

the state

Briscoe overruled: Senate rejects Briscoe's appointment of Yantis

United Press International
AUSTIN — The Senate voted 27-1 Tuesday to uphold the tradition of senatorial courtesy and reject Gov. Dolph Briscoe's appointment of Hugh C. Yantis as chairman of the State Insurance Board.

Conservative senators praised Yantis, but said they could not go along with the governor's attempt to circumvent the long-standing tradition calling for the governor to confer with each senator about appointments of his constituents.

"I think this is an unfortunate case of a very qualified individual being appointed in a rather obnoxious

way. He was appointed without clearing it with the senator from the district in which he resides," Sen. Chet Brooks, D-Pasadena, said.

Sen. Lloyd Doggett, D-Austin, made an unsuccessful attempt to send Yantis' appointment back to committee to avoid a direct vote of approval or disapproval of the appointment.

When the move failed on a close vote, Doggett invoked the privilege of senatorial courtesy to demand that his colleagues reject the nomination.

Yantis had sought to circumvent the tradition and Doggett's opposi-

tion by moving his legal residence, but said Tuesday it proved impractical. He said he had hoped his performance on the insurance board would change Doggett's mind.

"I've held the line on unnecessary increases in insurance rates," he said. "I think I've been a good chairman. I would like an opportunity to continue doing it."

Yantis served 11 years as head of

Texas water pollution control agencies and was sharply criticized as being pro-industry by some lawmakers before Briscoe named him to the insurance board on Sept. 2, 1977.

Doggett had indicated he also wanted to block the nomination of Dorsey Hardeman to the state water commission, but the Senate voted 23-5 to approve the appointment.



Singer draws crowd
Clint Brown sings a Michael Murphey tune while entertaining at the Arts and Crafts Fair that was held Wednesday around the Rudder Fountain. The Arts and Crafts Fair continues today until 3 p.m. *Battalion photo by Cheryl Co...*

Brazos Valley program to receive energy grant

The Brazos Valley Community Action Program has received a \$58,283 grant for weatherization programs, said Ben F. McDonald Jr., executive director of the Texas Department of Community Affairs (TDCA).

The Bryan program and two others in Austin and Denison received the grants, totaling \$140,242. The grants are provided under the

Community Services Act and are effective for the 12-month period that began June 1.

The funds are to be used to "weatherize homes; lessen impact of high energy consumption; provide emergency funds to prevent hardship or danger to health due to utility shut-off or lack of fuel, and provide energy conservation information and education."

Houston police to screen applicants more closely, draft reading exam

United Press International
HOUSTON — The police department will begin screening applicants more closely because 10 percent of the cadets flunk training because they cannot understand what they read.

"I just can't believe it," Capt. L. D. Michna said. "College graduates are flunking out, and they tell me they just can't read and keep up."

Michna, who has been at the

academy since December, said Tuesday that of an average class of 60, 12 will leave voluntarily and six of those will have a reading problem.

Houston City Council Tuesday approved an \$11,500 contract with a consulting firm that will study the problem and draft a reading test for applicants by the end of next year.

Under the present system, there is no academic test given applicants prior to entering the police

academy. That means the city loses the \$1,100 a month paid a cadet while he trains to become an officer.

The consulting firm, Lifson, Wilson, Ferguson & Winick Inc., will determine the reading level necessary for success as a Houston policeman and develop a test to measure an applicant's ability.

"The easiest way to do this would be to take a test off the shelf," Michna said, "but the first person who failed it would complain that it is not a job-related test."

"It may be that the police in Chicago and the officer in London may need to possess different levels of comprehension," Michna said.

Capt. B.R. White, head of recruiting, said the test will be both the department and the cadet's.

"Let's test the applicant out if he possesses the ability to read. That way this man who quit a job and came here and later dismissed," White said.

Second tax relief session requested

United Press International
AUSTIN — Republican Gaylord Marshall Wednesday urged Gov. Dolph Briscoe to call a second special session of the Legislature if necessary to provide tax relief for Texans.

Marshall, who is opposing Lt. Gov. William P. Hobby in the November election, accused Hobby and Attorney General John Hill, the Democratic nominee for governor, of ignoring the needs of people.

"Gov. Briscoe was correct in his decision to convene the Legislature, because tax relief for the people has been long overdue," Marshall said.

"However, after meeting for

three weeks it is obvious that there will be no tax relief passed by the Senate. So far, their accomplishment has been a few cosmetic measures."

Marshall said that the session providing meaningful tax relief has been stifled by Hobby.

"I am angry and upset, and not alone," Marshall said. "I have travelled this state listening to people, and they are not taken in by the political maneuvering of the Hobby-Hill forces."

He said he is requesting a special session because Hobby and Hill have manipulated the session at the expense of the

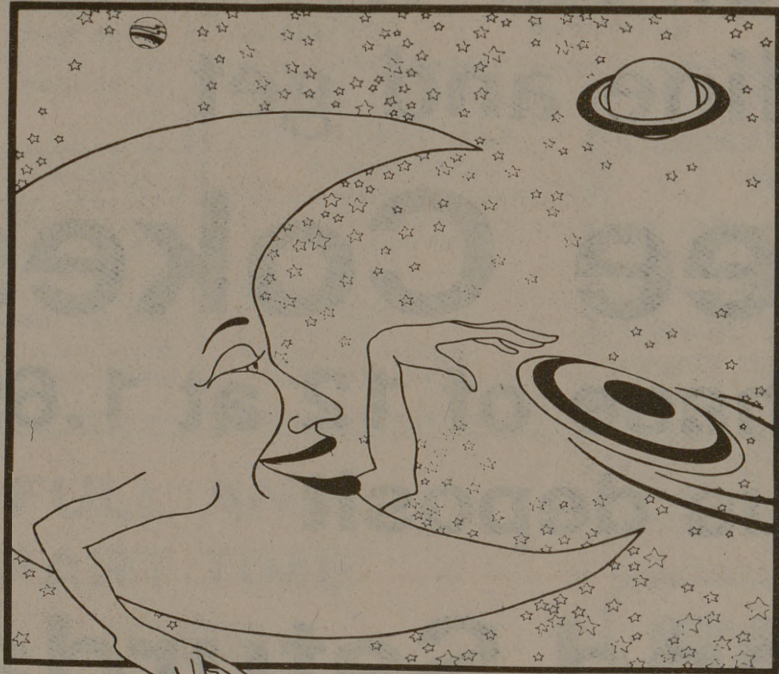
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