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School reform plan meets rejection in House

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said the state should keep schools open. The next school payments are due near the end of the month.

The Bryan and College Station school districts have enough money in banks and from local property taxes that neither school district is in danger of shutting down before the end of

the year, Ogden said.

Lt. Gov. Bob Bullock said he would ask Attorney General Dan Morales to file a motion asking the court for more time. Morales said it would be premature to do that before Monday.

The Texas Supreme Court unanimously ruled unconstitutional the current \$14 billion-a-year school finance system,

which relies on state aid, local property taxes and some federal money.

Ogden said he favors a plan to tax all districts at a rate of \$1 per \$100 of property, which would create about \$6.5 billion. The state then would match those funds, creating \$13 billion. That money would be distributed to districts based on student pop-

ulation, allowing for about \$4,000 per child.

School districts still could tax at a higher rate than \$1, but Ogden's plan would allow districts to keep 80 percent of those funds and distribute the remaining 20 percent to other districts.

"That plan wouldn't require enormous tax increases for most Texans," he said.

Yeltsin supporters hauled away in Red Square

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move. Yeltsin's defiant supporters said Wednesday they would proceed with today's rally on Manezh Square near the Kremlin, despite a three-week ban on street demonstrations imposed Monday by Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev's Cabinet of Ministers.

The Cabinet put police under the control of the Interior Ministry, taking away the authority of the democratically-elected Moscow City Council, which had approved the rally.

"Our officers will act in compliance with the law, and marchers will be stopped," Deputy Police Chief Lev Belyanovsky told reporters.

Police and soldiers began enforcing the ban by cordoning off Red Square and shooting away pedestrians from Manezh Square, site of the Czar's equestrian school before the 1917 Bolshevik revolution.

Riot police with rubber truncheons hauled away a handful of protesters outside City Council headquarters who carried signs

saying "Yeltsin Is Our Hope."

When an elderly woman resisted, a burly officer twisted her arm behind her back and forced her into a yellow police bus.

Throughout the day, helicopters circled the city, which is usually closed to air traffic.

Police sealed off Red Square with portable metal barriers and stationed dump trucks.

Redistricting plan may cut Barton short

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Legislature handles the reapportionment process which ultimately rests with Gov. Ann Richards.

"It's important that we create districts that are fair and similar in philosophy and demographics," said Rep. Steve Ogden, R-Bryan.

Barton's 6th Congressional District was created by legislators about 70 years ago to please an influential Waxahachie lawmaker.

Under the influence of Democratic Rep. Olin "Tiger" Teague of College Station, the district's dumbbell shape was fine-tuned 25 years ago to accommodate defense industries in the Dallas area; Teague's alma mater, Texas A&M; and aerospace workers in Houston.

Ogden said the district deliberately was designed to be a "killer" district, and requires a lot of financial backing to win an election.

"It doesn't meet my definition of the kind of district we ought to be drawing," Ogden said. "Districts ought to be competitive."

Several decades ago, the odd shape of the district prompted two Texas state senators, Oscar

Mauzy and Babe Schwarz, to joke that "you could leave the city limits of Dallas in a four-door sedan with the doors open and drive down to Houston and kill half the population of that district."

Bob Calvert, an A&M history professor, said the 6th District is the most obvious example of gerrymandering in Texas history.

"Common sense says it should have disappeared long ago," Calvert said.

Tom Uher, Democratic chairman of the House Committee on Redistricting, said the redistricting process is more open than it used to be.

"The process is subject to more scrutiny because people are better read and more aware of the impact of politics on their lives," Uher said.

Because census figures show large population gains by blacks and Hispanics in Dallas, Barton expects the redistricting committee to create a new district in Dallas to accommodate the new demographics.

U.S. Rep. Martin Frost, D-Dallas, then will scramble for new constituents to fill the vacancies left by voters who will constitute the new district. Democratic U.S. Rep. John Bryant also will

have to look for new constituents.

Because the suburbs of Dallas and areas north of downtown Dallas are heavily Republican, Frost and Bryant have targeted the areas to the south and west.

Barton already represents these areas which include Ellis County, and has amassed \$412,000 to prepare for a showdown with a Democratic incumbent.

"I would rather not run against another incumbent," Barton told the Congressional Chronicle. "They have financial advantages and a greater ability to play the political game. My goal is to keep my district as much intact as possible."

Barton said he anticipates a district to accommodate the area, and supports it knowing this could jeopardize his reelection chances in 1992.

Barton told the House Redistricting Committee March 18, he would willingly surrender his representation of Montgomery County if he could keep Ellis county, with the superconducting super collider project.

With Democrats controlling the Governor's mansion and both houses of the Legislature, they have the opportunity to

carve up the 6th District to protect Democratic incumbents.

All or part of Barton's home county of Ellis might end up in districts represented by incumbent Democrats.

Barton told the committee he understands he would be giving up a political stronghold if he surrenders Montgomery County. He estimated he receives about 75 percent of the vote from the 145,000 people of Montgomery.

Candace Carraba, a local Republican activist, said she hopes at least 5,000 people will sign a petition asking the Committee to leave Brazos County in Barton's 6th District.

As the most populous county completely represented in the district, Brazos County has become the most influential, Carraba said.

Carraba said removing Brazos County from its present district would weaken its influence because plans being considered by the committee would place Brazos County in a district with larger populations and different problems.

Divided representation of these two counties in Congress would be counterproductive and undermine the positive impact of the project for Texas and the nation, Carraba said.

One representative can better secure federal support for the coordination between the progressive technical projects carried on in Ellis County and the interdisciplinary research projects in Brazos County, she said.

Uher said A&M will remain heavily involved in the SSC even if the Brazos Valley is not part of a district that includes Ellis County.

"Any congressman with any sense at all will see to it that the project is fruitful," Uher said. "A&M's involvement is central to the success of the SSC. I think people are looking for spoils that aren't there."

Brazos County resident Carraba said the worst proposal would be to split Brazos County into two districts.

Ogden said he agrees with Carraba and that he will take action to keep Brazos County intact.

"I am waiting to see what options open up to the redistricting committee, but I am very opposed to any plan that would divide Brazos County down Highway 6," Ogden said.

"I have confidence in the house to do the right thing. I know it will respect the people and make sure their votes count. All I want is to have the opportunity to represent the people of Brazos County. I don't spend a lot of time worrying about it (reapportionment)."

Carraba said signing the petition is a non-partisan action for the good of Brazos Valley. Although she supports Barton, Carraba said the issue is what is best for Brazos County—regardless of which Congressman represents the area in Washington, D.C.

The petition will be presented to the committee after April 1. A similar petition signed by 6,000 residents of Ellis county was submitted to the committee last week.

Ogden said he expects the House to finish its redistricting plan by May 27 when the Legislature adjourns.

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