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Cisneros backs state Rep. Morales for AG Mattox administration lacked integrity, says ex-mayor

AUSTIN (AP) — In announcing his support of state Rep. Dan Morales for Texas attorney general Thursday, former San Antonio Mayor Henry Cisneros blasted current attorney general and gubernatorial hopeful Jim Mattox.

"What is called for in this time is unquestioned integrity in the management of the highest law office of our state, and I don't believe we've had it," Cisneros said.

Cisneros criticized Mattox's fund-raising efforts and noted that Mattox was indicted on a felony charge of commercial bribery in 1983. Mattox was later acquitted.

He also labeled as untrue Mattox's comment that he chased Cisneros out of the 1990 governor's race.

"Jim Mattox's characterization is not a correct one," Cisneros said.

Cisneros was considered a possible gubernatorial candidate, but announced he would not run because of his son's health problems.

Mattox responded, saying, "The mayor obviously is talking politics and doesn't understand what this office does."

"We've made the powers that be angry because we've been willing to stand up for the little guy against the establishment," Mattox said. "He (Cisneros) ought not to believe everything he reads in the newspaper."

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— Henry Cisneros, former San Antonio mayor

Mattox's campaign manager, Jim Cunningham, said Mattox meant no disrespect in a speech to the Texas AFL-CIO earlier this month, when he said, "I got (Lt. Gov.) Bill Hobby out of the race, and then I got Henry

Cisneros out of the race."

What Mattox meant, Cunningham said, "was that he will be in the race no matter who gets in there."

Of the bribery charge, Cunningham said, "Jim Mattox has proven in the public's eye that that was nothing but trumped-up charges."

Mattox was accused of threatening to use the power of his office to financially damage a Houston law firm by delaying or denying approval of bond sales.

Cisneros, who served four terms as mayor and now is in private business, praised Morales' legislative work and said his election to statewide office would strengthen the Democratic Party by developing Hispanic leaders.

"I certainly hope that the Democratic Party in Texas understands the significance of offering a balanced ticket to the people of Texas that begins to reflect the reality of our state," Cisneros said.

Morales of San Antonio faces U.S. Rep. John Bryant of Dallas and Houston attorney John Odam in the March 13 Democratic

Party primary.

Cisneros said Morales, a three-term House member and chairman of the Criminal Jurisprudence Committee, has played a key role in education, criminal justice and tax issues.

He said Morales' campaign is his top political priority during the election season. He is inclined to key his efforts in South Texas, Cisneros said.

"This is one of those rare cases where you make history and serve the needs of the state in terms of demographics and politics, even as the most capable person is elected to the job," Cisneros said.

Morales welcomed Cisneros, whom he named co-chair of his campaign, saying, "I can think of no one in the state I would rather have pitching for me."

Meanwhile, Bryant called on Morales and Odam to follow his lead and release income tax returns and financial statements.

Morales said he would do that by the end of the week, but said he would release statements dating back further than the six years of documents that Bryant produced.

Truckers drive friendly but fast Texans say

COLLEGE STATION (AP) — Texas truckers are considered better drivers and more willing to lend a hand than others on the road despite being more prone to speed, a survey conducted at Texas A&M University says.

According to the report, 81.2 percent of the 500 surveyed by telephone concurred with the statement that truck drivers are more skillful drivers than automobile drivers. Nearly two thirds, or 65.8 percent, of the respondents also indicated that they believe truck drivers are safer drivers than automobile drivers.

Some 58.7 percent of the respondents agreed that truck drivers are more likely to stop and render aid on the highway than are automobile drivers, said Richard Hise, a Texas A&M marketing professor who conducted the survey for the Texas Motor Transportation Association in conjunction with the Texas Railroad Commission.

"We found that a large majority of the respondents — or eight out of 10 people who participated — think truck driving is a respectable profession and that truck drivers are responsible citizens who make significant contributions to their community," Hise said.

But only 31.4 percent of those surveyed agreed with the statement that truck drivers are more likely to drive at the legal speed limit than are automobile drivers.

"The trucking industry should be pleased to know that Texas residents have a favorable image of this important segment of the state's economy," Hise said.

Only 35.6 percent of those surveyed said they thought truck drivers would be more likely to drive under the influence of drugs than automobile drivers.

Officer complains Pasadena PD rule punishes marrieds

PASADENA (AP) — A former police officer says her bosses at the Pasadena Police Department looked the other way when she lived with another officer — never even complaining when the two had a child — but her marriage cost her her job.

