

# Success of taxpayers' revolt results in promises to reduce taxes in Texas

United Press International  
AUSTIN — The success of a California taxpayers' revolt in placing drastic restrictions on property taxes there Wednesday resulted in promises from Texas gubernatorial candidates to reduce taxes here.

Democratic candidate John Hill said he would push for property tax

relief while Republican Bill Clements recommended Texas go even further than Californians have.

"I don't think Proposition 13 is really complete," Clements said. "I think we need iron-clad limitations on taxation and the growth of government spending. It is time for a full scale holy war on taxes."

Hill said California's overwhelming vote would aid his proposals for tax relief, but indicated he did not believe such extreme measures were needed in Texas.

He said in the coming week he would urge Lt. Gov. William Hobby and Speaker Bill Clayton to expand a legislative study on property taxes to consider methods to limit property taxes.

"The California vote confirms what I found in my campaigning during the last five months — that property owners feel they're being victimized by endless increases in taxes," Hill said. "It's obvious we need to put in our property tax laws some safeguard against the overuse of property taxes we saw in California."

He said he would ask the Legislature to guarantee elderly homeowners tax exemptions for the first \$5,000 value, expand exemptions from inheritance taxes, allow agricultural land to be assessed on its productive capability rather than market value and provide additional state money to offset the need for local school taxes.

Hill said he wants to see the impact of the California tax limit and study prospects for Texas before taking a position on an absolute limit on taxes.

"The concept of proposition 13 is

appealing and one that I want to pursue," Hill said. "But we don't have the severity of problem that they had in California."

Clements said a constitutional amendment to limit Texas taxation and spending was needed.

Other Republican leaders joined

him in hailing the California vote and calling for a similar tax ceiling in Texas.

GOP state chairman Ray Barnhart called the California tax limit a momentous event for the average American's struggle against big government.

## Bullock says ceiling would cut bills

United Press International  
AUSTIN — A tax ceiling similar to the limit approved by California voters Tuesday would cut Dallas and Houston residents' tax bills in half, Comptroller Bob Bullock said Wednesday.

Bullock released an analysis by his staff indicating the California tax limit plan would reduce tax revenue in Texas \$1 billion to \$5 billion.

Such a ceiling would cost schools, cities, counties and special districts in the state's five largest counties \$700 million a year, Assistant Comptroller Walt Lillie estimated.

"A 2 percent limitation on annual increases (in assessments) would cause even more severe tax reduc-

tions in the year ahead," Lillie said. Lillie said combined taxes imposed by schools, cities, counties and special districts total about 2 percent of the market value of all property in Harris and Dallas counties and exceed 1 percent in Tarrant, Bexar and Travis counties.

"Proposition 13 would have its greatest impact in urban areas where taxpayers are subject to high city tax levies and in areas such as South Texas where low market values have forced the imposition of high tax rates," Lillie said. "Many rural counties have combined county-school tax rates well below 1 percent of market value and would not be affected."

## Gramm favors Proposition 13

United Press International  
COLLEGE STATION — Democratic congressional candidate Phil Gramm said Wednesday California's Proposition 13 — despite being poorly conceived and potentially discouraging to real estate sales — might be copied in Texas.

"If it can happen there you can bet your life it can happen here," Gramm said of the passage Tuesday of the tax-limiting initiative.

Gramm, a Texas A&M economist for 11 years and winner of the Democratic primary runoff for the 6th District, said tax reform was needed at the state and federal levels, primarily to enable middle income families to deal with inflation.

"I believe that the important

thing about the tax revolt in California and throughout the country is that it's not coming from rich people," Gramm said. "Primarily the ranks of the tax revolt are made up of middle-income people who were paying as much in social security taxes as income taxes and who also face very high property taxes in their state."

"Our governments are now taking 40 cents out of every dollar of income. Government spending at all levels has grown so rapidly in the last 10 years that the average American worker is no better off today than he was 10 years ago in terms of his after-tax purchasing power."

