

## Foes say won't save taxpayers' money

# House vote supports private tuition bill

United Press International  
AUSTIN — House members Tuesday gave overwhelming tentative approval to a bill doubling the amount of state funds students in private colleges may receive under a tuition equalization grant program.

Meanwhile, Senate action was held almost to a standstill by a filibuster. Sen. Lloyd Doggett, D-Austin, assisted by a handful of other Senate liberals, filibustered against a proposal that would repeal provisions in the state's Deceptive Trade Practices Act automatically awarding consumers triple damages if they prove they were defrauded by merchants.

The tuition equalization grant bill

would increase from \$600 to \$1,200 per year the amount of state aid a student attending a private college or university can receive, and also would make part-time students eligible for aid for the first time.

The bill, already passed by the Senate and facing one more House vote, was tentatively approved 123-19 despite arguments it would further reduce enrollment at some state colleges that already are strapped for students.

The program was originated in 1971 at a cost of \$1 million, but if the Legislature votes to fund it at its maximum under the guidelines contained in the bill by Rep. Lynn Nabers, D-Brownwood, the cost

could swell to \$44.3 million in the next two years.

Rep. Bill Hollowell, D-Grand Saline, argued against the measure, saying single shot spending bills being approved by the House endanger the prospects for enactment of a state budget bill later in the session without increasing taxes.

"Last summer when everybody was campaigning we heard a lot about economy in government from those running for the Legislature and those running for governor," Hollowell said. "But when it comes time for us to stand up like men and be counted, we find a lot of bills being passed for big spending."

Hollowell, a member of the appropriation committee, said he has worked in that committee to hold the line on state spending despite recommendations by other committees for new spending programs.

"There are some of us who have been trying to hold the line for you on appropriations, but if you're going to start shooting it out \$40 million at a shot, you can count me out and start worrying about a tax bill," he said.

Rep. Foster Whaley, D-Plainview, tried unsuccessfully to limit the tuition grants to full-time students, and to limit the amount each student could receive to \$900 or less.

The program is designed to help students pay the cost of attending private colleges, and supporters contend it is cheaper for the state to pay part of the students' tuition at private schools than to have them attend state colleges where tax revenue would be used for their entire education costs.

Whaley said that argument is invalid.

"It's a myth to say you're saving the state money," he said. "The state could take all 20,000 of the students in this program and it wouldn't increase enrollment in state colleges by 3 percent and we could easily handle the students without any additional expense to the state."

The bill tentatively approved Tuesday does not appropriate additional money for the tuition equalization grant program, but authorizes the College Coordinating Board to

increase the allocations per student if funding for the program is increased in the general state budget.

In other action Tuesday, the House approved and sent to the Senate a bill by Rep. Bill Messer, D-Belton, authorizing the Bell County Child Welfare Board to offer adoption services with fees based on the income of the prospective parents.

The House also approved bills revising the state's strip-mining regulations and establishing a \$50 million program to guarantee loans to young farmers and ranchers to purchase agricultural lands. House members, and Texas voters, must approve an amendment to the state constitution before the farm loan guarantee program can be implemented.

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## Survey indicates prices exceed fed ceiling for gas

United Press International  
An authoritative petroleum news source says nothing short of a police force could keep the nation's service stations from charging prices in excess of federal ceilings, and a leading economist has called for World War II-style rationing to control prices at the pump.

The Lundberg Letter, a private newsletter specializing in oil market analysis and statistical gasoline data published in North Hollywood, Calif., stopped short Monday of calling the practice "price gouging," but said its latest survey indicated more than half the nation's service stations are ignoring federal price ceilings.

"By ample evidence, gasoline price controls are bankrupt," the letter said. "It would take a virtual police state to keep gasoline retailing within control limits."

The federal ceiling price is based on the allowable dealer profit margin, which Lundberg estimates is about 11 cents a gallon.

The latest Lundberg survey, which monitored 12,100 service stations on March 23, found 61.9 percent of the full-service outlets were selling unleaded gasoline above the U.S. average ceiling price.

At self-service stations, 27.2 percent were above the ceiling for unleaded regular and 7.9 percent had failed to comply with price regulations for regular leaded grades.

In Detroit, economist John Kenneth Galbraith called for World War II-style gas rationing as the only feasible alternative to the sharp runup in pump prices.

Worldwide, price pressures mounted on the oil market in developments that mean still higher gasoline prices for motorists, who pay between 2 cents and 2.5 cents more a gallon for every 10 percent rise in crude oil prices.

In Nicosia, Cyprus, the authoritative Middle East Economic Survey said most OPEC nations will impose surcharges on top of the cartel's official hike of 9 percent that raised a barrel of crude oil to \$14.54 on April 1.

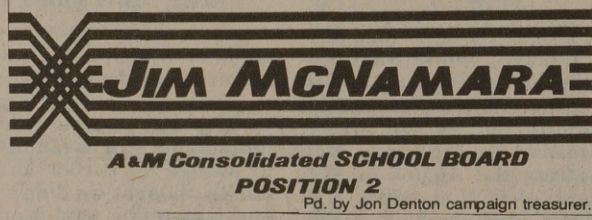
In Abu Dhabi, the United Arab Emirates Monday added a 13-percent surcharge to its top-quality crude oil, pushing the price to \$18.39 a barrel.

In Tokyo, Iran informed Japan it will boost its oil prices by 32 percent on long-term contract shipments to about \$17 a barrel for Iranian light crude and \$16.50 for Iranian heavy crude.

The initial impact of the Iranian oil cutoff and the global oil squeeze has been most evident at the gas pump.

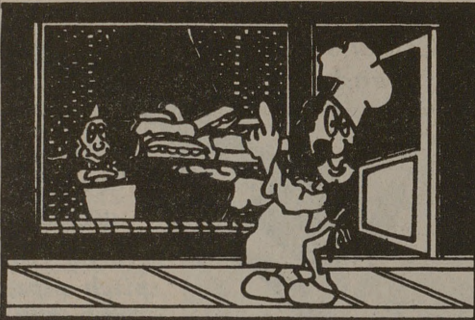
In the midst of the 1974 Arab oil embargo, the government imposed a ceiling on gasoline prices under which dealers cannot exceed their March 1973 margins.

"An increasing number of gasoline retailers, forced to live with the same margins they could obtain five years ago, have evidently decided that the risk of being found in noncompliance is less than that of going out of business," Lundberg said.



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<p><b>THURSDAY EVENING SPECIAL</b> Italian Candle Light Spaghetti Dinner SERVED WITH SPICED MEAT BALLS AND SAUCE Parmesan Cheese - Tossed Green Salad Choice of Salad Dressing - Hot Garlic Bread Tea or Coffee</p>		
<p><b>FRIDAY EVENING SPECIAL</b> BREADED FISH FILET w/TARTAR SAUCE Cole Slaw Hush Puppies Choice of one vegetable Roll or Corn Bread &amp; Butter Tea or Coffee</p>	<p><b>SATURDAY NOON and EVENING SPECIAL</b> Chicken &amp; Dumplings Tossed Salad Choice of one vegetable Roll or Corn Bread &amp; Butter Tea or Coffee</p>	<p><b>SUNDAY SPECIAL NOON and EVENING</b> ROAST TURKEY DINNER Served with Cranberry Sauce Cornbread Dressing Roll or Corn Bread - Butter - Coffee or Tea Giblet Gravy And your choice of any One vegetable</p>

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