

# Lobbyist registration high

## Representatives outnumbered, 2-1

AUSTIN (AP) — Lobbyists outnumbered legislators more than two to one as the new lawmaking session began Tuesday.

Registrations filed with the Secretary of State under the "reform" lobby control law passed in 1973 showed 386 persons or groups want to influence legislation.

New registrations submitted Tuesday were expected to push the total over 400.

Most of the professional, veteran lobbyists filed last year during the Constitutional Convention.

Since the convention adjourned July 30, many registrations pointed toward new issues before the legis-

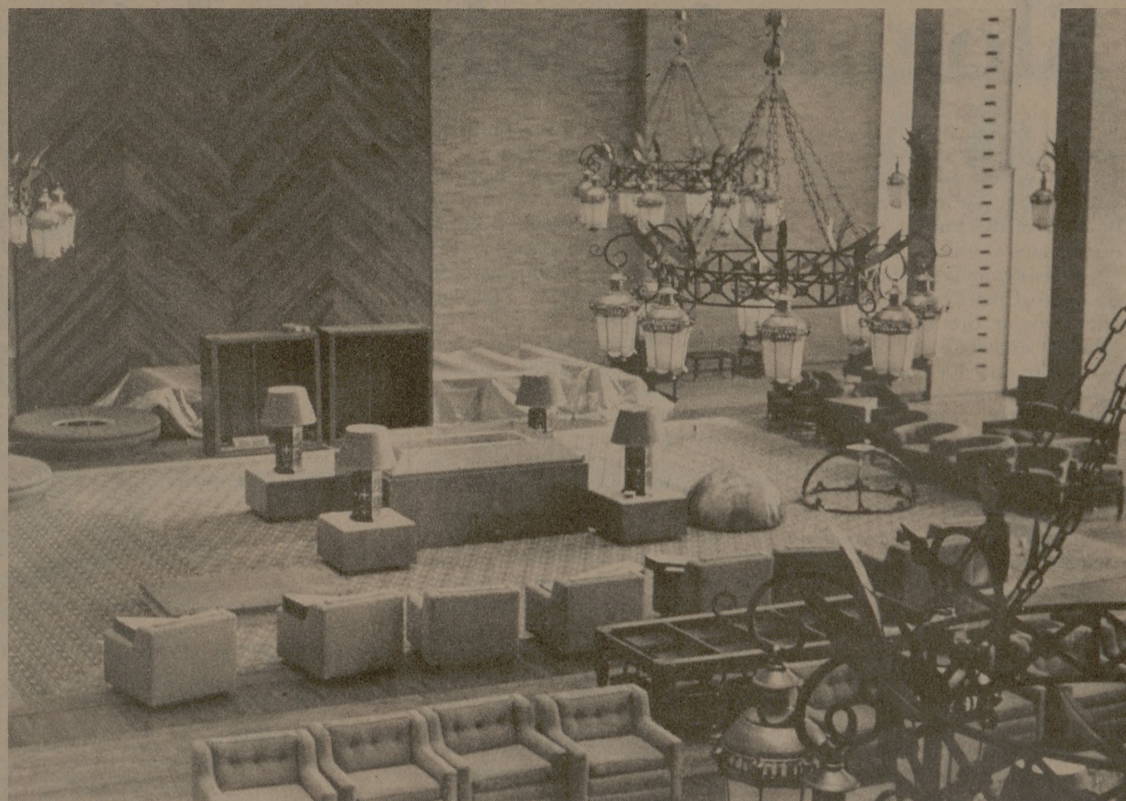
lature. Texas Electric Service Co. of Fort Worth for instance, had 18 persons registered. They said they were interested in all legislation affecting utilities, without stating a pro or con position. A major issue this session will be whether the state should have an agency to regulate public utility rates and service.

Four persons registered as lobbyists for El Paso Electric Co., saying they planned to work against a utility regulation bill.

Regulation of strip mining is another major issue before the session, and two men representing Consolidation Coal Co. of Pittsburgh, Pa., signed up as lobbyists on that subject. Neither, however, stated a pro or con position.

Another new lobbying group is Committee to Restore Women's Rights, based in San Antonio, which will work for repeal of the Texas Equal Rights Amendment as well as for rescission of the legislature's earlier ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment to the U. S. Constitution.

Four lobbyists signed up for Exxon, saying they intend to seek passage of a major consent unitization bill for oil and gas fields. It now takes virtually 100 per cent agreement among land owners and producers to operate a field as a single production unit.



