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Williams calls it 'stupid journalism'

Clayton says Texas Monthly article 'pathetic', that Presnal works hard

By **RUSTY CAWLEY**
Battalion Staff

The speaker of the Texas House Representatives calls it "pathetic journalism." The director of the Texas Agricultural Extension Service says it is "highly inaccurate."

"I wish these writers had to follow these men around all day just to see how hard they work," Clayton said. The article said Clayton was "dismayed" by Presnal's "abdication of responsibility." Clayton said he was dismayed not by Presnal, but by the appropriations committee Presnal chaired.

"Bill Presnal was for the same thing I was, to keep the state budget down," Clayton said. "He did all he could, but the votes stacked against him. Just because he's the chairman that doesn't mean he can tell other members how to vote."

Rumors that Presnal will not be asked to return as chairman in the next regular session are false, Clayton said. "I haven't given it any thought. I've made it a point not to," Clayton said. "Any source close to me would have to give such information to the press of his own volition. They would have to guess what I was thinking."

Governor Dolph Briscoe passed the appropriations bill without a single item veto, the first time that has happened in the history of the Texas legislature. Clayton said it was "history making." "It just shows what a really good bill Presnal was able to produce once it got out of committee," Clayton said. Charles D. Travis, director of the governor's budget and planning office, agreed the bill is a good one. "We thought it was a good bill,"

Travis said. "It met the essential needs of the state for the next two years."

"I don't see any pork-barreling in it," Travis said. "I know of no other state where the budget is reviewed so closely."

Jack K. Williams, chancellor of the Texas A&M University System, called the Texas Monthly article "stupid journalism."

"I resent the implication that Bill Presnal did anything special, illegal or wrong in what he did for Texas A&M University," Williams said. "Our operation has not profited any more from his position as appropriations chairman than before he was appointed."

To say he worked is accurate. To say he succeeded is accurate. But there is no truth to the implication that Bill Presnal did anything wrong in helping Texas A&M University and the Texas A&M University System.

The director of the Texas Agricultural Extension Service, Dr. Daniel C. Pfannstiel, said his organization received none of the pork-barrel money Texas Monthly claims Presnal carted away for the Texas A&M system.

"By no means did we receive all the money we asked for," Pfannstiel said. "We didn't get everything we needed or wanted. But things could always be worse."

Dr. Paul Kramer, director of the Texas Forest Service, said the same was true for his agency. "We haven't received enough to do the job," Kramer said. Pfannstiel said he believes the Texas Monthly article was simply a play ploy to attract readership.

"We've worked with most of the men on the lists, on both extremes," Pfannstiel said. "Some weren't as good as they said and others weren't as bad."

"But I guess it's a catchy title, saying you've chosen the 'Ten Worst and the Ten Best.'"

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Belton, Tex. is again geared up for its day-long July Fourth celebration at Yettie Polk Park. An annual event since 1852 when the town was 15 years old, Belton has many festivities planned for an old-fashioned Independence Day celebration. A parade starts the fun July 1 and continues on the 2 and 4. The 100th Anniversary Contest begins at 1:30 p.m. on July 4. Square dancing and country-western music will begin at 7:00 a.m. Monday. An arts and crafts fair and an antique car show will be under the shade trees in the park. Covered wagon rides for the young and old alike will be offered.

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