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Panel discussions will be held in Rudder Theatre 8 p.m. Nov. 19 and 20. For information on daily symposia, call 845-1515. Admission is FREE for all events.

November 19 & 20, 1986

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TDC director says he plans to resist Clements' request

HUNTSVILLE (AP) — Gov.-elect Bill Clements has demanded his resignation, but Texas Department of Corrections Director O.L. McCotter said he will stay as long as he has the support of the prison board.

"I think we've made some great strides forward in the past two years," McCotter said Wednesday. "We've reduced violence by 75 percent and I think that even the inmates will say that they feel safer than before."

The prison director said he would poll board members and then make a decision about his job.

"I've never been one to walk away from a fight, but I'll leave if they want me to, or think that by staying on, I'll hurt the agency," he said.

Gov. Mark White, defeated by Clements in Tuesday's election, appointed eight of the nine board members during his term and Clements also has said he wants them to resign. Five of those members, con-

tacted by the *Houston Chronicle*, said they had no plans to comply.

"To resign now in response to demands of a guy who wins an election and engages in political rhetoric is a spineless move," board member Tom McDade said. "It's an act of cowardice."

Board member Jim Parsons said, "Everyone that wins struts their feathers and what we're seeing now is a lot of plumage. You'll see no one resign."

McDade and Parsons, along with Dennis Hendrix, Bob Lane and Al Hughes, are expected to resist Clements' call to leave. Board members are appointed to six-year terms and may not be removed unless they are found guilty of wrongdoing.

Clements, during the campaign, criticized McCotter's decision to allow inmates with good behavior to be released early. Besides McCotter and the board members, Clements said he would seek the resignations of McCotter's top assistants.

PUC members say they won't resign if asked

AUSTIN (AP) — Gov.-elect Bill Clements says he will ask the resignations of the three Public Utility Commission members, but all three say they will turn him down.

In his first post-election conference, Clements said Wednesday he would make good on a campaign promise and ask for the resignations of all PUC members.

But PUC Chairwoman Frances Rosson and commissioners Dennis Thomas and Jo Campbell, appointees of Democratic Gov. Mark White, issued a joint statement saying they intend to continue serving on the panel that regulates utilities in Texas.

"I think there was a clear mandate in the 1982 election," Rosson said. "The voters supported Gov. White's programs and wanted reforms in regulation and low utility rates."

"Bill Clements may view the election as a mandate for high utility rates, but I don't."

Ticket sales low for Houston AIDS benefit

HOUSTON (AP) — Organizers of the first high-society event in Houston to benefit the AIDS foundation say they are dumbfounded at the lack of response to the Sunday night jazz concert.

As of Thursday morning, only 72 tickets had been sold of the 12,500 invitations sent out, said Beth Romney, event organizer and advertising executive.

"It's kind of heartbreaking," she said. The foundation helps pay for treatment and housing of victims of Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome, Romney said.

Some observers of Houston's social scene blamed the stigma of AIDS being associated with the homosexual community. Homosexuals and intravenous drug users are the leading victims of the disease.

Others blame a lack of organization and publicity for the poor sales of tickets, which are going for \$100 each, to the champagne reception and the local artist jazz concert.

Socialite Carolyn Farb said, "People can send me mailing (of invitations), but there has to be a lot of low-up. People are deluged with invitations."

She said she was not planning to attend the event because she was not sure whether she had received an invitation.

But Farb said she thought Houston's wealthy is not so generous to the AIDS cause.

"AIDS is a very serious problem, and I think that because an event is not successful, it doesn't mean Houston is not supportive of AIDS research," she said.

Benefit organizers are trying hard to turn the event into a success. Last-minute invitations are being offered by hand and Sunday night's concert has been declared open to the public.

Another concert, with tickets selling for \$20 apiece, will be on Monday.

Curtis Dickson, executive director of the AIDS Foundation, said, "We were very hopeful that this would be a success, and we are still hopeful that it will come off."

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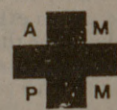
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