

State and Local

Hobby says he won't run for any position in 1990

AUSTIN (AP) — Lt. Gov. Bill Hobby, considered by many as a strong candidate should he seek the Democratic nomination for governor in 1990, said Monday he will not run for that office or for re-election to the post he has held for 15 years.

"I have been asked frequently in recent weeks about whether I am a candidate for governor in 1990. The answer is no," Hobby said.

Later in a 1½-page statement, Hobby said he would "not run for office in 1990." His press secretary, Saralee Tiede, told reporters that meant he would not seek any office.

"Fund-raising would have to start this summer, and it was a do-or-die situation, and a decision had to be made," Tiede said. "Obviously, he made that decision."

She said Hobby was on his way back to Houston.

Attorney General Jim Mattox, who has announced he would consider running for governor in 1990, welcomed the news.

"I was not looking forward to a race against Bill Hobby," Mattox said. "He enjoys wide and strong support. I am relieved he will not be making that race."

House Speaker Gib Lewis said he was disappointed that Hobby would not run in 1990.

"The contributions he has made to this state are unmatched," Lewis said. "His efforts on behalf of better education, quality human services, first-class highways, law enforce-

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— Lt. Gov. Bill Hobby

ment and the general well-being of all Texans have been extraordinary."

Republican Gov. Bill Clements said Hobby should be commended for his service to the state.

"While we may have differing political philosophies, I have a great deal of respect for Bill Hobby," Clements said.

State Comptroller Bob Bullock, who apparently no longer is interested in becoming governor, said Hobby "knows more about state government than any person alive."

"Bill Hobby is as open and sincere to the rank and file and the great and near-great of Texas as any of-

ficeholder in this century," Bullock said. "His abilities and leadership helped form the cornerstone of modern Texas government."

Hobby, the son of a former governor and lieutenant governor, was elected lieutenant governor in 1972 and has served in that office longer than anyone in Texas history. His current term will give him 18 years in what most political observers consider the most powerful job in state government.

In January, Hobby, 55, indicated he might run for governor in 1990 since no incumbent would be running.

Tiede said he had never said anything more definite than he probably would run for governor in 1990.

He said Monday he had seriously considered that option, "but I have concluded that I can better serve the state of Texas by devoting all my time to the office I now occupy."

He said the next few years would be critical to the economic recovery and future of Texas.

"We should not be distracted again by the uncharacteristic political games which almost prevented the 70th Legislature from acting responsibly on the appropriations and tax bills," he said.

Democrats plan to continue fight for more tax increases

AUSTIN (AP) — A group of Democratic lawmakers said Monday they plan to continue their bitter battle over state taxes and spending into the 1988 elections.

"In order to avoid public confusion on state budget and spending issues, legislative candidates should support additional revenues or accept reduced levels of new spending for programs in their districts," said a news release distributed by the Texas Democratic Party.

"This is a concerted effort to rip the mask from the myth that critical state services can be provided without additional revenue," the release said.

Most of the legislators named in the release played prominent roles in the recent special legislative session, which ended with the passage of a \$5.7 billion tax bill. Much of the opposition came from Republicans and conservative Democrats who opposed new taxes.

"The responsibility equation is simple," Rep. Ralph Wallace, D-Houston, said. "If you chirp 'no new taxes' you should be consistent enough to also campaign for 'no new spending.'"

The group announced plans to develop material for public distribution and to appear before newspaper editorial boards and other forums to speak on the state budget.

Sen. Hugh Parmer, D-Fort Worth, said, "The state budget should not be a partisan issue. Yet, in every session since 1984, a majority of House Republicans have injected partisan politics into every budget debate, opposing tax bills while professing great support for the programs funded by those taxes."

"Many legislators finally got tired of the 'free lunch bunch' trying to have it both ways on budget and tax issues," he said.

"It's irresponsible for a bloc of legislators to oppose their own governor and heed the call of Republican Party Chairman George Strake to force a long, tedious special session solely for the purpose of generating a series of record votes on taxes for use in election campaigns," he said.

Officials in Strake's office in Houston said he was out of town and not available for comment.

Rep. Bob Aikin, D-Commerce, said, "The budget passed by the Legislature is a bare-bones, lean document. In fact, this budget does not keep up the level of current services when adjusted for population growth and inflation."

The release said as a result of the new taxes, taxes in Texas will increase to \$730 per capita, compared with the national average of \$973.

A&M grad puts marriage offer on billboard

DALLAS (AP) — Jeff Hansen wanted to give his fiancée from New York state a Texas-size wedding proposal, so he wrote out his message in 2-foot-tall letters on a billboard along one of Dallas' busiest thoroughfares.

"I figured she was special enough to do something really outrageous for," Hansen, a Texas A&M graduate, said. "Money was no object. The billboard idea came off the top of my head. The billboard sign was my design."

But the billboard wasn't Hansen's only surprise for Amy-Ruth Hallett, a 22-year-old electrical design engineer at Texas Instruments.

On her way to work Friday, her car radio tuned to her favorite station, Hallett heard Hansen's voice over the airwaves.

"They taped a phone conversation with me and put me on the air at 7:15 a.m. to tell her where she needed to go," said Hansen, 24, a mechanical design engineer who works at the TI Lewisville plant. "She nearly ran off the road when she heard my voice."

