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Wednesday, January 18, 1989

G **Bullock** warns tax hike st could damage economy AUS

AUSTIN (AP) — State Comptrol-ler Bob Bullock said Tuesday the Texas economy is in its best shape of recent years but warned that another tax increase could throw a major roadblock in the path to continued recovery.

Bullock, in a speech to the Texas Association of Realtors, said another tax increase similar to those passed by the Legislature three times since 1984 could cause widespread economic damage.

'Our economy, the people in it, the businessmen and women in it,

# **Drug lord** connected to Colombians

EL PASO (AP) - A reputed Mexican marijuana kingpin who was arrested last week in Juarez is in league with Colombian traffickers who control the cocaine trade, U.S. officials believe.

Gilberto Ontiveros Lucero, who was arrested Jan. 9 and charged with drug and weapons violations, is what the Drug Enforcement Administra-tion calls a "polydrug violator," said Phil Jordan, special agent in charge of the DEA's Dallas office.

He explained that Ontiveros is suspected of moving multi-ton quan-tities of marijuana across the U.S.-Mexican border as well as hundreds of pounds of cocaine and unknown quantities of heroin. Mexican authorities suspect he owned almost 8 tons of marijuana seized late last

relationship with Colombian cocaine traffickers who have seized control of much of that South American country's government and com-

partnership between the Colombian violators and the Mexican connection in regard to the movement of cocaine from Colombia to the U.S.," Jordan said Tuesday. "Whether one has a 50 percent or 49 percent interest in it, I couldn't tell you that. But

Ontiveros remains in a Juarez jail, where officials expect him to stay until he goes on trial. U.S. officials have notified their counterparts in Mexico City they would like to extradite Ontiveros to the United States for questioning and to make him an-swer to a 1986 federal indictment charging him with operating a continuing criminal enterprise. Formal extraditions proceedings have

them the last few years," Bullock said. "They need a breath of fresh air, free of higher taxes, while they put our economy back in order.

"I believe that new and higher taxes at this time would be ... road-blocks, that they would have a depressing effect both real and psychological on present Texas taxpayers and on those who are giving Texas careful study.

> The comptroller, who is an an-nounced Democratic candidate for lieutenant governor in 1990, said both the economy and the state's financial condition are "the best in

> years." The recovery hasn't spread evenly to all economic sectors, Bullock said, with real estate, banking and construction "still in a shake-out period,

for the most part." But he said the rebound in other areas is solid "and its ripple effect is being felt every day in virtually every Bullock said s part of Texas.

Bullock said the recovery isn't due to the efforts of any political party or officeholder.

He said, "Basically, our recovery has come about because Texas businessmen and women have hung in that we will be in better shape there and changed their way of cover it in 1992-93 than we doing business to take advantage of now," he said.

need some breathing room in light of the huge tax bills imposed on Bullock's official estimate of s government revenue for the 199 91 budget period has forecast and ditional \$1.6 billion for the Leg lature to spend. But some lawmake say that isn't enough to provide needed state services.

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day.

Bullock earlier unveiled a p that would raise an additional \$ billion for legislators to spend wi out a tax increase. This would be complished largely through ba keeping measures among some? special state funds and transfer that cash to the state's all-purpos General Revenue Fund.

"Some say that such a fund mechanism would just prolong a problem, and that a tax bill is a proper vehicle to make up the short age," he said. "But I say there is a darn go

million reason to balance the budget with new or higher taxes by using th has sai Matto Bullock said such transfers a nounc

common in private business, and said the Texas and other states ha done it before.

'To those who say we are born ing from the next budget, then Is so be it, because I for one bein

Scientists: Ants pose no threat to collider

#### By Melissa Naumann Reporter

As the super collider's Waxahachie site becomes official this week. Texas A&M scientists are examining a possible problem in the construc-tion of the superconductor — fire

Dr. Brad Vinson in the entomology department at A&M said the ants are attracted to electric fields in

the superconductor. Vinson said, "As electricity moves through wires it sets up fields and the ants seem to be attracted to these fields.

He said that while the ants are a possible hazard, treatments can be used to minimize any damage they might-cause.

Fire ants are a serious problem in many situations from air condition-ers to relay switches," Vinson said. "And they could ultimately cause some problems with the superconductor

'But although the ants can cause problems, they are not going to



## equipment Dr. Peter McIntyre in the phy

a serious problem. "This is just another highly te nological undertaking," Mclut said. "but on a bigger scale, it does attract any more fire ants than a other project that uses electricity. Dr. Fowden Maxwell, head of

entomology department, agreest the ants pose no serious threat. Maxwell said, "It is a far-fetd

thing because, while the fire may be attracted to electric fiel the superconductor will be two underground surrounded by a crete and other materials.'

McIntyre pointed out that oth high-tech projects have been on pleted despite fire ants.

"If fire ants were such a threat wouldn't be possible for General namics to build the world's most phisticated aircraft in Dallas-fo Worth," he said.

year in two Juarez-area warehouses. Particularly worrisome to the DEA is Ontiveros' alleged

merce 'There has been an important ants.

there's definitely a partnership.'

not begun.

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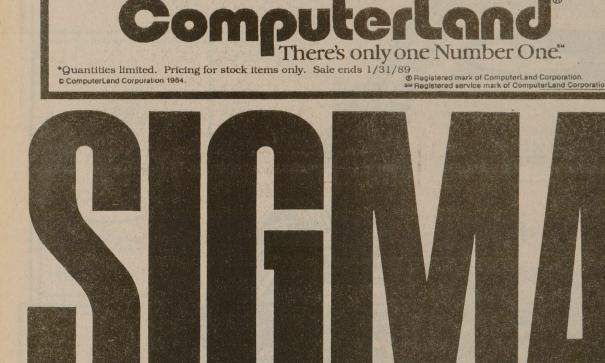
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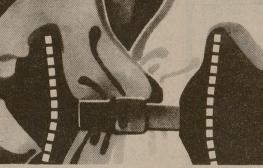
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