

Lieutenant governor race

The following information was provided by the League of Women Voters.

BILL HOBBY, Austin Age 42 Democrat

1. Please describe your training and experience that contribute to your qualifications for this office.

BA, Rice University, 1953; three years Naval Intelligence; 1959, Parliamentarian, Texas Senate; Chairman, Senate Interim Committee on Welfare Reform, 1970; Former Member, Board of Regents, University of Houston, Presidential Task Force on Suburban Problems, the National Citizens Advisory Committee on Vocational Rehabilitation, Texas Air Control Board; President, the *Houston Post*; currently, Chairman, Governor's Energy Advisory Council, National Conference of Lieutenant Governors' Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

2. What issues prompted you to run for this office this year? Please list in order of priority.

I feel the issues of greatest priority to the State of Texas and her people are Education, particularly financing of public school education; Energy, emphasizing the steps Texas can take; Fiscal Responsibility, including budgeting processes and tightened spending; and Governmental Responsiveness.

3. Do you support a comprehensive land use program for Texas? If initiated, how should it be implemented?

It is apparent that Texas, not unlike the other states in this Union, must take greater care in its use of its precious land resources. But, at the same time, we must continue to protect the private rights which are a part of each citizen's birthright.

It is becoming increasingly obvious that the Federal Government, in the continued absence of action taken by the states, will move into the area of land use. In the Regular Session of the 63rd Legislature, Texas made a substantial beginning on a land use program for the state with the enactment of a coastal zone management program. We need to continue progress in this area along the lines proposed in SB 645, laying the foundation for a comprehensive state plan. Such action on our part

would prevent our being preempted by the Federal Government and would, at the very least, prepare us for a proper response should such a federal action be implemented.



CAYLORD MARCHALL, Dallas Age 39 Republican

1. Please describe your training and experience that contribute to your qualifications for this office.

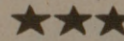
My formal education at St. Mary's University, San Antonio, Texas. Experience as a teacher in industrial education for three years. Four years in the United States Air Force. Two years of this time as an instructor in the Air Training Command gave me the ability to communicate my thoughts.

2. What issues prompted you to run for this office this year? Please list in order of priority.

The lack of leadership in the Senate by the present Lt. Governor, especially during the ethics reform debate caused me to offer myself as a positive alternative. I do not feel that Texans want four more years of the same.

3. Do you support a comprehensive land use program for Texas? If initiated, how should it be implemented?

A comprehensive land use program is needed so long as it is designed in a way not to upset the balance of nature, and is in accordance with the state ecological standards.



DAN FEIN, Houston Age 29 Socialist Workers

1. Please describe your training and experience that contribute to your qualifications for this office.

Teacher at Jones High School in Houston, member of Representative Assembly of Houston Teachers

Assembly, elected delegate to 1974 National Education Association convention, SWP candidate for mayor of Houston in 1973, former coordinator of Houston Peace Action Coalition to end the war in Vietnam.

2. What issues prompted you to run for this office this year? Please list in order of priority.

Wage controls, the meat and fuel shortages, the Watergate scandals and runaway inflation have proven to the American people that the government of the Republicans and Democrats will not carry out programs in the interests of the working people.

I am running for Lt. Governor to present an alternative to the bankrupt policies of the two capitalist parties who join hands with the monopolies in the wholesale robbery of the working people of Texas.

The most powerful political force that could be organized in behalf of working people and their allies in the Black and Chicano communities is the trade unions. Instead of urging votes for the parties responsible for continuing attacks on our standard of living, I believe the trade unions should organize a labor party that could fight for the interests of working women and men.

I am for: automatic raises in wages with each rise in the cost of living, social security, welfare and unemployment benefits at union wages and opening the books of employers who claim they cannot pay cost-of-living wage increases. For a shorter work week with no cut in pay, preferential hiring of Blacks, Chicanos and women and an end to discrimination in hiring based on language, race, sex or citizenship. I support the unconditional right of working people including teachers and other public employees to strike for better working conditions and higher pay to keep up with inflation. For a massive program of public works to provide low-cost quality housing, more hospitals, schools, childcare centers and mass transportation systems. For support to the Farmworkers Union, AFL-CIO. For a workers' government and a socialist America.

3. Do you support a comprehensive land use program for Texas? If initiated, how should it be implemented?

I would support a comprehensive land use program for Texas that was drafted, organized and implemented by the working people of this state, not by the monopolies whose aim is to continue the rape of the land for their own profits. Such a program would provide for 100% tax on the profits of polluters and would compel polluters, under threat of confiscation, to install pollution control devices to meet standards set and enforced by committees of workers and consumers.

1919 last challenged race

By **GERALD OLIVIER** Staff Writer

District Court Judge Bill Davis will be running for re-election unopposed this year, continuing a tradition for the district judgeship that began in 1919.

The last candidate for the position to have competition was Davis' father, who ran in 1919.

