Is Speaker says alternatives are local, state taxes or cuts for bill

En Lawmakers seek remedy to ruling

AUSTIN (AP) — House Speaker Gib Lewis on toon said Wednesday the options facing lawmakers perience for a proposed \$450 million bill to reform the public school finance system are simple: an inrease in state or local taxes or budget cuts.

He said the Public Education Committee will robably consider legislation next week to address a Texas Supreme Court ruling that the rate's public school financing method is uncon-

After finding that the state finance system alows wide disparities in funding per pupil be-ween property-poor and property-rich school listricts, the Supreme Court gave legislators until utit Mos May I to present a remedy.

> Lewis, D-Fort Worth, said lawmakers meeting in a special legislative session have to come up with the money from somewhere.

"The determination is going to have to be made on whether or not they are going to support a tax increase on the state level or a tax increase on the local level, because that's going to be their two options," Lewis said.

Salvation Army

starts campaign

to retrieve funds

AUSTIN (AP) - The Salva-

ion Army said it is reopening a fund-raising campaign to try to help pay off a \$1.5 million con-

struction loan and save the

The agency was unable to collect \$1.5 million of nearly \$3.7

million in pledges made in 1983-

84 to pay for construction of its

ve-year-old social service center,

he Austin American-Statesman

Hardie Bowman, chairman of

he campaign committee, said if the Salvation Army doesn't raise the money, it could be forced to repay the loan from its operating

He said that would mean cut-

ing or eliminating some programs or services — which might

force city and county govern-

Salvation Army officials said the downturn in Austin's economy in the late 1980s kept the or-

ganization from meeting its origi-

They said pledges made in good faith when Austin was

coming could not be kept when

the economy declined and many of the individuals and corpora-

tions that pledged money de-dared bankruptcy.

The new center houses from

200 to 225 people a night, serves

400 meals a day and employs 31

nomeless people at minimum wage to cook and clean.

nents to pick up the slack.

nal campaign goal.

Austin-area services.

eported Tuesday.

gency from having to curtail its

He said budget cuts through delaying prison construction or the state Capitol renovation project could help finance the proposal, but he said such proposals "are all very unattractive.

he determination is going to have to be made on whether or not they are going to support a tax increase on the state level or a tax increase on the local level, because that's going to be their two options.'

- Gib Lewis, speaker of the House

Despite Gov. Bill Clements promise to veto any tax bill for education reforms, Lewis said House members are waiting to see different bills before

"I haven't seen anybody walk in and say, 'I'm going to vote against any tax bill under any con-Lewis said.

In the Senate, a bill by Lt. Gov. Bill Hobby and Sens. Carl Parker, D-Port Arthur, and Kent Caperton, D-Bryan, carries a \$725 million price tag for the first year as compared to \$450 million in

In other developments Wednesday, the House passed a resolution urging the Texas Education Agency to appeal a state Supreme Court ruling that declared invalid a law that made it tougher for teachers to rise on the career ladder, which rewards teachers with higher pay for excellent

The Association of Texas Professional Educators opposed the bill and contended the law signed by Gov. Bill Clements should be stricken because it contained a clerical error on when it

became effective. The Supreme Court agreed.

But Rep. Ernestine Glossbrenner, D-Alice, said, "You don't want to kick out the whole bill

Woman loses rights to visit son except under state supervision

EVERMAN (AP) — A woman charged in the alcohol poisoning death of her 5-year-old son, who drank 10 ounces of bourbon, has been released from jail on \$10,000

Patricia Griffin, 31, was freed hours after a state juvenile court judge ruled that her 2-year-old son, Rashad, should live with his grandmother. Also Tuesday, Griffin was barred from seeing her surviving son without state supervision. The state continues legal guardianship of

Griffin will be allowed supervised visits with her son, probably at a state Department of Human Services office, officials said.

Rashad was taken from his moth-5-year-old brother Raymond died.

Police said Raymond suffered irreversible brain damage after being encouraged by an adult to drink the bourbon at a neighborhood gathering Feb. 25. He lapsed into a coma and died after life support systems

charge of injury to a child by gross negligence, a third degree felony that carries a maximum 10-year prison term. Everman police have said she failed to seek prompt medier's home last Wednesday after his cal attention for Raymond, who was not taken to a hospital until almost 12 hours after he began having convulsions.

Doctors said Raymond had a blood alcohol content of .55 percent, five times the legal definition for in-

Officials say autopsy proves suicide

Texas Racing Commission administrator David Joost shot himself, but authorities said they haven't determined whether he killed three members of his family.

