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Hill's opinion affects aid to school

Hill issued a legal opinion Tuesday that eventually could mean more state aid for some school districts and less for others.

But no immediate impact from the far-reaching opinion is expected, since this year's aid money already is being parceled out.

Hill said county tax assessers' evaluations of taxable real estate should be equalized before the State Board of Education uses them as part of the state aid formula. Property tax assessed valuations

make up 20 percent of the economic index used in determining each county's ability to finance the Foundation School Program. The lower a county's index, the more state aid it receives.

In requesting Hill's opinion, State Education Commissioner Marlin Brockette said:

"It is common knowledge that many county tax assessor-collectors in this state customarily assess property subjectto ad valorem taxes at less than 100 percent market value, and that there is a wide varia-

tion from county to county in the assessment ratios used. Some school districts contend that the disparity in the assessments by the county tax assessor-collector vary from 3 to 100 percent of fair market

Brockette said he would send a questionnaire to all county tax assessor-collectors, seeking information on the assessment ratios they use. They are required to answer, Hill said.

"We won't know the impact of Hill's opinion until we collect the

information and analyze it," he said. In any event, the data will not be used to reverse this school year's state aid allocations but will be used in the economic indexes for each county that the board will consider March for the 1975-76 school year, Brockette said.

Data for a three-year period are used by the board in calculating the economic indexes, and Hill said it would be legal to phase in the equalized property tax assessments a year at a time.

There is a possibility, however,

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ROUND ALL FLAVORS that the 1975 legislature will enact a new system, based entirely on true market value of taxable real estate,

for calculating state aid to schools. Other items used in the present index as a measurement of a county's ability to pay for its schools include agricultural, mineral and business activity.

Shoplifting seminar presented

The Bryan-College Station Chamber of Commerce and the Small Business Administration (SBA) will sponsor a seminar on controlling retail theft tonight at 7 in the Chamber of Commerce Board

The program, coordinated by the Houston District Office of the SBA, will focus on techniques of preventing shoplifting and check fraud.

Reagan Ainsworth, SBA's management assistance officer, said the seminar is being held prior to the holiday season to educate retailers

on the subject. Panelists participating in the program will be Sheriff J. W. Hamilton, County Attorney Roland Searcy, Bryan policeman Gene Knowles, Justice of the Peace B. H. Dewey, Iva Jo Harris of City National Bank and Leo Moon of University National Bank.

Two films, "Paperhanger" and "Shoplifter," will be shown. The seminar is open to the public.

Labor supply still meets local needs

Local labor supply continued to meet demand as of last month, according to the Texas Employment Commission (TEC).

Non-farm employment in the Bryan-College Station area in-creased slightly in October. The increase was due to additional hiring in retail trade and services which offset layoffs in manufacturing.

TEC placed 314 persons in nonfarm jobs in October, down from 436 in September and 338 in October 1973. The TEC listed 1,243 active job applicants as of October, up 32 per cent from 942 in October 1973.

Attorney General overrules opinion

AUSTIN, Tex. (AP) - Atty. Gen. John Hill overruled a 1939 attorney general's opinion Wednesday in declaring that the Texas Constitution es not prohibit an Edinburg ma carrier from being a city council-

No Texas court case has dealt with such an issue, said Hill, whose response is viewed as law.

Hill's advice was sought by Oscar McInnis, criminal district attorney of Hidalgo County.





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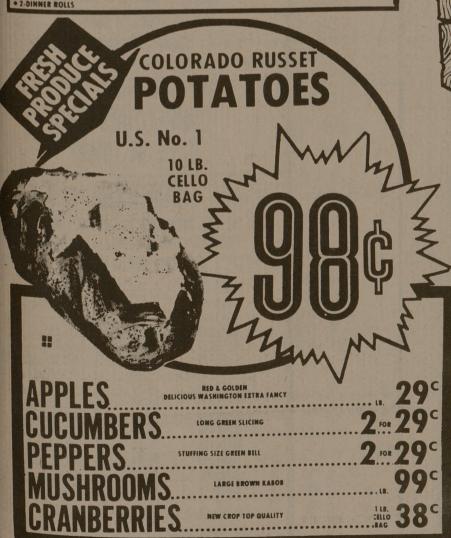
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