

# Doggett and Gramm trade accusations about ethics

United Press International

AUSTIN — Senate candidates Lloyd Doggett and Phil Gramm, unable to reach a truce in their increasingly bitter campaign, accused each other of unethical campaign practices again Wednesday.

Gramm accused Doggett of reaching "an all-time low in Texas politics" by taping a telephone conversation between the two candidates and releasing the tape to the press.

Meanwhile, Doggett said Gramm may be facing "a very serious charge" by improperly reporting campaign contributions and expenditures.

Gramm's June 30 campaign report stated that he had \$39,259 in cash and no debts.

However, a later report showed that Gramm received more than \$110,000 in Republican primary contributions from 108 individuals and five political action committees. The late primary contributions would be legal only if they went toward paying a primary campaign debt.

"I've not had a chance to study the situation in detail, but it sounds to me like taking \$110,000 in illegal campaign contributions is a very serious charge," Doggett said. "I want to look at it further."

Gramm's campaign staff said their

campaign finance reports were proper.

"We have accepted a number of primary contributions to retire bills still coming in," said Larry Neal, a spokesman for the Gramm campaign. "Our attorney assures us that the Doggett campaign's allegations are fundamental nonsense."

If an examination shows a book-keeping problem, an amended report will be filed to differentiate between the primary and general election accounts, Neal said.

Meanwhile, Gramm continued his criticism of Doggett for taping a telephone conversation the two had Tuesday evening. Gramm said the taping was unethical and a possible violation of State Bar of Texas guidelines.

Doggett denied that contention and said the taping was necessary to verify Gramm's statements.

Gramm was appearing on a television call-in show in Victoria when Doggett called the station to speak with Gramm.

"You bet I taped it," Doggett said. "I intended it to be broadcast throughout the Victoria listening area."

During the conversation, Doggett told Gramm that he had canceled television ads that mentioned Gramm by name and called on

Gramm to do the same.

Doggett, an Austin state senator, and Gramm, a College Station congressman, have criticized each other's broadcast advertisements, each accusing the other of distorting facts, using quotes out of context and lying.

Monday, Gramm called on Doggett to stop airing the negative television ads and instead to concentrate on issues and on each man's voting record.

Doggett accepted Gramm's suggestion on the condition that the two meet in a face-to-face debate — a challenge Gramm rejected.

"Doggett wanted to ask him if he was going to live up to the agreement to take the high road in the campaign and stop all the negative attacks," Doggett press secretary Bill Collier said. "There is nothing unethical about it (the taping)."

However, Gramm still maintained taping the call was improper.

"I believe the action of Lloyd Doggett in secretly taping a telephone conversation with me was another example of the unethical behavior which Mr. Doggett has exhibited through the primary election, the runoff election and now in the general election," Gramm said.

# Benefit increase detailed

United Press International

WASHINGTON — Thirty-seven million Social Security recipients will receive a 3.5 percent increase in benefits in January, which will boost checks for the typical retired worker by \$15. The increase in monthly benefits will vary:

— A retired worker, now getting \$434, will get \$449 — \$15 more.

— A worker retiring this year at 65 and entitled to maximum benefits, now at \$703, will get \$728 — \$25 more.

— A retired couple, now getting \$750, will get \$776 — \$26 more.

— An aged widow, now getting \$401, will get \$415 — \$14 more.

— A mother and two children, now getting \$955, will get \$988 — \$33 more.

— A disabled worker, now getting \$457, will get \$473 — \$16 more.

— A disabled worker, wife and child, now getting \$863, will get \$893 — \$30 more.

— A single person on Supplemental Security Income, now getting a maximum of \$314, will get \$325 — \$11 more.

# Lady Bird raises funds for wildflower center

United Press International

HOUSTON — Lady Bird Johnson Wednesday raised another \$150,000 toward a \$3 million goal to operate her National Wildflower Research Center and also got support from state and federal officials for her highway beautification program.

The wife of the late President Lyndon B. Johnson attended a fund-raising dinner at the River Oaks Country Club to sign up additional pledges after telling reporters she just got a \$52,700 grant from a Dallas foundation, \$10,000 from the American Conservation Association in Williamsburg, Va., and \$50,000 from the Lanier Foundation of Houston.

She said Wednesday's donation met more than half of her \$1.5 million goal in Texas. She intends to raise another \$1.5 million in the rest of the country.

Two years ago, on her 70th birthday, the former first lady donated \$125,000 and 60 acres of prime land on the Colorado River east of Austin to begin the National Wildflower Research Center to study the 25,000 species of wildflowers that grow in the United States and to encourage developers to incorporate the native plants into their developments.

