## the state

# ner Davis attorney TD reprimanded for speaking to media

United Press International
FORT WORTH — District Judge
Gordon Gray Tuesday reprimanded Tarrant County prosecutor Jack Strickland for telling the media that lismissed potential jurors probably would have voted to convict millionaire T. Cullen Davis of seeking to arrange the murder of a judge.

Strickland reportedly told a reporter that the 30 people dismissed Monday — the first day of jury selection for the murder solicitation ret-

tion for the murder solicitation retrial—could have convicted Davis.
"But Mr. Strickland, you're going to have to quit talking with the press," Gray said when juror consideration resumed. "Be careful what you say. If this happens one more time I'll enter a written order.

Strickland said he was not mismitted but his statements were

quoted but his statements were taken out of context.

During Tuesday's questioning, 25 potential jurors were asked if they had an opinion on Davis' guilt or in-nocence. Only 15 said they did not

trial ended in January with a mistrial after a Houston jury was unable to render a verdict.

Local prosecutors have made it clear they believe community feeling is overwhelmingly in Davis' favor, and an objective jury cannot be found. The defense, however, wants the trial to remain in Tarrant

The prosecution case again rests heavily on the testimony of FBI informant David McCrory, a former employee and acquaintance of Davis. McCrory said Davis paid him to hire a gunman to kill Judge Joe Eidson, who at the time was the "The residing judge in Davis' divorce om Priscilla Davis.

The FBI and Fort Worth police video taped and recorded meetings between Davis and McCrory during which the two allegedly discussed the arrangements. One meeting involved McCrory giving Davis a faked photograph showing Eidson lying

'dead" in the trunk of a car. In November 1977, Davis was acquitted in the longest and most costly trial in Texas history of murder in the death of his step-daughter Andrea Wilborn, 12, who was killed during Aug. 2, 1976 shootings at Davis' Fort Worth mansion.

The shootings followed an Eidson decision in the Davis' lengthy divorce trial, which finally ended this year, and prosecutors contended Davis opened fire because he was upset about the judge's decision.

Stan Farr, Davis' former wife's lover, also was killed and Mrs. Davis

and a family friend were injured.

#### Former regent and they were added to the 50 selected Monday. Attorneys later were to begin questioning the 65 to shape a 12-member. Davis' first murder solicitation Davis' first murder solicitation Davis' first murder solicitation Committee committee

United Press International
AUSTIN — Speaker Bill Clayton
Tuesday appointed former University of Texas System regent Frank
Erwin Jr., Houston insurance
executive John Lindsey and Baylor University law student Fred McClure to a committee created to study the financing of higher educa-

The select committee was created by the 1979 Legislature, and will be chaired by Lt. Gov. William P.

"The findings and recom mendations of the committee will be critical to the future strength of the wanted to arrange for the murders of a total of 15 other persons, including briscilla.

# Representative denies abuse at children's home

United Press International
AUSTIN — Rep. Clay Smothers, D-Dallas, Tuesday charged political foes and unscrupulous reporters are behind the controversy over his home for children in Malakoff.

Smothers angrily denounced reports of homosexuality and promiscuity at the St. Paul Industrial Training School and said he will allow three reporters to live on campus to make their own investigation of conditions at the home.

"Some of you have no business with a reporters' notebook in your transferred by hand," Smothers told reporters at a Capitol news conference. "Some on Monday as of these charges are ridiculous and you keep on printing them. When by a state of those pure girls, sweet girls heard on television that they were offering themselves for the sexual gratification of black businessmen, I had one almost go into hysterics. There's something unfair about that kind of journalism.

Smothers acknowledged that some of the violatins of Department of Human Resources standards cited by state investigators are valid but denied children at the home are poorly fed or abused and said the standards are "ridiculous."

"We've got a long way to go in meeting standards," Smothers said.
We're working overtime to do it."

Smothers said Rep. Paul Ragsdale, D-Dallas, tried to use publicity about the school as a reason to have Smothers kicked out of the Black Legislative Caucus.

"That guy hasn't worked for 10 years," Smothers said of Ragsdale. I'm being kicked all over by a welfare recipient, a lazy bum." Smothers said his home is nonprofit and that he receives only a

\$750-a-month salary (soon to be raised to \$900) and an automobile from St. Paul.

"I'm broke today because of my babies," Smothers said. "I spend my nights — many times 3 and 4 o'clock in the morning — picking up boys that wet the bed trying to teach them not to wet the bed."

Smothers acknowledged he spanks children with a paddle, but said such punishment is a "last resort" and never exceeds four licks.



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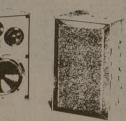
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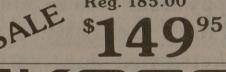


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