

Warped



by Scott McCullar Texas cities may expect slow growth

DALLAS (AP) — Texas' major metropolitan areas will experience slow growth over the next few months, although Houston may show some strength in the second quarter, an economic study predicts.

Dallas-Fort Worth's population, income and employment growth will slow further in 1987, according to the quarterly metropolitan area forecast prepared by the Center for Enterprise at Southern Methodist University's Edwin L. Cox School of Business.

San Antonio's personal income growth will slow this year, reflecting a comparatively rapid population growth and low-wage employment base, said the study, released this week.

Austin will experience very sharp decreases in population growth and net in-migration in 1987, according to the forecast.

Houston is battling the economic problems caused by plunging oil prices, but it may get a slight break in 1987, said Harold T. Gross, the center's assistant director.

In 1987, Houston's net out-migration will decline to 37,800, compared with estimated out-migration of 94,000 in 1986, "mainly because much of the area's three-year job-related exodus is over," Gross said.

The metro forecasts are based on a "most likely" scenario of \$18 per barrel crude oil prices through 1987 with modest steady price increases in subsequent years, defense spending remaining roughly at its present level through 1987 with modest expenditure cuts in future federal budgets, and population growth matching 1986 levels in Texas major metropolitan areas.

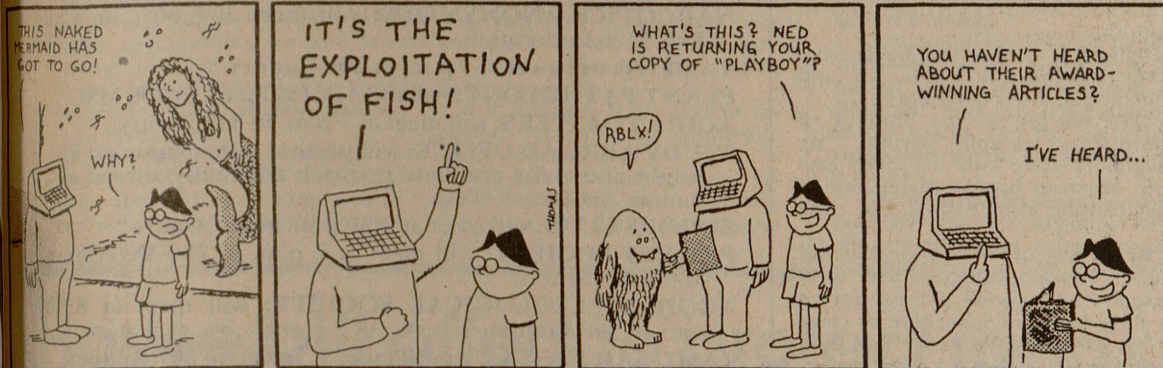
Construction employment in the second quarter will continue to decline in Dallas, Fort Worth, Austin and Houston, but will increase slightly, 0.8 percent, in San Antonio, the forecast said.

The state has lost almost 50,000 construction jobs in the past 12 months.

San Antonio will show some weakness in manufacturing during the second quarter and most of its job gains will be in the seasonal trade and service sectors.

Austin's wage and salary employment will rise by 0.7 percent during the April-May-June quarter, reflecting a mix of strong seasonal gains against the continuing shakeout in the area's construction and finance sectors.

Waldo



by Kevin Thomas

Dallas company awarded \$80-million contract for SDI

DALLAS (AP) — A division of LTV Corp. has been awarded a three-year, \$80 million contract to continue development of an extended missile system for the Star Wars program, a company official said Tuesday.

The work will be done at the LTV Missiles and Electronics Group's plant in the Dallas-Fort Worth suburb of Grand Prairie, but is not expected to increase the work force, spokesman Janis Kreiser said.

The award is the company's second Strategic Defense Initiative contract since January and one of the largest it has won for the experimental space-based weapons system.

In 1983, LTV won a \$16 million development contract for Extended Range Intercept Technology. The program is aimed at developing a defense system that can intercept enemy missiles at high altitudes within the Earth's atmosphere.

The initial ERINT contract expired in late 1986, and the new \$80

million extension will fund a stepped-up development program through April 1990, Kreiser said.

The contract calls for LTV to perform six flight tests to demonstrate ERINT's ability to home in on tactical targets and destroy them, Kreiser said.

