

State

# Bill for redistricting approved by board

**United Press International**  
AUSTIN — Members of the Legislative Redistricting Board gathered in a nearly empty Senate chamber to sign bills finally approving reapportionment of both houses of the Legislature just 40 minutes before a constitutional deadline.

However, at least one member of the panel expressed bitterness Wednesday night over rumors that Republicans unhappy with their treatment by the all-Democratic panel planned to file suit against the House plan.

A suit by Republicans would be "the height of irresponsibility," Attorney General Mark White said.

"If you look at how fairly they were treated in the House plan, such a suit would be ridiculous," White said. "They want to run to the courts like little crybabies after they didn't even show up here and tell us what they wanted."

No members of the Republican leadership could be reached immediately to comment on the possibility of a suit.

Political parties are not protected in redistricting by either federal or state law, so any suit would have to be taken on other grounds, most likely the drafting of minority districts.

Under constitutional mandate, the five-member panel had to conclude its deliberations by mid-

night and turn over the reapportionment plans to the secretary of state's office.

Speaker Bill Clayton, Lt. Gov. Bill Hobby, Land Commissioner Bob Armstrong and White signed each of the plans and looked on as they were notarized.

Comptroller Bob Bullock, the final member of the board was absent from the proceedings.

White, Armstrong and Hobby also signed a statement of facts concerning the two plans, but Clayton declined.

"I'm just a little reluctant to do it," Clayton said. "We're not in a courthouse yet and I'm not ready to call a fact a fact until it's been proven."

In effect, the panel concluded its duties nearly eight hours before the deadline with the approval of a House plan on a 4-1 vote.

Bullock was the only member of the panel to vote against the plan, saying he did not like how rural districts had been drawn.

The board then stood in recess while staff members ran the demographic information through computers and drew up the bills.

The final plan approved for the House is a combination of separate proposals offered by Bullock and Clayton.

Through a series of amendments, Bullock's plans for districts in Dallas, Harris, and Bexar counties were added to the plan. The rural and other urban districts were drafted primarily by Clayton.

Under the final House version, nine representatives were paired, redistricting parlance for a situation in which two incumbents live in the same district.



Staff photo by Dave Einsel

## Pep talk

Jason Clark, head drum major, talks to members of the band after drill Thursday. The band has been drilling

overtime in preparation for their halftime performance this weekend.

# Clements plans campaign against redistricting board

**United Press International**  
AUSTIN — Gov. Bill Clements said Thursday that reapportionment plans approved by the Legislative Redistricting Board are unfair and that he will actively campaign against the four members of the board that voted for them.

The Senate redistricting plan — as far as Dallas and Tarrant counties are concerned — violates a high sense of integrity that I hoped would come out of that board," Clements said, "and I can tell you that the people of Dallas and Tarrant counties are irate over

this plan and rightly so. Clements also said the House plan passed by the board is worse than the one approved by the Legislature. The plan approved by the Legislature was thrown out by the courts as unconstitutional.

He predicted that both plans would be contested in court promptly by Democrats and Republicans, and that he would encourage such suits even though the state must defend the plans.

Clements also said he thought both plans were unfairly slanted to favor liberals and that there would be a price to be paid by the mem-

bers of the board who advocated the plans.

"I said that when the time comes I will make an issue of this in the various campaigns of the individuals involved," Clements said.

The governor said he will campaign against Lt. Gov. Bill Hobby, who proposed the Senate plan, and would support the campaign of former Secretary of State George W. Strake, who is challenging Hobby.

However, Clements said he and Strake would not run as a team in the campaign.

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# Yarbrough's return undertaken by state

AUSTIN — A spokesman for Gov. Bill Clements said extradition papers seeking the return of former Texas Supreme Court Justice Donald B. Yarbrough were under review by state authorities and will be forwarded soon to the U.S. State Department.

The very earliest they could be transferred up to the State Department would be Thursday," spokesman Mark Heckmann said Wednesday.

The extradition papers, prepared by District Attorney Ronald Earle, were carried to the governor's office Wednesday and turned over to Secretary of State David Dean.

Yarbrough resigned from office in 1977 — minutes after the Legislature opened proceedings to remove him from office. He was convicted later that year of lying to the Travis County grand jury.

Yarbrough lost his appeal of that conviction earlier this year and failed to appear for his formal sentencing. He left the country without permission while his appeal was pending.

But the Houston Post reported Tuesday that officials on the Caribbean Island of Grenada had seized Yarbrough's passport.

Curt Beckcom, an assistant Travis County district attorney working on the Yarbrough extradition, said he considered the passport seizure an encouraging sign.

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