

# Proposal keeps AG position from use as steppingstone

AUSTIN (AP) — The Texas attorney general could not seek another elective office for four years after leaving the job as the state's chief lawyer under a measure filed by a key lawmaker.

But Rep. Stan Schlueter, D-Killeen, said his proposal was not designed to puncture Attorney General Jim Mattox's plan to run for governor in 1990 and would only apply to his successors.

"This has nothing to do with Jim Mattox," said Schlueter.

The proposed constitutional amendment, which would require two-thirds support in the Legislature to gain a spot on the November ballot, is needed to prevent attorneys general from abusing the office for future political gain, Schlueter said.

The attorney general "has some extraordinary powers that the rest of the executive (branch members) don't have," he said, such as the ability to render legal opinions.

"It's a very powerful tool," Schlueter said. "It's just something that can be abused. It has not been, to my knowledge, in the past, but we just want to make sure in the future it will not be."

The attorney general's office has been a stepping stone in recent years for politicians with higher ambitions. Mark White, for example, was attorney general in 1982 when he captured the governor's office. John Hill

was attorney general when he unsuccessfully ran for governor in 1978.

One of Schlueter's colleagues — Rep. Dan Morales, D-San Antonio — is a likely candidate for attorney general in 1990. Land Commissioner Garry Mauro, a Democrat, also has indicated he will run for the post next year. Houston attorney John Odum has announced his candidacy for the Democratic primary.

Republican Roy Barrera Jr., who lost to Mattox in 1986, has been mentioned as a possible GOP candidate for attorney general next year. Railroad Commissioner Kent Hance, also a Republican, also is eyeing a possible run at the office.

Rep. James Hury, chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, helped Schlueter research the bill. He said the measure is "attempting to make sure there is no conflict of interest between the attorney general as a representative of the state and an attorney general who is running for governor or any other elective office."

Hury, D-Galveston, said speaking hypothetically that a situation could arise where the attorney general is defending the state in a lawsuit brought by potential political contributors in a future campaign.

"Not only are you taking money, but you also literally set up the appearance that you don't prosecute this case to the fullest," Hury said.

# Lubbock residents give Bush stamp of grass-roots approval

LUBBOCK (AP) — Residents of this windswept city on the plains, which President Bush offered as an Everytown, U.S.A., largely agreed with his assertion Tuesday that everything's OK in Lubbock.

But this town has always been a friend to Bush, who won the county overwhelmingly in November.

It's also the home of one of Bush's dearest friends, independent oil investor Robert W. Blake, who reported to Bush in a phone call recently that Lubbockites were behind him.

So are they? "I really haven't been paying that much attention," Shirley Hubbard, a convenience store clerk, said.

But others are quick to praise Bush and just as quick to criticize Congress, particularly its handling of the investigation of defense secretary-designate John Tower.

"They're (Congress) giving him a hard time about Tower, but I say stick with it," retiree William Berns said as he left the downtown post office. "He knows what he's doing."

While the majority of people questioned about Bush by a reporter outside the post office approved of his leadership so far, most wouldn't give their names.

"He's a Texan and he understands us," one man said.

City resident Matt Malouf, in a letter to the *Lubbock Avalanche-Journal* last week, defended Bush and blasted the Senate for its handling of Tower's confirmation.

"I would rather be ruled by the first 100 names in the Lubbock phone book than these clowns who now reign in the Senate," Malouf said.

Lubbock took over some of the "anytown" celebrity previously held by Peoria, Ill., when reporters asked Bush on Tuesday to respond to criticism that his administration was adrift.

**"I would rather be ruled by the first 100 names in the Lubbock phone book than these clowns who now reign in the Senate"**

— Matt Malouf, Lubbock resident

"I talked to a fellow from Lubbock, Texas, the other day which was the best phone call I've made," Bush said. "And he said, 'All the

people in Lubbock think things are going just great.'"

In choosing Lubbock as his example of middle America, Bush picked an easy sell.

This city in Bush's adopted home state has a population of 186,400 and more than 150 churches, many of them large and conservative.

Residents of Lubbock County gave the GOP ticket 69 percent of the vote in November.

Here, the agriculture-based economy rises or falls on the strength of the annual cotton crop.

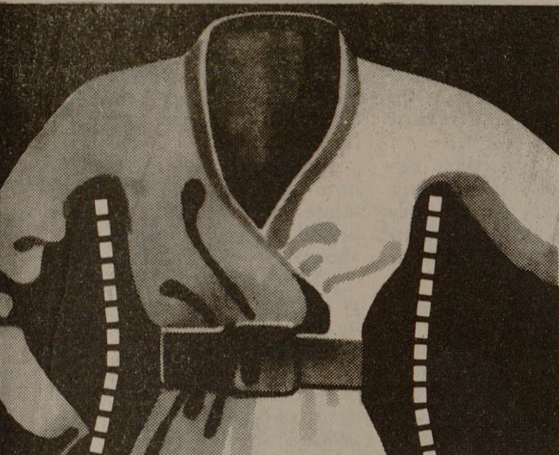
Two consecutive strong harvests gave this city the lowest unemployment rate in the state of Texas at 5.2 percent.

The city's latest claim to fame — before Bush's comments, of course — is its burgeoning wine industry. A growing number of vineyards have spread out over plains formerly occupied by tumbleweeds and cotton, and three wineries are producing award-winning wine.

But Mayor B.C. "Peck" McMinn maintains his town is as typical as any other.

"The people of the Lubbock area is pretty representative of how the run-of-the-mill people feel across the country," he said.

"Not the political hype of anything, but the rock-solid thinkers are pretty representative of how the situation is going," he said.



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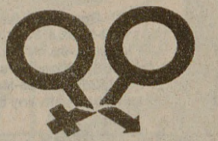
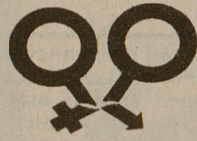
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