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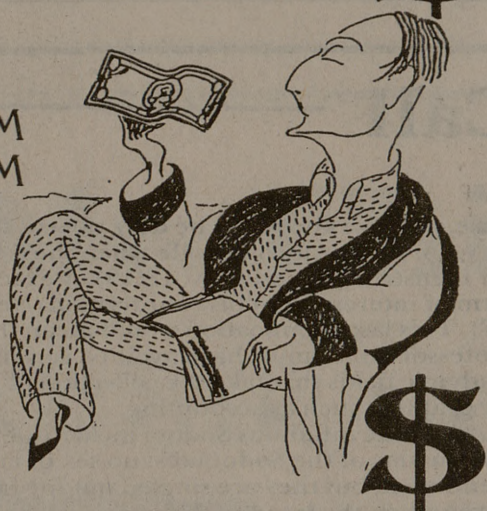
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STATE & LOCAL

Thursday, October 19, 1989

Legislator wants to restrict terms of senate members

AUSTIN (AP) — A state legislator, saying congressmen remain in Washington so long they lose touch with the folks back home, Wednesday called for a constitutional amendment to restrict terms of U.S. House and Senate members.

But Rep. Bill Hammond, R-Dallas, said such a restriction isn't needed in the Texas Legislature because low salaries already create turnover among members.

"One of the major problems facing America today is the inability of Congress to act," Hammond said.

"They are essentially timid and afraid to make decisions because they fear being turned out at the polls. But 97 to 98 percent of incumbents are re-elected, and they continue to serve us poorly."

The Texas Legislature is a different matter, however, Hammond said, citing the \$7,200 annual salaries paid to state lawmakers.

"We don't face the same sort of problem in Texas," he said, noting that a number of House and Senate members this year have announced plans to retire.

"That (low salary) does have the effect of a limitation of terms," he said.

Proposition 1 on the Nov. 7 state constitutional amendment ballot would triple lawmakers' pay to

\$23,000 and allow them to raise their own salaries in the future without voter approval.

But Hammond predicted that proposition will fail. The lawmaker filed a resolution Wednesday in advance of the Legislature's Nov. 14 special session that would direct Congress to call a constitutional convention to propose an amendment limiting House members and senators to a maximum of 12 years' service.

"Congress has become too insulated from the electorate," Hammond said. "They spend so much time in Washington, they no longer are in touch with their districts."

He said such restrictions would end the massive influence of special interest lobbies in Washington that would make congressmen more attentive to the national problems rather than worrying about constant re-election.

"When they are in Washington, they are so preoccupied with assuring their own re-election that they spend their time with special interest lobbyists fund raising rather than conducting the business of government."

He said Texas could be the first state to enact such a resolution, adding that he hoped it would spark interest in enough other states to force Congress to act.

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Wednesday, OCT. 25 Rudder Fountain 9:00-4:00	Wednesday, OCT 25 MSC, ROOM 302 7:00 pm both nights	Rudder Tower 8:30-4:00

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Mattox renews call for lottery in Texas

EL PASO (AP) — Attorney General Jim Mattox renewed the call for a state lottery on Wednesday, saying the governor should expand the upcoming legislative session to include a lottery bill.

Mattox, on a 20-city Texas gubernatorial campaign tour, said the lottery issue should be addressed as quickly as possible.

"The failure to take this action will be an invitation to disaster and an invitation to state income tax," Mattox said. The issue cannot wait until a 30- to 45-day special session the governor plans to call next year, Mattox said.

Mattox claims a lottery could bring \$500 million to \$700 million into the state and the monies could be used to fund schools and reduce county jail crowding, as well as establish alcohol and drug rehabilitation for prisoners.

If action is taken this session, he said, the lottery issue could go to the voters as early as next March.

The Texas Supreme Court early this month ruled the state's system of school financing was unconstitutional and gave the state until May 1, 1990 to come up with a remedy.

"I'm the only candidate who has come out for the lottery and opposed new taxes and if elected I will veto a state income tax," Mattox said.

"If (people are) given the choice between new taxes and a state lottery, I believe they will choose a lottery," Mattox said.

A lottery proposal has been defeated in previous legislative sessions, as recently as last spring.

Rossanna Salazar, press secretary for Gov. Bill Clements, said there is little chance the governor will expand the November session, which he called to deal with workers' compensation.

"At this point the governor has limited the special session to workers' compensation," Salazar said.

Legislators are being called back to Austin Nov. 14.

When Mattox officially announced his candidacy for governor in early October he said he would push for the establishment of a lottery.

Following that announcement, Clements said he would leave it up to the people of Texas to decide whether a lottery should be established and said it would be placed on the March primary ballot in the form of a non-binding referendum.

Mattox said he didn't think setting up a lottery would take as much time as it did for the state to set up pari-mutuel racing.

State board denies parole to baby killer

AUSTIN (AP) — The State Board of Pardons and Paroles unanimously denied parole Wednesday to convicted baby killer Gene Jones, whose case sparked more than 1,000 letters to the board.

Spokesman Karin Armstrong said the board rejected Jones' parole on a 3-0 vote, setting his next review for February 1993.

This was the first time Jones was eligible for parole since being sentenced in 1984 to 99 years in prison for killing a 15-month-old girl by fatal injection.

Chelsea McClellan died Sept. 17, 1982, after suffering mysterious seizures while in the care of Jones, who worked as a nurse in a Kerrville pediatrician's office.

The case was publicized last month on the syndicated television show "Geraldo," and since then the parole board had been besieged with letters.

"As of this morning, over 1,200 letters had been received," Armstrong said.

She said the board considers protests from prosecutors and others, but the sentence, seriousness of the crime, how well a prisoner is adapting and other factors also are considered.

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National Collegiate Alcohol Awareness Week

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Challenging and Changing Our Habits

'Mentoring-to-Moms' offers help from professors to concerned parents

By Mia B. Moody

Of The Battalion Staff

Aggie parents with problems concerning their sons and daughters can get help from A&M professors through a program called Mentoring-to-Moms.

James McNeal, coordinator of Mentors and a marketing professor, said Mentoring-to-Moms was developed three years ago to give parents with problems concerning their student the opportunity to talk to a knowledgeable faculty member who

can answer their questions or direct them to someone who can.

"The majority of parents who call ask questions about their sons and daughters such as, where can they go for tutorial services, how can they find out more information on majors and the procedures for applying for financial aid," he said.

Last year Mentoring-to-Moms had 75 Mentors and received over 300 calls, McNeal said. Professors' names are listed in the directory by the department in which they work so parents can find someone who

will know the area that they have questions in.

McNeal said directories with names of faculty members who are A&M Mentors will be sent to Aggie Mother's Clubs and other organizations in two weeks. Members are encouraged to spread the word about Mentoring-to-Mom's service to other parents.

Parents are encouraged to contact professors in the department in which their student is majoring, McNeal said.

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