

# State

## Water fund impact not known, legislator says

United Press International  
AUSTIN — If voters understood what the creation of a Water

Trust Fund would do to state spending, the proposed constitutional amendment would be over-

whelmingly defeated, an East Texas legislator says.

Proposition 4, which was authored by Speaker Bill Clayton and is supported by Gov. Bill Clements, would dedicate half of the state's excess revenue to a Water Trust Fund to guarantee bonds for local governments seeking to develop water projects.

Rep. Bill Keese, D-Somerville, said a poll released Tuesday by opponents of the proposition shows voters favor it only because they do not have knowledge of its

full fiscal impact.

A poll conducted by Opinion Analysts Inc. of Austin showed 35 percent of the voters favored Proposition 4 on the Nov. 3 referendum, 17 percent were against it and 44 percent were undecided.

"If the fiscal impact of the proposed water tax amendment is even partly understood, however, the voters would overwhelmingly reject this proposal," Keese said.

Keese, a member of Citizens

Against Water Taxes, said passage of Proposition 4 would violate the constitutional amendment passed in 1979 that limits the increase in state spending to the same rate as state growth.

"Today the same people who proposed that 'spending limit' are attempting to subvert and effectively repeal this spending limit with the water tax amendment," he said.

Keese also said passage of Proposition 4 would necessitate more

taxes, despite contentions by the proposition's supporters that future tax increases would not be needed.

"Texas has avoided new or increased state taxes for the past decade only because there have been surpluses in each budget period, which have been used to keep up with inflation and unexpected emergencies," he said.

"If those excess taxes are already spent, the Legislature will have no alternative but to impose new taxes — possibly a personal or

corporate income tax — or ally reduce needed services as aid to public education and highway maintenance."

Stuart Henry, a spokesman for the organization opposing Proposition 4, said the group has more than \$10,000 to help fund the amendment.

He said three or four more would travel around the state campaigning against the proposition. "But we don't have the money for a paid media campaign," he said.

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### Mistaken use of experimental drug

## Hospital backs care of dying man

United Press International  
HOUSTON — M.D. Anderson Hospital stands 100 percent behind the care given a leukemia patient who received a mistaken continuous dosage of an experimental drug and later died, a spokesman said Wednesday.

The Washington Post, in a series on cancer drug development, reported the case of electrician Marvin Williams, 27, of Fort Worth, as an example of the difficulties of cancer drug development.

Williams' leukemia relapsed in

October 1979 after a year of remission and Anderson doctors gave him federally approved spot injections of an experimental drug called deoxycoformycin without resulting improvement.

Doctors then decided to give Williams a standard drug by infusion, continuous injection into the blood stream. However, by mistake, Williams received deoxycoformycin by infusion, a procedure not approved by the government.

Hospital spokesman Steve Stuyck said the mistake was discovered 12 hours later, but it was decided to continue the deoxycoformycin because Williams' condition had improved for the first time.

"A decision was made at that time to, even though the mistake was made, continue that course of treatment until the first evidence of some toxicity. Then the treatment was stopped," Stuyck said.

On Nov. 23, 1979, Williams died of leukemia and pneumonia. Stuyck said the hospital did not

concede the experimental drug mistake hastened Williams' death.

Williams' wife, Susan, said Anderson doctors never informed her or her husband of the mistake, a fact Stuyck concedes, although he says they were informed Williams' leukemia was advanced and experimental treatment was a drastic step.

"He was informed it was experimental," Stuyck said. "He (and his wife) were not informed that the error had been made. He had been on several experimental protocols because he had relapsed."

"People do not go into phase one (experimental) studies unless they have very advanced disease and are essentially close to death."

"We looked at the medical care after the fact and thought it was excellent. We felt that he received the most compassionate and the best medical care we could provide."

Anderson's Dr. Robert Benjamin, who directed a deoxyco-

formycin study for the National Cancer Institute, said telling Williams about the error would have done her any good.

"The patient doesn't need to be informed of what the doctor is thinking," Benjamin said.

Mrs. Williams said she and her husband, after a Post reported her husband's death, told her about the mistake.

"He was upset about that," she said. "He more or less said what I had already heard — there was an error. But I couldn't I have been told."

Although Stuyck spoke in the general quality of Williams' care, he could not speak to what was said between him and his patient or the family. Stuyck has not commented.

"We've got 200 doctors and what is said between them and patients is as different as 200 doctors," Stuyck said. "I can't monitor every single thing that's said."

