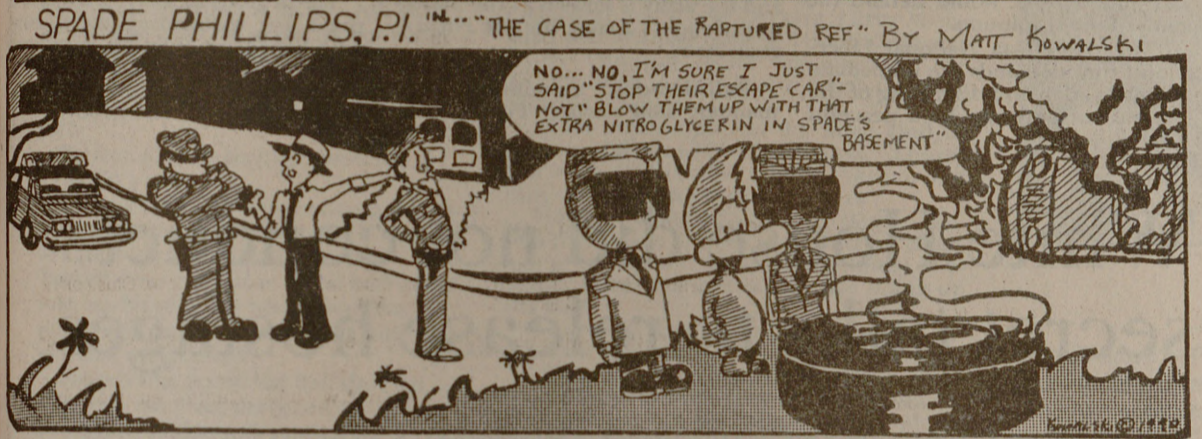


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Texas may get state income tax Special session discusses ways to aid public schools

AUSTIN (AP) — The Legislature's special session opened Tuesday amid gloomy forecasts about the ability to find more money for public schools and a prediction that an income tax might soon be imposed. "Either cut or tax. Nothing in between," said Rep. Jim Rudd, D-Brownfield, head of the budget-writing House Appropriations Committee. "We need a miracle," Rudd added. "I'm going to pray a lot." Lt. Gov. Bill Hobby said the state's financial situation is so tight that an income tax might be needed before the year ends. "It's not going to happen this (30-day) session," Hobby said. "I understand that. But I wouldn't be at all surprised if it didn't happen before this year is out." Hobby added that such a tax would be coupled with a reduction

in property and other taxes. Lawmakers were called back to Austin to deal with a Texas Supreme Court order that the school funding system is unconstitutional and a federal judge's ruling that some state judicial elections discriminate against minority voters. The session opened just two weeks before the March 13 primaries. House Speaker Gib Lewis said lawmakers would have to consider a tax hike by 1991 at the latest. "It's really a very dismal picture," said Lewis, D-Fort Worth, citing deficits in such agencies as the Texas Department of Health and an increasing demand for state services. "I'd say eventually, if we don't pass a tax bill in this special session, it would certainly be something we will have to seriously consider in the regular session in 1991," he said.

Gov. Bill Clements opposes any new taxes in the 30-day special session. Clements called the session after the Texas Supreme Court gave lawmakers a May 1 deadline for changing the school finance system and a federal judge ruled the county-wide system of electing judges in nine urban counties is illegal. Unless the governor's stand changes, lawmakers are unlikely to pass a tax increase this session, Lewis said. The speaker emphasized he isn't pushing a tax hike at this point. "I have not endorsed a tax bill and will not until it's proven to me we have to have one," he said. He said among options expected to be discussed are expanding the sales tax to food and medicine and creation of a state personal income tax.

Police Beat

- The following incidents were reported to the Texas A&M University Police Department between Feb. 16 and Feb. 21.
- CRIMINAL MISCHIEF/COMPONENTS OF EXPLOSIVES/PLACES WEAPONS PROHIBITED:**
 - An officer responded to the Corps area to investigate an explosion that occurred near Duncan Dining Hall. Investigation revealed that some type of explosive device had been placed near the bugle stand. The force of the explosion had blown the megaphone approximately 20 feet from its mounting. The megaphone and the bugle stand sustained extensive damage.
 - FELONY THEFT:**
 - Someone reported that a Charolais steer was stolen from the pasture behind the Beef Cattle Center.
 - TERRORISTIC THREAT:**
 - A woman reported that a threatening note was placed on her vehicle while it was parked in Parking Area 71.
 - CRIMINAL MISCHIEF:**
 - A man reported that a paper bag filled with trash had been left on his porch at Ball Street Apartments.
 - A woman reported that someone broke the left driver's side rearview mirror and used a sharp object to scratch the entire left side of her 1986 Ford Mustang while it was in Parking Area 30.
 - During foot patrol of the residence hall area, an officer was notified that someone had struck the glass portion of a stairway door of Schuhmacher Hall, causing the glass to crack.
 - A man reported that the left rear tail light of his vehicle was broken. The car was parked in Parking Area 30.
 - A man reported that his driver's side rear tire was slashed while the car was parked in Parking Area 89.
 - A man reported that the rear glass of his Ford truck had been shot out with some type of airgun while it was parked in Parking Area 25. The investigating officer discovered several steel BBs in the interior of the vehicle.
 - CRIMINAL TRESPASS:**
 - A University of Kansas student and a College Station resident illegally entered Kyle Field, were issued criminal trespass warnings and released.
 - MISDEMEANOR THEFT:**
 - A man reported the tailgate from his 1983 Ford truck had been removed in Parking Area 89.
 - A woman reported that her 1987 black Suzuki F-50 moped was stolen from Parking Area 35.
 - A College Station man reported the theft of a gold diamond-and-ruby ring from the Learning Resources Department in the Sterling C. Evans Library. The man stated that his girlfriend lost the ring in the library Feb. 17. Upon realizing the loss, she checked with personnel in the LRD lost-and-found and was told that the ring had been located and could be claimed Monday.
 - Two bicycles were stolen in two separate incidents around campus.
 - A Bryan man reported that the rear license plate had been removed from his 1986 red Nissan truck in Parking Area 34.
 - Someone reported that the mirror in the stairwell of the Northside Parking Garage was stolen.
 - PUBLIC INTOXICATION:**
 - A College Station resident was arrested for public intoxication and jailed in the Brazos County Jail.
 - BURGLARY OF VEHICLE:**
 - A man reported that his Sherwood 350 AM/FM cassette car stereo had been stolen from his 1980 Oldsmobile Omega while it was parked on T-Row of the Hensel Apartment Complex.
 - POSSESSION:**
 - A man was detected in the courtyard of Puryear Hall with an alcoholic beverage in his possession. He was issued a citation for MIP.
 - BURGLARY OF COIN OPERATED MACHINE:**
 - A man reported that the food vending machine in Cain Hall had been forced open. Investigation revealed that the coin box and all food products had been removed from the machine.
 - ASSAULT:**
 - A professor reported that one of his students had been assaulted. The offender was identified as a College Station resident. Both parties said that neither one wished to file charges against the other. A verbal exchange between them resulted in a physical altercation.
 - VIOLATION OF UNIVERSITY REGULATIONS:**
 - A College Station man was found to be in possession of a quantity of fireworks. The fireworks were observed in his vehicle during a traffic stop.
- THE CRIME PREVENTION UNIT IS AVAILABLE TO ANYONE REQUESTING INFORMATION ON COMBATTING CRIME. PLEASE CALL 845-8900.**

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