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Mayor says bills should include affects on taxes

AUSTIN (AP) — Houston Mayor Kathy Whitmire told state lawmakers Monday that legislators should be required to say how their bills would affect local taxes.

Whitmire and several others representing school districts, counties and cities testified before the House State Affairs Committee in favor of a measure by Rep. Dan Morales, D-San Antonio.

"City government and other local governments all over the state have been facing a continually difficult budget crunch these past few years," Whitmire said. "And the result has been an increase in the local property tax burden."

Whitmire, who is also president of the Texas Municipal League, said additional costly demands by the Legislature are hard for communities to bear, and contribute to high tax rates that make it hard to attract new businesses.

She said legislated improvements in solid waste disposal, wastewater treatment, pollution controls, bridge repairs and other areas create a tremendous burden on local taxing entities.

"Some of them are very good ideas," Whitmire said, but urged lawmakers to pay more attention to "which taxpayer's pocket the money is going to come out of."

Committee member Terral Smith, R-Austin, asked Whitmire if she thought cities should reimburse taxing districts whose rates are affected by ordinances the cities pass.

"I would imagine we probably should, but I'm not that sure we have the ability to affect the other taxing jurisdictions," Whitmire said.

Smith said, as an example, that Austin has a watershed ordinance, a roadway ordinance and is considering an endangered species ordinance, all of which do or would affect other taxing entities in the area.

"I think the point I am making is that those who are going to have to raise the money ought to be the same ones making the decision on whether or not to spend it," Whitmire said.

Morales said his bill and a proposed constitutional amendment came out of the Select Committee on Tax Equity, which found Texas has the 10th highest city tax rate per person, but ranks 43rd in state taxes per person.

Paper: Application change won't lower welfare rejections

DALLAS (AP) — Some federal officials doubt that changes in welfare application procedures alone will reduce Texas' soaring rejection rate, the highest in the country, according to a confidential memo obtained by the Dallas Morning News.

The newspaper quoted unidentified officials as saying the state's high rejection rate won't come down unless Texas first hires more case-workers and simplifies rules that are too confusing for employees to decipher.

An estimated 53,000 Texans could benefit from the changes which took effect Monday.

But state officials said Texas will have to come up with more than \$35 million for increased aid and personnel.

The changes, partly the result of a federal lawsuit, were designed to benefit people who qualify for welfare, but who have been unable to make their way through complex paperwork.

Zeke Salinas, director of management studies for the state Department of Human Services, said applicants who meet the financial needs for welfare are often denied benefits simply because they missed appointments or have been unable to satisfy the sometimes bewildering paperwork requirements in time to meet a 30-day deadline.

To be eligible for Aid to Families

with Dependent Children, the basic welfare program financed by the federal and state governments, a family of three in Texas may earn more than \$574 a month.

State officials estimate the procedural changes for those applying for AFDC, food stamps and Medicaid could result in a 10 percent to 15 percent increase in the number of people on the welfare rolls.

The Legislative Budget Board estimated last year that an increase of 1 percent in the approved AFDC caseload requires an increase of about \$3.5 million annually in state expenditures.

On that basis, a 10 percent increase in cases would cost Texas \$35 million.

Even without the additional approvals, the budget board predicted that between 530,621 and 545,885 people — or between 5.2 percent and 8.1 percent more than last year — would receive aid in fiscal 1989, which began Oct. 1.

In the 1988 fiscal year that ended Sept. 30, Texas rejected about 44 percent of AFDC applicants, more than two-thirds of them on procedural grounds.

The state ranks highest of any state for the number of rejections.

But the confidential memo showed disbelief that the changes in application procedures alone would help reduce the state's rejection rate.

April 4, 1969 — first artificial heart beats

HOUSTON (AP) — Twenty years ago, Dr. Denton Cooley faced a dying patient at St. Luke's Episcopal Hospital and performed what he described then as an "act of desperation."

The medical world and Houston's Texas Medical Center haven't been the same since.

On April 4, 1969, Cooley performed the world's first implant of a

total artificial heart, inserting the device into 47-year-old Haskell Karpus Skokie, Ill. He lived for about 60 hours on the device, and then received a human heart transplant. He died a little more than a day later.

Cooley's troubles were just beginning.

He was censured by the Harris County Medical Society for "publicity," which meant violating the society's guidelines about having a physician's name appear in a newspaper in connection with the name of a patient.

Criticism came from a variety of sources, but so did praise for performing a groundbreaking procedure.

Karpus's wife, after initially defending Cooley, later sued him for \$4 million. She lost the case.

Cooley resigned his faculty position at Baylor College of Medicine later that year because he said school officials would not allow him to continue his research on the artificial heart.

Since those turbulent days in the late '60s, the focus has shifted to the development of "partial artificial hearts" that increase the heart's capacity to pump while allowing it to remain in place.

The early optimism that modern technology could devise a simple substitute for the human heart has faded. But Cooley's implant of the heart designed by Dr. Domingo Liotta, an Argentinian physician doing research at Baylor, provided a first step.

