EWFBI watches ousted governor's office

United Press International ASHVILLE, Tenn. — FBI nts clamped tight security on nessee's Capitol Thursday to ent ousted Gov. Ray Blanton or ff from removing any papers

today ing to a grand jury investigation a pardon-selling scandal. epublican Gov.-elect Lamar delegationader, who was to have taken Memorial se Saturday, was sworn in Wed-tts' conference and might, three days early. He is and Buraced Blanton, who stunned the week. Monday night by commuting

sentences of 52 convicts. exander busied himself Thurscompleting selection of his et and preparing for his formal guration, which will still be aturday

Saturday. lexander hurriedly took the oath lexander hurriedly took the oath attributed in advised legislative leaders s office has ad "substantial reason" to be-zed systems that Blanton planned further the computency action for prisoners in-d 26,341 ed in the grand jury probe.

venue from BI agents were stationed inside ices of Blanton's staff to prethe removal of any evidence re-g to a federal investigation into OUSES ges that Tennessee prison in-s have been able to buy their

a bill provident of prison. Three Blanton ered or a s have been arrested in the omestic b 2e and Blanton himself is a d rehabilit²¹ of the investigation. this state anton press aide Jim Gilchrist ons with w

arrived at his office in the Capitol to find his desk cleaned out and his belongings packed in boxes.

"The FBI told me they wanted to check the contents before I leave Gilchrist said. "I told them all I had

Texas Solons try

to void ERA vote

AUSTIN - Texas would become the fifth state to rescind ratifica-

tion of the Equal Rights Amendment under resolutions introduced by

Sen. Walter Mengden, R-Houston, and Rep. Clay Smothers,

The resolutions, introduced Wednesday, would specifically rescind the concurrent resolution the Legislature passed in March 1972

A total of 35 states have ratified the ERA with 38 ratifications

needed for its adoption. Four states — Nebraska, Tennessee, Idaho and Kentucky — have rescinded ratification. The seven-year dead-line for ratification will expire on March 22, but Congress has ex-

tended the deadline an extra nine months. "If enough states rescind ratification to prevent 38 states from

agreeing, the proposed amendment does not enjoy a consensus of three-fourths of the states and is therefore not valid," he said. Smothers said if proponents are given additional time to have ERA adopted, then states that have passed the amendment have the right

'Congress has attempted to try to change the rules in the middle of

the game to give extra innings to the team that is behind, while prohibiting the other team from being able to score during the extra

United Press Inte

D-Dallas, in their respective chambers.

ratifying the ERA.

to rescind

innings," he said.

strange

ranking highway patrol officer from Blanton's administration and two unidentified women in black building.

was a can of shoe polish, a few Playboys and some pictures of my kids. It makes you feel a little two of his close friends were among Blanton's legal counsel, his adtwo of his close friends were among the others subpoenaed to appear. Meanwhile, a federal grand jury investigating the pardon-peddling charges met Thursday and heard a ranking bidware to appear. Blanton, a 48-year-old Democrat, did not learn of his ouster until five minutes before Alexander was

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t any probaUSTIN — In 1936, Texans any possibility of indiscrimi-bardoning of convicted crimi-y amending their State Conon to severely restrict the nor's power to reduce or reprison sentences.

Texas governor now is barred in sui on the written recommenda-of an independent Board of her admins and Paroles. The chief her, adminutive is not required to grant he sometimency recommended by the he somethency recommended by the farvin's at agency, but may not do so set up of out its recommendation.

became product its recommendation and the second product its recommendation along time Texas placed al-icomplete pardoning power in unds of her governor. Although governors used pardons dissome governors granted accordindiscriminately," a handbook prepared by the

veen 1915 and 1917 Gov. tween 1915 and 1917 Gov. **a IRA** is E. Ferguson granted 1,774 ons and 479 conditional par-before he was impeached and tay blew wed from office by the Legisla-East Low for misuse of state funds. Iding 100, reguson's successor, Gov. foffices man P. Hobby, granted 1,319 hare and one and 199 conditional par-

mor's pardoning power," the cy handbook explains.

iare and ons and 199 conditional par-okesma^s between 1925 and 1926. vas relate his led to a demand to curb the

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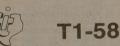
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