

'Job should be part-time'

By GERALD OLIVIER
Staff Writer

The office of State Representative and should remain a part-time job, said State Representative Bill Presnal.

Presnal, who is running unopposed for re-election, said that full-time legislators would lose contact with their constituency. He said salary levels of \$10,000-\$12,000 would be sufficient to maintain the part-time status of the position.

Presnal will return to his part-time job in January. The item highest on his list of legislative priorities is public school financing.

"I think the ad valorem (property) tax can support the schools," Presnal said, "but I'm not so sure that it should."

Presnal said he will underwrite a statewide system of school finance. He said the Governor is in the process of developing a program of this type to be submitted to the legislature.

The second item on Presnal's agenda for the spring is the question of what to do with the expected \$1 billion surplus in the state budget. Presnal said the surplus should not be used for a tax cut, but might be distributed to the schools on a per pupil basis.

Last, but definitely not least, on Presnal's list of the most important issues before next year's legislature is the state constitution.

The legislature sat as a constitutional convention this summer, but failed by three votes to gain the two-thirds majority needed to report a document to the voters.

Presnal said the constitution was a victim of procedures. He points to the system of accepting amendments on the basis of a simple majority, but requiring two-thirds for the passage of an article.

One of the main problems in the convention concerned the language to be used, Presnal said. "The same word can mean different things to different people, even though they agree on the issue in question," Presnal said.

"We should have let the people vote on the document. After all, it is a contract between the people of the state and their legislature," Presnal said.

Speaker-apparent of the Texas House of Representatives Bill Clayton, a Presnal supporter, has one possible solution.

Presnal said Clayton has obtained an attorney general's opinion allowing the legislature to report whole articles of the constitution to the

voters in the form of constitutional amendments.

Presnal is optimistic that a new constitution can be sent to the people this way.

The content of a state constitution must be considerably more detailed than the federal document, Presnal said. "The federal constitution is a contract between the national government and the states. Anything not specifically spelled out was left to the states to determine," Presnal said. "In the state constitution there is no one left to leave the specifics to."

One of the most controversial "specifics" in the constitution defeated this summer was the "Right to Work" provision. This would prohibit the establishment of closed shops (requiring an employee to join a union) by unions.

Presnal said he is strongly in favor of including such a provision.

"This is not something which should be left to the whim of the legislature," Presnal said.

Presnal said he likes the concept of a plural elected executive. Some of the offices, like the comptroller and railroad commissioners, serve as checks on the governor and the legislature.

The elected, rather than appointed, positions serve to provide



BILL PRESNAL

continuity in state government, Presnal said. "We don't want the governor to come in after being elected and change things overnight."

Another perennial question in the legislature is the Permanent University Fund. Presnal is in favor of continuing the present system under which the University of Texas gets two thirds and A&M gets one third of the proceeds of the fund. Suggestions have been made to split the fund up among the other schools in the state.

"You have to have certain universities that are pre-eminent in their fields and the Permanent Fund helps to ensure that," Presnal said. He added that he could not think of a single case where A&M had misused the fund, but that UT may have been too "flamboyant."

When Presnal isn't working at his part time job in Austin, he can be found either at his office with the Research Foundation or on his ranch outside of town.

Realtor seeks re-election as Justice of the Peace

By JACK HODGES
Staff Writer

Attorneys should not hold the position of Justice of the Peace, said A. P. Boyett Jr., who is unopposed in a Nov. 7 election for Justice of the Peace (JP) in College Station.

"If JPs are lawyers they create conflicts of interest because they devote too much time to their practice. They would be making money from their law practice and as JP, said Boyett who is not a lawyer.

Although there was a move in the last constitutional convention to do away with justice positions, Boyett said he feels they are a vital part of the court system. Without them there would be an overload in the higher courts, he said.

"The university has grown so much in the past few years that there is a local need for more justice courts," Boyett said. Another reason for the need is that the speed limits have decreased and there are

more speeding cases being handled, he said.

Justice of the Peace courts in Brazos County try cases in civil and criminal matters which do not exceed \$200. Court is held when necessary, according to law. They may not sentence persons to jail except for contempt of court and failure to pay fines. The maximum is one day in jail or one day in jail for each five dollars of a fine.

The justice can grant approval of jury trials or appeals which are under the jurisdiction of the county court.

The basic duties of the justice courts is to provide a fast and inexpensive way of settling small claims and disputes without the use of lawyers or filing suits in a higher court.

The JP court also handles write-ups, warrants, and processes, arraignments, and bail. They also conduct

pre-trial hearing.

Hot check cases take up about 25 per cent of court time. Weddings, speeding tickets, car accidents and deaths are handled the rest of the time. Boyett said he does not think the JP should be in charge of establishing whether a person is dead or not.

"I think it is a terrible burden for a justice to be made a medical examiner," said Boyett, "because they know very little about being a doctor. With this, there is a greater probability of mistakes in determining the causes of death."

Boyett, 52, was born and raised in College Station. He owns real estate in College Station and is the co-owner of the Townhouse Apartments in College Station which are 4 unit complexes in the Northgate area.

Salaries for the JPs are \$9,000 and are set by the commissioner's court. The term of the JP is four years.



A. P. BOYETT JR.

Superintendent sees little action

By ROXIE HEARN
Staff Writer

Brazos County has no county schools, but it does have a county school superintendent.

As J. B. (Jack) Streetman, who has held the office since September and is running unopposed for re-election Nov. 5, explained, "I can't even remember when there was a county school."

"Since transporting students had been the major concern of the county school superintendent, the office has had to take a new direction," he said.

"When W. D. Bunting retired, the last of the transportation planning was taken over by Bryan College Station's independent school districts.

"I was appointed by county officials to coordinate a program of continuing adult education in Brazos County."

The program, called "community education," is now being offered in night classes in Bryan's public schools.

Streetman coordinated the program for three years at Bryan High before his selection as county superintendent.

He has had 28 years of experience in education, spending 21 of them at Allen Academy as a teacher-counselor.

As county superintendent, Streetman, 60, receives \$14,136 annually. He holds no other job.

Community Education serves a three-fold purpose, according to Streetman. Adults can take non-scholastic courses such as bridge, cake decorating, crochet, needle point, lace draping or powder puff mechanics.

Courses may be taken for high school credit, including all those required for a diploma. Both of these divisions are self-supporting, said Streetman.

A third aspect of the program is federally funded: Adult Basic Education. This program teaches reading, writing, mathematics and remedial English. Good health practice, home management and citizenship are also taught.

With the third division the student may work toward a General Education Development (GED) test, which offers the equivalent of a high school diploma.

"The primary purpose of our program is to give these people an opportunity to improve themselves, either by completing their high school education or simply enrich-

ing themselves." The program enrolls 632 students presently, 12 of which are teenagers. About 40 teachers are employed, Streetman said.

"This gives us an opportunity to use our buildings at night, when they would normally just be shut down, and it's not costing the local taxpayers one penny," Streetman said.

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