

# Clements firm on teacher's raise

United Press International  
AUSTIN — Gov. Bill Clements gave officials of Texas' seven largest school districts an audience Monday but told them he isn't going to give in his stand against any pay raise higher than 5.1 percent for teachers.

"You can talk all you want to, I'm not going to change my mind," Corpus Christi's school superintendent, Dana Williams, quoted the governor as telling the school administrators and trustees.

Superintendents and school board representatives from Houston, Dallas, Fort Worth, El Paso, Corpus Christi, San Antonio and Austin emerged from the meeting shaking their heads at the governor's refusal to consider any bigger pay raise for teachers.

"I wouldn't say it was very good," Dallas' school superintendent, Linus Wright, said as he emerged from the 45-minute meeting with Clements.

Wright said the governor seemed surprised that the state's urban school districts already have competency-based educational programs, faculty advisory committees and a number of the other proposals Clements made in his campaign.

"I think we aired our differences," said Sarah Haskins, Dallas school board member and president of the Texas Urban School Council. "It was a very forthright, outspoken

# Sunbelt to grow, study says

United Press International  
WASHINGTON — The so-called "sunbelt" states will nearly double their population and have almost half the nation's population by the end of the century, if current trends continue, a recent study indicates.

According to the new study, the southern and western regions combined will have 150 million people or 56 percent of the U.S. population by the year 2000.

University of Virginia demographer Jeanne Biggar made the study of the 15 "sunbelt" states for the Population Reference Bureau, a Washington-based nonprofit organization specializing in population research.

"By the year 2000, if the growth pattern of the 1970s continues," the study said, "the sunbelt will reach 112 million people and will comprise 43.2 percent of the nation's population."

According to the study, birth rates are down in all regions, so migration is the key factor in what it called a "radical change in the historic distribution patterns of the U.S. population."

According to Biggar, the key factor in the migration change is a shift in the century-old south-to-north flow of job-seeking blacks and poor whites.

That migratory pattern peaked at the end of World War II, the study said.

In the first half of the 1970s, the study said, the South gained 2.6 million new residents through migration, nearly all from the northeast and north central regions.

The study defined the sunbelt as including Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, Texas, California, Arizona, New Mexico and Missouri.

session. He has some very definite ideas on discipline and teachers.

"I think we did surprise him that the seven urban districts are doing many of the things that he wants to do. I think it was a very fruitful session," she said.

Jack McQueen, Corpus Christi

school board president, said Clements "kind of started out lecturing us."

Houston Superintendent Billy Reagan agreed Clements did most of the talking but said the governor did not lecture the school administrators.

"The tone was one of concern and conviction, strong on the conviction," Reagan said. "I thought it was overall a very productive session. I thought we established a good rapport with the governor."

The school officials told Clements local districts will be forced to use local money raised from property taxes to give teachers higher pay raises if the state salary increase is held to 5.1 percent — the amount the governor is supporting for all state workers.

"He said, 'That will be a tough decision for you to make,'" McQueen said.

School administrators told the governor they consider a 7.1 percent pay raise for teachers a minimum.

"We pointed out to him that it would be very difficult if not impossible for the major districts to adhere to 5.1," Reagan said. "In the urban areas, because of the competition with industry and business, it's become almost impossible to hire math, science and vocational teachers."

In addition to teacher pay, the officials from urban districts — where

25 percent of the state's school-age children attend classes — discussed issues such as competency testing for students, discipline in the classroom, teacher involvement in decision making and funds for compensatory education.

"We have statistics to prove compensatory education is working in the urban schools," Haskins said. "Our minorities are showing more improvement than the suburban districts."

Although Clements made no commitment to increased funding for such programs, she said, "He definitely realizes that education is at the crossroads."

Haskins said urban school administrators offered Clements their research facilities to develop data on such programs, success of competencies in employment benefits given teachers and regular state employees.

"There are many areas where state employees have more benefits for teachers," she said. Teachers have lower pensions, less insurance, no Social Security and must have more training than most state workers.

# Coal from Africa may be cheaper, says power exec

United Press International  
HOUSTON — Railroad greed may force American industries to import coal from Africa because it can be mined, shipped and trucked 7,000 miles cheaper than it can move by rail from domestic mines to users, a utility executive told congressional investigators Monday.

"We are aware that our purchase of large quantities of foreign coal under a long-term contract might not be in accord with the present administration's energy policy, but if we are forced into this position by the greed of the railroads and the reluctance of the regulators to regulate, so be it," M.L. Borchelt, vice president of Central Power and Light of Corpus Christi told the panel.

The price-gouging complaint was one of several made by industrial and state government officials against railroads and the Interstate Commerce Commission during the opening hearing by the House Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations.

Rep. Bob Eckhardt, D-Texas, chairman of the subcommittee, said rising transportation prices that discourage coal conversion could frustrate policies to reduce oil imports while undermining efforts to narrow the balance of payments deficit.

Eckhardt repeatedly badgered ICC and Department of Transportation witnesses to justify a series of recent rate increases for already profitable western and midwestern railroads operating in monopoly situations.

"I'm afraid we're destroying the advantages the public could get from the bountiful coal resources in this country," Eckhardt said.

ICC Commissioner Betty Jo Christian told the committee recent cases have involved extremely complex issues which did not lend themselves to simple solutions.

"The simple fact is that any energy source costs money and in the case of coal that includes not only the cost of getting it out of the ground, but the cost of moving it from the mine to the user," she said. "Neither the mine operator nor the (rail) carrier can be expected or required to subsidize the consumer, and our standards are applied in this mind."

When two DOT witnesses testified the rail industry will fall as much as \$16 billion short of the capital needed to remain in business through 1985, Eckhardt challenged the figures, saying more than half the money was needed by only seven unprofitable railroads while the western coal haulers enjoyed acceptable profits.

He said government regulators were too dependent upon the rail industry to supply the statistics by which rates requests would be judged.

"At the Burlington Northern, the primary carrier of coal to the Southwest from the western coal regions, revenue from hauling coal rose at an average annual rate of 45 percent for each of the years 1974-76," Eckhardt said. "This was before most of the tariff increases predicted on the 4R (1976 Railroad Revitalization and Regulatory Reform) Act had been granted."

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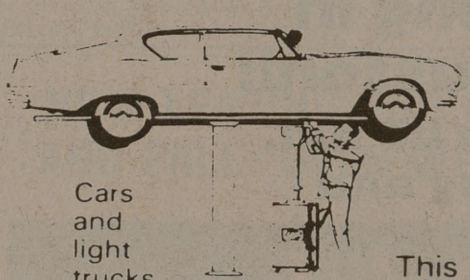
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