

Wednesday, January 30, 1991

The Battalion

Richards urges vote on lottery Judge vetoes waste site slated for West Texas

AUSTIN (AP) — Gov. Ann Richards stepped up the push for a lottery bill Tuesday, saying Texans deserve a chance to decide for themselves whether they want the moneymaking games.

Richards said lawmakers should put a lottery proposal before voters on the May 4 constitutional amendment ballot. Approval would mean that lottery gambling could begin in January 1992, she said.

"The state is in a revenue crunch," Richards said. "We are looking for sources of funds for education and prisons and mental health programs and human services and any number of other things that I can name."

"Polls have shown consistently that there is overwhelming support in the state of Texas, on the part of the people, for a state lottery," she said.

Lt. Gov. Bob Bullock called a lottery "a sleazy

way for government to raise money" but said he understands that a majority of Texans have expressed a desire to vote on it.

"I hate to run government on the throw of dice, and I hate to run government on just the throw of a lottery," Bullock said. "I've seen the studies ... and about 50 percent of the sales of a lottery are sold to the bottom 10 percent income people."

A proposed constitutional amendment on a lottery would "do one thing and one thing only ... allow the people of Texas to decide for themselves whether or not they want to raise public funds for critical state services through a state lottery," Richards said.

She said a "scratch card" lottery game could begin in January 1992, with the big-money computerized "lotto" game starting in July 1992.

The state estimates that a lottery would raise about \$730 million during the 1992-93 budget

period. Lawmakers face a projected \$4.2 billion deficit for those years.

"That's \$730 million we will not have to add in terms of additional taxation or lose in terms of critical state services," Richards said.

Rep. Ron Wilson, D-Houston, said traditional House opposition that defeated his lottery bills in the past was shrinking in the face of a budget deficit and possible state income tax.

"I've always known as we come closer to considering a state income tax ... the lottery would become more favorable," Wilson said.

House Speaker Gib Lewis, D-Fort Worth, said he was told that the needed 100 House votes might be found. A proposed constitutional amendment must win two-thirds approval in each legislative chamber.

"I talked to a couple of members yesterday ... and they said they had over 100 votes that they thought they could identify," Lewis said.

Judge vetoes waste site slated for West Texas

EL PASO (AP) — A state district court judge Tuesday blocked the state from building a low-level nuclear dump site near Fort Hancock, saying the state had tunnel vision when looking for a site.

The judgment issued by 34th State District Court Judge Bill Moody amounts to a permanent injunction barring the state from building the West Texas dump.

El Paso and Hudspeth counties sued the state in 1987 to stop its plans to build the dump near Fort Hancock, about 40 miles southeast of El Paso.

Moody has been mulling the case since September following a two-week trial that included 1,500 exhibits consisting of maps, overlays, rocks, slides, photographs, letters, complicated scientific reports and testimony from 27 witnesses.

The volumes of exhibits "left the poor trial judge weary and in need of a pair of reading glasses," Moody said in the judgment.

Federal law requires all states to have low-level radioactive waste dumps operating by January 1993, or to join with other states to establish regional dumps.

House studies bill that halts spending

AUSTIN (AP) — House budget-writers quickly took up a Senate bill to freeze state spending Tuesday, although leaders voiced some reservations about the measure and said it could be changed.

Meanwhile, state employees began a lobby effort against the proposal, which they said would further burden already overworked staffers.

"We're doing a disservice to our clients in every state agency if we have staffing cutbacks, which a hiring freeze will effectively mean," said Sylvia Meyer, president of the Texas State Employees Union.

The House suspended rules to allow the bill to be considered Tuesday by its budget-writing Appropriations Committee, which did not immediately act on it. The Senate passed the bill Monday.

"I think we all have some degree of reservation of how it's set up or controlled," House Speaker Gib Lewis said of the Senate bill.

