

Richards, Bullock party, kick up their heels at ball

AUSTIN (AP) — Gov. Ann Richards danced her administration and her much-touted "New Texas" into office at a series of inaugural balls Tuesday night.

In the first of four sold-out balls held in celebration of Richards' and Lt. Gov. Bob Bullock's inaugurations, Richards and escort Bud Shrake danced to the sound of "Waltz Across Texas" at the Austin Opry House.

As the Austin-based progressive country band Asleep at the Wheel performed, Richards' father, Cecil Willis of Waco, cut in. Smiling and laughing, father and daughter completed the dance together, with a proud Willis twirling the new governor at arm's length.

Richards, Bullock and a host of other state officials, including House Speaker Gib Lewis, entered the ball under the crossed swords of Texas A&M's Ross Volunteers.

"It was a wonderful day today — a day that I shall never remember, never forget," Richards said, quickly correcting her choice of words.

"Tonight, I went back to my new house to change clothes and it was wonderful to know that the house that has been the home for so many governors and so rich in tradition is now going to be home to someone who's going to open its doors to the people who own it," said Richards, who took the oath of office shortly after noon Tuesday.

"Please know how extremely grateful I am to be able to share this evening with you, because it was a long, tough, difficult road," she said. "The New Texas is here."

An estimated 2,000 celebrants were at the Opry House, garbed in everything from blue jeans and cowboy boots to sequined gowns covered with glittering Texas stars.

Many of the Texas and foreign dignitaries who witnessed the swearing-in ceremonies were expected to



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stay in town for the balls.

Also rumored to be planning possible appearances were entertainers Dolly Parton, Willie Nelson and Cy-bill Shepherd, who took part in Monday night's "Texas Our Texas" pre-inaugural gala in Austin.

The partygoers partook of Texas

wines, hors d'oeuvres and had access to full bars. In contrast, the pre-inaugural gala Monday night was alcohol-free.

Also on the menu, and in keeping with Richards' theme of showcasing Texas talents and wares, were Texas-raised beef and chicken.

Lt. Gov. Bullock wants new legislative agenda

AUSTIN (AP) — Former state Comptroller Bob Bullock was sworn in Tuesday as Texas' 38th lieutenant governor, and laid out an "absolute minimum" agenda for lawmakers — including new ways of raising and spending public money.

The several tasks, he said, would not be easy, nor would they be accomplished overnight.

Bullock, 61, succeeded Bill Hobby, who has served for a record 18 years in the job many consider the most powerful in state government.

The swearing-in of Bullock by Chief Justice Tom Phillips of the Texas Supreme Court occurred after the oath was taken by Gov. Ann Richards, who has held the spotlight since the November general election.

Bullock defeated Houston businessman Rob Mossbacher by 2,002,360 votes to 1,741,893. On Tuesday, he was under doctor's advice to take it easy after a prolonged battle with the flu.

For opportunities and dreams to be within the grasp of all Texans, officeholders must conduct their duties "with no agenda save the agenda for a better Texas," Bullock said.

"We must set state government on a new financial course," Bullock said. "We cannot condone business-as-usual in the way we spend our money, and we cannot condone business-as-usual in the way we raise the money."

Although he offered no specific recommendations, Bullock has proposed adoption of a one-year budget, rather than the traditional two-

year budget, and has told legislators not to shy away from discussing new forms of taxation.

Bullock in his speech said the Legislature must pass a strong ethics code tailored not for those in office or those who seek favors from government but one that will "merit the trust and confidence" of the people.

He also said lawmakers must continue "to seek excellence and equality in our public schools," make major changes in the criminal justice system and adopt legislation to safeguard the environment.

"As a minimum, we must create the world's premier oil spill response plan to cover every inch of every bay and every estuary up and down our Texas Gulf Coast," he said.

"This agenda, along with other major concerns, will not be easy, but easy is not what won Texas' independence on the battlefield, and easy is not what brought Texas to its potential as a modern industrial state, and easy is not what brought Texans to elect Bob Bullock lieutenant governor of Texas," Bullock said.

"This agenda that I speak of will not be solved overnight. I recognize that."

In assuming office, Bullock recognized Hobby, who according to many set standards by which other lieutenant governors will be judged. "I pray that I conduct the office with even a small measure of the high ideals that marked every moment that Bill Hobby served as lieutenant governor of Texas," Bullock said as Hobby sat nearby.

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Parade honors inaugurees

AUSTIN (AP) — Thousands of jubilant people from across the state Tuesday marched up Congress Avenue with Ann Richards to help her "take the Capitol back."

For Richards, who shortly afterward became the 45th governor of Texas, the "People's March" was a celebration in what she said was the "greatest day in my life."

Hours later, Richards and Lt. Gov. Bob Bullock arrived in horse-drawn carriages to the reviewing stand for the Inaugural Parade that featured about 100 units, including a giant can of hair spray, an apparent poke at Richards' hairstyle.

The bands of Pecos and Hereford high schools gave Richards yellow roses and serenaded her with "The Yellow Rose of Texas."

During the morning "People's March," Richards was pointed out as "the lady with the white hair" by those who stood on ladders, rooftops and bus benches. People carried signs proclaiming their hometowns, and one window held a sign "On to the White House."

Richards wore a white mohair coat and yellow ribbon as a reminder of the conflict in the Persian Gulf.

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