Davis was appointed to the judgeship in 1967 when it became vacant following the appointment of the then District Judge to an appeals court in Houston. Davis said he accepted the position because his father had once held it.

Davis said the reason lawyers don't seek the office of district judge in greater numbers is basically monetary. The job pays less than a lawyer can make in private practice, he contends. The annual salary is \$29,000.

The expense and time involved in running for office is the other major deterrent, Davis said. "Running for

elective office is hard work," said Davis.

Once the election is over the work doesn't stop, it just started. Davis' calendar is full through Christmas, and entries have been made as far ahead as April of next year.

The bulk of time spent by the court is on jury cases, Davis said. Although divorce cases are the most numerous item filed with the court, Davis said most are not contested and take up little time.

The District Court has original jurisdiction in all felony cases. Divorces, slander or defamation of character suits and all civil suits over \$1,000 come before the court. Appeals of decisions made by the County Commissioners Court may be brought to the District Court.

Jury trials are always set to begin on Mondays and often take the better part of the week, Davis said.

When he isn't at the courthouse, Davis keeps busy with the Bryan City Mission and the Brazos Valley Development Council (BVDC). These two interests are taking much of Davis' time and he said both will be cut back during the next year.

Davis said he will not run for another term as chairman of the Executive Committee of the Board of Directors of the BVDC. "It's time someone else had the job," Davis said.

Davis hopes to continue as District Judge at least for another five years. "After 12 years in office I'm eligible for the judge's retirement program," said Davis.

As for further political aspirations, Davis said he likes Bryan and

has no plans to leave. "I want to stay here and I'll die here," said Davis.



BILL DAVIS

Vance supports plea bargaining

By **ROSE MARY TRAVERSO** Staff Writer

County Judge William R. Vance is running unopposed for re-election Tuesday although a number of potentially volatile issues have come before his office.

These issues include plea bargaining, his promotion of the Willie Nelson festival and the investigation of bail bond practices by the Grand Jury.

"Plea bargaining is with us. It is sanctioned by the Supreme Court and will be with us regardless of how crowded the courts are," said Vance.

Plea bargaining is a procedure by which a defendant agrees to a lesser offense; in return, the prosecutor drops a more serious charge. The individual who was fined for an inspection sticker might have been charged originally with drunken driving, but paid a higher fine so that the lesser charge would be on his record. Critics question the ethical implications of allowing a person to buy a clean record.

The presiding judge decides whether or not to accept the prosecutor's recommendations and will usually agree to the bargain if there is a question about the State's ability to prove the original charge, Vance said.

This summer Vance, a key promoter of the Fourth of July Willie Nelson festival, was in the position

of deciding the fate of 80 of his former customers who were charged with drug possession and drunken driving during the festival.

All of the cases were "disposed of without trial," Vance said. "Most of them just flat pleaded guilty, the rest came to me as guilty pleas resulting from plea bargaining, if you want to call it that."

The Texas Constitution provides for only three cases in which a judge is disqualified for conflict of interest. These are when financial interests are concerned, when the judge was formerly a lawyer in the case and when the judge is related to one of the parties.

"I did make it known that if the State or the defendant in any case wanted to make objections, I would consider them on a case by case basis," Vance said.

Agreeing with the recent Grand Jury recommendation on bail bond practices in the county, Vance is in favor of instituting a Personal Bond Office. "I'm in favor of it if we can do it economically. I think that most people who reside locally are good risks for recognizance bonds," he said.

Vance said he is in favor of abolishing the position of school superintendent and that this can be done by legislative action or a county-wide vote. "I don't believe the duties justify the office," he said. The superintendent, J. B.



BILL VANCE

Streetman, directs adult education classes for the county.

Vance receives \$13,500 a year for the part-time job of county judge which includes the duties of presiding officer of the county commissioners court, chairman of the Brazos County Health Board, head of county civil defense and head of the county budget.

Among his other concerns, Vance owns local real estate including the Casa Linda Apartments, Briar Oaks Townhouses and Normandy Manor Apartments. He also manages the Briar Grove Apartments which are

owned by his brother and sister. Vance commented that his real estate holdings "can be a real headache."

Time was cited as a factor in Vance's resignation as legal counsel for the Brazos Valley Development Council (BVDC) which will become effective Dec. 31. "I received compensation and I feel like the council needs someone who can vote more time to the job," he said.

Vance will retain his membership on the board of directors of the BVDC and its executive committee.

Some of the programs Vance has initiated through recommendations to the commissioners court are the beginnings of a parks system, a retirement plan for county employees, the first sanitary landfill in a rural area, a computer taxroll and voter registration in the installment of electronic voting machines and the landscaping of courthouse square.

Vance received a bachelor's degree in economics from A&M in 1961 and two years later graduated from the University of Texas Law School. He worked three years as assistant county attorney until September 1967 when he was elected county judge.

His career plans for the future. "Well, I don't know a single politician who wouldn't move up if he could, but that's all I'm going to say."

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