

# State

## Initiative measure defeated a 2nd time

**United Press International**  
AUSTIN — The Texas House Tuesday rejected a vastly broadened constitutional amendment giving citizens the powers of initiative and referendum, the second time in as many years the measure has failed.

The House on Thursday voted 86-56 for passage of the proposal by Rep. John Sharp, D-Victoria, but constitutional amendments require 100 votes from the 150-member House and a two-thirds vote from the Senate.

"Today is indeed a glorious day, because one way or another we will be finished with I&R," Sharp said prior to the debate. The issue is not expected to be reconsidered.

The proposal was tentatively approved 88-51 last week and Sharp and Gov. Bill Clements had lobbied since then for the necessary 100 votes. Clements had made passage of an initiative and referendum amendment a campaign promise.

Under the original initiative and referendum proposal, voters would have had the power to repeal only legislation that dealt with state spending or taxation.

However, an amendment added Thursday by Rep. Carlyle Smith, D-Grand Prairie, broadened the proposal so that voters

could address any statute and also would have the power of recall over any state official.

"This puts the clothes back on the emperor," Sharp said. Several opponents of the measure said its passage would create a "California situation" under which voters would impose tax ceilings that would hamper school funding.

"I think the people of Texas are eminently more reasonable than the people of California," Sharp responded.

Under the terms of Sharp's proposal, petitioners would have to gather signatures representing 10 percent of the registered voters in 190 of the state's 254 counties. That figure also would have to amount to 10 percent of the registered voters statewide.

During the more than two hours of debate, an abundance of amendments was offered to the proposal, including one by Rep. Robert Bush, D-Sherman, that would have allowed voters only to initiate bills for the Legislature's consideration.

Bush said he offered the amendment because he felt the current system should not be changed and also because initiative and referendum would never pass. His amendment failed.

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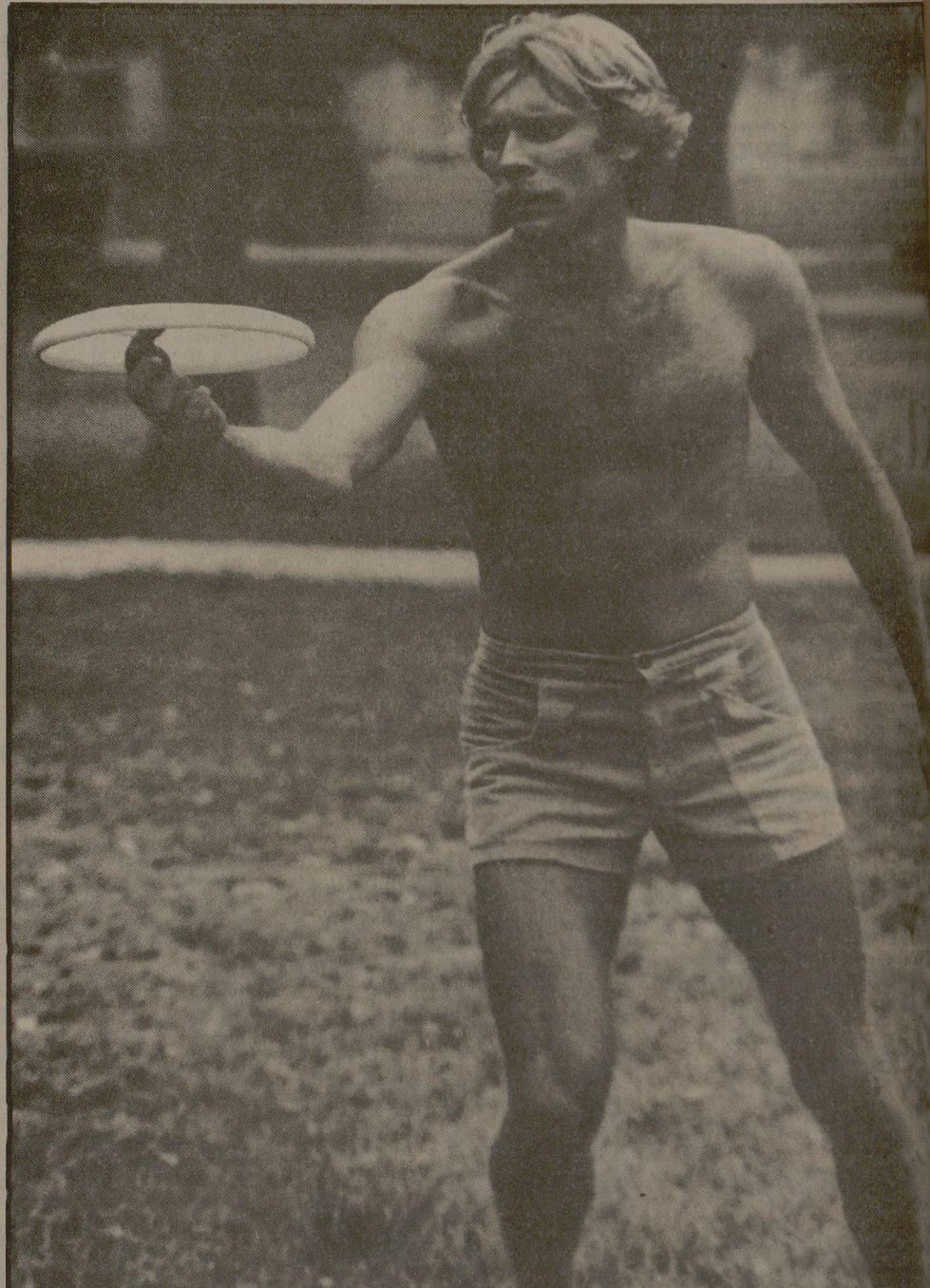
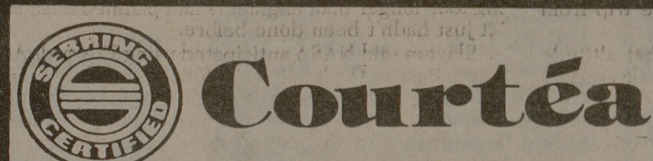


Photo by Mark Mabe

Watch the spinning disc

To a Frisbee freak, throwing the disc is a serious business. Here, Don Kenney, a senior industrial distribution major from Houston, demonstrates the concentration and coordination necessary to keep the Frisbee spinning on the end of his finger.



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Say English is 'official,' says senator

**United Press International**  
WASHINGTON — Sen. S. Hayakawa, R-Calif., says it's the government's job to help immigrants to believe they can fully assimilate into American society without speaking English. Hayakawa says, has eliminated the need for immigrants to learn English. And to clarify the confusion he proposed a constitutional amendment Monday that would declare English the official language of the United States. "I believe we are being dishonest with linguistic minority groups if we tell them they can take full part in American life without learning the English language," he said.



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