

State

Bullock calculations on trip called unfaire

United Press International
AUSTIN — Former Travis County Sheriff Raymond Frank asked Texas Comptroller Bob Bullock on Wednesday to explain how, and when, he reimbursed the state for a \$2,200 private plane fare to California.

Frank, who is seeking the Republican nomination for comptrol-

ler, said even if Bullock paid the fare, it was still \$4,800 short of what the trip normally costs.

He said a King Air 200 like the one used by Bullock on his Sept. 13 flight to California for treatment of alcoholism should have cost \$7,000 for the trip. Frank said the airplane is leased to the state for \$23,303 per month, not includ-

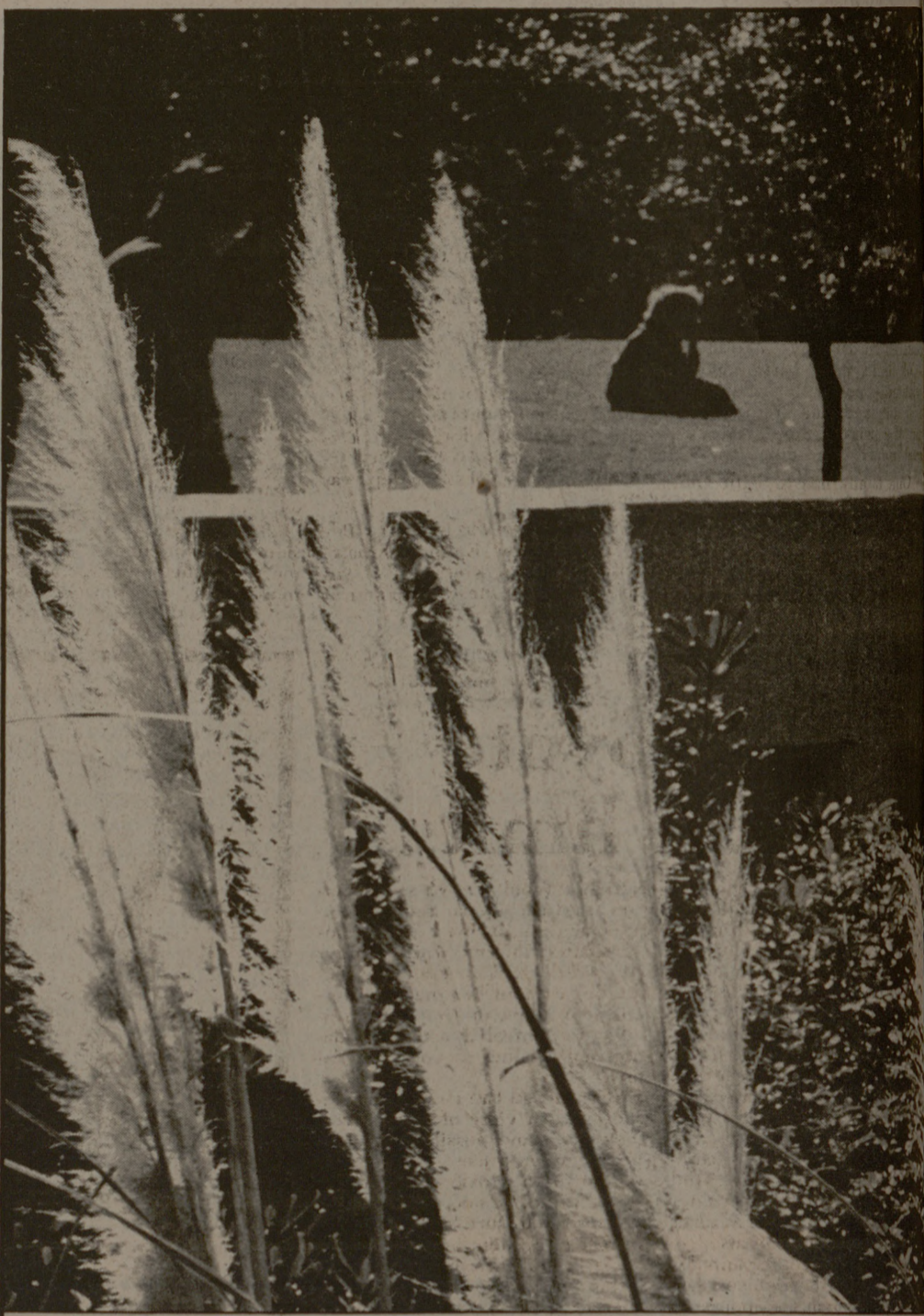
ing maintenance and operation costs, hangar fees or the cost of the crew.

Tony Profitt, an aide to Bullock, was present during Frank's news conference and handed reporters copies of a \$2,229.48 check, dated Sept. 14, paid to the state treasurer for the excursion. Profitt said the charges were

calculated using the attorney general's guidelines.

Frank also said that two attorneys in the comptroller's office had represented Bullock in a private default judgment case in Bexar County.

"Mr. Bullock cannot be allowed to serve by a double standard," Frank said.



Staff photo by Dave...

Stalks of sunshine

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Popularity of 'gator meat gaining — try tail creole

United Press International
GALVESTON — Alligator meat, a delicacy most people have never tasted, is growing in popu-

larity since the animal has been removed from the endangered species list.

Joel Sutton, who manages Hillman's Shrimp and Oyster Co. in Dickinson, said his gator meat sales have increased in recent months, as more people try the meat, which tastes "somewhere between pork and beef."

Ken McClendon buys the meat from Hillman's and sells it for \$5.25 a pound at his Lufkin grocery store. "It's delicious," he said, "everyone who's tried it, loves it."

The meat is served either deep fried, barbecued, stewed or served over rice creole style.

Sutton said he sells about 100

pounds of alligator a month with the big teeth and awesome

He gets the meat from Jimmie in Abbeville, La. Rich processed 15,000 pounds of it last year. In 1980, Sutton said, it was illegal to sell alligator meat in Louisiana because the animals were protected.

But last year, a ban on processors exporting the meat was lifted, Rich said. However, no one knows how much alligator meat is sold illegally by trappers in Louisiana. The amount in the area, where people have been eating alligator for generations, is significant.

The edible portions of the gator come from the short neck and tail. It looks like beef and can be cut into chunks, roasted steaks.

Sutton said he supplies his customers with recipes from a cookbook, and sells prepared portions of spices to put in the bag for alligator meat.

He charges butchers, restaurants \$4.29 a pound for boneless meat and \$3.99 a pound for "bone-in" cuts. Sutton, a connoisseur, warned those who decide to try the meat to respect it "or it will give you a bad impression of alligator meat."

Rich said he ships alligator to many parts of the country and expects the alligator market to grow in popularity.

"I think we'll probably develop a large market for it," Rich

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