In Advance

Local sheriff to speak at Aggie GOP meeting

Brazos County Sheriff Ron Miller is scheduled to speak about prison overcrowding at the Aggie GOP meeting at 8:30 p.m. Tuesday in 308 Rudder.

Scott Kibbe, a junior journalism major and vice president of programs for Aggie GOP, said that now that presidential elec-

tions are completed, the organization is focusing on issues that affect Texas voters.

"We want to show that not only are national issues important, but state issues are too," Kibbe said. "There are few issues as important to Texans as prison reform and its solutions."

Child Placement Center looks for volunteers

The Child Placement Center of Texas is looking for volunteers to answer their 24-hour adoption Help-line.

Help-line wants trained, compassionate people available to talk to pregnant women in crisis. Volunteers may choose day-time, weekend or evening shifts.

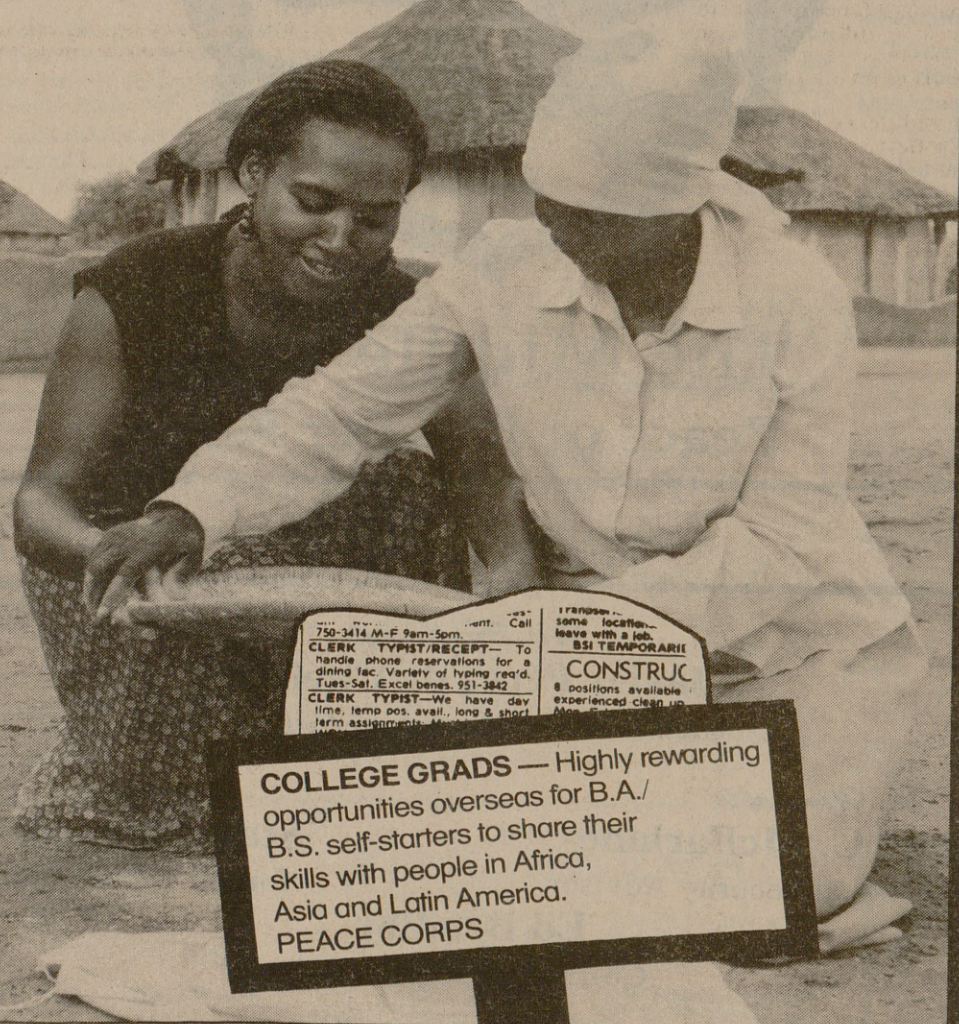
Help-line also receives calls from people inquiring about fos-

ter parenting, adopting a child, and other adoption related activities. Volunteers must undergo a screening process prior to acceptance into the program.

Volunteers must have good communication skills, attend a training class, monthly meetings, and be discreet and dependable.

For details, call the Adoption Help-line at 268-5577.

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Parents' Weekend '89

- FRIDAY: RHA Casino Night, 7 a.m.-12 p.m., MSC MSC Variety Show, 7:30 p.m., Rudder Aud. Ol' Army Yell, Midnight, Rudder Fountain
- SATURDAY: Barbecue Cook-Off, 11 a.m., The Grove Singing Cadets, 8 p.m., Rudder Aud.
- SUNDAY: University Awards, 9 a.m., Rudder Aud. Chapel Service, 11 a.m., All Faiths Chapel Corps Review, 2:30 p.m., Kyle Field

April 7, 8, & 9