIRECT telephone lines linking the Gov.'s office with the Lt Gov.'s and Speaker's offices and podiums have been installed. Gov. Briscoe noted the arrangement will "maintain open lines of communication both figuratively and literally" between the top three State officers, and fit into his "Cooperation for Progress" theme.

GOV. BRISCOE has been busy with speaking engagements and with getting various house-keeping tasks taken care of, so he hasn't had much time to work on appointments, an aide reports, adding that no plans appear to be in the making to challenge any Smith appointees. A number of employees in the Gov.'s office are still coming to work on a day-to-day basis, not having been told if they are to be retained.

THE National Women's Political Caucus holds its first national convention in Houston Feb. 9-11 at the Rice Hotel. Speakers include Congresswomen Shirley Chisholm, Bella Abzug and Pat Schroeder, plus Liz Carpenter, Betty Friedan and Gloria Steinem...Sen. Lloyd Bentsen has introduced a Big Thicket bill, calling for 100,000 acres, and a 65,000-acre Amistad National Recreation Area on the Rio Grande...Former Sen. Wayne Connally, chairman of the National Cmte for a Constitutional Amendment to Prohibit Forced Busing, held a Detroit news conference to boost his cause. Connally noted the Texas Legislature approved a resolution calling a constitutional convention to approve such an amendment last session. In all, five states have approved such resolutions, and 18 are now considering it, Connally said...Sen. Bentsen called on Congress to remove Federal regulation on natural gas producers to allow a return to competitive pricing, as a way of easing the fuel and energy shortage. Bentsen said the Federal Power Cmn has held the field price of natural gas below its actual market cost since '54.

TO & FRO: Mark White was confirmed as Secy of State by the Senate in an open meeting...Margaret Martin, widow of the late Attorney General, is heading the Capitol Tour Guide Service...Senate nominations meets Tuesday on the three new UT Regents...John Osorio was convicted of conspiracy and embezzlement in Amarillo on charges growing out of the Sharpstown scandals...U.S. Rep. and Mrs Charles Wilson were evicted from their Watergate apartment by a manager who apparently took a disliking to their cat...The Research League is warning that new taxes may be needed, after all...LULAC Dir Tony Bonilla says Preston Smith broke a promise to nominate a Mexican American to the UT Regents, and he's asking Gov. Briscoe and Atty Gen. Hill to see if Smith violated sections of the law requiring Regents to be from different parts of the state...Comptroller Calvert got a \$25,149.12 check from Ex-Sen. David Ratliff, completing repayment, a requirement of Ratliff's 10-year probated theft sentence...Former Rep. Russell Cummings was named Exec. Dir of the Mass Transportation Cmn...Gov. Briscoe appointed Richard Handorf, Palestine, as DA of the 3rd Judicial Dist; Curtiss Brown, Houston, as associate justice, 14th Court of Civil Appeals; and Max Rogers, Huntsville, as presiding judge, 2nd Administrative Judicial Dist...Connally press aide Nick Johnson has joined Winius-Brandon, Houston public relations firm...The Hiram Hodge family hired Austin attorney John Davenport, announcing they intend to reject the Parks & Wildlife Cmn's offer of \$146,000 for their 126-acre farm adjoining the LBJ State Park...Ernest Stromberger, Capitol correspondent for the Dallas Times-Herald, will take over as public relations man for the State Bar when Harvey Payne retires.