Travis County Medical Examiner Robert Bayardo ruled that Joost, 41, died of a single, self-inflicted gunshot wound to the chest. Bayardo said Joost had powder burns on his right hand.

Joost's wife Susan, 35, died of a gunshot wound to

the back. Their daughter Lauren, 5, and son Eric, 10, died after being shot in the chest, and Eric had a second gunshot wound in his left shoulder

Bayardo said the deaths occurred between 3 a.m. and

Hays County sheriff's department spokeswoman Rachel Vasquez said the only ballistic tests that have been performed so far show that the bullet used to kill Mrs. Joost, which lodged in her right arm, came from a .38 caliber weapon. She said officials could not confirm

whether the same gun killed all family members. "At this point, the case is still under investigation, so all we can assume at this point is that we have three homicides and one suicide," Vasquez said.

The four bodies were found in the family's home in morning.

AUSTIN (AP) — Autopsies showed Tuesday that Buda, about 12 miles southwest of Austin, on Monday. Hays County Sheriff Paul Hastings said a revolver was found near Joost, but he would not speculate on whether it had been used in the shootings.

There was no sign of forced entry at the home and

At this point, the case is still under investigation, so all we can assume is that we have three homicides and one suicide."

> Rachel Vasquez, Hays County sheriff's dept.

Hastings would not say whether a suicide note had been found.

Co-workers became alarmed when Joost, who handled administrative duties for the Racing Commission, failed to show up at a commission meeting Monday

Opinion on school-funding ignites tempers

AUSTIN (AP) — Education Secretary Lauro Cavazos said Wednesday he was saddened by a confrontation with Texas lawmakers, whose fury erupted after he told them more money would not cure the state's discriminatory school-fund-

Cavazos told a joint session of his home state Legislature that fundamental changes - not merely "pitching money" — were the answer to improving education.

Three Hispanic legislators left the chamber during his speech Tuesday, and another confronted him afterward and then disrupted the secretary's news conference to raise heated objec-

tions to his stance. The Texas Legislature is under court order to reform a school-funding system that discriminates against poor districts. The order resulted from a lawsuit brought by the predominantly Hispanic Edgewood School District in San Anto-

Cavazos said it's the first time he has been attacked by fellow Hispanic leaders since he became the first Hispanic Cabinet appointee in September 1988.

I wonder if they would have been as angry if the person who delivered that address as secreof education had not been Hispanic," he said. "It saddens me — not because it was a personal attack — but because people I have so much respect for take that kind of tactic, in front of television cameras and reporters.

"What I got yesterday in Austin ... was people who felt the solution was more dollars. It was quite a confrontation down there. I was very disappointed that the whole issue had to be focused on resources.

Cavazos was confronted Tuesday as he walked from the House chamber into a reporters' meeting by Sen. Carlos Truan, D-Corpus Christi, who

then interrupted the secretary's news conference to take issue with his remarks

"I feel betrayed and I feel embarrassed that the secretary of education - a minority and from Texas — would not take a more aggressive position regarding the needs of education," Truan said Wednesday.

Truan, chairman of the Senate Hispanic Caucus, said Cavazos is "lacking in commitment to the children of our state and of this country by the comments he made here yesterday, and I re-

Truan said he had hoped Cavazos, the former president of Texas Tech University, would be an advocate for the poor and disadvantaged.
"But he certainly didn't come across that way

"But he certainly didn't come across that way yesterday," Truan said. "He came across more as and not as a dedicated educator.



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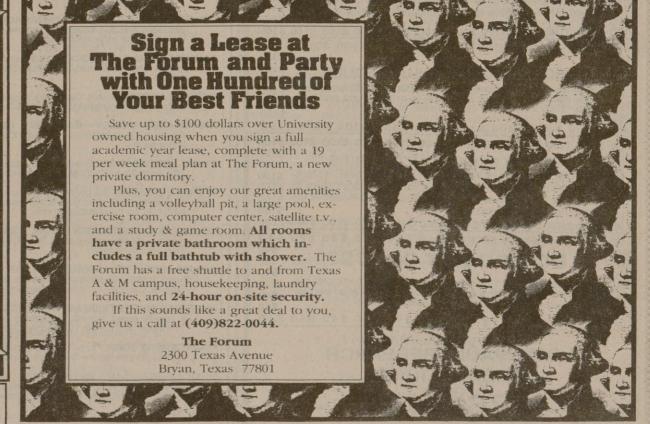
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