## egislators voice stiff opposition Briscoe's new tax proposals

— Legislators did not s overwhelming support for Gov. Dolph Briscoe's als to bring as much as \$1.1 an tax relief to Texans, and at aree of the items drew stiff ion from some lawmakers.

legislators agreed repeal of heral sales tax on residential hi, increasing the inheritance mption and increasing the leads from ad valorem taxes by school districts would

y pass easily. the governor will probably esistance in his effort to push n of a constitutional amendequiring two-thirds majority al of both the Senate and Tto impose new or additional

ov. Bill Hobby and several ors also said they had reservapout another proposed con-nal amendment creating a on on taxes imposed by local nents and setting a limit on

liture increases.

have a pretty good system

that has led to very low level of taxation," Hobby said. "We have responsible people in state offices and my basic philosophy is, if it ain't broke, don't fix it."

Sen. Lloyd Dogget, D-Austin,

#### Taxed income lower in Texas, comptroller says

United Press International AUSTIN — Texas ranks 46th among the states in the amount of personal income paid in state

State Comptroller Bob Bullock said in 1977, Texans paid 5.82 percent of their personal income in state taxes, compared to a na-

tional average of 7 percent. California's state taxes a-mounted to 7.75 percent of personal income and New York's taxes were 8.04 percent in 1977, said the two-thirds legislative approval would handcuff the Legislature with a freeze "on the repressive taxation system we have today." He said the amendment also would prevent adoption of refinery taxes or other severance taxes Railroad Commissioner John Poerner, a Briscoe appointee, has recommended.

"You don't accomplish property tax reform by freezing the present tax system," said Dogget.

Rep. John Bryant said the gover-nor's proposal would be completely cosmetic if Briscoe did not submit a bill Rep. Wayne Peveto, D-Orange, tried to pass during the 1977 Legisla-

The Peveto bill, which passed only in the House during the last regular session, would reform the system of appraising and collecting property taxes. The bill would consolidate tax appraisal offices within each county and set uniform statewide guidelines

to determine taxes.
Briscoe said he had discussed with Speaker Billy Clayton, Hobby and a handful of legislators the possibility of asking the Legislature to consider

the Peveto bill.

"I've asked Don Adams (the governor's legal counsel) to review it," said Briscoe. "We need to see the various proposals in the bill and de-

termine if they would help."
Rep. Mickey Leland, D-Houston, was among those who said he was unsure of the impact of Briscoe's

'Î'd say it's about 50-50," said Leland, who will succeed Rep. Barbara Jordan, D-Texas, in Congress next

year.

Most legislators, however, were hard pressed to show any enthusiasm for the governor's proposals. Briscoe was welcomed with only moderate applause at the beginning and end of his 10-minute address to a joint session of the Legislature.

Rep. Stan Schleuter, D-Salado, was one of the few who gave wholehearted support to Briscoe's pac-

"I support all of them," Schleuter said. "I think this package pretty well touches everybody that is having trouble with ad valorem taxes. And I

## ormer son-in-law, woman charged ith murder of missing Winnie family

UMONT — A refinery and a 30-year-old mother of ccused of kidnapping and kilof his former in-laws beill feelings related to a divere charged Monday with nurder. The five bodies were ed from a common grave

Joseph Dugas Jr., 32, of thur, had been arrested Fri-l charged with kidnapping. May Burnett of Nederland,

ed as Dugas' girlfriend, was all at 2:30 a.m. Monday.
t 1 a.m. Monday, deputies unearthing the bodies of Phillips, 64; his wife, Ester, r son, Elmer, 31; his wife 34, and their son, Jason, 4,

### dge totes dence guns protection?

LAS — A county criminal dge who keeps a .38-caliber and a derringer within reach dearing misdemeanor cases three dhe confiscated the from his court's evidence Dallas newspaper has re-

Tom Price said he has been ting guns from his court's acticing his shooting skills m and using them to arm against persons who have ned his safety, the Dallas g News reported in a

hted article int to be able to blow their ff if I have to," Price said. once in a while I get nervous mething to me and I want to to hit them if I have to."

said the law which requires held as evidence in criminal ventually to be returned to mers or destroyed by police aid instead of returning the

s he keeps some of them for metimes, I shoot them at a ; range," he said. "I want to

would have to check to dewhether Price's use of the was improper or illegal.

re I can hit what I'm shooting

of kidnapping the five from the elder Phillips' home at Winnie on July 1, binding them, taking them to a wooded area, shooting his in-laws, then burying them in a 5-foot-deep common grave.

