

Jackson blasts Bush's civil rights legislation

AUSTIN (AP) — During a visit to promote his Rainbow Coalition agenda Thursday, the Rev. Jesse Jackson blasted President Bush's characterization of civil rights legislation as a "quota" bill and called for creation of a national health care system.

He also criticized the federal agency created to oversee the savings and loan bailout for giving only a small fraction of its contracts to minorities.

Jackson said he had not yet decided whether he would make a third try for the Democratic nomination for president in 1992 after running unsuccessfully in 1984 and 1988.

Instead, he said he was in town to promote his program of public service.

"These matters of substance and direction is what I am mobilizing people around the country to focus on through the Rainbow Coalition. Any decision that I might make beyond my current level of public service will take place perhaps in the fall," Jackson said after a meeting with members of the Texas coalition, including minority, gay and abortion rights activists.

Jackson serves as a nonvoting "shadow senator" from the District of Columbia.

He also visited an Austin AIDS treatment facility and was scheduled to meet privately with state leaders, including Gov. Ann Richards, before leaving for Houston to continue his weeklong tour of Oklahoma and Texas.

Thursday, Jackson said Bush's opposition to the 1991 Civil Rights Act "has reduced American politics to its lowest common denominator by race baiting."

"During the civil rights era, George Wallace stood in the school house door and said, 'Segregation today, tomorrow and forever.' Today, President Bush stands in the White House door and says, 'No quotas today, tomorrow and forever,'"

Jackson said. "We must not allow the country to be torn apart and diverted by the issue of quota. Whites, blacks and browns have good reason to fear the loss of jobs because we are losing jobs" to foreign cheap labor markets, he said.

Jackson also threatened to organize a protest of the Resolution Trust Corp., the agency supervising the S&L cleanup, unless it establishes an affirmative action program in awarding contracts.

In the RTC's Southwest Region, which includes Texas, more than 67 percent of the agency's \$160 million in contracts have gone to white men, Jackson said.

About 27 percent of the contracts went to white women, while less than 5 percent were awarded to black men, he said.

No company owned by a black or Hispanic woman has received an RTC contract in Texas, he said.

Teresa McUSIC, spokeswoman for the RTC's Southwest Region, said the agency was holding a series of seminars for women and minorities on applying for RTC contracts and employs specialists to encourage applications from minorities and women.

Only 12 percent of registered Texas business that would be eligible to receive the RTC contracts are owned by minorities or women, she said.

"We certainly are working for more, and we intend to get more (minority contractors)," McUSIC said. "We are welcoming and encouraging and trying to get people to come forward, but the numbers are not as strong."

Jackson also called for establishing a G.I. bill of rights. Veterans of the Persian Gulf War "deserve more than parades and the ribbons because those are symbols," he said.

WARPED

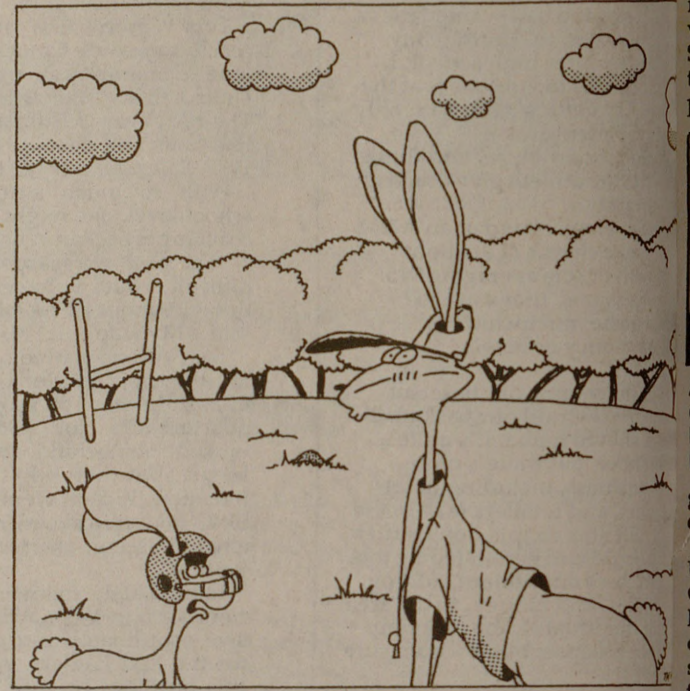


Ph.D



Nerd House

by Tom A. Mad...



Task force preparing to endorse income tax

AUSTIN (AP) — Former San Antonio mayor Henry Cisneros, who serves on a task force studying taxes, said he and most of the other panel members are ready to recommend the Legislature adopt a state income tax.

But a state lawmaker in charge of writing a state budget said Thursday that an income tax proposal probably would be ignored by the Legislature.

Jim Rudd, D-Brownfield, and chairman of the House Appropriations Committee, said, "While it may be the thing we ought to do in the future, the time is not right."

"I just know (House Speaker) Gib Lewis and the feeling of the House right now, and that's not for an income tax," Rudd said.

The Governor's Task Force on Revenue will meet Saturday to vote on tax proposals to recommend for a July 8 special legislative session to address an estimated deficit of \$4.7 billion for 1992-93.

"It took me a long time before I could say the 'I' word," Cisneros said Wednesday.

