Advantage: Bentsen

Page 4 THE BATTALIO Texas primary bill gets initial approval Salvation u...

AUSTIN, Tex. (AP) - A bill establishing Texas' first presidential primary and tailored to help Sen Lloyd Bentsen's campaign for chief executive won tentative House approval Wednesday, 89-57.

then go to the Senate.

pulled out Tuesday

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"I'll deny any arm twisting," Schieffer later told reporters. The bill sets out a mechanism for choosing the Texas delegations to national political party presidential

nominating conventions. The measure comes to a final House vote Thursday and would slates of delegates chosen for each state senatorial or congressional dis-Rep. Tom Schieffer, D-Fort trict on behalf of various presiden-Worth, the sponsor, had help from tial candidates who have paid a Speaker Bill Clayton and possibly \$1,000 filing fee. The candidates' from governor's aides in switching names will appear only in parenthmore than enough votes to restore eses following names of proposed - in slightly diluted form - a delegates pledged to them. If a dis-'winner-take-all" feature that was trict, say, is entitled to four delegates, then the four top vote-getters

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on the ballot will be elected to attend the national convention.

At least 75 per cent of the Texas delegation would be chosen that way. The remainder would be selected by a party's state convention

That system of delegate selection was labeled "winner-take-all" by opponents - a coalition of conservative and liberal Democrats and backers of Alabama Gov. George Wallace.

They succeeded Tuesday, 75-68, in replacing it with an amendment under which the state party convention would give each presidential candidate a share of the Texas delegation proportionate to his popular vote in the primary.

But since Tuesday afternoon, enough votes switched to restore winner-take-all," which presumably would give Bentsen close to the entire Texas delegation to the Democratic convention. The crucial vote was 80-66 against

sured Congress to act quickly on the

The indication came in a wide-

ranging news conference as Ford

wrapped up two days of public ap-

pearances in Florida designed to

promote his economic and energy proposals. The President stopped short of

saying flatly he was ready to go

economic stimulant.

stimulant .

he called a "compromise.

Changing sides on that key decision were Reps. Mel Chavez, D-Harlingen; A. C. Garcia, D-Pharr; Bob Hendricks, D-McKinney; Al Korioth, R-Dallas; Greg Montoya, D-Elsa; Wayne Peveto, D-Orange; Richard Reynolds, R-Richardson; Chris Semos, D-Dallas; W. C. Sherman, D-Fort Worth; Ruben Torres, D-Port Isabel; and John Whitmire,

D-Houston. Schieffer, brother of CBS television newsman Bob Schieffer, denied that selection of district delegates would be on a "winner-takeall" basis, similar to the unit rule that has been outlawed in Democratic Party affairs.

"It is possible, it is probable, it is going to happen that you elect dele-gates pledged to different presidential candidates out of the same districts," he said.

tabling Schieffer's substitute, which by a presidential candidate's district committee, might be concerned some representatives.

Rep. G. J. Sutton, D-San An-tonio, a black, declared that he favored Schieffer's bill because it 'gives black people more representation. It enables black people to speak for themselves rather than have other people speak for them as they have through the years under the old convention system."

But Rep. Mickey Leland, D-Houston, replied, "It would allow highly visible black people to participate - those who speak for Sen. Bentsen would be allowed to speak for black people.

Rep. Neil Caldwell, D-Angleton, said the people were being denied a sense of participation by not getting to vote directly on a candidate.

"The people think that all too often games are played with them. On this issue, it will be interpreted ricts," he said. Just who those delegates, chosen for the powerful," he said.

their country, to the degree that we

sion to prod Congress again for ac-

FOR RENT

Rep. John Wilson, D-LaGrange said he was tired of the "anarchy" of

state Democratic conventions since the party began trying to divide delegations according to presidential preference. He said the system proposed by Schieffer's bill is similar to that of California, Pennsylvania, Florida, New York and Ohio. "In every place that Mr. Wilson

mentioned a primary, it turned out bad, it turned out winner-take-all and nominated an extremist at one end of the party," said Rep. Joe Pentony, D-Houston.

warned of a delegate challenge and bad publicity that might harm, rather than help, Bentsen's candidacy.

"I'm telling you, you are being watched. When you vote for this, there are going to be national headlines about the Texas Legislature going back to John Connally-type politics," Mattox said.

Rep. Jim Mattox, D-Dallas,

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Ford willing to go higher cated he is ready to work out a com-

promise energy program with the Democratic-controlled Congress. can, I think we ought to expand freedom around the world," Ford 'What we need is a plan that the Many of the news conference

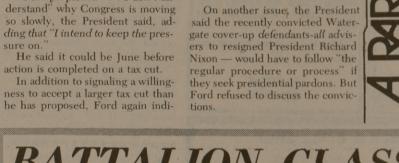
questions centered on the economy, and Ford used the occafully, negotiate," he said.

ate with .

Democrats can agree on . . . and then we can sit down and, hope-"I am willing to cooperate, but we have to have something to cooper-

said the recently convicted Watergate cover-up defendants-all advisers to resigned President Richard Nixon - would have to follow "the regular procedure or process" if they seek presidential pardons. But Ford refused to discuss the convic-

"I am perplexed . . . I don't un-



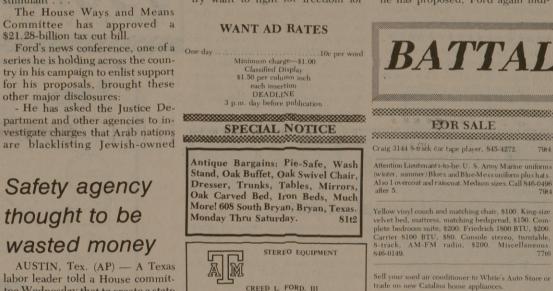


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said.

HOLLYWOOD, Fla, (AP) firms. "Such discrimination is to-President Ford signaled a willingtally contrary to the American tradition and repugnant to American principles," he declared. ness Wednesday to accept a tax cut larger than the \$16.5-billion reduction he has proposed, and he pres-- The situation in Cambodia is

'extremely critical" and the Cambodian army will soon run out of ammunition unless there is additional U.S. military aid, Ford said. government can survive for several

He defended U.S. arms sales, terming them necessary to maintain

areas of the world.

partment and other agencies to investigate charges that Arab nations are blacklisting Jewish-owned

Safety agency thought to be

wasted money

labor leader told a House committee Wednesday that to create a state agency to overlook occupational safety would be a waste of taxpayers' money.

Harry Hubbard, president of the

tion on his tax cut plan as well as his But he added that if the Lon Nol energy proposals. months "there is a possibility of negotiations that might end the war sure on.

beyond the tax cut he proposed. But he said, "I simply would hope that proper military balance in many the Congress would act so we could find out whether that is enough

- ". . . I think if people in a country want to fight for freedom for

