

# Federal aid to Texas has tripled since 1966

AUSTIN — Comptroller Bob Bullock said an analysis done by his office shows that federal aid to Texas state and local governments has more than tripled since 1966, but Texans still get back only 82 cents for every dollar they pay in income taxes that are appropriated to federal aid programs.

Bullock said the analysis lists 41 states that get better returns on their income-tax dollars.

However, he pointed out, Texas government alone has already received \$1.5 billion in federal funds during the first ten months of the current fiscal year — representing about 30 per cent of all state revenues.

The analysis of federal aid is part of the comptroller's June financial statement.

The monthly financial statement shows that June's expenditures of \$403.5 million brought state expenditures through the first ten months of fiscal 1976 to more than \$5.3 billion, 17 per cent higher than during the same period in fiscal 1975.

State revenues, meanwhile, also total \$5.3 billion through June, \$660 million more than during the same period in fiscal 1975, an increase of 11 per cent.

# Gulf affected Scientists track organic pollutants

Texas A&M University scientists are tracking possible pollutants as they work their way to the Gulf of Mexico and into the marine environment.

Dr. C. S. Giam, professor of chemistry and oceanography, is the principal investigator of the two projects funded by the National Science Foundation's office of International Decade of Ocean Exploration. The two one-year grants total \$153,730.

One of the new projects is on pollutant transfer processes in which Dr. E. Atlas and Dr. H. S. Chan will be research fellows. The second grant is for a continuation of a project entitled "Phthalates and Chlorinated Hydrocarbons Effects on Marine Biota" with co-investigator J. M. Neff, professor of biology, and research fellow, Dr. T. E. Goodwin.

Our particular interest involves two aspects," said Giam. "First is an investigation of the processes by which some organic pollutants are transported from land to the Gulf of Mexico and, secondly, we want to look at the biological effects of these pollutants on marine organisms like shrimp, crab and fish.

We will provide an estimate of the flow of pollutants, in this case, to the Gulf," he added. "The pollutants of immediate interest are phthalates (plasticizer compounds which make plastic pliable) and another common class of pollutants, chlorinated hydrocarbons which included PCB's (polychlorinated biphenyls) and the DDT family.

The second project will try to look at the biological impact of pollutants on marine life, including larval development in shrimp and crabs," Neff said. "Also, we'll note accumulation and metabolism of these compounds by marine organisms in addition to fat metabolism of fish.

There are indications that these compounds we're looking at are toxic to fresh-water organisms; however, their effects on marine organisms haven't been established," Giam said. "We want to know if there is or there isn't a deleterious effect.

The results of the investigation may be applied to other organic materials with similar characteristics," he said.

Last month Giam and Neff organized the International Conference to Evaluate the Biological Effects of Pollutants on Marine Organisms which was also sponsored by the NSF and held at Texas A&M.

Topics included reports on the effects of organic pollutants (petroleum hydrocarbons, industrial chemicals such as polychlorinated aromatics, phthalate plasticizers, vinylchloride and by-products) and trace metals on physiological, biochemical, behavioral, chemical and other toxicological aspects of test organisms.

# Top scientists hold seminar

A Texas A&M University oceanographer is among more than 60 of the world's top scientists conducting the First International Conference on Living Resources of the Southern Ocean.

The meeting, which began yesterday, is being held at the National Academy of Sciences Summer Studies Center in Woods Hole, Mass., with Dr. Sayed Z. El-Sayed, professor of oceanography at Texas A&M, as convener.

"The objective of this conference is to review the status of knowledge regarding the living resources of the Antarctic, such as krill, squid, king crab, lobster, seals and whales," explained Dr. El-Sayed.

The conference also will include discussions of the proposals and recommendations regarding a coordinated, international biological investigation of the Southern Ocean (all Antarctic waters south of 40 degrees latitude) which will be presented by the Group of Specialists on Living Resources of the Southern Ocean, which El-Sayed heads.

"This is the first symposium of its kind concerned with the regulation of the great resources of the Southern Ocean," he said. "But, the issue has become so urgent it can no longer be held in abeyance. We've got to try to get some agreement on measures to rationalize and conserve the resources in the Antarctic region. Already oil exploration and fishing exploitation has begun and their impact on the whole ecosystem should be carefully monitored."

The conference is held under the auspices of the U.S. National Academy of Sciences and is being sponsored by the Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research (SCAR) and Scientific Committee on Ocean Research (SCOR) of the International Council of Scientific Unions.

The invited scientists come from Argentina, Australia, Canada, Chile, France, Federal Republic of Germany, Japan, New Zealand, Poland, South Africa, United Kingdom, U.S.A. and Russia. Governmental and non-governmental organizations such as the International Oceanographic Commission (IOC), International Whaling Commission (IWC), and Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) will be sending delegates to that conference.

The legal and international aspects of exploiting these resources will also be discussed at the conference. Participants will split into several working parties. Each will provide a summary of the discussions and the recommendations which took place during their sessions.

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