

Smith proposes 'new' tax to help cities

AUSTIN (P) — Gov. Preston Smith asked the legislature Wednesday to cancel present property taxes on automobiles and substitute an "ownership tax" with all proceeds going to local government.

The new levy would require ownership taxes on a car or truck be paid before each year's license plates are issued. Present state auto registration fees would still be effective.

Smith proposed the unprecedented tax in a special message to the House and Senate on housing and community development. Both houses took the message under consideration without immediate action.

Thursday there will be a joint session to hear the governor give his second official set of recommendations on 1972-73 spending and financing to the legislature. Key issues of Smith's first financing proposals were quickly defeated by the legislature.

The preparation of Smith's Thursday speech was closely guarded but many legislators predicted it would include an increase in the state sales tax plus some sort of business tax increase, possibly a corporate income tax levy.

There was little other action Wednesday in either the House or Senate.

The House tentatively approved a Senate-passed bill to finance the \$34.9 million emergency welfare appropriations bill but the 121-22 vote was six votes short of the four-fifths majority necessary for a final vote.

"The property tax remains the prime source of revenue of Texas local governments," Smith said in his Wednesday message, "and will probably continue to be so in the near future. . . I propose legislative steps be taken . . . to overcome extreme inequities in the application and collection of the personal property tax on motor vehicles by exempting motor vehicles from personal property taxation and substituting a specific ownership tax collected at the time license plates are issued."

Smith said proceeds from the ownership tax would be returned to cities, counties and school districts to ease their financial pressure.

Collection of the personal property tax on automobiles has been authorized for many years but its collection varies widely in sections of Texas. Little effort is made to collect the car property tax in Houston and Fort Worth while strict measures of collection are used in Dallas and Austin. Very little effort is made to collect

the present tax in rural areas. Smith also called for:

—Creation of the Texas Department of Community Affairs to administer such state services as local planning assistance, model cities aid and housing technical assistance and economic opportunity programs.

—Legislation to let cities enforce housing development standards in fringe growth areas and to allow counties to enforce subdivision building standards.

—A return to documentary stamps showing the sale price of real estate as an aid to tax assessors.

—A continuing voter registration system, except for the 30 days prior to an election.

—Creation of a state Housing Finance Corporation and a state Housing Redevelopment Corporation to encourage low income housing and to rebuild slum areas.

—Create a state development corporation where invested funds could be used for industrial

growth where private capital is not available.

In other action, the House passed, 141-0, and sent to the Senate a bill requiring the smaller city to vote first when two cities seek to merge. Consolidations must be approved by voters in both cities. Rep. John Traeger of Seguin, the sponsor, said the bill could save the larger city the cost of an election if voters in the smaller city opposed consolidation.

Senate business was tied up by Sen. A. R. Schwartz's protest against a proposal which its sponsor

said was designed just to abolish a \$5 hauling permit required of trucks which move oil field pipes and poles.

"I'm suspicious when in the first 45 days of the session an industry comes in with a bill we don't know anything about," Schwartz said. "We don't need to pass all special interest legislation at one session or one sitting."

Schwartz told the sponsor, Sen. W. E. Snelson of Midland, that he was worried the House-passed bill might do more than just remove the permit fee.

Change requires

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instructing your constituencies of the process of interaction between various elements of the structure. And finally on the clear day when you don't the mangled mantle of the power structure, as you will by attrition if nothing else, being willing and able to ensure that a system is open and flexible enough for your sons and daughters to compromise you out of business too."

In a question and answer period, Thomas was asked if he had compromised his philosophies in his position in the Nixon administration, in contrast to others like former Interior Secretary Walter Hickel who criticized Nixon's handling of problems having to do with youth.

Thomas said, without mentioning any names, he would say that some of these people were politically naive.

"I wouldn't write a letter to the Secretary criticizing him," he said. "I'd quit first and then do it. I haven't had to compromise."

The next questioner, a young black, said that it seemed that the lower voting age had influenced the words of Thomas's talk.

"It is obvious to me that Nixon is an enemy of the poor and

an enemy of the blacks," the SCONA delegate said. "In order to have stayed in your position you had to compromise."

"Are you asking a question or making a statement," Thomas interrupted, "Your comments are naive. I made these same statements two years ago (before the voting age was lowered). It's unfortunate that you don't know . . ."

