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Comptroller seizes Dallas businesses

AUSTIN — The state comptroller Tuesday began seizing Dallas businesses for delinquent sales tax receipts and said similar seizures are planned in other cities this week.

Comptroller Bob Bullock said the closings were a last resort, but nec-

'Some businesses just persist in not paying the tax money they col-lect from their customers," Bullock businesses we are seizing has been given ample opportunity to pay the money they owe

At least one Dallas business was closed Tuesday, said John Moore, spokesman for Comptroller Bob Bullock. Others could face the same fate, he said.

Bullock said that in addition to the seizures, enforcement officers are filing liens and freezing bank accounts of delinquent merchants.

"Most Texas merchants follow the law and pay the taxes they collect," Bullock said. "We've only got a few bad apples we're about to remove from the barrel.

"In today's competitive business environment," he said, "we owe it to the honest taxpayer who pays his taxes promptly to see that his com-

petitor does the same.' Sales tax receipts collected by merchants at the time of sale are legally due the state.

'These merchants have a clear choice: they can pay the more when it's due or they can make hard for themselves by not pa and see their business shut do Bullock said. "It's the government money, but it's their choice."

Under state law, after the con troller padlocks a tax-delingubusiness, he is empowered to sell company's assets at auction to

Mattox: Cameras can be barred from public meetings

Associated Press

AUSTIN - State and local officials are free to prohibit television news cameras from covering public meetings, Attorney General Jim Mattox said in a legal opinion made public Tuesday.

The state's 1973 Open Meetings Act says public meetings "may be re-corded . . . by means of a tape re-corder or any other means of sonic reproduction.

However, Mattox said, "sonic re-production," as mentioned in the Open Meetings Act, does not include TV cameras.

"This provision does not give members of the public a right to videotape meetings," Mattox said in answer to a question raised by Titus County officials. "In the absence of a specific provision permitting a member of the public to record its meetings by videotape, the commissioners court may prevent the videotaping of its meetings held pursuant to the Open Meetings Act."

The Texas Association of Broadcasters said the Mattox ruling could affect television coverage of public meetings throughout the state.

Earlier this year, Titus County commissioners voted 4-0 to bar television cameras from their meetings. The action came after County Judge Bill Harper had invited a small Mt. Pleasant television station to videotape and air the commissioners court

"I thought they were doing a service for the community," Harper said Tuesday. "We meet at a time of day when a lot of people cannot be in the courtroom. This was an opportunity to see how the commission functions. I can't see anything wrong

But the commissioners did, and they approved the rule that barred cameras as of April 8.

Commissioner Loyd Clark, who pushed for the ban, did not answer calls to either his office or home Tuesday. Asked about Mattox's opinion, Clark told the Mt. Pleasant

Daily Tribune, "It says the same thing that it said before."

The camera invited into the courtroom by Harper belonged to FVP Network, a Mt. Pleasant operation that leases air time from the local ca-

The commissioners court proceedings were broadcast in their entirety after the local news on FVP's channel 10.

Gale Johnson, FVP's office manager, said, "When things got sticky or issues got hot it was videotaped. Things were being shown that the commissioners didn't like."

The videotaping was done with a single camera, mounted on a tripod near a wall. It was not interfering with the proceedings, she said.

"With video, what you see is what you're doing," she said. "We didn't change anything. They got tired of it. They didn't want to be TV stars." FVP plans a court challenge of the

camera ban. Bonner McLane, TAB executive vice president, said the Texas Association of Broadcasters lawyersh reviewed the law and see no Mattox's opinion can be challeng

"He has precedent on his side, of fortunately," McLane said, "Our torneys said, 'Don't bother."

Under the "sonic reproduct law, "You can carry a microphor but you can't carry a camerain,' Lane added.

"This (controversy) was just a calized situation," he said. "How it will get carried I don't know. someone else gets mad at the TV station, they could do the sa

The Titus County commission believed the cameras turned the meetings into a forum for people complain and get air time, acc to McLane.

The TAB will ask the 1987 Le lature to revise the Open Meeting Act to include videotaping of pull meetings, McLane said.

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The Society of Professonal J nalists also wants the 1987 Le lature to rewrite the law.

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3	1.33 carats	\$3,000 in bonds	6,500	3,250	.05 pts		50.00	29.95
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3,250	1,685	1.01 carats	\$3,000 in bonds	6500	3350
2,950	1,520	65 pts	\$1,000 in bonds	2800	1450
2,850	1,525	63 pts	\$1,000 in bonds	3100	1495
1,800	995	55 pts		1700	895
2,800	1,435	50 pts		790	375
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1,595	785	37 pts		900	450
1,495	770	37 pts		875	450
1,395	735	34 pts		820	410
1,150	535	33 pts		850	395
1,175	695	30 pts		750	365
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625	320	0.50	Bonds	At:	Price:
425	235	2.58 carat	\$9,000 in bonds	\$19,500	\$8890

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1.91 carats	\$7,000 in bonds	\$16,500	\$7450
1.47 carats	\$3,000 in bonds	7300	3195
1.03 carats	\$2,000 in bonds	4950	2495
1.04 carats	\$2,000 in bonds	4800	2350
.93 pts	\$2,000 in bonds	3700	1850
.42 pts		1595	795
.35 pts		1350	635
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3.14 carats	\$11,000 in bonds	\$22,500	\$10,700
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2.05 carats	\$3,000 in bonds	\$4,500	\$2890		
1.99 carats	\$6,000 in bonds	14,000	6780		
1.64 carats	\$3,000 in bonds	3,000	2975		
1.27 carats	\$2,000 in bonds	5,200	2570		
.62 pts	\$1,000 in bonds	2,800	1395		
.54 pts	\$1,000 in bonds	2,300	1195		
.47 pts	\$1,000 in bonds	2,100	1050		
.39 pts		495	290		
.33 pts		675	325		
.33 pts		490 .	250		
.28 pts		395	210		
.23 pts		395	175		

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