"I know how dangerous it is to speak in favor of an income tax in Texas," he said. "However, the charge of this committee was not to do what the Legislature is going to do anyway, which is just to come up with a scheme for this year but to tell the people of Texas what needs to be done for the long run."

Cisneros said that although a majority of the 15-member task force favors a state income tax, he doubts lawmakers will follow through with the recommendation.

Gov. Ann Richards has declined to say what action she might seek on taxes, saying that she wants to examine proposed spending cuts that will be recommended by Comptroller John Sharp next week.

Sharp has headed a team of auditors which has examined spending by all state agencies since February.

Bats bunk in collapsed building

RUSK (AP) — The walls came tumbling down around thousands of bats Wednesday when the front of a three-story building collapsed across the street from the Cherokee County Courthouse.

Rusk City Manager Bill Collum said he's heard the number of bats living on the third floor in the vacant downtown building ranges from 40,000 to 70,000.

But the city has been unable to determine just how many bats are inside because the structure is in such poor condition. City Council members still haven't decided how to deal with the bats, Collum said.

"We don't want to go up there and start gassing them or do anything that might hurt the environment," he said. "But we have to do something to get them out."

The owners of the building live in Alto and have said they can't afford to either repair or demolish it. Rusk Mayor Mike Crysp declined to say who owned the building.

The 1920s-style building once served as a hotel, restaurant and general store, Collum said. But it has become a haven for bats, which sneak in through a third-story window, he said.

So far, the bats haven't caused any problems for local residents. But Collum said the building has to come down.

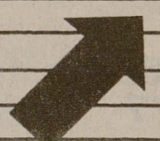
"I talked to the mayor this morning and one of the owners of an adjacent building had trouble with some bats a couple of years ago," he said. "She hired someone from Austin to get the bats out."

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What's Up

- ### Friday
- ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS:** General discussion at noon. Call CDPE at 845-0280 for more information.
 - COLOMBIAN STUDENT ASSOCIATION:** General meeting to discuss summer activities at 10 p.m. in Kleberg 200. Call Patricia DeSoto at 693-3205 for more information.
- ### Saturday
- MUSLIM STUDENT ASSOCIATION:** Eid Aladha prayer at 7:15 a.m. in 201 MSC. Contact Zaem-ul-haq Siddiqui at 846-8647 for more information.
 - EPISCOPAL STUDENT CENTER:** Putt-putt party. Meet at Canterbury house at 10 a.m. We will leave at 10:30 a.m. Contact James McKeand at 822-4653 for more information.
 - MSC SUMMER PROGRAMS:** Sand sculpting contest from 1 to 5 p.m. at Sneakers. Call 845-1515 for more information.
 - TAIWANESE STUDENT ASSOCIATION:** Invited lecture at 1:30 p.m. in 402 Rudder Tower. Contact Chang at 693-3626 for more information.
- ### Sunday
- LUTHERAN STUDENT FELLOWSHIP:** Bible study at 7:30 p.m. at the Lutheran Student Center. Contact Elaine at 846-5645 for more information.
 - MUSLIM STUDENT ASSOCIATION:** Eid picnic from 5 to 8:30 p.m. at Hensel Park - areas 4 and 4. Contact Zaem-ul-haq Siddiqui at 846-8647 for more information.
 - EPISCOPAL STUDENT CENTER:** Evening prayer, Holy Communion and free community dinner at 6:15 p.m. at the Canterbury House, 902 George Bush Drive. Contact James McKeand at 822-4653 for more information.
- ### Monday
- COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS:** Humana Hospital-Brazos Valley Texas Music Festival Chamber Music Concerts presents Houston Symphonic Brass Quintet with winds, 7:30 p.m. in Rudder Theater. Contact Rebecca Binder at 845-3355 for more information.
 - ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS:** General discussion at noon. Call CDPE at 845-0280 for more information.

Items for What's Up should be submitted to The Battalion, 216 Reed McDonald, later than three business days before the desired run date. We publish the name and phone number of the contact only if you ask us to do so. What's Up is a Bulletin service that lists non-profit events and activities. Submissions are run on a first-come, first-served basis. There is no guarantee an entry will run. If you have questions, call the newsroom at 845-3316.

Richards condemns Louisiana abortion law

AUSTIN (AP) — Texas Gov. Ann Richards says she doesn't like the new anti-abortion law passed in neighboring Louisiana over a gubernatorial veto.

"I was not happy to see the action that was taken by the Louisiana Legislature," Richards told a news conference Wednesday.

The law, passed Tuesday in a historic override of Gov. Buddy Roemer's veto, bans most abortions and jails doctors who perform illegal ones.

Richards said she believes Louisiana authorities will find the law "very difficult" to enforce if it is upheld by the courts.

The law carries up to 10 years in prison and a \$100,000 fine for doctors who perform an illegal abortion. The woman would not be punished. It allows abortion to save the mother's life and

in cases of rape and incest but only in the first weeks of pregnancy. Rape and incest victims must report the crime within a week and get medical attention within five days.

"I'm concerned about the legislation, not because of the effects that it has on the choice women make but the precedent I think it sets for the medical community," Richards said.

"That it places criminal activity on the back of a doctor, I think, is absurd," she said.

Richards said she doubted that the passage of Louisiana's law would mark the beginning of an end for abortion rights allowed under the U.S. Supreme Court's 1973 Roe vs. Wade decision.

"I think it's an issue that's going to be with us probably for the rest of my life," she said.