"You appeal to us to be paties," the student broke in, "to try to negotiate. If you place America in historical perspective, you can see that demonstrations are the only thing that America will respond to. My question is if you don't get positive results through proper channels, what would you suggest?"

Thomas said that the student hadn't grasped his speech and that "pressure against existing powers should be brought after an intellectually oriented, humane approach."

"You have to know when to do what," he said. Later a student reasked Thomas as what to do if all channels had been exhausted.

"The sophisticated approach is nice, because no one is going to object to it," the student said. "But what if it doesn't work?" "No it is not nice, it's very difficult," Thomas said. "If you do possibly exhaust all means, establish your own systems. The new schools are examples of this. You should involve enough people and create a whole new thing, and if you can't involve enough people you should think that maybe you are wrong."

"But I have found very few instances when all avenues have been marketed to the ultimate degree. You have only reached the degree of frustration because you wanted it to happen yesterday."

Whoops, hisses

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"A guy without sideburns looks like a peeled onion," Miss Kennedy said. This statement was followed by a great amount of applause.

Miss Ward gave four reasons for her personal dislike of smoking. She says it is unhealthy, the smoke hurts her eyes because she wears contacts, the smoke tends to cling to clothing giving it a stale smell and, when she kisses a smoker good-night, he has a bad taste to his mouth.

A boy should always ask his girl if he may smoke, she added.

Driving etiquette was Miss McGinness' topic. She told the boys that they should always let a girl in and out on her side of the car. If a girl asks the boy to slow down, he should do it.

If a guy wants his woman to sit on the console next to him, Miss McGinness said, he should bring a pillow for her to sit on.

Nation never

(continued from page 1)

longer had keys to every cell to discipline at their own discretion. Better food and medical supplies were made available to the Americans.

In the area of communications, more men were identified as being prisoners held by the North Vietnamese. Also, the number of packages allowed to be sent to the camps was increased.

Perot admitted that there are many people working inside North Vietnam to give him important information. These people are paid to keep him up to date on happenings north of the demilitarized zone.

"From now on, when you see films coming out of prison camps, just smile to yourself when you see what I call 'mug shots'" he

said, "because if you see a 'mug shot', a lot of times a photographer will be working for me, too."

As a final question, a delegate asked Perot if his interpretation of America's progress, shortcomings, etc. would change if he were a member of a group hurt by the nation's advancement.

"I don't know because I've never been one of these," he fired back. "The situation is better here for these groups than if they were elsewhere. If there were a better place to go, then I'd go there. This country offers a pretty good opportunity."

27 more Army cadets get rating as DMS for 1970-71

Texas A&M has added 27 Army ROTC senior cadets to the 1970-71 Distinguished Military Student list.

Col. Jim H. McCoy, commandant, said the DMS designation indicates a cadet possesses outstanding attributes of leadership, moral character, military and academic standing and all-around development reflected in campus and civic activities.

DMS qualifies the cadet to make application for a Regular Army commission to be conferred upon graduation.

"Being named a Distinguished

Military Student represents a significant accomplishment in the college careers of these individuals," pointed out McCoy.

Recipients are Jeffery H. Alden of Panama, Canal Zone; John L. Bendele and Gary E. Madden, San Antonio; William L. Bradley Jr., Fort Worth; Guillermo Cisneros, Garland; Dennis H. Clark, Big Spring; Van A. Currie, Buna.

Also, Ford R. Davis, Harold F. Lambert Jr., Bill J. Russo Jr., Walter K. Truett and Donald M. Ward, Houston; Thomas C. Fitzhugh III, Waco; James D. Gras, New Braunfels; John A. Hamilton, Galveston; Paul M. Hervey, Luling; David L. Herzik, La Mesa, Calif.

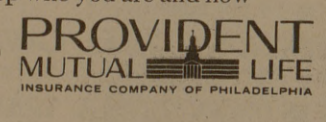
Plus, Fred M. Hofstetter, Belaire; Rex E. Lovelady, Amarillo; Michael Perrone and William E. Marshall, Bryan; Mi-

chael J. McKean, Fort McClellan, Ala.; Claude P. Rosson III, Taft; Kenneth C. Shaw, Weimar; Thomas E. Stout Jr., Shreveport; Ernest D. Wueste, Eagle Pass, and Neil S. Yaws, Dallas.

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