"She was totally stunned" when she saw the billboard, he said.

The message signed by Hansen read, "Amy-Ruth Hallett: I can't stand the thought of life without you. Will you marry me?"

Hansen said, "She ran into the Ramada Inn, directly behind the billboard. She called me up; she was in tears, she was happy. She was still shocked. But she did say yes."

Hansen's proposal didn't stop with the billboard — that night he gave Hallett an engagement ring and took her to an exclusive restaurant for dinner.

He said the ad, on the north-bound access road of Central Expressway near the TI plant and the intersection with Interstate 45, set him back about \$2,000.

The sign included a big pink heart among white wedding bells.

Judge: Delta allowed to destroy remnants of 1985 plane crash

JUSTIN (AP) — Delta Air Lines can destroy the wreckage of a wide-body jet that crashed in 1985 at the Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport, a federal judge has ruled.

The grim remnants of Texas' worst air disaster, which claimed 137 lives, are stored in a warehouse in Justin, about 20 miles north of Fort Worth.

U.S. District Judge David O. Belew approved destruction of the wreckage anytime after last Friday. His ruling followed an earlier decision that Delta could destroy the wreckage because it is not needed for a multimillion-dollar trial stemming from the accident.

Attorneys for the airline told Belew only two investigators for plaintiffs in the lawsuit had been to see the wreckage in 22 months and storage was costing the airline \$25,000

per month. There were no objections to the request by Delta to have the wreckage destroyed.

Belew will preside at the trial that begins Sept. 8 to determine liability in the Aug. 2, 1985, crash.

Attorneys said the trial is expected to last three months. It is a consolidation of 40 lawsuits, seeking punitive damages, filed by survivors or relatives of passengers against the airline and by the airline against federal air controllers and weather forecasters.

Delta spokesmen will not say if some airplane parts, such as a \$40,000 escape chute, will be salvaged for use on other aircraft or if the entire wreckage will be scrapped.

Some lawyers said it would be unseemly to place salvaged parts on other airliners.

Staffs of state congressmen low in minorities, study says

WASHINGTON (AP) — More blacks and Hispanics live in Texas than almost any other state in the nation, but the staffs of congressmen who represent the residents are not representative of those figures, according to a recent study.

"They (Texas congressmen) are out of step," said Joe Trevino, executive director of the League of United Latin American Citizens. "It's sad. To not include these people in their offices is a disservice to their constituents."

Eleven of the 29 Texas congressmen have no Hispanics or blacks in their Capitol Hill offices, according to a Harte-Hanks Washington Bureau study. Only 13 percent of Texas congressional staffers in Washington are Hispanic or black.

But in Texas, about 30 percent of the population is black or Hispanic,

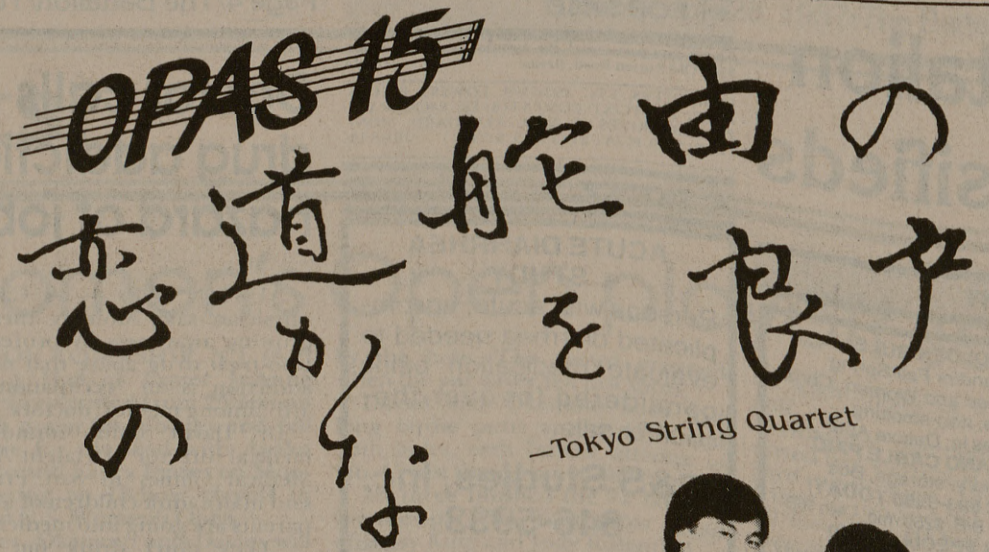
according to 1980 census figures.

Trevino and representatives from other minority groups say it's not a problem of racism, but that most lawmakers want employees with several years of experience on Capitol Hill and that rules out many blacks and Hispanics.

However, congressmen should go out of their way to recruit Hispanics and blacks because they will be more sensitive to the concerns of minority constituents, minority groups said.

Texas lawmakers who have no black or Hispanic staffers said they try to hire the most qualified people, regardless of race, color or creed.

Rep. Beau Boulter, an Amarillo Republican who has never had a black or Hispanic on staff, said, "We genuinely want people to come in and talk about either an internship or a full-time position."



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