

Newspapermen Investigate 'Crisis'

AUSTIN — Gulf Coast and South Texas newspaper publishers kicked off an investigation into the "newsprint crisis" last week that could become a nationwide issue.

Last week in San Antonio a probe was launched into the causes of the current newsprint shortage in the United States.

A resolution requesting a "Congressional investigation" of the current newsprint crisis was adopted at the joint board meeting of the Texas Gulf Coast Press

Association and the South Texas Press Association.

Publishers speaking for the resolution asked the Texas Press Association and National Newspaper Association to "investigate the problem at all levels" including "price fixing" and the "reported nationwide newsprint shortage."

The resolution asked the press associations to report their findings to their memberships so that "publishers can make necessary plans and adjustments for the future months and years."

Several weekly newspapers recently have converted to daily publication because of the growth of their cities, and are having problems getting more newsprint for their publications.

The regional press associations also asked that the Texas Congressional delegation be alerted to the problem and requested "assistance in working toward solutions for an adequate supply of this resource which is so vital to our industry."

Other state press associations

in the southwest and midwest have received copies of the resolution, and have received requests for action by their officers at future board of directors meetings.

The newsprint manufacturers in the United States have told publishers that shortages have been caused by paper mill closings in some states because of "environmental problems." Wet weather has kept timber in the forests and away from the mills, newsprint officials have said.

Canadian mills — another big

source of newsprint in this country — have not been contacted by the publishers, but will be asked to report the reasons for current shortages, the press association officials said.

Some publishers have inquired about newsprint supplies in other countries, and "pool purchases" of newsprint from overseas markets.

Recent price increases by the newsprint companies have sparked part of the controversy also.

Briscoe Supports School Aid Bill

AUSTIN — Gov. Dolph Briscoe threw his support behind a stop-gap school finance aid measure to provide \$39.7 million in enrichment grants to the state's 113 poorest districts.

He spelled out his recommendations at a rally arranged here by San Antonio and Crystal City

residents to dramatize the case for overhaul of inequities in educational funding.

Briscoe pledged additional legislation will "set into action a process of altering our entire funding system so that state funds will be allocated to all school districts . . . based on the financial resources of each."

While the governor didn't say exactly what he meant by the latter, aides said a "complete review" of tax capabilities of districts across the state will be ordered.

Briscoe, committed to avoiding a tax bill this year, found it difficult to accept far-reaching overhauls of the school finance system which will cost \$500 million to \$800 million for implementation.

The legislation he backs, with Lt. Gov. Bill Hobby's and House Speaker Price Daniel Jr.'s support, would require each district to report its taxable assets to the state comptroller on specified forms by January 1, 1975.

The governor's office would also be made responsible for coordinating work of legislative committees and other official agencies in working out a plan for overhauling the school finance system by 1975.

Henry Grover To Speak At YR Barbeque

Henry C. Grover, Republican gubernatorial candidate in 1972, will be featured at a barbeque June 9.

The "Future of the Republican Party" will be the topic of Grover's discussion.

The A&M Young Republicans and the Precinct 9 Republican Club will sponsor the barbeque and are selling tickets at \$5 a plate or \$2.50 for Young Republicans and A&M students.

A booth will be set up during the June 4 summer registration for those interested in joining the YRs or purchasing tickets for the barbeque. For ticket reservations call 846-5105 after 6 p.m.

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