

State

State House OK's wiretap legislation

United Press International
AUSTIN — The House, responsible for blocking the passage of a wiretap bill in the last session of the Legislature, has voted in favor of the current bill and given a boost to Gov. Bill Clements' anti-crime program.

The House passed legislation Monday authorizing electronic surveillance in drug investigations. The bill, which now goes to the Senate, would allow the Texas Department of Public Safety to obtain authorization to set up wiretaps on persons suspected of large scale drug trafficking.

Clements has supported the legislation since he took office in January 1979. The bill passed the Senate last session but died in a House committee.

Opponents, who argued that the statute would be abused, tried unsuccessfully to amend the bill by Rep. Bennie Bock, D-New Braunfels.

Rep. Jay Gibson, D-Odessa, failed to attach an amendment that would prohibit persons with previous drug convictions from obtaining call-forwarding service on their telephones. He said call-forwarding would be an easy way to elude a wiretap because the call would be transferred to another number.

Rep. Matt Garcia, D-San Antonio, also lost attempts to limit the bill to two years and to prohibit law enforcement officials from making covert entries into homes to set up wiretaps.

"I don't want the privacy of people in this state to die," Garcia said. "I'm not interested in protecting the criminals, but I am interested in protecting the rights of people who may one day be subjected to this bill."

One of Garcia's amendments would have required that the legislation die on Sept. 1, 1983, unless the Legislature during the

next session elected to continue the statute.

Bock argued that limiting the legislation to two years would not be feasible, since wiretap setups are time consuming. He also said two years would not be enough time to determine if the program can be effective.

The author was able to turn back five other amendments. Most of the amendments were left pending Friday when the House moved to cut off debate and give tentative approval to the bill.

Against 'cloning a bunch of Cubas'

Bentsen supports El Salvador aid

United Press International
SAN ANTONIO — Sen. Lloyd Bentsen said President Reagan has his support in sending military advisers to El Salvador to prevent the "cloning of a bunch of Cubas" across Central America.

Bentsen, speaking in a news conference Monday, said he supported Reagan on El Salvador because there is more of a risk not to do anything.

"We can't have a situation allowing the cloning of a bunch of Cubas," Bentsen said. "Those trying to equate El Salvador with Vietnam are just not right. Vietnam was half a world away."

He also said he is concerned about the Reagan proposal to sell top-secret AWAC spy planes to Saudi Arabia, and he wants to keep the AWAC planes under U.S.

control, instead of making an outright sale to the Saudi government.

"When it was proposed we sell the AWACs to Iran, I was concerned," he said. "The compromise I see coming is to keep the AWACs under our control."

Bentsen, D-Texas, met Monday with San Antonio's new mayor, Henry G. Cisneros, to talk about the Reagan budget cuts.

The senator said he planned to tell Cisneros there was little that could be done to offset a \$1.7 million loss in federal money as a result of budget cuts by the Reagan administration.

"Overall, we have to see some cuts, and some substantial ones," Bentsen said during a news conference

before his visit with Cisneros. "I'm in Congress to make sure the cuts are equally shared."

Bentsen said he was satisfied with President Reagan's budget plan, although the senator said he would have suggested cuts in some areas while leaving other agencies with their present funding.

"I thought we should have cut more from the junk mail subsidy — that's over \$800 million," Bentsen said. "There should not have been as much cut as there was recommended from vocational education, an old program that works well."

In speech Bentsen delivered late Monday to the Associated Employers of San Antonio, the senator said the key to strengthening the U.S. economy will be increased productivity of American workers.

Legislator says Austin lacks respect

United Press International
AUSTIN — Rep. Larry Browder doesn't think Austin gives the Legislature proper respect, so he has introduced a pair of measures to get the city's attention.

The most flamboyant of Browder's proposals would offer a constitutional amendment creating "the District of Austin." Under that proposal, the Austin City Council would be disbanded and a legislative committee would be in charge of the city's affairs.

"I did this partly to make a point and also a bit seriously," the Coldsprings Democrat said Tuesday. "If it weren't for the Legislature, there wouldn't be an Austin or it would be a very small city. Sometimes they treat us like maybe we're the Lower House and they are the state government."

Browder's other constitutional proposal would authorize the state to buy electricity from the Lower Colorado River Authority rather than the city of Austin. Browder claims the switch would save the state 15 to 17 percent on its local electricity bill.

Browder also said he resents high-rise office buildings dwarfing the historical capitol complex. He also said Austin has failed to extend the hospitality offered by cities such as Houston and San Antonio.

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