

For Doggett, it's a mixed bag of love, hate

United Press International
AUSTIN — To admirers, he's a crusader who stood up to the greedy interests feeding at the trough of state government. To detractors, he's a shameless liberal often concerned more with image than substance.

Mention state Sen. Lloyd Doggett's name to those who know him and you rarely get a lukewarm response; they either love him or hate him. He has been characterized as "Saint Lloyd" by one colleague and "so honest you could shoot craps over the phone with him"

by another. But to the state's conservative business interests he is anathema, a left-leaning Democrat whose filibusters in tennis shoes have been aimed as much at television cameras as at the legislation he seeks to kill.

By all accounts, the tall, thin Doggett has taken the biggest political gamble of his career by running for the U.S. Senate seat being vacated by Republican Sen. John Tower.

"It's clear that from the beginning of this race I was running as the decided underdog and I still am," Doggett said during an interview at his Austin law office. "I had to convince a lot of people early on that it was a feasible, do-able thing. I wouldn't have put 10 years of political life on the line if I didn't think this race could be won."

By entering the contest, Doggett has all but said goodbye to the secure state Senate seat he first won as a 26-year-old. He now faces the difficult task of expanding his political support

to areas away from his constituency in Travis and Hays counties. He also faces the problem of shedding his image as one of the state's foremost liberal politicians.

"I do avoid and rebut the quick label that sometimes is put on me," Doggett, 37, says. "I've never been a believer in flash-card politics, voting on something because it was the liberal or conservative thing to do."

Doggett's first elected office was president of the University of Texas Students Association, a post held through the years by numerous Texas political luminaries.

As an undergraduate business major he finished first in his class, then earned a degree from the UT School of Law. In 1973 he left a job as president of the Texas Consumer Association to run for the state Senate. Although an underdog, he eventually won in a runoff.

During his 10-year tenure, Doggett has earned a reputation as a tireless campaigner, particularly in utilities, deceptive practices and hazardous waste.

Although generally going, he also has earned a reputation for being intense, times, humorous. "I am a pretty person," Doggett acknowledges, "but my record and I have to remold my personal campaign."

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Jackson gains backing of Texas' Black Caucus

United Press International
Jesse Jackson's campaign for the Democratic presidential nomination picked up the endorsement Wednesday of Texas' Legislative Black Caucus, whose leader said he expects Jackson to win the support of about 80 percent of black Texas voters.

But Rep. Ron Wilson, D-Houston, the caucus chairman, conceded during a news conference in Austin that it would be difficult for Jackson supporters to overcome the grass roots organization that Walter Mondale has in place.

"We're working real hard on the precinct caucuses, but it's a very difficult process," he said. "We've redoubled our efforts in trying to educate voters who believe they can still vote for Jesse when they walk into the voting booth."

Texas Democrats meet in precinct conventions May 5 to begin the process of selecting 200 delegates to the Democratic National Convention in San Francisco.

Of the 116 delegates at stake in the precinct caucuses, Wilson said, "We think we'll get a decent amount." The remaining delegates will be named later.

Wilson said he did not know who the other black lawmakers are supporting except for Craig Washington, D-Houston, the only black member of the Texas Senate, who is supporting Colorado Sen. Gary Hart.

Jackson made campaign stops Wednesday in San Antonio, Waco and Dallas, and planned to be in Fort Worth and Houston on Thursday. Mondale was expected to arrive in Texas Wednesday night for stops Thursday in Fort Worth, San Antonio and El Paso. On Friday, he will be in Lubbock and Beaumont.

Meanwhile, in the Senate race, Democrat Kent Hance told a news conference in San Antonio Wednesday that amnesty for illegal aliens would damage the quality of Texas education.

Hance noted that his Democratic rivals, Bob Krueger and Lloyd Doggett, both support amnesty plans now before Congress.

"This is a generous nation, committed to sharing its resources with those most in need," the Lubbock congressman said. "But amnesty would make it harder to provide a quality education to the least fortunate children in our society."

On the Republican side of

the Senate campaign, Rep. Paul McClellan, D-Houston, said he was a prominent supporter of his opponents.

The complaint said Washington, D.C.-based committee for the Survival of Congress, which is backing Rep. Phil Gramm, names on Paul's list without approval.

Paul said the names were deliberately misused as a security measure.

"Even in politics, it's not fair to use other people's names without their permission," Paul said.

In Houston, a candidate for the Texas Court of Appeals conceded he was running against the name of the highest criminal appellate court judge.

District Judge Owen Shea said he was running for the final 25 seats on the court.

Shea said he was running against the name of the state's attorney general, who is running for re-election.

Kitzman's opponent, Judge Sam Houston, said he was running for the primary on Tuesday.

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