

WARD



by Scott McCullar © 1990

Teachers give grade

Veto may get Clements bad TSTA marks

FORT WORTH (AP)—Many teachers are giving a failing grade to Gov. Bill Clements for his refusal to sign a \$555 million school reform plan adopted last week by the Legislature.

Clements, a Republican, has indicated he will veto the bill Monday—the day before a court-ordered deadline to produce a more equitable school-finance system.

Several teachers at the Texas State Teachers Association convention in Fort Worth over the weekend blamed Clements for pushing the school system to the brink of insolvency.

"I think the governor is definitely not thinking about teachers or students," said Wharton teacher Iris Mayshack.

"It should never have come to this," said educator Mary F. Triplett of La Marque.

Asked to describe the best possible outcome of the funding fracas, Dickinson teacher Susan Wilcox said: "Clements could get kidnapped."

TSTA President Ollie Besteiro said the governor's expected veto may force local school districts into a corner.

If the \$555 million reform plan—which includes a half-cent sales tax increase and \$114 million in budget cuts—is axed, Besteiro said school systems will have to raise property taxes.

"We're very upset at the governor," she said. "We think he is holding school districts and school children hostage to satisfy his personal whims."

Clements has few supporters among TSTA members, which endorsed Democratic gubernatorial nominee Ann Richards Friday.

Two Republicans, who agreed that a sales tax increase is not the way to go, said Clements was playing a potentially dangerous game by threatening a veto hours before a court-ordered deadline.

New Braunfels teacher Pat Gajewski said Clements is right, however, in saying more fat can be trimmed from existing budgets.

But, said Austin teacher Andy Drewinger, "Even though a tax increase is not going to be popular with most people... I think it's very important we adopt this."

Last year, the Texas Supreme Court ruled the current \$13.5 billion school finance system unconstitutional after it was protested by a group of property-poor school districts.

Justices threatened to cut off state education aid if action wasn't taken by Tuesday; and a number of lawmakers say failure to meet that deadline could close some schools.

However, few teachers said they believe the current stalemate will result in a school shutdown.

"School will remain open," said North Forest district teacher Jim Stevens. He said the teachers have initiated a letter-writing campaign urging legislators to override Clements' likely veto.

While the educators are urging the approval of the \$555 million package, few believed the money would be sufficient.

"I don't ever think we'll have enough, but it's a step in the right direction," said La Marque teacher Paul Henry Bland.

Clear Creek district teacher Nancy Harvey said high school seniors are afraid they won't graduate on schedule if the schools close.

The teachers apparently are not concerned they will not be paid.

"Our superintendent has said we will be paid if he has to borrow the money," said North Forest teacher Judy Hoya.

And, Austin teacher Doris Fresch said, "I haven't been concerned about it, because we are under contract."

Wharton teacher Ethel Davis said the state already has dispatched paychecks to school districts for May, giving teachers a one-month cushion.

WALDO



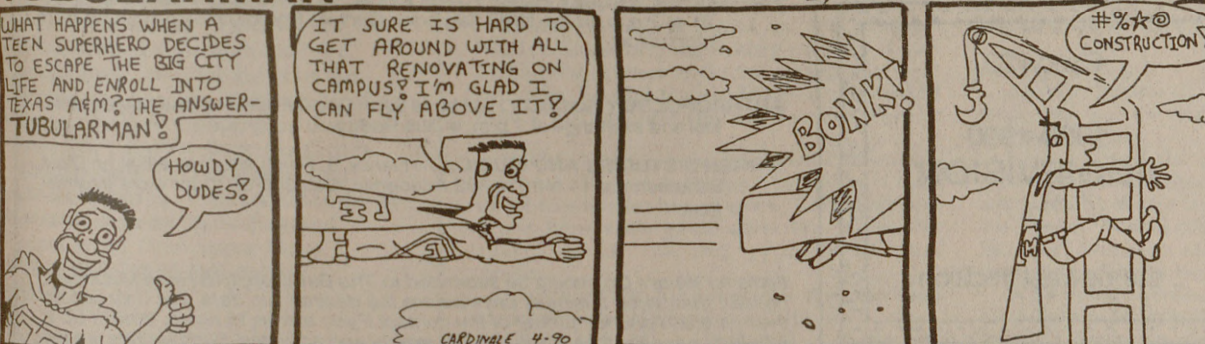
By KEVIN THOMAS

SPADE PHILLIPS, P.I.



BY MATT KOWALSKI

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Closet

(Continued from page 1)

hours as an American in a similar job to be able to afford the same air fare.

If parents wire money to their children, the rate of exchange, depending on the country, can cut the U.S. dollar in half.

Additionally, when funds are transferred from a bank in another country, there is a delay, sometimes as long as two weeks, before students have the cash in their hands.

Also, if students have jobs lined up, they cannot be paid until they have social security numbers, which takes at least two weeks. Once on payroll, they usually have to wait an additional two weeks to get the first paycheck.

Consequently, some students are not paid for a month. This financial crunch could be avoided if students brought more funds with them, but all countries have a limit on how much money a student can take out of the country.

Droleskey said A&M requires that international students prove they can support themselves so they won't be forced to go home early.

Most international students do not live in residence halls because they are accepted to A&M after the deadline for residence hall registration has passed.

By the time most international students arrive for the fall semester in late August, all of the nice and reasonably-priced apartments are already rented, Droleskey said.

A student's only choice may be an expensive apartment full of other students who also need to economize, she said.

"After deposits for utilities have been paid, as well as books and school supplies, some don't have any money — period," Droleskey said. "The closet is tremendously helpful to at least half of the 2,210 international students."

The closet is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Droleskey recommends calling the Office of International Student Services at 845-1825 before coming, especially if help is needed getting items up the stairs.

Receipts are available on request for tax deduction purposes.

Poland

(Continued from page 1)

uated people in Poland and changes in public opinion about topics such as free speech spurred the opposition to the government, he said.

Reykowski said equal justice was heavily favored over free speech during the 1970s, but the 1980s reflected the Polish people's growing concern with free speech and other freedoms they were lacking.

The psychologist said Poland's communist government leaders realized support was quickly declining and began making changes in the government in December 1988.

"The leadership knew the system was in a deep crisis," Reykowski said. Many hard-liner communists

were dismissed from the Polish Politburo in December 1988 and replaced with non-politicians like Reykowski who had reform ideas.

Negotiations began between the government and Solidarity in January 1989, with Reykowski participating.

Reykowski said the initial negotiations, which included Solidarity leader Lech Walesa, were very tense.

"The government saw Solidarity as a group of radicals trying to grab power from the legal authority," he said. "And Solidarity saw the government as an evil government that grabbed power from the society."

But tensions eased as the meetings progressed because both sides saw the need for a peaceful transformation, he said.

"They saw the need to have a democratic government with the abolition of the communist monopoly, but that we couldn't abolish the state totally," he said.

Reykowski, who said the Communist Party has decomposed, said the negotiations led to a new Poland.

"A non-communist government has been found, and Solidarity now has power of major parts of life in Poland," he said.

Reykowski said the peaceful negotiations which transferred power in Poland had a trickling-down effect on other Eastern European countries.

The German Democratic Republic, Czechoslovakia, Hungary and Romania all underwent massive political reforms in late 1989 and 1990.

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