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## the state

### Sends trade mission to Houston

## N. Orleans lures business

United Press International  
NEW ORLEANS — There's a natural business rivalry between New Orleans and Houston — a rivalry born of having the same basic industries, port facilities and even, in one case, the same skyscraper.

So it's somewhat unusual for the local Chamber of Commerce to sponsor an "industry mission" to Houston — designed to lure businesses from the Houston area to New Orleans and its suburbs.

"We don't like to think of it as a raid," said Linda Hayden, spokeswoman for the Chamber of Commerce. "And I would tend to think nobody in Houston would think it's even possible for New Orleans to 'raid' them."

The rivalry, the competitiveness is probably always going to be there. However, business leaders in New Orleans also think it's a good idea to take advantage of the fact that there are many firms (in the Houston area) that are ready to expand. Also, there are many companies in New Orleans who do a lot of business with

companies in Houston and the opportunity is there to solidify and perhaps increase the trading ties."

About 50 business officials from the "River Region" — the New Orleans chamber's area that includes the upriver parishes of St. John the Baptist, St. James and St. Charles — will fly to Houston Sept. 26 for three days of meetings, negotiations

and business lunches with Houston business leaders.

The chamber says more than \$1 billion in new plant investments in petroleum refineries and chemical plants have been completed, announced or started in its seven-parish region since Jan. 1, meaning an increase of 2,200 permanent jobs.

## Bullock holds checks of delinquent debtors

United Press International  
AUSTIN — One hundred fifty state employees won't receive paychecks until they come up with the money to pay their delinquent student loan debts to the state, Comptroller Bob Bullock says, unless a court tells him to handle the situation differently.

Bullock held back the paychecks of the 150 employees this month and said he will retain the checks again next month unless the debts are paid.

Bullock said a Texas Employment Commission employee in Kingsville has filed suit in an attempt to have his paycheck released. But the comptroller said state law prohibits a person owing the state a debt from receiving state payment of any kind.

"I'm simply following the law," Bullock said. "Until these loans are repaid there will be less money available for new loans to the next generation of students."

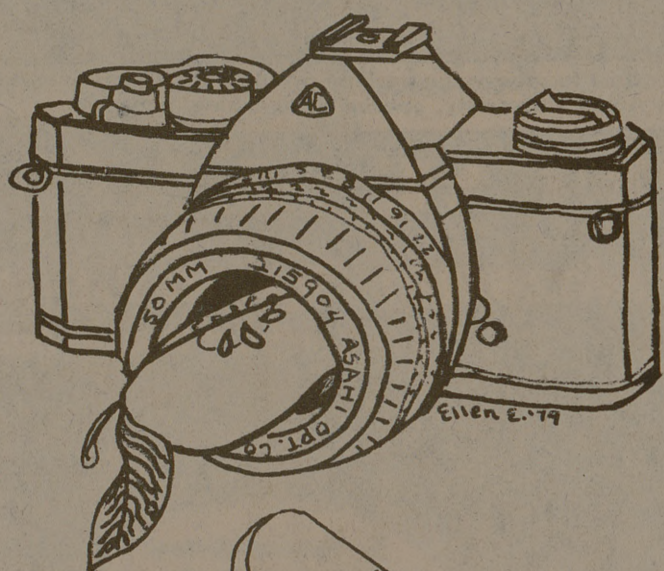
The state employees borrowed the money to pay college expenses under the Hinson-Hazlewood College Student Loan program. The program requires that payments on the note begin nine months after the student completes or drops out of college, and that it be paid off within 10 years.

Bullock said the 150 employees whose checks were held back by his office owe the state \$311,072 in due student loans. They were identified by a cross-check of payroll records.

The comptroller originally singled out 641 state employees who owe the state more than \$1.2 million and notified them he would not release their paychecks until they paid back the student loans.

He said 491 of those settled \$896,563 in debts with the Texas College and University Coordinating Board.

## MSC CAMERA COMMITTEE



First Meeting: Monday, Sept. 10  
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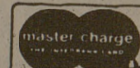
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