Public school woes Economic problems are lowering property tax bases

AUSTIN (AP) — Two-thirds of the state's school districts suffered a loss in property tax base between 1984 and 1985, the State Property

Tax Board announced Thursday. Officials said the losses reflect the low inflation rate and the economic problems hitting agriculture and the oil and gas industry.

The agency's latest property value study estimated that Texas school

districts had a total of \$702.6 billion in taxable value on Jan. 1, 1985.

State law requires the board to estimate the taxable value of property annually for each of the state's more than 1,000 school districts. A school district's taxable wealth is a key factor in determining how much financial aid it will receive from the

The 1985 figures will be used in

Among the 732 school districts that showed a loss in taxable value were the Houston and Dallas independent school districts, the state's

The study showed that a majority of the districts with the largest tax base growth - 20 percent or more were suburban school districts

around Dallas, Fort Worth, Austin and San Antonio.

Districts that lost 20 percent or more of their tax bases generally were located in rural counties.

'Small rural districts are more directly affected by problemsin agrisiness or the oil and gas industry.' said Ron Patterson, executive director of the board.

"Disticts with shrinking tax bases

may be forced to increase tax rates in 1986 just to bring in the same amount of local revenue," he added.

The agency's new study estimated the total market value of the school districts' tax base at \$830.9 billion. The taxable value of \$702.6 billion is determined after deductions for the special tax treatment accorded agricultural land, plus the homestead

Education board chair says cuts not feasible

A 20 percent cut, also suggested, ould double these figures. AUSTIN (AP) - Texas school districts would have to get rid of 23,557 employees or raise property taxes by Faced with gloomy economic forean average of 9.9 percent if state aid to education is cut by 10 percent, the State Board of Education was told casts, the Legislative Budget Board and Gov. Mark White's staff have asked all state agencies to calculate what 10 percent and 20 percent cuts Thursday.

Correction

would do to their programs.

After looking at the alternatives, board Chairman Jon Brumley of Fort Worth said they all looked unreason-The 10 percent cut also could be accomplished by slashing annual salaries by an average of \$1,212. according to the numbers calculated able. State leaders are calling on by the Texas Education Agency in preparation for 1987 budget hearagencies to spend less, but the schools need more, he said.

"Education in this state needs to go forward." Brumley said. "If we start cutting back on education at this time, then we're hurting the long-

A 10 percent cut in school spending would add up to \$500 million. A 20 percent cut would total \$1 billion.

'A 20 percent cut would take away most of the good, if not all of the good, that we've already tried to accomplish," Brumley said. "I don't think 10 percent would work either."

Here are examples of some of the larger property tax hikes that would be required by a 10 percent state education fund cuts:

Edgewood (San Antonio) - 127.3

Boles Home (Hunt County) - 170 Axtell (McLennan County) -

134.5 percent Presidio - 126.8 percent Laredo — 117.9 percent Edcouch-Elsa — 165.6 percent

Mercedes — 139.5 percent Here are the property tax hikes that would be needed to cover a 10 percent cut in state money to larger school districts:

Dallas — 4.5 percent Houston — 5.6 percent Fort Worth — 12.1 percent San Antonio — 28.5 percent Austin - 5.1 percent El Paso - 30 percent Corpus Christi - 17.2; percent Beaumont - 7.4 percent

Decision on army hospital overturned

Holmes said Thursday that after reorganization Murchison will own 80 percent of United Exposition stock through a holding com-pany and that the stock had been and ordered construction of a 150used to secure a loan that has not bed facility instead. yet been repaid.

Holmes said United Exposition is not responsible for the debt, which must be repaid by the holding company.

that the nearby Wilford Hall Air WASHINGTON (AP) - The Pentagon's top health official has overturned a decision to build a large replacement hospital for the Brooke Army Medical Center in San Antonio

Dr. William Mayer, assistant defense attorney for health affairs, also has ordered the transfer of Brooke's decision paper. well-known burn center to another undetermined location and directed

PLAZA 3

Force Medical Center be turned into joint command, staffed by Army and Air Force doctors together.

The decision aroused the ire of Texas congressmen who have been fighting for more than five years on the Army's behalf. It was sent to Capitol Hill late Thursday in a six-page

Unless overturned by Congress,

Mayer's decision will stand as final. The Brooke Army Medical Center, located at Fort Sam Houston, is one of eight primary hospitals providing the most advanced patient care within the Army health care system. The center includes a 692-bed hospital along with dozens of medical clinics

and a renowned burn center. The center, however, is spread among more than a dozen different buildings, many of them physically isolated from the others.

States ask for oil tariff

AUSTIN (AP) — Eight governors of oil-producing states, including Gov. Mark White of Texas, asked President Reagan on Thursday for a variable tariff on imported crude oil and refined products.

"Once again, we ask the president to take steps to save our vital oil and gas industry," White said in a statement. "Such a tariff will provide the stability that our nation so desperately needs.

"While the governors of oil-producing states are leading this fight, other non-producing states are realizing that the success of this battle may mean the difference between a strong, indepen-dent national defense and one that is reliant upon the whims of OPEC," he said.

The telegram outlining the governors' request was signed by Govs. White, George Sinner of North Dakota, George Nigh of Oklahoma, John Carlin of Kansas, Edwin Edwards of Louisiana, Toney Anaya of New Mexico, Wil-liam Sheffield of Alaska and Ed Herschler of Wyoming.

The telegram said declining oil prices, resulting from worldwide overproduction and product dumping by OPEC countries, have caused a major slump in domestic exploration and production which have resulted in business closures, high unemployment and lost tax revenues



DALLAS (AP) - In a story ab-

out the reorganization of the fi-nances of Clint Murchison Jr.

under Chapter 11 of the federal

bankruptcy laws, the Associated

Press erroneously reported Tues-day that Richard Holmes, an

accountant with the firm of

Oppenheim, Appel, Dixon and Co., said United Exposition Ser-vice Co. of Chicago is heavily in

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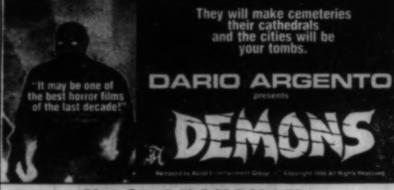
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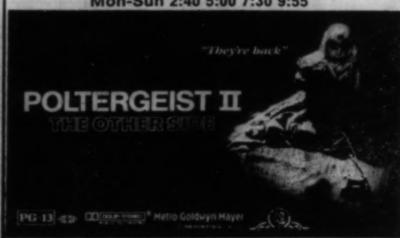
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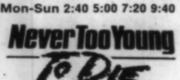
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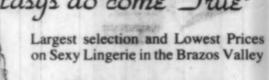
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