Student Lounge

The new student lounge in the University Center is almost completed and ready for use.

The idea of the lounge is to give the students a nice place to meet their parents.

(Photo by David Kimmel)

# The Battalion

Money does not solve problems, ideas solve problems. And government has not had a viable idea in 40 years.—Dr. W. Philip Gramm, TAMU.

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## Clayton new house speaker as 64th legislature starts

AUSTIN, Tex. (AP) — Rep. Bill Clayton, a conservative Democrat from Springlake, was elected House speaker Tuesday as the 64th Texas Legislature began 140 days of lawmaking.

Clayton, 46, defeated liberal Rep. Carl Parker, D-Port Arthur, 112-33, with three representatives voting "present."

He immediately promised there would be no return to "the days of iron-hand rule" over the House and called for prudence in managing the state's \$1 billion treasury surplus.

Sensors, meanwhile, organized their chamber, electing Sen. Glenn Kothmann, D-San Antonio, as assistant presiding officer—and second in line of succession to the governorship—under its usual rotating seniority system.

Lt. Gov. Bill Hobby quickly named the Senate committees, returning most of the chairmen that headed them in 1973. Clayton plans to delay his appointments until after Gov. Dolph Briscoe addresses the legislature Jan. 22.

Sensors also made their first re-

cord, refusing on a 10-21 roll call vote to open to the public their secret sessions to discuss gubernatorial appointees before voting on their confirmation.

The election of Clayton was the major event of the day, for the House speaker ranks among the three most powerful men in state government.

Despite Parker's liberal credentials, including past sponsorship of consumer, environmental and corporate income tax bills, liberal votes helped Clayton defeat him. Personal conflicts, anger over some of Parker's campaign tactics and resentment at his refusal to join the "Dirty 30" coalition against then-Speaker Gus Mutscher in 1971 drained away much of Parker's potential support.

Rep. Neil Caldwell, D-Angleton, nominated Parker and fed fears that Clayton might try to rebuild the speaker's power, which was deliberately weakened in 1973 under Speaker Price Daniel Jr.

"My candidate would name the committees by Monday at the

latest, because he knows how precious time is, how much is to be done, and how, if time is made more precious by its waste, the speaker's power is enhanced by his influence on the calendar... My candidate could not, and would not, under any circumstances, suggest we enlarge the number of committees because that would enlarge the power of the speaker and subtract from the reforms of the immediate past, so bravely fought for and won," Caldwell said.

Caldwell was chairman of the House Appropriations Committee under Daniel, and is expected to lose that position under Clayton.

In his speech to the packed House and standing-room-only gallery, Clayton acknowledged there had been "much speculation... that we'll return to the days when decisions were made behind closed doors in smoke-filled rooms."

"But I stand before you today to say the days of iron-hand rule are gone. The public won't stand for it, and most of all I won't stand for it," The House applauded loudly.

He mentioned the major legislative issues of school finance, property tax reform and energy conservation.

"We also have a large surplus to zealously guard... We must weigh the priorities and then exercise prudence in handling the taxpayer's dollar," Clayton said.

Recalling a decade of feuding among the House, Senate and governor—usually involving conflicting political ambitions, Clayton promised to work closely with Briscoe and Hobby.

Briscoe already has taken a public stand on the session's biggest issue—reform of the school finance system. Most of the discussion will center on how to measure a local school district's need for state aid, and nearly all proposals say the actual market value of taxable real estate should be the only index.

Rural, oil and gas and industrial interests have long feared such a system because it potentially could force an increase in their property taxes.

## Education expenses

How do the costs of education at A&M compare with other universities? The Battalion checked with the seven Southwest Conference schools and the University of Houston this week to get a sample for comparison. Some schools had flat admission charges with no breakdown for specific uses; others had four or five fee categories. We asked for the total cost per semester for a 16-hour course load, excluding room and board.

Beginning with the most expensive, here is what we found:

RICE — \$1590 (will increase to \$1680 next fall)  
SOUTHERN METHODIST — \$1225  
TEXAS CHRISTIAN — \$1187.50  
\*TEXAS A&M — \$204  
\*TEXAS — \$202  
\*ARKANSAS — \$200  
\*HOUSTON — \$164  
\*TEXAS TECH — \$146  
\*State schools listed with in-state tuition.

