

State and Local

Bullock cuts \$11 million from agency's budget

AUSTIN (AP) — State Comptroller Bob Bullock, who is expected to soon tell lawmakers the state's fiscal picture has grown more dismal, announced Tuesday \$11.2 million worth of layoffs and closings in his agency.

Fifteen comptroller's field offices will be closed or merged and 134 employees will lose their jobs.

The closings, which Bullock says will be made by Sept. 1, will affect Dallas, Fort Worth, Arlington, Wichita Falls, Longview, Conroe, Corpus Christi, Galveston, Houston, San Antonio, Brownsville, Belton and San Angelo.

Bullock's announcement came as the House Appropriations Committee looked at more proposed spending cuts intended to help balance the state budget.

After Tuesday's meeting, Chairman Jim Rudd and Speaker Gib Lewis both said they agreed the committee would take no action until right before next month's special session, but the committee will continue meeting this week to review possible cuts.

Rep. Stan Schlueter, D-Killeen and chairman of the Ways and Means Committee, said, "The cuts will be made just as soon as the lieutenant governor, speaker and governor all agree on what they are. There is no plan. Zero."

Eight legislators Tuesday asked

White urged by legislators to consider lottery, betting

AUSTIN (AP) — Eight legislators Tuesday urged Gov. Mark White to put a state lottery and pari-mutuel betting on horses and dogs on the special session agenda as an alternative to raising taxes.

White's press secretary, Ann Arnold, said the governor's proclamation setting out what legislators could consider in the Aug. 6 session had not been prepared.

The governor said earlier he was calling the session to deal with a projected budget deficit of

\$2.3 billion for the two-year period ending Aug. 31, 1987.

Rep. Lloyd Criss, D-La Marque, told a news conference attended by seven other legislators, "The lottery itself, if put on the November ballot, could be in operation in three months and could generate several hundred million dollars in this biennium. Pari-mutuel will admittedly take longer, but if put on the November ballot, should begin generating tax dollars within a year."

A state lottery would require approval of a state constitutional amendment.

Rep. Bill Blanton, D-Clovis, said, "It's a very traditional value that we have in this state. The people don't want an income tax."

The group argues that an income tax would reduce new jobs, reduce employment and make Texas less attractive to companies seeking new locations.

White to open the Aug. 6, special legislative session to consideration of pari-mutuel gambling and a state lottery.

Also Tuesday, White was asked by several lawmakers forming an anti-tax group to allow consideration of a constitutional amendment that would bar a state income tax.

Reagan will speak at rally for Clements

DALLAS (AP) — President Reagan will make a pitch for Bill Clements today at a GOP rally and private lunch that party officials hope will add a special glow to the former governor's campaign for re-election.

The visit to Dallas is especially important because of Reagan's strong profile in the state, Reggie Bashur, Clements' press secretary, said Tuesday.

"It represents the political ties between Reagan and Clements and their agreement on philosophy and the way government should be run," Bashur said.

More than 5,000 people are expected at the free GOP rally at Dallas' Apparel Mart, Bashur said. Organizers at Clements' Dallas headquarters said they had fewer than 1,000 tickets left by midday Tuesday.

The site opens to the public at 10:30 a.m. and the program begins at 11:30 a.m. Reagan is scheduled to speak for 15 minutes, following an introduction by Clements shortly after noon.

After the speech, Reagan will spend about 45 minutes at a \$5,000-per-person private luncheon, a closed-door affair at the Loews Anatole. More than 100 tickets to the luncheon have been sold and the figure could go as high as \$750,000, Bashur said.

At the rally, Reagan will talk about Clements as a leader who is willing to make tough decisions, Bashur said.

"He's going to talk in terms of credibility," Bashur said. "He's going to talk about Texas needing a leader for the tough times."

