

# Short Necks?



## state

# Clements claims support of west Texas farmers

United Press International  
Gov. Bill Clements predicts he will carry west Texas over Democrat Mark White in the November election by a larger margin than the one he received four years ago against John Hill. Clements said in Lubbock Wednesday he had the support of west Texas producers because of laws which changed agricultural taxes to base them on productivity rather than acreage and other measures. The law protects farmers against "urban creep," Clements said.

"They (farmers) understand where I'm coming from on agri-

culture," he said.

He also released a poll by Houston pollster Lance Tarrance that he said gave him a 14 percent lead over White.

"I'm going up and he's going down," Clements said of White after an appearance at Lubbock Christian College. "The gap is getting wider each day."

White, meanwhile, picked up endorsements from the Black Legislative Caucus and Ohio Sen. John Glenn as well as some sympathy from Jim Mattox, who is trying to succeed him as attorney general.

Mattox, a Dallas congress-

man, Wednesday said Clements comments that White has done a bad job as attorney general were unfair in view of Clements' handling of state affairs and his antagonism toward White.

"It's the first time in the state's history the governor has been a Republican," Mattox said. "People understand now why we haven't had a Republican governor for 104 or 105 years."

Glenn, who appeared in Houston Wednesday on behalf of state Democratic candidates, predicted White would be one of the best governors Texas has ever had.

Rep. Craig Washington, D-Houston and a spokesman for the Black Legislative Caucus, said in Houston, "We wholeheartedly endorse Mark White."

"Mark White will offer positive leadership for all Texans, not just the wealthy and powerful."

Mattox also announced that a newly-released poll showed he is comfortably ahead of Republican Bill Meier.

The telephone poll of 607 registered voters statewide between Oct. 7 and Oct. 10 showed 44 percent of those surveyed favored Mattox and 22 percent supported Meier.

"I think my opponent has lost the race," said Mattox.

But Meier disputed Mattox's poll, saying his own survey showed him "neck and neck" with the Democrat.

"Compared with our benchmark poll from late June, Mattox has dropped 10 percent and we have moved significantly upward to the point where we are now in a dead heat," Meier said.

Another poll commissioned by incumbent Democratic Comptroller Bob Bullock showed him with a considerable lead over his GOP opponent, Sugarland state Sen. Mike Richards. Bullock said the poll showed he had 59 percent of the vote, including 30 percent of the state registered Republicans.

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# Oilmen donate Clements money

United Press International  
DALLAS — About one-fourth of the contributions of \$1,000 or more for Gov. Bill Clements' re-election campaign in the last five months came from oil interests, the Dallas Morning News said Thursday.

Clements' Democratic challenger, Attorney General Mark White, has received the bulk of his support from the business community, the News said in a copyrighted story.

It said Clements has received almost \$1.2 million in oil money, accounting for about one-fourth of the \$4.9 million he has raised from April through September — the five-month period covered in the campaign-finance reports filed last week with the secretary of state.

The newspaper said the oil industry contributions of at least \$1,000 each to Clements, a Republican and a former oilman, were more than any other candi-

date has raised from all sources.

The study showed White's source of funds has been the general business community, which contributed \$567,900 to the \$2.6 million he has raised the past five months, while only 10.8 percent came from oil interests.

Last week, with a month to go before the Nov. 2 election, Clements reported total campaign contributions of \$9.3 million, breaking his 1978 record of \$7.2 million for fundraising in a state race. White has raised a total of \$4.9 million.

White's recent report includes more than 300 names of people who gave at least \$1,000 or guaranteed him \$1.6 million in loans. Those contributions account for 90 percent of the \$2.6 million that White reported for the summer period.

70 percent of Clements' contributions the past five months were from individuals who donated \$1,000 or more.

# White says utility abuses should stop

United Press International  
AUSTIN — Democratic gubernatorial candidate Mark White Thursday advocated an end to Public Utility Commission rules that he said force consumers to bear the cost of utility companies' mistakes.

The attorney general said that if elected, he would work to abolish rules allowing utility companies to pass to ratepayers 100 percent of the costs of buying fuel. He also opposed permitting construction work in progress to be financed by consumers.

"With the 100 percent pas-

sthrough, they (utility companies) don't care who they buy their fuel from or how much they have to pay for it," White said at a Capitol news conference.

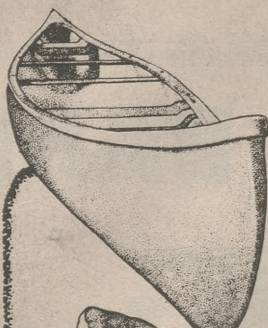
"And when they make mistakes (in construction projects), today we just glibly turn around and say, 'OK, we'll let the ratepayers pay for it.'"

White announced his endorsement by several South Texas public officials, who complained his opponent Republican Gov. Bill Clements had been insensitive to the needs of Mexican-American communities.

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