

House to consider new county court

A bill creating a new County Court at Law for Brazos County will be considered by the Texas House this week. The bill recently passed the House Committee on Judicial Affairs.

If approved, the new court at law would not be created until January 1, 1977, said State Representative Bill Presnal. He added that Brazos County by 1977 would have a definite need for a court of this kind. He said the new court will alleviate

"growing pains" that Brazos County will experience in the future.

The Constitutional County Court will still exist, explained Presnal, and will cope with probate, administrative, guardianship and mental illness proceedings. The proposed court at law will have concurrent jurisdiction with the County Court and the District Court. They will be dealing with juvenile and civil cases between \$500 and \$10,000.

'Kill, kill'

House defeats gasoline price display bill

AUSTIN (AP) — Some representatives jovially shouted "kill, kill," Tuesday as the House defeated a bill to make it easier for motorists to price shop for gasoline.

The House, which had tentatively approved it Friday on a voice vote, killed the bill, 67-74.

The measure would have required service stations to post signs, visible from the street or highway, giving their prices for various grades of gasoline.

"I think it is time we got a semblance of competition in the marketplace concerning gasoline. That is all this bill does," said Rep. Ronald Coleman, D-El Paso, the sponsor.

Rep. Camm Lary, D-Burnet, objected that many stations on interstate highways were hundreds of feet from the thoroughfare and, besides, prices already are posted on gas pumps.

"The most time a person loses when he drives in and looks at the pump is 30 seconds," Lary said.

"It seems to me the public ought to have the right to know how much they would have to pay for gasoline before they pull in to the pump," Coleman replied.

Evidently in a bill-killing mood as they returned from a four-day Easter break, the House also tabled, 79-61, a bill by Rep. Dave Finney, D-Fort Worth, making Texas part of a Southern Growth Policies Board.

The board, consisting of five representatives from each participating state, would make studies and recommendations on projects of interstate significance.

Rep. Bill Hollowell, D-Grand Saline, led the opposition, saying Texas' contribution would subsidize other southern member states which, in turn, could out-vote Texas' delegation.

"I don't know whether this bill should be named the Little Southern U.N. bill or the Dave Finney Confederacy bill," Hollowell said.

... Texas is going to be the sugar daddy and pick up most of the bill and subject ourselves to the domination of small rural southern states."

Finney replied that Texas' share of the annual budget would be \$34,000 — "this is not going to bankrupt anybody."

The House passed to the Senate a bill requiring prosecutors to be more specific in criminal indictments, citing the exact provision of the Penal Code that allegedly had been violated.

Representatives tentatively approved bills that would:

— Allow cities to reduce speed limits on streets under repair without the normally required public hearing.

— Give firemen and policemen credit for out of state service toward the five years' experience required before they can qualify to be a chief.

— Enable state colleges and universities to permit persons over 65 to audit courses without charge if space is available.

Guru's mother denounces Ji as a 'playboy'

NEW DELHI, India (AP) — The mother of Guru Maharaj Ji, the 17-year-old Indian religious leader now living in the United States with an American wife, renounced her son Tuesday and accused him of being a playboy instead of a holy man.

In a signed statement, his mother declared she was removing her son as spiritual leader of the Divine Light Mission and no longer recognized him as the "perfect master," as he is known to his followers.

Known as Shri Mataji, or holy mother, she said her son, "under the instigation of certain bad elements in the United States Divine Light Mission, has continuously disrespected my will by adopting a despicable, nonspiritual way of life."

Susan Butcher, a 30-year-old Canadian devotee of the Divine Light Movement, said the Guru's relatives in India were upset with the way Maharaj Ji was living in the United States.

"He has not been practicing what he has been preaching," said Miss Butcher, who became a devotee of the Guru when he visited Toronto in 1971. Speaking in behalf of the Guru's mother, Miss Butcher said, "He has always preached and recommended his devotees to live a life of vegetarianism, celibacy and abstaining from alcohol and all excessive forms of materialism. Now he himself is indulging and encouraging his devotees to eat meat, to get married and have sexual relations and to drink. He's not living a spiritual life. He's being a playboy."

The guru married his American secretary last May. They had their first child, a daughter named Prem Lata, meaning Vine of Love, last month.

The American Divine Light Mission is headquartered in Denver, Colorado, but the Guru and his 26-year-old wife were last reported living in a mansion in Malibu, California.

Jobs open in England

Students are being sought to help in archaeological excavations in England this summer. Prehistoric graves, Iron-age settlements, Roman villas, and medieval relics are threatened by city center redevelopment, road programs and new land use.

Students with previous experience may join an international team working at the neolithic flint mines in Grimes Graves in Norfolk. They will receive free board and lodging.

Those without experience may join the British Archaeology Seminar at Lincoln College, Oxford and receive six academic credits. The program will end with three weeks on digs in England and Scotland. It is organized by the Association for Cultural Exchange.

Applications deadline is May 15. More information is available from Ian Lowson, 539 W. 112 St., New York, N.Y. 10025.

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