

Governor to ask for tax cut State opposes milk indictment dismissal

DALLAS, Tex. (AP) — Gov. Dolph Briscoe promised Thursday to ask the 1975 Legislature to abolish the four per cent state sales tax on every Texan's gas and electric light bill.

"This would provide a tax cut of approximately \$90 million a year for the people of the state," Briscoe said in a speech at the opening of his Dallas County campaign headquarters.

Briscoe's Republican opponent, Jim Granberry, proposed earlier in the week that one cent of the regular four-cent state sales tax be dropped for a tax decrease of about \$279 million.

The governor said he made the tax cut recommendation on the basis of a recent estimate by the Legislative Budget Board that, because of unexpected income increases, the state will have "a record breaking surplus" the next two years of about \$1.5 billion.

"Rather than launch massive new spending programs of marginal benefit to the people of Texas,

programs which would require an unwarranted expansion of the state bureaucracy, I believe the wisest course is to reduce taxes whenever it is possible to do so without reducing essential services," Briscoe said.

"Utility rates have been skyrocketing in Texas and it would be entirely appropriate to abolish the four per cent state sales tax on every Texan's utility bill."

Natural gas and electric utility bills would be the only ones affected since the state levy does not apply to telephone and water bills.

Briscoe recalled his campaign promise two years ago was to complete his first term without new or higher taxes.

"There were few who thought we could do it, but the fact is, 'No New Taxes' has been transformed from a

pledge to a reality for only the second time in the past 20 years," he said.

Briscoe repeated earlier recommendations to the legislature for 10 to 15 per cent retirement increases for school teachers, 10 per cent retirement increases for state employees, a 10 per cent cost of living increase for all state employees and an emergency \$40 per student increase to public schools.

Later, in an interview, the governor denied that he had ever told anyone he would call special legislative session to consider school financing immediately after the close of the Constitutional Convention.

"I have never made any commitment on a special session and will not until one is announced publicly," he said.

State opposes milk indictment dismissal

DALLAS (AP)—State prosecutors opposed dismissal of a federal indictment against Jake Jacobsen, claiming prosecution of the former milk lobbyist on the Texas charge has no bearing on a Watergate-related case in Washington.

Texas Atty. Gen. John Hill and San Angelo Dist. Atty. Royal Hart filed a friend of the court brief with U. S. District Court Judge Robert Hill asking the charges not be dropped. The state had turned over facts gathered from a state investigation believing the case would be prosecuted in federal court.

However, if the indictment is dismissed, they asked that the judge

leave an avenue open for possible state prosecution.

Judge Hill may rule Friday, court sources said.

Jacobsen was indicted on a charge of misapplication of \$825,000 from the First Savings & Loan of San Angelo.

Ray Cowen, a former partner of Jacobsen who was also indicted, pleaded guilty last week. He has not been sentenced.

Jacobsen is under indictment in Washington stemming from an alleged bribe to former Treasury Secretary John Connally while Jacobsen was a lobbyist for the American Milk Producers, Inc. Connally has been indicted on charges of bribery.

The special Watergate prosecutor's staff in Washington has agreed to drop both the Texas and Washington indictments against Jacobsen if he will testify against Connally.

However, Judge Hill said last week he questioned whether the special prosecutor's staff in Washington can make a deal with a defendant for cooperation in one case that would be binding on a judge in a completely unrelated case.

In his brief, Atty. Gen. Hill said the two cases are "totally unrelated."

Hill filed the notion on behalf of Sale Lewis, commissioner of the Texas Savings and Loan Department.

Hill said the investigation leading the indictment was made by that state agency and the Federal Home Loan Bank Board.

Seven major oil companies said trying to drive out independents

NEW YORK (AP)—Seven major oil companies pleaded innocent Thursday to charges of price-fixing to drive out independent dealers during the recent gasoline shortage.

Exxon, Mobil, Gulf, Texaco, Amoco, Shell and Sunoco were named in an indictment handed up by a special Manhattan grand jury empaneled after an investigation conducted by state Atty. Gen. Louis J. Lefkowitz.

Three of the firms, Exxon, Mobil

and Gulf, also were charged and pleaded innocent to agreeing to thwart open bidding in the sales of gasoline to government agencies.

Innocent pleas were entered by a team of lawyers for the seven oil companies during a brief proceeding before acting Justice George Roberts in Manhattan Supreme Court. Roberts adjourned the case until Sept. 9.

Lefkowitz said the amount of money involved in the alleged price-fixing and bid rigging "could go as high as several million."

Spokesmen for three of the firms, Mobil, Shell and Texaco, immediately issued denials of the charges, which constitute criminal misdemeanors.

The indictment accused all seven of violating the state's business law by having "engaged in an arrangement whereby competition in the sale of gasoline to the public was restrained."

At a news conference, Lefkowitz

said the criminal misdemeanor charges carry a penalty, upon conviction, of a \$50,000 fine on each count.

Subaru cuts prices \$400

NEW YORK (AP) — Subaru of America Inc. announced a \$400 price cut on its two-door, \$2,997 sedan Thursday, saying the move was "being made in the best interest of our company."

The Japanese-owned company said it was also planning comparable reductions in the prices of its three other models, effective immediately.

Noting the recent price increases announced by major American car manufacturers, Subaru said, "We are confident that our \$400 price cut will attract thousands of new car buyers."

Great Issues sets series

Anthropologist Ashley Montagu is featured as opening speaker for the Great Issues fall lecture series on "The Quality of Life."

Dr. Montagu presents his views in a lecture called "Man: The Endangered Species," Thursday, Sept. 12 at 8 p. m. in Rudder Center Auditorium.

Great Issues Chairman Mark Rankin said, "We feel that Dr. Montagu is best qualified to introduce the theme to the public."

"Considering his qualifications in the fields of anthropology, sociology, race relations and genetics, he should provide insights into the direction that the human race is proceeding," said Rankin.

Rankin added that Montagu's outspoken manner on race and sexism as well as his wit have made him a favorite of viewers of "The Tonight Show."

Admission will be 25 cents for students with activity cards and \$1 for others.

Omega Phi Alpha meets Monday

OMEGA PHI ALPHA meets Monday Sept. 9 at 6:30 in rooms N and O of the Student Programs Office. All inactive and active members are encouraged to attend.

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