Failed Odessa bank begins money returns

ODESSA (AP) — About 200 depositors sipped government-provided soft drinks and sat on folding chairs Tuesday as they lined up to retrieve their savings from Permian Bank of Odessa, the 12th bank to fail this year in oil-dependent Texas.

Among the arrivals before dawn was Debra Henderson, 30, who took the day off from her job as a bartender to empty her savings and checking accounts.

"I spent about two hours yesterday on the telephone calling all my credit card companies to tell them the checks aren't any good," said Henderson.

She said she still hasn't decided to which bank she will transfer her money.

"But I know it'll be one that doesn't have a lot of oil loans out," she said.

The bank, named after the oil-rich Permian Basin in West Texas, was shut down Friday by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp., which blamed the closing on bad energy loans.

Unlike three other banks in the Midland-Odessa area that have gone under since 1983, no buyer was found to keep Permian Bank afloat and it will cease to exist after all deposits are settled.

Customers with less than

\$100,000 in deposits will get all their money, said FDIC closing supervisor Ken Gorham. Depositors with more than the FDIC-insured \$100,000 limit will get that amount, a second check for 30 percent of the uninsured money and a receivership certificate for the remainder, which will be paid off with what is left after all insured accounts are settled and assets are sold, Gorham said.

The number of bank failures in Texas to date this year equals the total number of failures for all of last year.

And as many as 160 banks are expected to fail nationwide by year's end, compared to only 120 last year, Gorham said. Of the 75 bank failures in the country so far this year, in only 15 cases did buyers not step forward, he said.

Margaret Turner arrived at Permian Bank shortly before the doors opened Tuesday, after dropping off her 4-year-old son at a daycare center.

A customer at the bank for 10 years, Turner, 36, said she didn't feel her money was safe at any of the banks in Odessa or nearby Midland.

"You can't be sure of anything," she said. "You just have to hope for the best."

What's up

Thursday

COMMODORE BRAZOS USER'S GROUP: will hold a demonstration of current Commodore software at 7:30 p.m. in 203 Veterinary Medicine Complex. For more information call Jerry Cooper, 696-3963.

Friday

BAPTIST STUDENT UNION: will have an international dinner at 7 p.m. at the BSU (next to Kinko's on Old College Main). For more information call 846-7722.

STUDENT GOVERNMENT: applications for External Communications and Public Relations will be available through the summer months. Please come by 221 Pavilion from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. to pick up applications. For more information call 845-3051.

Items for What's Up should be submitted to The Battalion, 216 Reed McDonald, no less than three days prior to desired publication date.

Group 'will patrol border' despite warnings

CORPUS CHRISTI, Texas (AP) — Despite warnings from Texas Attorney General Jim Mattox, a paramilitary group will patrol the state's border to curb the flow of drugs, the group's director said.

"I think that, honest-to-goodness, as long as we abide by all the laws, there's nothing (Mattox) can really do about it," said Thomas Posey, director of the Memphis-based group known as Civilian Materiel Assistance.

The CMA will meet this weekend during its national convention in Memphis where plans for moving into Texas will be drafted. The patrols are planned for August and September, Posey said.

Only Texas members of the organization will participate in the South Texas patrols, he said.

The CMA attracted the attention of federal and state authorities earlier this month in Arizona when its armed members detained 16 undocumented aliens near the Mexican border and held them at gunpoint until federal authorities arrived.

The group claims to want to stop the flow of drugs from Mexico into the United States.

The Texas attorney general's office is investigating whether CMA patrols would violate state or federal laws. The investigation is focusing on weapons laws that might be applied, said Elna Christopher, a spokeswoman for Mattox.

In the July 5 incident, the CMA members were armed with machine guns and army assault-type weapons, authorities said. Posey, however, said his followers carried pistols and shotguns only.

Hispanic leaders in Texas, including Ruben Bonilla, chairman of Mexican American Democrats of Texas, urged Mattox to keep CMA out of the state, saying its operations could endanger citizens mistaken for illegal aliens.

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