## \$22.5 billion sought Ford to propose permanent tax cuts

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Ford, already seeking a one-shot \$16 billion tax reduction to counter the recession, let it be known Tuesday he will ask Congress for \$22.5 billion in additional permanent tax cuts.

And, administration sources said the President also plans to seek postponement of clean air standards for power plants to help them convert quickly from oil-burning to coal-burning boilers.

Press Secretary Ron Nessen said the proposed \$2-a-barrel tax on crude oil and taxes on windfall profits of oil companies would add some \$30 billion to federal revenues. This money, he said, would offset the income lost because of the tax reductions.

Ford will spell out his entire economic and energy policy package in his broadcast State of the Union address to Congress on Wednesday. Although Ford himself and Nessen disclosed much of the program in advance, the press secretary promised there will be other surprises in the Capitol Hill speech.

Interior Secretary Rogers C. B. Morton disclosed Tuesday that Ford's State of the Union address would include proposals to speed power plant conversions to coal.

Morton would not reveal the specific suggestion planned, but another administration source said the proposal would be to amend the clean air act, postponing for several years the power plant standards scheduled to take effect in 1975.

Ford disclosed Monday night in a TV-radio address that he will ask Congress to authorize a one-time cut of 12 per cent in last year's taxes, to be accomplished through rebates to individual tax payers of up to \$1,000. In addition he said he wants a one-year increase, to a flat 12 per cent, in the tax credits businesses claim for money spent to expand and modernize their production facilities.

Nessen made additional key disclosures Tuesday that included:

-A Ford plan to cut individual income taxes, starting this year, by \$16.5 billion, with the largest reductions going to the poorest taxpayers.

-A proposal to cut the maximum corporate tax rate to 42 per cent from 48 per cent on a permanent basis, resulting in \$6 billion revenue

loss.

-Direct federal payments of \$80 to each adult American who is so poor he pays no income taxes. This would cost an estimated \$2 billion.

-A \$2 billion annual increase in revenue sharing funds distributed to state and local governments, the increase designed to offset the higher fuel costs they would pay if Congress imposes a \$2 excise on each barrel of crude oil entering the economy from either foreign or domestic sources.

In an unusual move, Nessen volunteered statistics that showed a decidedly mixed public reaction to Ford's Monday address. In the first 14 hours after the President spoke, Nessen said, the White House received 259 telegrams, Mailgrams and telephone calls opposing Ford's economic-energy proposals and 258 in favor.

Nessen said \$80 annual payments to non-tax paying adults would go to those 18 years of age or older who are not listed as someone else's dependent for tax purposes. Such persons would get a form from the Internal Revenue Service on which they would write their name, address, Social Security number and income.

In other major economic news:

-A judge for the Federal Power Commission said he plans to order emergency relief for industries in six states where massive layoffs are threatened because of cuts in natural gas supplies.

-President Ford set in motion preparations for the United States to take part in the Tokyo round of trade negotiations with more than 100 other nations.

-The Department of Housing and Urban Development announced a two-month moratorium on mortgage foreclosures on government-subsidized low-and middle-income housing.

-U. S. Steel Corp. said it will idle 1,300 workers immediately and 500 more in the near future because of a cutback in natural gas supplies.

-The Federal Home Loan Bank Board announced a planned rule change allowing institutions to issue mortgage-backed bonds. The board said the move will pump several extra billions of dollars into savings and loan associations for lending to home buyers.

## Late registration underway

Delayed registration for spring semester study at Texas A&M University starts today.

Registrar Robert A. Lacey said it will involve fall semester students who did not preregister in September and new students, transfers

and previously-enrolled TAMU students who did not take courses last fall.

Delayed registration continues through Friday.

Spring classes start at 8 a.m. Monday, Jan. 20. About 20,500 students are expected.

Lacey said late registration will be held that week for students unable to enroll during delayed registration.

The registrar said 5,000 enrollees are expected next week. TAMU enrolled 15,500 for spring classes during fall preregistration.

### Today

#### Inside

Ags come home . . . p. 10  
Sports inflation . . . p. 12  
Pop ratings . . . . . p. 8

#### Weather

Partly cloudy and mild Wednesday with southerly winds 8-14 mph. Fog Thursday morning, becoming mostly cloudy in afternoon and warmer. High today 67°; low tonight 39°; high tomorrow 70°.



Tight squeeze

The University Center guest rooms are now completed and in use. The only problem with the rooms is that they didn't seem to leave enough space for the bathroom doors.

