

Teachers' raise proposed

United Press International
AUSTIN — The Texas Association of School Boards Tuesday proposed a pay schedule that would hike annual salaries for first-year teachers from \$11,100 to \$15,000 and make it easier for them to earn even higher salaries.

Association director David Thompson also said school board members support increases in the sales and motor fuels taxes to generate an addi-

tional \$1.1 billion in revenues for education.

Thompson made the presentation to the House Education Committee, which opened a series of hearings to coincide with the Select Public Education Committee headed by H. Ross Perot.

The Perot committee is conducting a wide-ranging investigation into Texas' education system in advance of a special session that is expected to address,

among other education topics, teacher salaries.

In addition to recommending higher starting salaries, the school board association also proposed narrowing the gap between steps in various pay classifications.

Thompson said school board members believe teachers should be able to advance to higher classifications based on experience and advanced training rather than only on degrees.

"We think we place far too much emphasis on the degree alone, particularly those that are not even in your subject field," he said.

The association's tax plan

calls for a 1-cent increase in the state sales tax, which would be earmarked for education, and a 5-cent hike in the motor fuels tax to be split between education and highways.

With the number of students enrolled in Texas public schools increasing by as many as 80,000 a year, Thompson said there is a need for new revenues.

Chairman Bill Haley, D-Center, who is a member of both the House panel and the Perot committee, said no recommendations would be made until April. The committees are apparently setting the stage for a summer special session of the Legislature.

Suspected typhoid cause Trinity University salad

United Press International
SAN ANTONIO — Tossed salads served at a Trinity University cafeteria may be the source of a typhoid fever outbreak that has struck eight people, health officials said Tuesday.

Dr. Courand Rothe, director of the Metropolitan Health District, said it was confirmed this weekend that another Trinity student has typhoid, bringing the total number of victims to contract the disease to eight.

Seven of the victims are Trinity students. One victim — a 28-year-old ophthalmologist's assistant — is not a student, but ate meals on a regular basis at the Trinity cafeteria, officials said.

All eight victims apparently ate tossed salads at the school cafeteria, said Dr. Robert F. Bell, the health district's director of communicable diseases.

"A lot of them ate very little else," Bell said.

Rothe said it was reported

to the health district that non-student frequently ate the salads at the cafeteria.

"That (the salad) is just one of the angles we thought would give special attention to," Rothe said. Officials also checking food handlers at a small taco restaurant at the Trinity campus, he said.

So far, at least 85 handlers on and off the Trinity campus have been tested but officials have not identified the carrier of the disease.

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School official says big's not always best

United Press International
LUBBOCK — Small schools can provide a "magic" because individual students have an identity instead of being lost in the general population of larger schools, small school administrators were told Tuesday.

H. Ross Perot, chairman of the Texas State Select Committee on Public Education, was speaking to the Fourth Annual Conference for Administrators of Smaller Schools.

"We've got schools in our state that are so big that if you're the quarterback and you're not winning nobody knows who you are," Perot said. "We've got to get away from those monster schools."

"Small schools are magic," he said, adding that children recognized for their individualism while growing up frequently are found in leadership roles as adults.

He predicted that within a few years the state would provide the same educational outlets to children living in rural areas as provided to children in urban areas.

"Within five years, in the most remote, modest little schoolhouse in Texas, your math genius can sit down to a computer terminal," Perot said.

He said gifted students anywhere in the state would have the chance to take college-level courses while still in high school.

Meanwhile, he said, the people of Texas have to find a way to equalize the amount of money available to various school districts. He said some districts have trouble paying the light bill while other districts build gyms at elementary schools.

"Either we are going to address this as Texans or some judge is going to give us an

answer we're not going to give," he warned.

Perot said schools need to put a balance to the emphasis on learning academic subjects and the emphasis on other school activities. He said more of the school day should be devoted to learning trade subjects.

"We think it's a tad to send your drill team to a Kong while school's in session," Perot said as an example of educators needed to make the school day for learning.

He urged administrators to remember that learning was fun, but the possession of a degree was not.

"Let's stop kidding ourselves," he said. "Learning is not fun. It's hard work."

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