

Leaders take oaths in inaugural events

AUSTIN (AP) — Gov. Dolph Briscoe and Lt. Gov. Bill Hobby, divergent symbols of Texas prosperity in hard times, were sworn in Tuesday for four years.

Not since the early 1870s has a Texas governor served a four-year term, but the voters lifted that constitutional prohibition in 1972.

Briscoe, 51, a multimillionaire Uvalde rancher, a businessman in cowboy boots, promised in his South Texas twang that he will propose a legislative program that "will touch the lives of all Texans."

Squinting into a bright sun in a cloudless blue sky, Briscoe told a chilled crowd of 2,000 on the Capitol lawn that his proposals "will face up to the pressing problems of our times" and "will help to set our priorities for years to come."

"The leadership of Texas does have within its power a way to create a greater opportunity and better jobs for Texans, better schools for our children, greater safety and security for our families, and a better way of life for every citizen," the governor said in his 10-minute address.

Hobby, 43, an urbane Houston newspaper executive, the son of a former governor, read from a speech that he had written himself.

It stretched a minute longer than Briscoe's, even though Hobby omitted two pages, including recommendations for achieving "greater equity in taxation."

By cutting his speech short, Hobby, who preceded the governor, allowed all of Briscoe's comments to be carried on a special 30-minute local telecast.

It is the second term for both, who won easy re-election victories in November. Briscoe's salary is \$63,000 a year, while Hobby, with assets of over \$3 million, makes \$4,800—the same as a house member or senator.

Hobby said four "human rights" issues "will dominate the next two years—the rights of citizens under our state constitution; the right of a citizen to protection from franchised utility monopolies; the right of each citizen to have equal access to education and to be taxed more fairly; and the right of a citizen to be left alone."

He said Texans "need—and in my judgment overwhelming want—a commission to regulate utilities. Hobby also said he hoped the legislature would curb the "ancient evil" of invasion of privacy.

As satisfying as the "people-oriented legislation" of the past two years, said Hobby, is a new budget system which is being used "to address the monumental task of writing a two-year budget in a period of unparalleled inflation."

Chief Justice Joe Greenhill of the Texas Supreme Court administered the oaths of office as the crowd shivered in 57-degree weather, made colder by winds gusting up to 22 miles an hour.

Most of the guests had no more protection than if they had been seated on a landing strip as the wind whipped around the Capitol, popping the flags and red-and-white bunting draped on the main entrance and inaugural platform.

Mrs. Lyndon Johnson, widow of the late president, and others joined the Briscoe and Hobby families on the inaugural stand.

In the crowd were Coke Stevenson, governor from 1941 to 1947, and Allan Shivers, the chief executive in 1949-57, but Shivers deserted his outdoor seat prior to Briscoe's speech.

Stevenson, 85, supported himself with a cane as he made the rounds of the Capitol, greeting people.

Indicative of the rather hohum attitude many have toward the inaugural ceremonies was the fact that the basement lunch room was packed with diners as if nothing was happening outside.

Briscoe, Hobby and their families lined up next to a bust of Lyndon Johnson to shake hands with visitors in the Capitol rotunda after the inaugural. But all the hands had been shaken by 2 p.m., an hour earlier than anticipated, and the first families left.

Capping inaugural day, as austere as any since Korean War days, was a reception for legislators at a downtown hotel. Sen. Tati Santiesteban, D-El Paso, and his wife were host and hostess for the 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. affair.

Scientist says fuel running low

A TAMU geoscientist contends that U. S. natural-gas resources are just about gone.

Dean of Geosciences Earl Cook, in a speech Thursday entitled "There's No Fuel Like a Fossil Fuel," said corporations are investing large amounts of capital to import liquefied natural gas and to manufacture substitute gas from coal at costs 5-6 times the present price of interstate gas.

"The cost of natural-gas exhaustion will be felt not only in municipal and industrial conversion to other fuels but in the cost of food, because nitrogen fertilizer is now made almost entirely from natural-gas feedstock," Cook explained.

"Also, the amount of time remaining during which domestic crude oil will be a major part of our energy base almost surely does not exceed 25 years, and the time remaining on the world scale probably is about 50 years," he said.

"These figures set the time scale for the development and economic emplacement of substitute energy systems," Cook pointed out.

"It is naive to expect countries

which have oil to export, including Canada, to relax their attempts to capture a large share of the profits of that oil and to protect the future of their own people," he went on.

"Consequently, we probably shall continue to pay high prices for foreign oil and gas and be forced sooner or later to the economic expense of substitute systems based on domestic resources such as coal or to the social expense of doing without," Cook said.

He said, "Fortunately, we do have the capacity to develop substitutes. The U. S. has great coal and oil shale deposits, and in addition, large, low-grade uranium deposits.

Coal is the cheapest of these resources and offers the greatest range of conversion alternatives. It can be converted to a gas, a liquid, or to electricity. The gas can be low, medium, or high quality. The liquid can be methanol, ethanol, or a fluid resembling crude oil, (methanol is currently being eyed as a substitute for gasoline). The cost of the product probably will be about the same as imported liquefied natural gas."

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