Kerry Burch Fry is appealing her ouster. She contends department nepotism laws are selectively enforced inasmuch as they allow single couples to live together without fear of reprisals.

"It's discriminatory. There have been several relationships among officers, and the administration has taken no action," Fry said Wednesday outside a brief appeal hearing. "They're condoning officers living together, and it's a shame because I'm losing money."

Fry, 27, was ousted from her \$32,000-a-year patrol job in the force's juvenile division on June 13, six days after marrying her longtime fiance, Lt. Jack Fry, 35.

Under the department's 1974 "no-spouses" law, if two officers marry, the spouse with the least seniority automatically resigns unless the other does so voluntarily.

Fry was a six-year veteran while her husband, head of the

force's narcotics division, has been on the job twice as long.

She is asking the city's Civil Service Commission to overturn department nepotism laws forbidding married officers and relatives from working together. She also is seeking reinstatement with back pay.

Police Chief Lee Gilbert said he supports the laws because they prevent favoritism, discord and conflicts. He declined to comment on Fry's claims that the laws contain loopholes encouraging non-marital relationships.

Fry claims the nepotism laws are unfair because the administration winks at related members of the force.

"There are uncles, brothers-in-law, cousins," she said. "I'm challenging the constitutionality of the law. If an employer wants to do that, fine, but it's the arbitrary way they're enforcing it."

Some of the relationships include civilian police workers. Commission Chairman Buddy Harris said the three-man panel will not address those because it has no authority over civilians.

During Wednesday's 20-minute hearing, Fry's attorney, J.B. Williamson, argued with city attorneys over which witnesses should be allowed to testify.

Lobbyists should provide better records, Hobby says

AUSTIN (AP) — Lt. Gov. Bill Hobby said Thursday he wants to require lobbyists to submit more in-depth records, and he has asked the chairman of the Senate State Affairs Committee to make recommendations on such legislation.

"The statutes are vague, confusing and contradictory. People, including myself, have a difficult time (interpreting the law)," Hobby said.

Hobby said he has asked Sen. John Montford, a Lubbock Democrat who heads the State Affairs panel, to investigate the matter and report back with recommendations.

"I'd like to see some legislation requiring more specific reporting by lobbyists and what members (of the Legislature) they are entertaining," Hobby said.

Currently, lobbyists are required to register with the Secretary of State and submit monthly reports when the Legislature is in session. They are required to report how much they spend on entertainment and gifts, but not on whom they spend it.

Hobby said he would like Gov. Bill Clements to put lobby ethics reform on the agenda of the fall special session.

Secretary of State George Bayoud, whose office handles lobby reports and registration, said Clements wants to keep the focus of the special session on reforming the worker's compensation system. But he added, "There may be a strong possibility

that he (Clements) would add it to the call."

Rossanna Salazar, Clements' press secretary, said, "It is under consideration, but no decision has been made."

In the growing controversy over lobbyist-supplied trips and entertainment for Texas lawmakers, Travis County District Attorney Ronald Earle met Wednesday with legislative leaders over possible revisions in state ethics laws.

Attending the meeting were Hobby; Bayoud; Rep. Stan Schlueter, D-Killeen; Mike Millsap,

top aide to House Speaker Gib Lewis; and other legislative staff members.

"I think this (lobbying) situation at present is out of hand, and I told them that," Earle told the *Austin American-Statesman*.

Hobby said there was general agreement among those at the meeting that something needed to be done.

Lobbyists spent more than \$1.86 million on entertainment and gifts to lawmakers during the five-month regular session.

City of Austin officials try to cope with big loss of workers in past year

AUSTIN (AP) — In the past year, more than 1,100 workers decided that life as a public servant for the City of Austin was not for them.

Secretaries, managers, public safety employees, electric workers, computer programmers, planners and others retired or resigned, taking years of experience and expertise with them.

Those left behind have had to keep serving a growing public with fewer resources to help them do it.

"People have been leaving in droves," said Maria Rocha, president of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees.

"The morale is very bad in lower levels as well as management, mostly because workers are stressed out.

They're trying to carry their load and much more," she told the *Austin American-Statesman*.

City employees' costs for health benefits increased 30 percent last year, and a 17 percent increase is slated for the 1989-90 budget year.

Workers also have seen other benefits, such as end-of-the-year bonuses for long-time employees and merit pay increases curtailed or eliminated.

The problems facing the city's work force have not been lost on Camille Barnett, who is the first Austin city manager in four years to propose a wage increase for employees.

The need to invest in the city's work force is a theme throughout Barnett's \$953.7 million budget proposal.

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