Jefferson County Sheriff R.E. Culbertson said Dugas, after initially resisting questions, led deputies to the gravesite late Sunday and implicated Burnett. The written complaint against her said she signed a full confession.

"He was remorseful," Culbertson Said. "I think his conscience finally found. got to him.

Dugas once was married to Phillips' daughter, Mary. A justice of the peace said the family had filed previous disturbance charges against Dugas and that he had undergone treatment at Beaumont Neurological

enter in 1975.

Chambers County Sheriff Doil

Defense lawyer Joe Goodwin Thursday before the or pressed for less bond so Burnett to the disappearance.

in a private hunting preserve where
Dugas was a member.
Dugas and Burnett were accused

Dugas and Burnett were accused angry feelings against the Phillips and that he planned to kill them.

The man was mad at the old man and the old lady because they sent and the old lady because they sent him off to a mental institution for being off in the head," said Justice of the Peace Jack Cravy. "He said he'd kill them all when he got back."

Dugas was jailed Monday at Anahuac, seat of Chambers County, where the kidnappings occurred, in lieu of \$500,000 bond. Murder charges were filled against him at

charges were filed against him at Beaumont, seat of adjacent Jefferson County, where the bodies were

Cravy, in a hearing at Hamshire near where the bodies were found, set Burnett's bond at \$500,000 Monday during a hearing interrupted by her weeping and fainting, perhaps due to the crush in the grocery store where court was held.

could be with her children. Cravy said he would schedule a hearing later to consider lower bond.

Authorities had mounted a massive search for the Phillips after another of their sons, George Phil-

another of their sons, George Phillips, returned to find them gone.

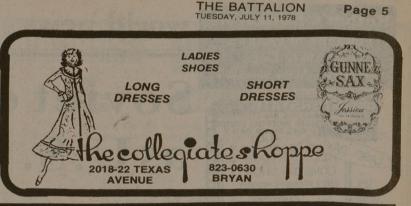
The Elmer Phillips lived at Woodward, Okla., and had been visiting his parents at Winnie.

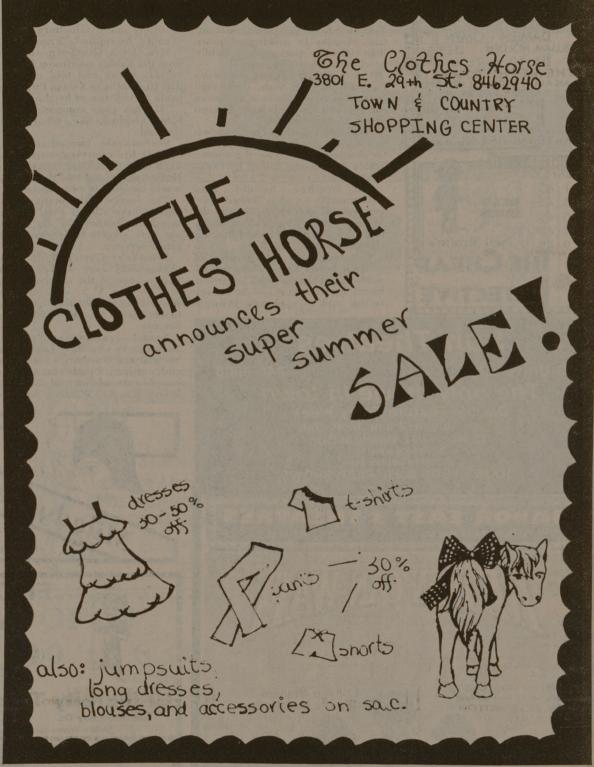
There were a few scattered spots of blood in the modest tin-roofed house in a grove of trees on a 10-acre plot. A fan, skillet and coffee maker had been left on had been left on.

The first major clue to surface was discovered unknowingly July 2 by a couple running an early morning paper route. Elmer Phillips' car was burned in a roadside ditch at the edge of a bayou 10 miles east of the Phillips' home.

But because efforts to report the car went awry and searchers were working near the house, it was Thursday before the car was linked







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