Sources have said the tests will be conducted at altitudes between 30,000 and 45,000 feet, but LTV declined to disclose details, saying the ERINT's speed and altitude are classified.

A recent study on President Reagan's space-based weapons system indicates the greater Dallas area rates eighth on the list of cities that have received the most research funds for the SDI.

LTV Corp. leads Dallas firms in receiving defense contracts and 13th nationally, with \$227 million, a figure that includes contracts under negotiation.

Los Angeles firms, which have pulled in nearly \$2.6 billion in re-

search money, ranked No. 1 by a wide margin. Lockheed Corp., one of several defense giants based in Los Angeles, led all companies with \$1.02 billion in SDI funds.

The contract tally was conducted by the Federation of American Scientists, a non-profit lobbying group that represents 5,000 scientists and engineers. The federation also found that contractors hold mixed views on the space project.

"They're not opposed to it," said John Pike, the federation's associate director. "But the industry is definitely wary. People have the perception there is a feeding frenzy going on. That's not the case at all."

Pike said reasons for the ambivalence include the fact that companies are concerned the program eventually may be scrapped because of arms agreements or budget cuts. That would mean that production awards, where firms make the bulk of their profits, are most threatened.

Senate approves 5 bills to limit power of grand juries, prevent manipulation

AUSTIN (AP) — The Senate approved five bills Tuesday that would restrict the power of grand juries — measures that were endorsed by a twice-indicted senator.

Sen. Carl Parker, D-Port Arthur, said he would have avoided indictment had the five proposals been in effect when he went before a grand jury in 1984.

The measures, sponsored by Sen. Bob Glasgow, D-Stephenville, would:

- Remove a grand jury's power to indict a person for lying to that jury. A subsequent grand jury would have to issue the indictment.
- Prohibit the prosecutor from divulging evidence presented to a grand jury.

- Limit the scope of grand jury investigations to matters presented by the prosecutor, and require the prosecutor to inform the grand jury of all subpoenas issued.
- Withdraw the grand jury foreman's authority to issue subpoenas and reserve that authority for the prosecutor.

Parker was indicted in November 1984 on charges, dismissed two

months later, that included wholesale distribution of obscene material and promotion of prostitution. Parker was indicted again in March 1985 on charges also thrown out, and a third grand jury cleared him of all allegations.

"Where you have weak or ill-motivated prosecutors is where you have problems with poor grand jury results, because we can't pass enough laws to keep them from being manipulated," he said. "But we can pass some laws to not make it so easy."

In other action Tuesday, the Senate tentatively approved a bill authorizing the Railroad Commission to adopt rules promoting railroad

safety, including rules pertaining to hazardous materials.

The bill, sponsored by Sen. Frank Tejada, D-San Antonio, requires another vote to be sent to the House.

The Senate also approved and sent to the House bills and resolutions that would prohibit legislators from acting as paid lobbyists while in the Legislature.

The bill's sponsor, Chet Edwards, D-Duncanville, recalled that Ed Howard of Texarkana resigned from the Senate in April 1986 to become an Austin lobbyist, but remained in office during a special session because of a state constitutional requirement that he could not vacate his office until his successor was sworn in.

English supporter tells House foreign languages hurt U.S.

AUSTIN (AP) — Individuals who speak foreign languages create barriers that divide the nation and open it to communism, a member of a group trying to make English the state's official language said Monday.

In a fiery speech before the House Committee on State Affairs, Dagoberto Barrera told committee members the erosion of English and rise of other languages in public life has caused divisions among the citizens.

son, D-Brookston, would allow voters to decide if English should be declared the official language.

"I have problems with people from all over the world coming into our country and our state, not only living but purchasing properties and not caring to become a citizen to the extent that they're willing to learn the language," Patterson said.

If the constitutional amendment is adopted by voters, all official documents, including voting ballots and court documents, would be printed in

English. State services also would be conducted in English, Patterson said.

George Tryfiates, director of government affairs for English first, said by adopting English as the official language, the state would avoid charges of favoritism when providing services in foreign languages.

"English should be the first language an American learns, regardless of his cultural heritage," Tryfiates said. "Without knowledge of English, one cannot advance either in Texas or in the United States."

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