She is credited with inspiring passage of the National Highway Beautification Act during her late husband's term and with encouraging

Texas officials to beautify the

sands of miles of highways. "I began this because nature, flowers, plants, trees have given a lot of job and sustenance and spirit-lifting moments all my life," Johnson said at a news conference. "Also, I have noticed in my brief half century of looking around me that this world is sure filling with folks and all those open fields and meadows and spaces that used to be a university student back in the 1920s are now grids of houses and parking malls and lots and lots of ways."

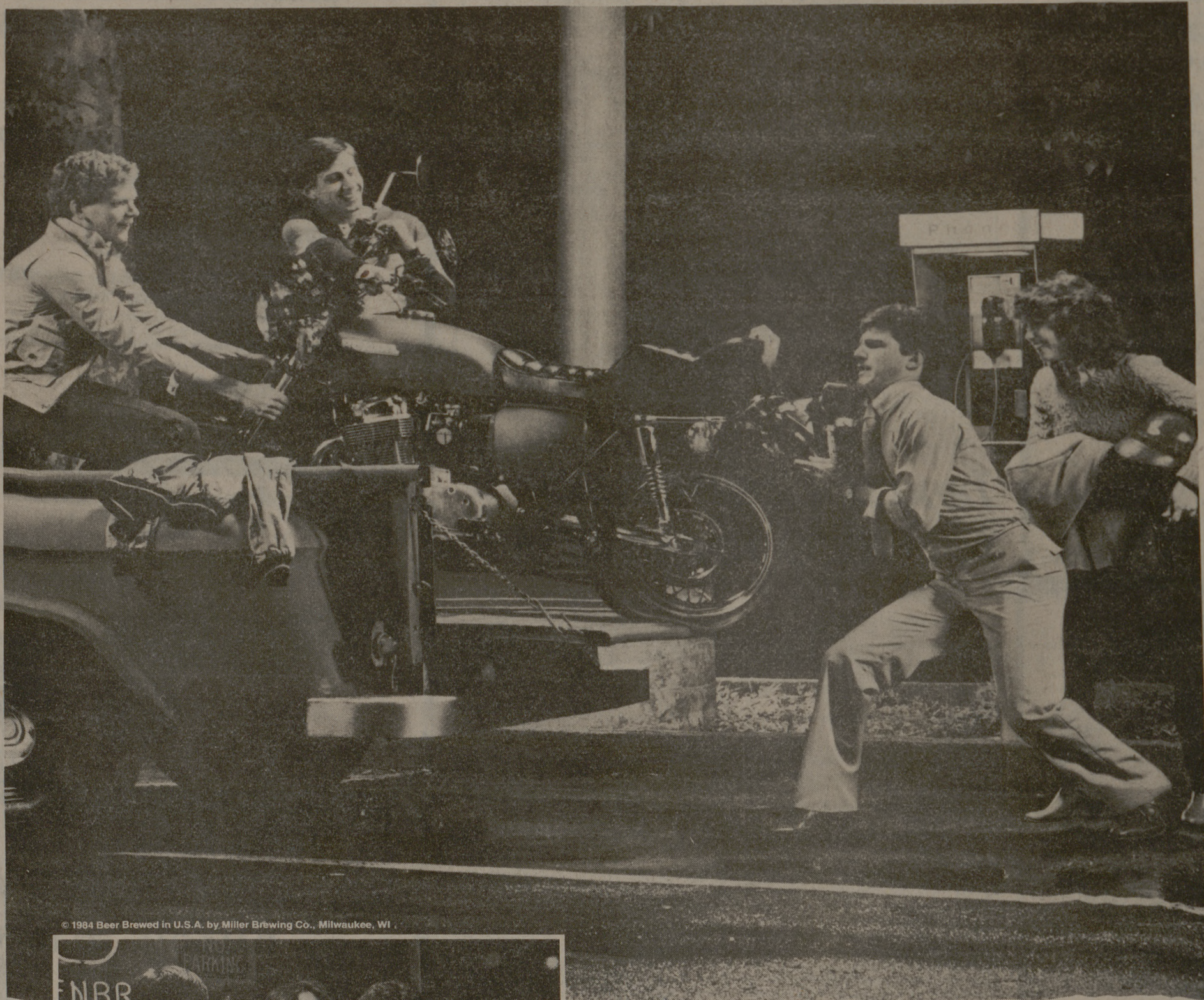
The purpose of the center is to encourage the use of native wildflowers, plants and trees in the landscaping patterns of the country, she said.

Sen. Lloyd Bentsen, D-Texas, appearing with Johnson, also announced he expects final passage of an amendment to the National Highway Act requiring that the fourth of 1 percent of the highway budget be used to fund wildflowers.

And Bob Lanier, chairman of the Texas Highway Commission, said his agency would spend more than \$3 million over the next two years stalling native plants along highways.

"If we'd done this 10 to 15 years ago, the entire state would look like a million-acre park," Lanier said.

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