Barely done ts not raised by penny on dollar segregation plan involves busing about 5,000 students, with more than 2,300 being bused specifically

ASHINGTON - School deegation in Corpus Christi, Tex., led to a "grueling legal battle" resulted in virtually no violence ption, according to the U.S. Rights Commission.

a report issued Tuesday, the mission concluded that in the Coast city "a recalcitrant school inistration and lack of strong ership at the community level severely restricted the benefits segregated education." report, whose general find-were critical of President Ford

nembers of Congress for atting to curb court-ordered busew out of a 10-month study of desegregation throughout the

egal efforts to desegregate public pols in Corpus Christi date back 968 and the school system has under federal court desegregaorders since 1971. Up to now esegregation measures have only partially implemented. hroughout the entire legal prodings up to the present, the sol administration has opposed According to the report, the number regregation," the civil rights school system's current partial de-

It noted that this opposition ex-tended to efforts to block the commission from obtaining information about desegregation progress in the school system

"The superintendent refused to permit commission staff to interview administrators or teachers," the report said, adding that the superintendent also refused to testify or allow his staff to testify at an open meeting of the commission's Texas advisory committee.

However, the report said that "despite the negative quality of Cor-pus Christi's educational leadership, there has been almost total absence of violence or disorder during the district's limited desegregation ef-

It said this was "due, in large part," to the efforts of the business and religious community in Corpus Christi. The media also played an important role in keeping the community in-formed. The local newspaper, the Corpus Christi Caller-Times, provided excellent coverage.

number of Spanish-speaking stu-

More school funding

AUSTIN — A penny per dollar increase in the sales tax is most often suggested as the way to finance bigger state spending on public schools, the chairman of a House committee said Tuesday. mated that effective desegregation of

Rep. Tom Massey, D-San Angelo, said such an increase — unaccept-able under Gov. Dolph Briscoe's no new taxes edict — would raise \$945 million over the next two state fiscal

Massey told his House Committee on Alternatives to Public School Financing that the next most frequently suggested tax possibility is a penny increase in the four per cent motor vehicle sales tax, good for \$145 million per biennium.

The committee is seeking alterna-tives to the present school finance

system that relies heavily on local property taxes plus state aid. Massey and other committee

members have indicated they favor full state financing, with mandatory reductions in local property taxes. Prospects for a major increase in state funding, however, would dim if the legislature adopts Briscoe's plan to increase highway spending by \$825 million.

Public schools, Massey said, have just as much claim on those funds in the treasury as anyone else. It is the bill that gets passed first that will get the funds. I'm not saying there will be a big contest for the funds, but all the leadership is concerned with more funds for public education, and that's as high a priority as we have in state government.

THE BATTALION Page 5A

Aggie scooter gets second

Texas A&M students as a design team won second place honors in a national competition sponsored by the American Society for Engineering Education.

The competition was a summer event at the University of Tennes-

On the A&M team were Dawn Wakefield, William B. Ledbetter and Prasart Hothamrat of College Station; Robert G. Campos, El Paso Dan C. Sicking, Muenster; David C. Thomas, Brenham, and George A. Turk Jr., Lufkin.

Wakefield and Ledbetter captained the team on design of an astronaut mobility unit. They call it the Aggie scooter.

Designed as a team project for Engineering Design Graphics 106, the Aggie scooter is a device to provide for astronaut maneuverability on extra-vehicular activities during space shuttle experiments. The scooter would operate much like a "flying chair.

Each member of the design team will receive second-place certificates from the ASEE contest committee.

Faculty sponsor of the team was Dr. Robert A. Wilke of the Engineering Design Graphics Department.

Two other Texas A&M student teams received honorable mentions in the competition.

)ouglas Sundaes Etc

ipelining coal may aid rail labor

OUSTON — U.S. Rep. Bob hardt said Tuesday he believes oad labor has been misinformed ut coal slurry pipelines. he Houston Democrat said rail-

oppose granting eminent dopowers to such pipelines beailroads hold a near monopoly nsporting coal.

ually, the pipelines would in-railroad labor for the short to and from the slurry lines," rdt said. "And they boost ement in steel manufacturing and

Eckhardt was the keynote speaker at the first annual meeting of the Slurry Transport Association and told the group he believes an emi-nent domain bill he is sponsoring will be approved by the end of the first half of the next Congress.

'The bill was tabled by a 19-21 committee vote this year but I be-

lieve we will get it through next time," he said. At least five slurry pipelines have been proposed for movement of coal from western states to utilities in the

"But railroads crisscross the coun-try like cobwebs," Eckhardt said. 'Slurry lines must cross the railroads but can't do so without the power of

for desegregation purposes. By con-trast, a 1971 court order had esti-

the Corpus Christi schools would

require busing about 15,000 stu-

As of December 1975, the report said, the district's student enroll-

ment was 57 per cent Mexican-

American, 6 per cent black and 37

The breakdown for the city's over-all population of some 25,000 is 41 per cent Mexican-American, 5

per cent black and 53 per cent white.

The commission said the Corpus Christi schools face a "critical short-age" of minority faculty members.

While two-thirds of the district's en-

rollment is of minority background,

minorities comprise less than one

third of its teachers, the report said.

Also, the commission found that

the system lacks adequate programs

for bilingual and bicultural instruc-

tion to handle the needs of its large

dents.

per cent white.

Eckhardt said the use of natural gas to fuel utility plant boilers must be phased out because gas supplies are dwindling. He said there will be less gas in the future for intrastate consumption and that top priority for such supplies will go to residences and petrochemical plants.

south, southwest, and Pacific northpipeline

eminent domain.

"There is plenty of coal to be hauled both by rail and by slurry



SPEIDEL WATCH BANDS

DESK SETS

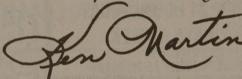
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