

Texas race splits party

Temple asked to resign

United Press International
AUSTIN — Land Commissioner Bob Armstrong accused Railroad Commissioner Buddy Temple of conflict of interest — in the first political brawl among Democrats vying for the opportunity to try to unseat the incumbent governor.

Armstrong called on Temple to either drop out of the governor's race, resign from his Railroad Commission job immediately or submit his resignation effective Jan. 1, regardless of the outcome of the governor's race.

The conflict of interest charge by Armstrong marked the first time one major Democratic candidate has been critical of another — perhaps signaling the end of the warm-up period in which all of the Democratic barbs were saved for Republican Gov. Bill Clements.

Armstrong said that as commissioner, Temple has a hand in regulating the state's oil, gas and trucking industries, and because he still has five years remaining in his term, he can pressure industry representatives into supporting him.

"As each of these people knows, the Railroad Commission can make or break you through its rules and regulations," he said. "The oil, gas and trucking industries must deal with Temple as an elected official for the next five years no matter what."

Both Armstrong and Attorney General Mark White, the

other major Democratic candidate in the race, are lame ducks whose terms expire at the end of the year.

"If we lose this election," Armstrong said, "we are out of state government."

But win or lose, Temple will be on the state payroll making state policy, and that, Arm-

strong contends, is a conflict of interest.

"If Buddy Temple loses, he goes back to the Railroad Commission where he can reward or punish by exercising the tremendous power that comes with that position," he said.

"He has placed literally thousands of Texans in an ex-

tremely difficult position. People who oppose him do so at a tremendous risk."

Temple entered the governor's race Monday only minutes before the filing deadline. "His impulsive, last-minute decision to enter the governor's race has created this conflict of interest," Armstrong said.

State troopers may tag Houston policemen

United Press International
HOUSTON — State troopers may start issuing tickets to Houston police officers for driving patrol cars with expired state inspection stickers.

Because of a city hall mix-up, many police vehicles have been operating this month with expired stickers, officials said Monday.

Houston Police Lt. Wayne

Hankins said it was an embarrassing situation. "It's wiping egg on your face," he said. "It's kind of hard for a man to stop somebody for an expired tag when your own inspection sticker is expired."

Department of Public Safety Capt. Robert Campbell said he would launch an immediate investigation that may result in state troopers citing

police vehicles. Failure to do the proper tags is a violation of state law.

Hankins said an undetermined number of police vehicles have been invalidly registered because of a delay in a \$4,000 check from the city.

A spokeswoman for Mayor Kathy Whitmire said she would put the check in the mail Tuesday.

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Judge says Army can prosecute

United Press International
SAN ANTONIO — A federal judge has allowed the Army to court-martial a woman accused of faking a pregnancy to obtain a discharge, but legal proceedings are not expected to begin for several months.

U.S. District Judge Fred Shannon, ruled Monday that 21-year-old Wendy Wickham can be court-martialed.

Military officials agreed to delay the legal proceedings until Wickham's attorneys could appeal. A decision is expected within three months.

Wickham, who had signed up for a four-year hitch in 1979, was discharged from the Army in 1980 after a urine test and examination by military doctors showed she was pregnant.

She said she later had an abortion, but the Army claimed she had faked the pregnancy by submitting a urine sample from a pregnant friend.

Stewart Alexander, Wickham's attorney, argued the Army no longer had jurisdiction over the woman because her discharge was proper. He said the Uniform Code of Military Justice, which permits court-martials of people who fraudulently obtain discharges, was unconstitutional because it presumed the discharge was fraudulent before any fraud was proven.

"For the military to try Mrs. Wickham, they have to presume and this court has to presume that she did something wrong," he told Shannon.

Shannon ruled the military statute was constitutional, but said his ruling was a close decision.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Hugh Shovlin had argued: "This is an offense that strikes at the heart of the ability of the military to maintain a functional fighting force."

"(It was) the functional equivalent of desertion."

Alexander said he expected a ruling on his appeal of Shannon's decision within two to three months from the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals.

Wickham said the court-martial was spurred by the false accusations of her former Army roommate, who told officials Wickham had faked the pregnancy.

"We were roommates for eight months and were good friends," Wickham said earlier. "I don't know why she would do it. It's really a lot of unnecessary harassment. Personally, I feel it's a grudge match — I don't feel the military prosecutor likes me."