

Texas LBB proposed budget trimmed

Bill set for House debate next Tuesday

United Press International
AUSTIN — The House Appropriations Committee has trimmed almost \$70 million from the budget proposed by the Legislative Budget Board, and a rider calling for an across-the-board 2 percent cut in state spending could reduce the panel's appropriation bill by an

additional \$400 million. Rep. Bill Presnal, D-Bryan, said Monday that work on the bill is completed and the inch-thick bill will be printed and available for members today. "It's all wrapped up and ready to go," he said. A series of last minute cuts in the

\$20.8 billion bill reduced it to between \$64 million and \$70 million below the budget recommended by the LBB, Presnal said.

The committee members also approved a provision in the bill mandating a 2 percent across-the-board reduction in the authorized spending for all but some educational programs.

"We originally estimated that would save about \$400 million, but it will be slightly less because of

some exemptions we made for education," Presnal said.

He said the House bill would leave about \$570 million available for use on school finance. It also makes allowances for a \$450 million tax relief bill already passed by the House and pending in the Senate, and includes \$314 million for an increase in teacher salaries.

Presnal said the bill will be ready for House debate when the lawmakers return from their Easter recess

next Tuesday, and predicted action on it could be completed within two or three days.

"We'd like to go ahead and get it over to the Senate because the Senate is dragging on their bill. They're a week away from finishing a bill," Presnal said.

In its final session on spending matters Monday, the committee added \$3.7 million more than the Legislative Budget Board had recommended for the agricultural extension service and experiment stations, but trimmed \$10 million from funding for a highway program to grade crossings.

A \$2.4 million appropriation for creation of a new extension service center in San Antonio accounted for the bulk of the increased spending in that area.

Rep. Lou Nelle Sutton, D-San Antonio, said the city of San Antonio had donated \$1 million and about 100 acres of land had been contributed for the center.

The House rejected, however, a \$416,000 appropriation in the extension service budget for "rural sociological research."

Rep. Don Rains, D-San Marcos, said officials of the agency had been unable to explain that research and asked that it be eliminated.

"It sounds like a cross between welfare and public relations," said Rep. Bill Hollowell, D-Grand Saline.

The item was removed from the budget without objection.

Follow the bouncing bud

By LIZ NEULIN
Battalion Staff

Writing the budget for a major state university is really quite a simple — just follow the steps. Here, in brief outline, are those steps. On the left is the process now in use for generating the Legislative Budget Request for the next biennium, fiscal years 1979-80 and 1980-81.

The procedure for writing an operating budget is on the right. During the first year of a biennium, the process usually begins in May, when the Legislature is pretty firm on how much of the Legislative Budget Request it will appropriate. During the second year of the biennium, the University already knows how much it will get, the process begins earlier, usually in December or January of the following September.

While the University is writing the operating budget for the year, the System and the universities also are involved in preparing the new Legislative Budget Request — for the September meeting and a half year.

Legislative Budget Request... presented in Spring 1979

Early 1978 and before — The Coordinating Board decides formula changes, if any, and general guidelines.

Spring 1978 — "Raw" requests are submitted, using Coordinating Board guides and hope for a big budget surplus. Put your wildest dreams here.

July 1978 — Official requests are given to the Legislative Budget Board (LBB) and Governor's Office of Budget and Planning (GOB). Some wild dreams have been cut already.

August 1978 — Hearings, usually on the campus, are held with the staffs of the LBB and GOB. Top administrators plead for their wildest dreams.

October 1978 — Revise budget — mostly downward — for the Legislature. Ax all but the most essential wild dreams.

Early 1979 — LBB and GOB recommendations come out. If wild dream makes it this far, it's probably made it for good. Also, review University budget to see where more cuts can be made. Pieter Groot, Texas A&M University's assistant vice president for academic budgets, notes: "We constantly adjust it as we get vibrations back from Austin."

Spring 1979 — Legislative action, listed in sequence: House of Representatives Hearings are before a subcommittee of the Committee on Higher Education. Hearings are before the Appropriations Committee. The full House debates and approves the general appropriations

bill. Senate Hearings are before the Finance Committee. The Higher Education Committee, which reviews other related policies, doesn't even crack at the budget. Finance debates and approves the general appropriations bill.

May 1979 (maybe) — operating budget for the beginning Sept. 1, 1979, preparation. The Senate conference committee hashes out differences between the two versions of the appropriations bill, and it to the governor. He probably sign it, but before he vetoes his pick of items; usually, special (wild dreams). Then necessary changes are made near-complete operating budget.

A Few Months Later — again.

Operating Budget

The lump sum has been appropriated for the System by the Legislature.

First, preliminary pie-cuts starts from the top and its way down: The regents divide it within the System, presidents divide it among their colleges, the deans divide it among their departments, and the department heads write their operating budgets, using their previous requests and legislative dates (salary increases, etc.) as guides.

Then the budgets are sent up the chain, with each making its own changes.

Finally the regents approve and it goes into effect. But circumstances can do — alter the way they are spent.

El Chico RESTAURANT

3109 Texas Avenue
Bryan, Texas 77801

presents their new

HAPPY HOUR

(2 for 1 on the biggest drinks in town)
4-7 EVERYDAY

OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK
3107 TEXAS AVE. - BRYAN

MANOR EAST 3
7:20-9:45
Buck Rogers

7:10-9:35
Midnight Express

7:25-9:40
Halloween... The Night He Came Home

SKYWAY TWIN
WEST
Heaven Can Wait
Plus
The One & Only

EAST
The Warriors
Plus
Thunder & Lightning

CAMPUS
Force Ten
From Navarone

PLITT Southern Theatre
846-6714 & 846-1151
UNIVERSITY SQUARE SHOPPING CENTER

CINEMA I
7:00
9:35
THE WIZ

Starts FRIDAY!
HURRICANE

CINEMA II
7:25
9:35
THE CHINA SYNDROME
JACK LEMMON
JANE FONDA
MICHAEL DOUGLAS
"first rate."
Vincent Canby, N.Y. Times

MSC TRAVEL

LAST CHANCE FOR EUROPE

See 7 countries in 25 days for only \$1580
May 14-June 7

OPEN TO UNIVERSITY STUDENTS,
FACULTY AND STAFF

Sign up in Room 216, MSC by April 12
FOR MORE INFO CALL MSC TRAVEL AT 845-1515

Rx PRESCRIPTION STEREO
3602 OLD COLLEGE ROAD
BRYAN, TEXAS 77801

- All LPs 80c Over Dealer Cost Every Day
- Discwasher Products
- Best Sound Around In Car Stereo — PIONEER Speakers CLARION & SANYO Tape Decks
- We Can Install Most Systems In 2 Hours

OLMECA. THE HEAD TEQUILA.

Their heads still stand. Nine feet high. Eighteen tons strong. The Olmec civilization in Mexico that miraculously carved them out of stone is now ancient history. But, from this same land in Mexico, an imposing Tequila is made. It's made in Gold and in Silver and it's made to taste sensually powerful, but mellow. Olmeca is made as a monument for all tequilas that follow.

