Hill vows to cut spending

John Hill, saying Texans want to be assured state money is not being assured state money is not being wasted, announced Tuesday he has hired unsuccessful treasurer candidate Harry Ledbetter as a budget analyst for his campaign staff.

Hill, the Democratic nominee for governor, said Ledbetter's position is part of a major program to search out waste in state agency spending in preparation for presentation of a proposed budget to the 1979 Legislature if Hill is elected in

"What the people want to be assured of is that we're making the

United Press International
AUSTIN — Attorney General
shn Hill, saying Texans want to be
travels made it clear to me that the proposals in the Legislature.

wasting any dollars," Hill told a news conference. "My campaign travels made it clear to me that the proposals in the Legislature. number one concern, and they benation in assuring that tax dollars are spent carefully and effectively."

self to become a full partner with the Legislature in the budget writ-

hest use of our dollars and we're not Clements in the general election, for others.

proposals in the Legislature.

number one concern, and they believe government is a major contributor to that problem. I want to help Texas set an example for the foundation. I will not hesitate to go to the public on my budget recommendations if necessary

"No governor of Texas ever began preparing to this extent, this far in advance of taking office, to arm himsuch goal in his budget studies. He said a budget analysis could result in ing process," Hill said.

Hill, who faces Republican Bill a reduction of personnel for some agencies, and increases in personnel

'As a county as a whole, it was a

Robert O'Donald, 47, who farms

320 acres six and a half miles west of

"They say that in this area, one extreme of the climate follows another," he said. "We've had ex-

treme drought. I guess we can ex-

pect the other extreme. We were

Livestock losses were expected to run high, but Robinson said at least half the animals thought dead are

the livestock that were missing.

Livestock are instinctive beings. They know for the most part to get

out of trouble if there's a way they

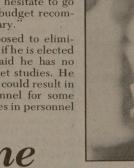
Most of them were just lost," he

"We expect to recover most of

town, lost his wheat crop.

being found alive.

million-dollar rain. In particular



Battalion photo by Lee Roy Leschper Jr Attorney General John Hill talks with Brazos Valley supporters at a local press conference and reception held before the Democratic

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Sketchy voter turnout expected for election

The Railroad Commission race between John Poerner and Jerry Sadler apparently has failed to stir voter interest in most parts of Texas, but half a dozen heated congressional races may produce heavy turnouts in isolated areas for Saturday's runoff election.

The battle between Poerner and Sadler is the only statewide contest on the ballot in the Democratic primary. There are no statewide Republican runoffs, and only one GOP congressional race — a contest between George Bush of Midland and former Odessa Mayor Jim Reese for the party's nomination for the congressional seat being vacated the retirement of Rep. George Mahon of Lubbock

The featured congressional race on the Democratic ballot will be the bid of state Rep. Joe Wyatt of Victoria to oust veteran Rep. John Young of Corpus Christi.

In other runoffs on the Demo-cratic ballot, Ron Godbey and Phil Gramm are competing for the Democratic nomination to the place being vacated by retirement of Rep. Olin Teague; Lane Denton of Waco and Marvin Leath of Marlin are battling to succeed retiring Rep. W.R. Poage, A.L. Rhodes of Abilene and Charles Stenholm of Stamford are competing for the party nomination in the district now represented by Rep. Omar Burleson, and state Reps. Anthony Hall and Mickey Leland are seeking the seat being vacated by Rep. Barbara

Heavy rainfall saves some farmers, dooms others

farmers, the heavy rains and hail dle flatlands were devasting. To others, it was a "million dollar rain" that once in your life you've got to put up with," he said.

"I believe this is the worst I've ever seen it at one time," said Bill Hicks, who has farmed 40 years in Umbarger, Tex. "I had wheat and I had the sugar beets in, and they (the storms) just wiped them all out."

The usually arid region received nore than five inches of rain Friday and Saturday, producing a flash flood that swept down the Prairie Dog Town Fork of the Red River, demolishing homes and stranding campers in Palo Duro Canyon State

Hicks, 64, estimated he lost soil could have absorbed it. This nearly \$50,000 in the violent certainly isn't all (the moisture) weather, which dumped hail 6 we're going to need. We'll still be

re've had hail loss before, but conditions we've experienced in the last two years," said Robinson. not this bad. We just don't have anything left. I'm not going to get that pounded the parched Panhan-up and leave. I'm going to stay here areas, it was a devasting rain," he said. and farm. It's one of those things

> The worst farm damage was suf-fered in an 8-mile area west of town that the storm hovered over, said County Agent Bob Robinson. He said some growers may reduce the loss of wheat, corn and sugar beet crops by planting grain sorghum. Predictions of wheat yield in the county were already down because

> of lack of moisture. 'If you're talking about Randall County as a whole, the benefits (of the rain) will certainly outweigh the losses. It would have been great if it came in a slower manner where the paying the price for the drought like

can get out," he said.

But the 10 head of cattle belonging to Hicks were found dead. He had an autopsy performed.
"The cattle didn't drown," he

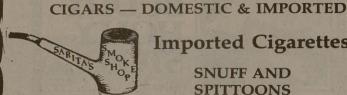
said. "The only thing I can figure out is that they were all in one bunch and a bolt of lightning hit

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School districts not easing tax burden on taxpayers

AUSTIN — Texas schools spent nearly twice as much as the Legislature provided in increased state aid this year and forced local property owners to pay the difference, the Texas Research League reported

The Research League's annual report on school expenditures indicates only one in seven districts used the additional state aid to reduce tax burdens on local property owners — one of legislators' main goals in appropriating nearly \$1 bil-lion in additional state funds for

School tax bills went up for nearly 90 percent of the taxable property in

the state. Despite a letter from the speaker of the Texas House of Representaurging reductions in local school districts from local property taxes, the total levy was increased by \$148 million, "the privately-funded research group reported. "Only 158 of the 1,080 districts actually and analyzers reported." tives to each school board president 1,080 districts actually reduced analyzers reported.

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And the districts which did lower

taxes did not necessarily reduce

levies as much as legislators con-

increased state aid to local schools by \$446 million, or 28.4 percent," the league reported. "The 1,080 local school districts responded by increasing school budgets by \$836 million, of which \$470 million went for higher current operating ex-

The Research League said the additional aid only slightly slowed the increased taxes property owners are required to pay to support

Blue Bonnet Patch

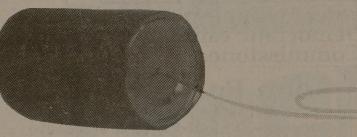
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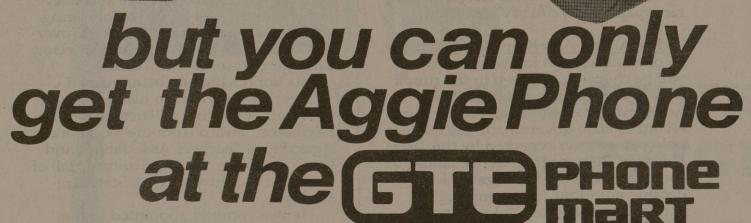
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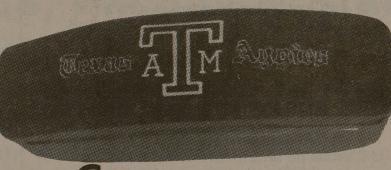
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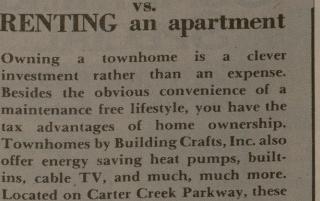
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