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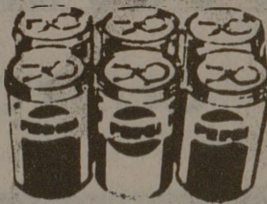
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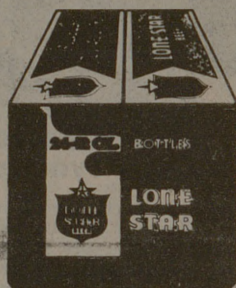
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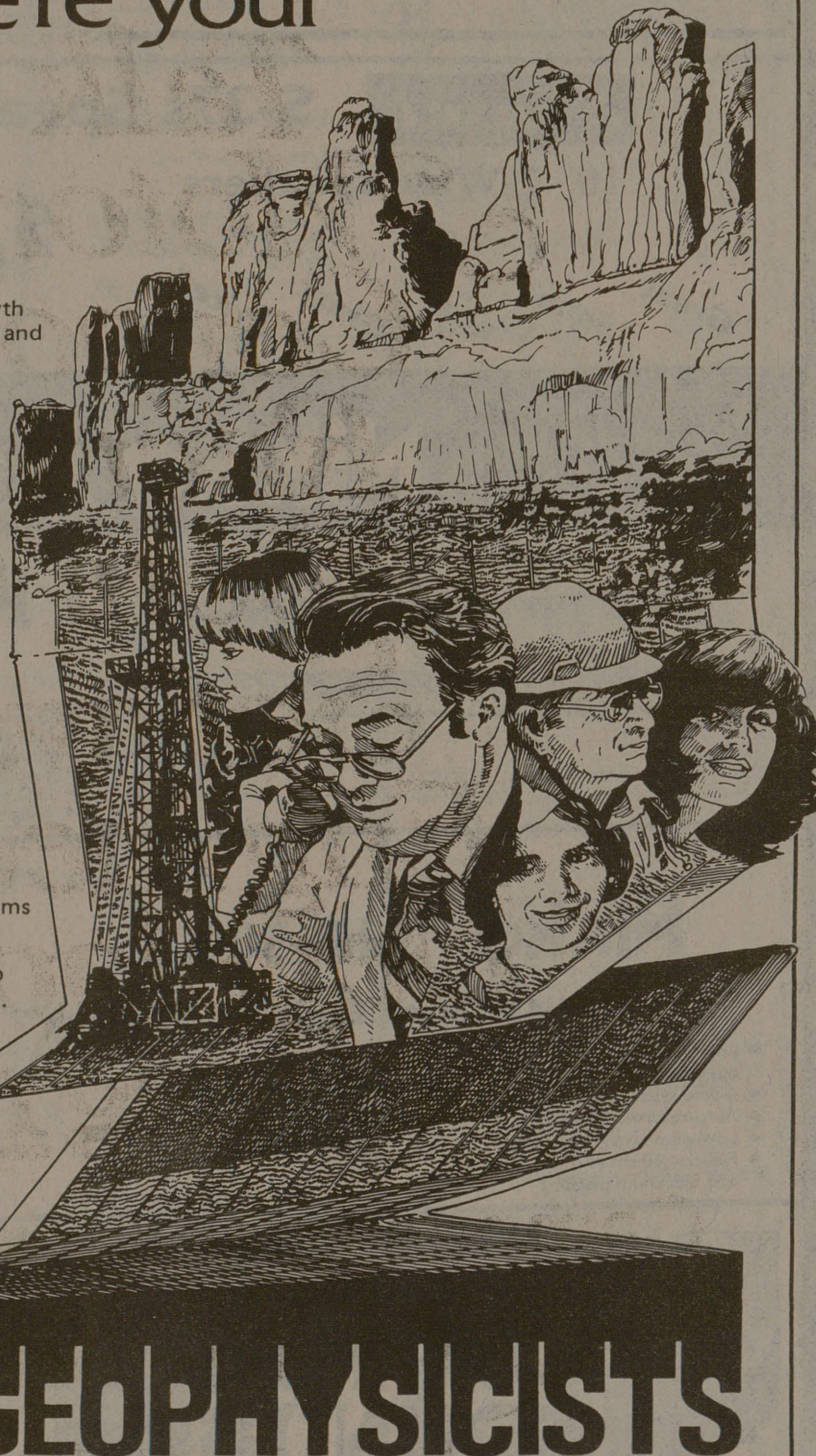
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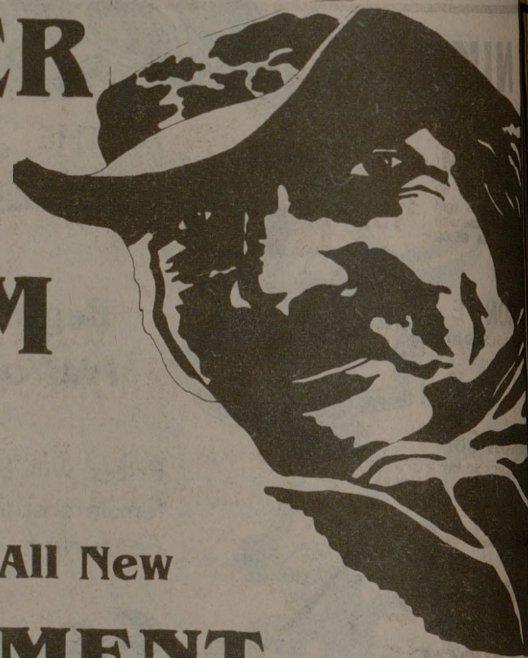
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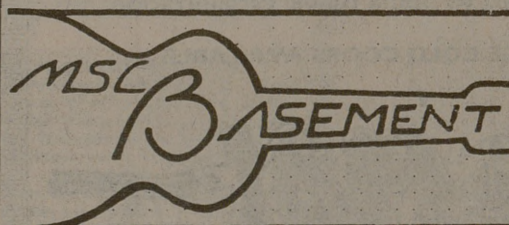
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