## 'His record is appalling'

# Krueger says Tower 'embarrassment' to Texans

United Press International  
AUSTIN — Rep. Bob Krueger, D-Texas, Wednesday accused his opponent in the November elec-

tion, Sen. John Tower, R-Texas, of being an embarrassment to Texans and of perpetually appealing to people's fears.

At a news conference following a meeting with Mexican-American precinct coordinators, Krueger said Tower's 17½ years "of negation and fear" was already too much for Texas.

"His record is absolutely appalling," said the congressman from

New Braunfels. "I think people would like to put that record behind."

Krueger said Tower's record on minority affairs reflected the senior Texas senator's disrespect for the individual rights of millions of Texans.

The Democratic U.S. Senate nominee assailed Tower for voting against the Civil Rights Act of 1964, a law guaranteeing minority Americans access to public restaurants, motels and swimming pools.

"John Tower didn't respect the people of this state enough to vote for it," said Krueger. "He said the law was unconstitutional."

Krueger also said Tower opposed abolition of the poll tax in 1962, was the only senator in 1963 to speak against a package of bills designed to help migrant workers; voted against the Voting Rights Act of 1965, voted against the Fair Housing Act of 1968; and opposed in 1975 extension of the Voting Rights Act.

"John Tower's record in the area of protecting individual rights is based on prejudice and fear and appeals to our worst instincts," said the two-term congressman. "Texas can never enjoy the full position of national leadership to which it is entitled so long as divisiveness and negation characterize the record of one of its senators."

"The essence of leadership is to unite. But he (Tower) is the voice of fear and obstruction."

Krueger said he would probably not attempt to equal Tower's campaign chest.

## Interior Dept. seeks funds to buy Palmetto Reservoir

United Press International  
HOUSTON — The Interior Department will seek funds to buy part of the Palmetto Bend Reservoir project for a wildlife refuge, a federal official said.

In a letter to the Texas Public Interest Research Group, Interior Department Deputy Undersecretary Barbara Heller said wildlife refuge acquisition funds and more construction appropriations would be sought by her department for the project, which is 80 percent completed.

The wildlife refuge would be located on a stretch of the lower Navidad River between Edna and Matagorda Bay. The project has been opposed by Gov. Dolph Bris-

coe, the Texas Water Development Board, the Jackson County Commissioners Court and the Lavaca-Navidad River Authority as damaging to the economy of the area.

Until the recent decision by Interior Secretary Cecil D. Andrus to seek federal funds for the project, the department has been against financing the project with public funds.

Heller said local project sponsors would not have to reimburse the federal government for any congressional funding. Any such appropriation has to be approved by the Office of Management and Budget before it can be submitted to Congress.



Battalion photo by Pat O...

## What a way to go

The long walk across campus is an easy one for this infant's mother. Strapped to his mother's back, he has but to look at the scenery while mom rushes to her next class.

## Brown criticizes meat negotiations

United Press International  
AUSTIN — Texas Agriculture Commissioner Reagan V. Brown Wednesday criticized the Carter administration for renegotiating meat import quotas with New Zealand and Australia in an attempt to lower inflation.

Department of Agriculture officials in Washington said President Carter was expected to announce his decision Thursday to renegotiate the meat importation agreement with the two countries.

"Just when cattlemen are regaining the losses of four years and are trying to get out of debt is no time to bring in beef from other countries," Brown said. "Especially, it is unfair to negotiate with New Zealand and

Australia, whose record of producing American agriculture products is extremely poor."

He said he did not think the administration was allowing such conditions.

"The move to allow 200 million more pounds of beef will not reduce prices in the market, but reduce cattlemen's confidence in the future," Brown said. "He said there could be severe repercussions from ranchers suffering from drought conditions. "They could decide to go out of business completely, and America could be at the mercy of foreign markets for the major supply of beef," said Brown.

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