

# White blasts school figures

**United Press International**  
AUSTIN — A study released Wednesday fueled the harsh criticism leveled against Texas schools by H. Ross Perot's education committee by indicating only 40 cents of every dollar spent on classroom instruction goes toward basic academic subjects.

"I think it's an alarming revelation to see the proportion of school dollars being spent on academic core curriculum," Gov. Mark White said of a preliminary report prepared by the non-profit Texas Research League.

The study, based on a sample of 12 of the state's 1,071 school districts, showed 40 cents of ev-

ery dollar spent for instructional salaries went to basic subjects: English, math, science, social studies and foreign languages.

Twenty-five percent of each instructional dollar was spent on vocational education, 13 percent on electives, 15 percent on physical education and competitive sports, and 7 percent on special or remedial education.

White said he had suspected too much money was being spent on non-basic instruction, but added, "I didn't know until I saw this preliminary report how bad it was."

Perot's Select Committee on

Public Education, in drafting its legislative recommendations last week, urged a decrease in funding for high schools — particularly for vocational education — and a sharp increase in elementary school spending.

The report indicated 51 percent more was spent for high school education than for elementary education.

"A unanimous feeling in the committee was that elementary school was where the priority of dollars should be," Tom Luce, staff director of the Perot committee, said Wednesday.

Jared Hazleton, president of

the Texas Research League, said the report was representative of spending across the state even though it was based on only 12 relatively small school districts.

He said a more complete report would be released in May after eight more districts — including one of the two biggest school districts in the state, Dallas or Houston — were analyzed.

The report agreed with the Perot committee's assessment that simply funneling more money into education would not solve inadequacies in the system.

# Education Board asked to kill evolution restraints

**United Press International**  
AUSTIN — The leader of an anti-censorship group asked the Texas Board of Education Wednesday to quickly repeal a rule that restricts the teaching of evolution in Texas' public schools.

In a letter to the panel, Michael Hudson, Texas coordinator for People for the American Way, reminded board members of the state attorney general's opinion declaring the rule unconstitutional.

Attorney General Jim Mattox said last week the board rule is unconstitutional because it is

motivated by "a concern for religious sensibilities rather than a dedication to scientific truth."

The rule, adopted 10 years ago, requires that evolution be taught as only one of several theories of the origin of man.

Hudson said the board would face a costly legal battle if it chooses to ignore Mattox's advisory opinion.

"We hope that you will choose to follow the law and refrain from an unnecessary waste of taxpayer money in fu-

tile litigation," Hudson wrote.

Hudson also asked the board to delay for one-year the adoption of new biology and elementary science texts, which have already been written to comply with the 1974 rule.

"Everyone, I assume, would readily agree that a one year delay is a small price to pay to assure that our textbooks are not 'dumbed-down' and do not exclude scientific critical knowledge," he said.

# Jury selection for Lucas trial almost ended

**United Press International**  
SAN ANGELO — Georgetown attorneys picked a third juror in the capital murder trial of Henry Lee Lucas, leaving only two more jurors and two alternates to be selected.

Seven women were picked as jurors last week; three men have been picked this week.

Lucas is charged with the strangulation of an unidentified woman whose body was found along Interstate 35 near Georgetown on Halloween night. Lucas was granted a change of venue to San Angelo.


The 47-year-old drifter and former mental patient is charged with killing, robbing, kidnapping and sexually assaulting the Georgetown victim. Lucas also has confessed to more than 150 slayings across

the country, and already has been convicted for two Texas murders.

He was sentenced to life in prison for murdering his 15-year-old common-law wife Frieda "Becky" Powell, and to 75 years in prison for the slaying of an elderly Ringgold woman.

Defense attorney Don Higginbotham of Georgetown said he plans to argue that Lucas is innocent by reason of insanity for the Georgetown slaying.

Williamson County officials reported Florida prison inmate Otis Toole, who was Lucas' former traveling companion, has been transferred to the Georgetown jail. He will stay there until needed as a witness for the San Angelo trial.



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# Job picture better for Texas cities

**United Press International**  
AUSTIN — Unemployment in Texas cities dropped across-the-board during February, reflecting a pattern of general statewide economic recovery, state officials said Wednesday.

"It certainly looks from these numbers that Texas is experiencing pretty much of a recovery from our economic problems," said Diane Dobie, a labor market analyst for the Texas Employment Commission.

The effects of a severe Christmas Eve freeze were blamed for saddling the McAllen-Pharr-Edinburg area with the highest jobless rate among Texas cities for the second straight month.

The TEC reported unemployment in the South Texas cities in February at 23.1 percent, down from January's figure of 25.7 percent.

Thousands of farm workers in the Rio Grande Valley lost their jobs in the freeze that destroyed much of the region's valuable citrus and winter vegetable crop.

The TEC said Austin, with its strong economy linked to government, higher education and high-technology, had the lowest rate for the second month in a row at only 2.8 percent.

Actual statewide unemployment in Texas during February was 5.9 percent.

Dobie said there were still some areas of Texas and some

specific industries that were lagging, but "the overall picture is much better than it has been."

"There is general growth in a lot of different sectors of the economy statewide," she added.

The February unemployment rate in Bryan-College Station was 3.6 percent. The rate dropped 1.2 percent from January's figure of 4.8 percent.

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# Hightower visits Israel

**United Press International**  
AUSTIN — Texas Agriculture Commissioner Jim Hightower departs Thursday for an official visit to Israel, where he said he hopes to exchange ideas and find out how the Israelis have "made their desert bloom."

Hightower will visit several agricultural kibbutzim, meet with the Israeli government and agriculture leaders and tour food processing plants and energy projects during the eight-day trip.

"No other people in the world get as much from a drop of water, from a ray of sunshine or from a few precious inches of soil as the Israelis do," he said.

Hightower noted Israel and Texas are at the same latitude and the geography of the two are similar in some places.

"I want to come home from Israel, not only with some nice slides and fond memories, but also with a fuller understanding of how Israel has made their desert bloom, and how we can transplant some of their experience to Texas," he said.

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