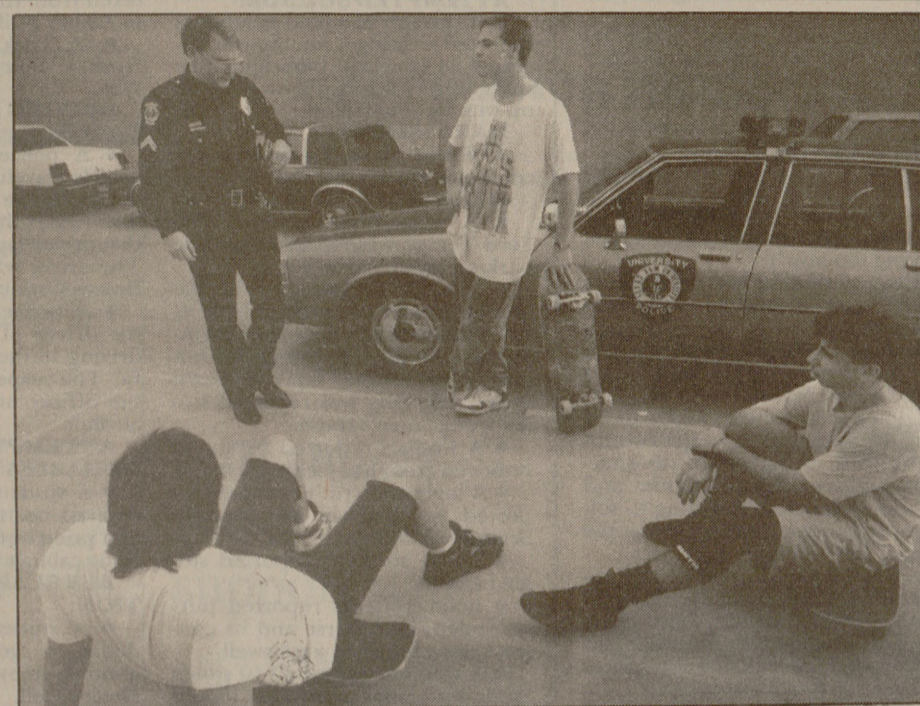
Along with the freeze, the bill would provide for the speaker, lieutenant governor and governor to oversee a state government review.

"I'd like to have more legislative input into it, and I'm hoping that we are guaranteed that will be the case, that it won't be three people calling all the shots," Lewis, D-Fort Worth, said.

The bill would save a projected \$50 million to \$98 million in the fiscal year ending Aug. 31, helping to make up an estimated \$296 million budget deficit. There's also a projected shortfall of more than \$4 billion over the next two fiscal years.

The Senate measure would freeze spending and hiring beginning Friday, with some exceptions, and begin audits and reviews of state government.

On the lookout



MIKE C. MULVEY/The Battalion

UPD officer Chris Faulkner questions skateboarders Heath Smith, Mike Ward, and Mike Heath outside of the Blocker Building Tuesday afternoon.

In Advance

Seniors must apply for degrees by Friday

Texas A&M students graduating in May must make a formal application for degrees no later than Friday.

Degree applicants must report to 105 Heaton Hall and complete degree application forms. If the diploma fee was not added to tuition, it must be paid at that time.

Construction science will host career fair

The Texas A&M Department of Construction Science will conduct its first Career Fair Thursday and Friday on the second floor of the Langford Architecture Center.

Representatives from construction companies will be available from 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. both days to discuss opportunities in the construction industry.

All people interested in the construction profession are urged to attend the fair. For a schedule of events or any additional information, contact Leslie Feigenbaum at 845-7008.

An Nam Tea House hosts war seminar today

The Brazos Valley Peace Action is sponsoring a seminar on the Middle East war from 7 to 10 p.m. today at the An Nam Tea House.

Speakers include Dr. Terry Anderson, an associate history professor, and Dr. Larry Yarak, an assistant history professor. Floyd Wells, commander of the Disabled American Veterans, also will give his view on the conflict.

Discussion will center on why the United States is involved in the war and what can be done to move toward peace now and in the future. Following the presentations, the audience will be encouraged to present ideas and ask questions.

For more information, contact the An Nam Tea House at 846-2898.



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7 SELECT TOPPINGS \$7.77

- Mushroom
- Onion
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Little Caesars Pizza! Pizza!

Two great pizzas! One low price! Always Always.

\$7.77 offer valid on Pizza! Pizza! or Pan! Pan! thru 3/10/91. No coupon necessary.

\$6.99 Terrific Tuesday!

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TWO MEDIUM PIZZAS WITH 8 TOPPINGS

Eight select toppings

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Little Caesars
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FREE BUY ONE Sandwich GET ONE FREE!

\$ 3.25

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TWO PIZZAS with cheese and 1 topping

Small **\$6.99**

Medium **\$8.99**

Large **\$11.99**

Not valid with any other offer. One coupon per customer. Carry out only.

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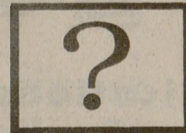
'92 Junior '92 Awareness Week

Jan. 28-Feb. 1

Thur. '92 Night at the Hall
Hall of Fame 9:PM
Fri. '92 Night at Sneakers
\$1.92 cover for jrs.

Daily "what's in the box?" clues will be given at the MSC table, prizes will be awarded 11:PM

@ Sneakers



Elephant Walk Shirts are still available in the MSC

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