

State Capital NEWS

By Vern Sanford

By VERN SANFORD
AUSTIN, Tex.—About the only cheerful remark heard around Texas Legislative halls of late is, "Think how bad it would be if it weren't air conditioned!" (House and Senate chambers are cooled this year for the first time, though most of the rest of the Capitol is not as yet.)

Many remember summer sessions in the pre-air conditioned days. Scorching extraordinary was the one in 1949 which ran to July 6, longest regular session in Texas history.

Lawmakers and reporters complained that the huge granite blocks in the Capitol walls collected heat like a dutch oven. Coat and tie rules in the legislative chambers added to the misery.

Some observers said that the 1949 Legislature (which also had a tax problem) didn't really quit. It just sort of melted down. A special session was called the next winter to clear up money problems.

For all its comforts, air conditioning hasn't taken the sweat out of passing a tax bill.

Both House and Senate have passed tax bills, and a new conference committee was put to work to piece them together. But the floor action preceding passage gave no indication that any of the conflicting groups is ready to give an inch.

House membership is split three ways into (1) those who don't want the majority of new taxes to fall on business, (2) those who don't want a majority to be sales taxes and (3) those who apparently don't want any new taxes.

Each of the first two groups has been able to defeat the other's proposals with the help of the "no-taxers." Hence, despite public impatience and their own weariness, lawmakers have been ensnared in a one-step-forward-and-two-backward pattern.

SOMETHING OLD, SOMETHING NEW—Given to the conference committee on taxes were a new bob-tailed bill from the House and an old, nearly full-size bill from the Senate.

House bill would raise about \$106,000,000 over two years—about \$70,000,000 less than is needed. Senate bill, designed to raise about \$100,000,000 is the same one passed by the Senate in the first special session. It contains more sales taxes than business taxes which the House refused to accept on the last round.

Cut from the House bill before passage were the \$50 deductible

sales tax (a 2 per cent levy on costs over \$50) and the natural gas severance beneficiary tax. Both fell by the wayside in one of the "if you kill my tax, I'll kill yours" sessions.

Remaining in the bill were levies on which the House has been able to agree all along—on cigarettes, liquor, auto sales and corporation franchises.

"New wrinkles" added were (1) a licensing fee for private clubs that sell liquor and a 10 per cent tax on mixing drinks and (2) a 1.5 per cent sales tax on boats, motors and airplanes.

Bill also contains a provision to cut the sulphur tax from \$1.40 to \$1.03 a ton.

House conferees, none of whom served on the committee last session, are Reps. Menton J. Murray of Harlingen, Frates Seeligson of San Antonio, Wesley Roberts of Lamesa, Joe Ed Winfree of Houston and John Allen of Longview.

Senate conferees include four who served before, Sens. Rudolph Weinert, Dorsey Hardeman, Bruce Reagan and Jimmy Phillips, plus one new member, Sen. Wardlow Lane.

SENATE OKAYS BEACH BILL—After considerable haggling and several close votes, the Senate passed a bill to guarantee public access to public beaches.

Mustang and Padre Islands are exempted from the provisions of the bill. Sen. Bruce Reagan of Corpus Christi, who sponsored the amendment, said that the islands were being developed with a systematic plan for public parks, beaches and recreation areas.

Opponents to the exemption said it would allow at least one-third of the beaches on the islands to be under private control.

As passed by the Senate, the bill does not try to define boundary between state and private land, but simply affirms the public's right to come and go from state beaches by way of roads.

FEE BILL ADDED TO CALL—A bill to let state colleges charge a \$30 a semester activity fee got a new lease on life when Gov. Price Daniel submitted it to the Legislature.

Bill had been introduced twice, but fizzled out in the Senate when Sen. Henry Gonzalez challenged it on two points: (1) it was not "within the governor's call" for the session and (2) in order to be considered "within the call," it would have to be regarded as a revenue-raising measure which must originate in the House.

CADET SLOUCH by Jim Earle



"A Beatnik! Heavens No... I'm Just A Slob!"

Hagler Replaces Late E. W. Hooker

Roy W. Hagler has been named chief clerk of the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station, succeeding the late E. W. Hooker.

An employee in the chief clerk's office since 1942, Hagler served the past five years as its auditor and accountant.

He was born at Eureka and graduated from Mildred High School, both in Navarro county. He attended A&M for two years, specializing in agricultural education.

Hagler and his wife, Mary Lee, live at 1104 Marsteller Dr. in College Station. They have two children, a son, Eldon Ray Hagler, a junior at A&M Consolidated High School, and a daughter, Mrs. James B. Bond of Navasota, and one grandchild.



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MSC Schedules 'Den' and 'Hideaway' Dances

Dancing is again the headline attraction in the Memorial Student Center as the Summer Directorate continues to offer students dance opportunities twice a week.

Tonight will find the regular "Den Dance," beginning at 8:30 in the MSC Fountain Room, with

jukebox music.

The "Hideaway" dance will travel to the terrace Monday night, and persons attending the dance should use the outside terrace steps for access to the dancing area, according to Decorations Chairman Dorothy Berry.

Music for the dance will be provided by jukebox.

The Rev. Leonard Simco, minister of the Apostolic Church of Pentecost in Manitoba, Canada, is the grandson of an Ojibway Indian chief.

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Social Whirl

Sunday
Architectural Wives Society will have a barbecue at 4 p.m. Sunday at Hensel Park. Both old and prospective members and their families are urged to attend.

Tuesday
University Dames Club will hold its regular monthly meeting Tuesday in the South Solarium of the YMCA at 8 p.m.

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