Tax reform bill deadlocked in Austin

AUSTIN — House leaders onday called on Gov. Dolph Brisand Attorney General John Hill to help break a House-Senate dead-lock concerning tax reform and ending limitation provisions of a oposed constitutional amendment

The conference committee met ree times Monday without reachg an agreement, then called off e negotiations until Tuesday the nal day of the 30-day tax special sion convened by Briscoe in the math of California's adoption of

fused to go along with either. Rep. Tim Von Dohlen, D-Goliad,

chairman of the House conferees, said he would telephone Hill, the Democratic nominee for governor, to seek his help in settling the differences between the two Houses before the session adjourns at mid-

There was talk among legislators

"I think it is time for the governor Monday that Briscoe would call a steads and new tax breaks on agriculto get involved in this conference news conference Tuesday afternoon tural land. committee," said Rep. Wayne
Peveto, D-Orange. "I think the
relief amendment through the governor is for property tax relief and I think he is for property tax reform, but so far the Senate has repect of another special session if the proposal is not passed before mid-

> The Senate negotiators, in what they termed their final offer, agreed Monday to a House provision requiring the Legislature to provide formulas to protect school districts from revenue lost through increased

property tax exemptions on home-

sals to place limits on the growth of state spending, require a majority of the membership rather than simply a majority of those present to pass

any more, however.

"This, I think, is our bottom line," he told Dohlen. a majority of those present to pass new tax bills, and a requirement for uniform tax appraisal and county

Still in dispute are House propo-

wide assessment of property taxes.
Von Dohlen told reporters that
the House might go along with the
Senate offer, but said he expects the Senate to compromise on at least part of the three remaining issues before negotiations end.

They have given in substantially on some crucial things, particularly the reimbursement language," Von Dohlen said. "I think we might sell it to the House, but we're going to get some more before we're through."

head of the Senate conference committee, gave no indication that the senators were willing to yield

line," he told Dohlen.
"The Senate has presented its bottom line offer, and that's it," said bottom D-Mineral

Creighton referred to the Senate proposal as a compromise, but Peveto, who has pushed for adoption of the provision requiring uni-form property appraisals, indicated that he thinks senators have not yielded enough.

'There's a difference between compromise and an ultimatum," Peveto said. "I thought everybody was supposed to give a little in a compromise.



Prison bill fails to pass despite Briscoe's efforts

AUSTIN — Critics Monday shot

own Gov. Dolph Briscoe's propo-let give the Texas Department of orrections authority to purchase a ew prison site anywhere in the

Sen. Lloyd Doggett, D-Austin, gged the measure in the Senate by anding 48 hours notice before a mittee hearing to consider the posal when less than 48 hours ained in the special legislative

Rep. Jimmy Edwards, D-Conroe, ithdrew the proposal from House bate when Rep. Craig Washington, D-Houston, hotly protested eded-up action there.

"I suppose they are waiting for a prison riot," Sen. William Moore, D-Bryan, grumbled about opponents of the proposal. "The prisons "I think the project is an unwise

Doggett said.
Washington said backers of the

and a full hearing by the House Committee on Social Services in an Controversy arose effort to win quick approval. Backers of the bill, Washington said, got the vice chairman of his committee to convene a meeting without notifying him and approved the bill for debate by the full House.

of town and that there was no controversy on the bill.

"I did not intend to mislead the County. committee," Edwards said. He said he had been able to locate Washington after the governor's surprise decision to request legislation on the prison site issue.

Briscoe on Friday with only four quartered. days remaining in the special ses-

repeal statutory restrictions that earlier this year thwarted a move by bill improperly circumvented him prison officials to buy land for a new

Controversy arose about the project when questions were raised about the legality of the move and news reports revealed the land belonged until recently to a long-time associate of Mafia figures.

Attorney General John Hill ruled

The committee vice chairman, that the prison authorities are re-Rep. Dave Allred, D-Wichita Falls, stricted in purchasing a new prison said he was told Washington was out site by terms of an old statute that the prison authorities are reproviding for the state to sell Blue Ridge Prison Farm in Harris

Department of Corrections is head-

Death ends life's debate

Houston girl dies in coma

HOUSTON - A 12-year-old ter. comatose girl died in her hospital bed Monday while lawyers debated her fate before a state judge who was asked to terminate the lifeupport systems keeping her legally

A spokesman at Texas Children's Hospital said Masil "Bunny" Gray lied of cardiac arrest.

The announcement came in the ushed courtroom of State District udge W.H. Miller who for the nird time since last month was

hearing legal arguments on the mat-

George Ford, attorney for the Harris County Child Welfare Unit, stood as the delayed afternoon proceeding began and asked the judge to dismiss all motions pending before the court.

"We were advised the child died at 1:15 p.m.," Ford said in a single

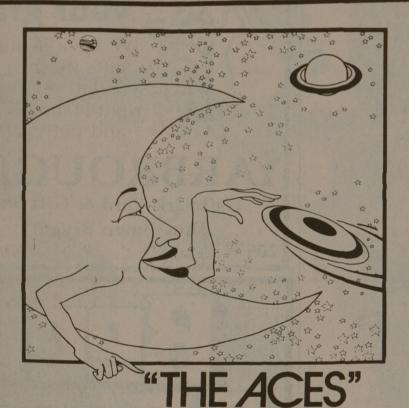
Without looking up, the judge re sponded in the affirmative on Ford's

The court finds the action moot and it is dismissed," Miller said.

county take custody of Bunny July 3 because she had run away from home and her mother feared she was becoming delinquent.

Two weeks later, on July 16, the girl was admitted to the hospital unconscious from smoke inhalation suf-fered in a fire at the Harris County child welfare facility where she had been staying.

Miller ruled earlier Monday that the county would still be responsifor court and attorneys' fees in the matter. Other costs against the county were still pending.



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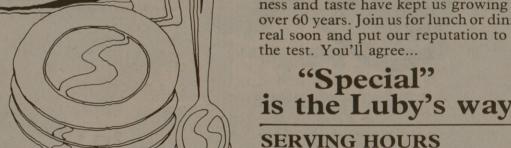
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