(Photo by Chris Svatek)

# New board members named and ready to go

Interviews by ALAN KILLINGSWORTH and JIM CRAWLEY

### JOE REYNOLDS

Houston attorney Joe H. Reynolds was reappointed by Gov. Dolph Briscoe to the TAMU Board of Directors, Friday. Reynolds was appointed to the board in 1973 to finish a two-year vacancy created by the death of Dr. A. P. Beutel.

At press time, Reynolds was in Denver working on a case for his law firm of Reynolds, White, Allen and Cook. He began practicing law in Houston in 1949 when he joined the firm of Bracewell & Tunks, in which he became a partner in 1954. He formed his current partnership in 1966.

He attended Tyler Junior College and Baylor University. He was graduated number one in his class at Baylor Law School in 1947.

Prior to moving to Houston, Reynolds worked two years in Austin for then Attorney General Price

Daniel. He also served as a special trial counsel for the attorney general's office in the late 1950s.

The 51-year-old attorney was elected a fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers in 1962, and in 1968 became a fellow in the Texas Bar Association and a patron member of the Houston Bar Association.

He also has served on the special appointed committee of the State Bar Association to promulgate and devise standards of relationships between the press and the bar and the reporting of trials.

Reynolds, who served as an officer in the Marine Corps during World War II and the Korean War, was born in Commerce, spent his early childhood in Tyler and later moved to Waco, where he was graduated from high school.

Married to the former Miss Sue

Stamper of Houston, he has two sons. He is a member of Tallowood Baptist Church and teaches a men's Bible class.

In addition to his law practice, Reynolds owns a ranch at Brenham and raises registered Quarter Horses and registered Polled Herefords.

### ALFRED I. (AL) DAVIES

One Board of Directors appointee recalled A&M college days in the early 30's and life with his former roommate, the late Gen. Earl J. Rudder, past president of A&M.

Alfred I. Davies, vice president of the Southwest Territory for Sears, said he and Rudder were inseparable and they became partners in small business affairs.

"Earl was the promoter," said Davies, "he made bookholders and then I'd sell them... I probably

made more money than anyone else on campus."

Davies, a long-time friend of Gov. Dolph Briscoe, wasn't sure why the Governor had selected him for the position. He added he should be qualified because of his experience on corporation boards.

He has been with Sears for 38 years and serves on boards of directors for a dozen corporations including Lone Star Gas and the Republic National Bank of Dallas.

He cautioned that he will try to become oriented to the problems of A&M and would not initiate any action of his own, at first.

The 1935 A&M graduate said that students should be informed of board action and that the board should ask for student opinion on various issues that the board will take action on.

As to a student on the board,

Davies said it would depend on the situation and the Governor's persuasion.

Davies emphasized that all his comments were those of a former student of A&M and a citizen of Texas and not of a director of Texas A&M.

On the issue of student-board relationships, Davies said he would listen to students and what students have to say as long as the talk is constructive and not wasteful.

Asked why the board seems to be distant from the students, Davies answered, "Former Aggies might be better informed because students are busy studying and don't have the time to keep up with board activities."

Davies said he would oppose the serving of liquor in the dorms and the dining halls, "as it would cause problems."

Concerning students evaluations of the faculty, Davies said, "Sure, as long as it's kept in context."

Davies, remembering college days at A&M, described how the school had changed. "A&M was a school that answered the needs of the generation during the depression with its military discipline."

### ROSS C. WATKINS

An eighth grade education hasn't hindered the success of Ross Watkins who was recently appointed to the Board of Directors of TAMU.

Watkins, a Uvalde bridge contractor, was appointed to the position Friday by Gov. Dolph Briscoe.

"It came as a complete surprise," Watkins said. "At first I declined the position but Gov. Briscoe convinced me to take the job."

Watkins, 55, grew up in the Depression and never had the chance to receive a formal education. Enci-

nal, Texas, where he was born, was in bad times, he said.

Briscoe set the pace for Watkins' appointment during a press conference held after the governor's return for Uvalde. The governor said he saw no need for a person to have a formal education to sit on the board of directors of a state-supported school.

Watkins has also served on the Board of Directors of the First State Bank of Uvalde and on the board of the Associated General Contractors of America.

"Certainly, I am not in a position to comment on the relationship of the board to the students," Watkins remarked. "This appointment came as a surprise and I need to become aware of the position. I am looking forward to serving the university."

Watkins will replace L. F. Peterson of Ft. Worth.