

Texas Legislators Favor Pay Increase Amendments

(Continued from page 1)
 Since 1960, legislators have asked the voters three times to raise their pay. The propositions were turned down each time. Meanwhile, inflation has eroded the buying power of that \$400.

"Paying a person this sub-poverty wage makes him so much more open to the blandishments of special interest groups," the legislator continued, alluding to recent scandals. But Speaker Rayford Price isn't so sure that a member's honesty is related to the size of his salary.

"As far as the basic integrity and ability of the persons elected, I wouldn't say categorically it would improve or not," Price

said. There seems to be little organized opposition to the amendment. The American party's write-in candidate for governor, Homer Fikes, recently came out against it but didn't say why.

Trying to read the minds of the unorganized Texans who might vote against it, the Texas Legislative Council assembled three possible arguments in its booklet analyzing the 14 proposed constitutional amendments:

—Legislative pay raises would increase state government costs. Adding \$3,600 a year to the salaries of the 181 senators and representatives would cost \$651,000 annually.

—Because of high campaign costs, even an \$8,400 salary would be insufficient to encourage anyone without substantial financial resources to run for the Legislature.

—Since lawmakers meet in regular session only 140 days

every two years, \$4,800 is about right for such a "part-time job." The last argument particularly rankles legislators.

"I conservatively estimate I spend 25 percent of my time on legislative business when we're not in session," said a big-city member. "There is something going on every day: speeches, being places, dedications, people asking for things — wanting to know about their daddy's nursing home problems, kids wanting

to get enrolled in state schools, the chamber of commerce wanting a new highway."

That representative's take-home pay is \$311 a month.

It was the stock scandal, and apparent acceptance of the idea of full-time speakers and lieutenant governors, that motivated the Legislature to submit the idea of \$22,500 annual salaries for the two officials to the voters.

Such salaries, advocates believe, would compensate them

for their responsibilities and make it worth their while to give up their businesses or professions temporarily.

Opponents, however, note that both Barnes and Mutscher were professional politicians and contend they needlessly turned their Capitol offices and apartments into bases for their political activities. They hope for a return to part-time speakers and lieutenant governors.

Legislators who submitted the

amendment on justice peace salaries hoped to of the system that still in some counties in what collect. They contend eliminate the speed-train of some justice courts, ents, however, contend, system makes some justice diligent, provides an increase attracts some excellent the bench and keeps the dependent of county comm

Galaxy Breaks Law Of Physics

PASADENA, Calif. (AP)—A galaxy that appears to be breaking a law of science—that no object can go faster than the speed of light—has been reported at a meeting of astronomers.

The galaxy has reportedly joined with two quasars—mysterious objects on the rim of the universe that emit enormous amounts of radio waves—in seeming to move faster than 186,000 miles a second, long accepted by physicists as the ultimate in speed.

The report of the speeding galaxy came Monday at a meeting of the high energy astrophysics division of the American Astronomical Society in a paper written by Dr. Kenneth I. Kellerman of the National Radio Astronomy Observatory at Green Bank, W. Va.

Dr. Kellerman said movement of the galaxy is being studied through radio sources, which also are being used as tools to study the two quasars.

Ten theories have been considered in explaining objects that appear to move faster than the speed of light, but at least seven of these are discredited.

The remaining three, which are regarded as suspect, try to explain the phenomenon in terms of accepted physics, looking for reasons the objects would appear to be traveling at the speed without actually doing so.

The "cannon ball explanation" is one of two that contends an object would seem to be traveling faster than it is if another object is near enough or is moving in an opposite direction.

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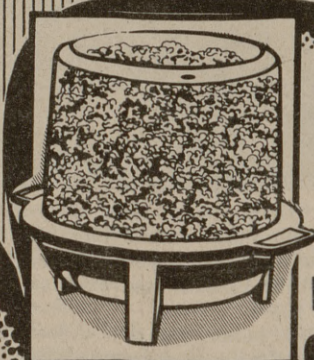
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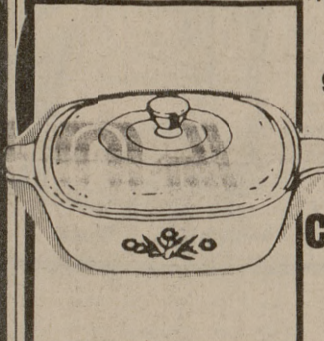
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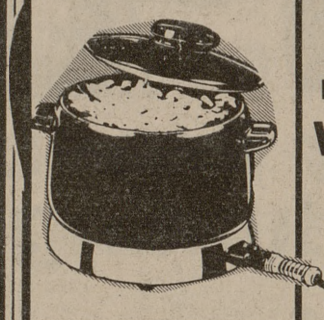
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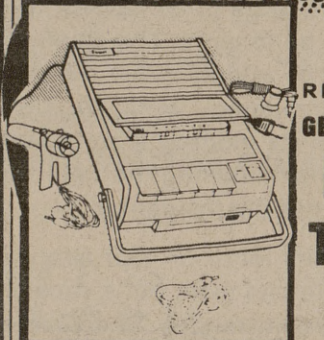
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