

the state

Property tax cut a possibility

United Press International
AUSTIN — Gov. Dolph Briscoe Tuesday told three legislators he would consider asking the special session of the Legislature to consider their bill to reduce ad valorem property taxes by 30 percent.
Reps. Jim Nugent, D-Kerrville, Bennie Bock, D-New Braunfels, and Lynn Nabers, D-Brownwood,

called a late afternoon news conference in front of the governor's office to tell reporters they wanted Briscoe to consider adding their proposal for consideration during the special session.
"We're interested in having an input from the governor," said Nugent. "We want to know if he's interested in our bill."

Bock said the bill would set up the School Property Relief Fund by which the state would refund to local school districts one-fourth of all state sales taxes. To be eligible for the state financing, school districts would be required to refund \$200 for each \$220 it receives from the fund to taxpayers during the first year.

He said taxpayers would save \$566 million during the first year.
"I think people of this state are fed up with property school taxes," said Bock. "I think this is what this special session should be about."
Nugent said he talked to Briscoe earlier in the day and informed him

they would hold the news conference and would call on him to support the bill. Nugent said the governor told him they would find out his reaction to the bill after the news conference.
Nugent told Briscoe the "single shot" bill would provide a 30 percent reduction in property taxes by refunding money equally to all ad valorem taxpayers and would provide the most direct tax relief.

"I appreciate your request and I will give it serious consideration," Briscoe told the legislators. "I suggest a show of support (for the bill) in the House and in Senate would help."
Nugent told the governor he

would try to find 50-75 other House members who would agree to co-sponsor the proposal.
Briscoe said he was still convinced the special session should provide "meaningful tax relief" before it adjourns.
Both Houses have passed bills repealing the utility state sales tax and increasing the inheritance tax exemptions. However, Lt. Gov. Bill Hobby has said it is possible the Senate will not adopt any more legislation.

Briscoe said that the session will not adjourn without legislators providing more tax relief and that he will not rule out calling a second session.



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Brown Berets demonstrate, await end of Lozano case

United Press International
MIDLAND — The Brown Berets demonstrated peacefully Tuesday but warned there would be repercussions if a federal grand jury failed to issue indictments in the death of a Mexican-American in the Ector County jail.
"I would rather not say what kind of action will happen but there's no telling if this grand jury fails to return indictments," said Eddie

Gomez, a spokesman for the Brown Berets.
The grand jury Tuesday entered its second day of hearing secret testimony concerning possible civil rights violations in the death of Larry Ortega Lozano.
Lozano, 27, died Jan. 22 after scuffling with jailers and deputies in the Ector County jail in Odessa. A county inquest jury ruled April 12 the death was accidental and occurred when the officers tried to keep Lozano from bashing his head into the cell door.

Ed Idar, of Attorney General John Hill's office, met briefly with the U.S. Attorney's office to turn over files compiled by Hill on the Lozano case.
Hill had recommended that U.S. Attorney General Griffin Bell order the federal grand jury investigation to determine if Lozano's civil rights were violated and whether such violations caused his death.
Members of the Mexican-American community have charged Lozano was a victim of police brutality during his 12-day confinement after his arrest at the scene of a traffic accident.



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"Quality First"

Gomez, speaking at a news conference on the steps of the federal building, said Berets "demand the indictments be handed out" against Ector County officials.
He accused District Attorney John Green of covering up the investigation and said evidence was being withheld from the 22-member panel. Gomez refused to elaborate on the allegations.

New Dallas ISD teachers fail intelligence exam, report says

United Press International
DALLAS — More than 50 percent of 535 new teachers in public school classrooms failed an intelligence exam designed for persons aged 13 years to adult, the Dallas Times Herald reported Tuesday.
The newspaper also cited a confidential memo sent to school board members Monday night in which Superintendent Nolan Estes said release of testing information — which he has fought through the courts — will seriously hamper the school system's future research efforts.

The scores of classroom teachers from all grade levels in the Dallas school system were substantially lower than a group of 20 prep school students given the same test, the newspaper said in a copyrighted story.
The newspaper also cited a confidential memo sent to school board members Monday night in which Superintendent Nolan Estes said release of testing information — which he has fought through the courts — will seriously hamper the school system's future research efforts.

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