

# Oil spokesman calls income tax for companies unfair to industry

AUSTIN (AP) — Stacking a corporate income tax atop the high state franchise tax is simply not fair to the Texas oil and gas industry, an industry spokesman said Thursday.

Bill Abington, president of Texas Mid-Continent Oil and Gas Association, said the Legislature in 1987 increased the franchise tax 28 percent, after a 24 percent increase in 1985.

The franchise tax, Abington told the Select Committee on Tax Equity, is based on taxable capital, and thus

places a heavy burden on industries, such as oil and gas, that require large amounts of capital.

"From a tax equity viewpoint, it would not be realistic or equitable to require a capital intensive taxpayer to bear the combined burden of the present corporate franchise tax on net worth and a corporate net income tax," Abington said.

"A corporate income tax, standing alone, would not meet the revenue needs of the state," he said. "Only

when the income tax is extended to personal income would sufficient revenues be generated."

However, Abington said, "there appears to be strong opposition to state income taxes of any kind."

Austin lawyer Mark Hanna noted that the professional groups he represented had commissioned a study that showed a tax on professional services "could largely act as a limited income tax on the professional."

That study found that extending the state sales tax to services, at a rate

of 4.5 percent, would raise \$1.68 billion a year, excluding health services, but would result in the loss of 42,700 jobs.

But Hanna told the committee if it did an economic impact analysis that indicated that "truly a tax on services is the best alternative for the state of Texas, I would recommend that our groups not oppose it."

Hanna represents professional organizations of realtors, dentists, certified public accountants and engineers.

## In Advance

### Orchestra to open season at A&M

The Brazos Valley Symphony Orchestra will open its concert season Saturday at 8 p.m. in Rudder Auditorium with a performance of Ludwig Van Beethoven's Ninth Symphony.

The orchestra will be led by the orchestra's music director and conductor, Franz Anton Krager. A chorus of over 150, led by Virginia Babikian, also will join in.

Krager, like most members of the orchestra, lives and works in the local area. He is a lecturer for the Texas A&M Department of Philosophy. He has conducted and performed in several places,

including Western Europe, the Soviet Union, Africa, Australia and Latin America.

Tickets for the performance are available at the MSC Box Office and are \$12 for adults, \$10 for students and \$8 for children 12 and under. Upper balcony seats are available for \$5 with student identification.

Before the concert, there will be a preview given by Dr. Daniel Fallon at 6:45 p.m. in 301 Rudder. Dr. Fallon is the dean of the College of Liberal Arts and an acknowledged expert on Beethoven.

# Provider of abortion services joins with adoption agency

AUSTIN (AP) — An effort to make it easier for women with problem pregnancies to choose adoption was announced Thursday by a major provider of abortion services and its new child-placement affiliate.

"There are many women faced with unplanned pregnancies each year," Margaret Stewart, executive director of Adoption Affiliates, said at a news conference. "In the meantime, one out of every six couples has a fertility problem.

"Our program will focus on bringing these two groups together and

will help them understand one another through open adoptions."

In open adoptions, the birth parents and adoptive parents communicate with each other in ways ranging from an exchange of letters and pictures to being together when the baby is born.

Reproductive Services, which is run under Nova Health Systems of San Antonio, has clinics in Austin, Corpus Christi, El Paso, Harlingen, San Antonio and Wichita Falls and in Tulsa, Okla.

The non-profit organization,

which was started in 1973, has joined with the new Adoption Affiliates to provide adoption services in the clinics along with other reproductive services.

Organization officials said theirs is the first major abortion services program to offer adoption services in the same facilities. In previous years, Reproductive Services has referred women to other agencies for adoption services.

Marilyn Chrisman, Adoption Affiliates president, estimated that Re-

productive Services has provided pregnancy-related care — including services like birth control, abortion and pregnancy testing — to a total of 750,000 women.

The number of abortions that have been performed in the clinics since they opened has not been compiled, Barbara Siejak, vice president of Nova Health Systems, said.

"Abortion providers are very close with their statistics," Siejak said. "So many people misuse them."

The new partnership has started

working with couples and birth mothers, looking for homes for two babies that have been born, Stewart said.

In the program, the birth mother chooses the adoptive couple through profiles and letters, she said.

Prospective adoptive couples must be between 21 and 45 years old and must have been married at least two years to be considered, she said.

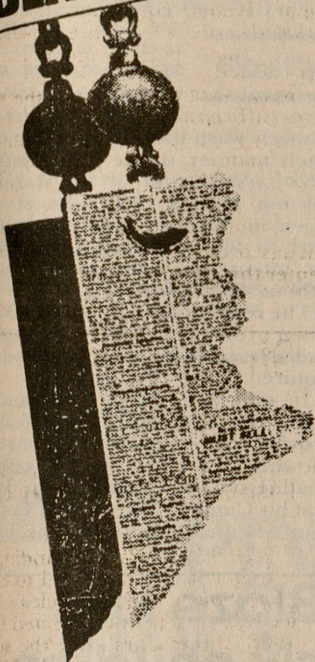
The couples cannot have more than one child and they must have a doctor's statement that they are un-

likely to have other children, she said.

Single people who want to adopt babies through the program also must be between 21 and 45 years old and not have more than one child, but they do not have to present a doctor's statement concerning their fertility, Stewart said.

The adoptive couple or single person pays the \$9,000 fee for the adoption, which includes the cost of hospital care, doctor's services, foster care for the child, legal fees and staff fees, she said.

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