

Proposed HEW regulations may close local hospital

By Jim McWilliams

Washington bureaucrats are proposing new laws to cut back on Nationwide medical services in the name of "reducing health care costs".

Joseph Califano, secretary of the Department of Health, Education and Welfare (HEW) and his Washington civil service employees are setting up guidelines that would cripple or kill rural health care facilities.

Their stated purpose is the centralization of health care services. HEW says it will reduce the cost of medical treatment while improving patient care.

Schleicher County Health Officer, Dr. Jim Brame, admits it will lower cost...."but only for the government, not the patient!", he said.

Dr. Brame said the new regulations, once in effect, would be the law until the courts declared them void. He

said, "some of the regulations would be devastating to small medical facilities such as Schleicher County's."

Three particular rules would all but close small hospitals. The first regulation requires hospitals to have (or cut back to) only 4 beds for each 1,000 people. That would reduce Schleicher County's hospital beds from 16 to 12.

Secondly, HEW would require an average occupancy rate of 80 percent for the 4 beds per 1,000 population. Our County's rate was 35 percent in 1976, and averaged between 40 and 50 percent for the three previous years. Therefore our hospital could be cut back further if the guidelines are passed.

The most severe (and dangerous) regulation concerns births. If a rural hospital does not deliver at least 500 births a year, the facility will have to

close. Eldorado's births average about 100 per year.

Along with regulating births, HEW would require all children to be admitted to "child care

units" (pediatric wards) in larger hospitals. That means if your child gets sick he cannot be admitted to this local hospital. He would have to be

taken to San Angelo for treatment and confinement.

These guidelines have enraged and stunned elected officials and hospital

administrators throughout Texas.

Ray Hurst, President of the Texas Hospital Association, said the guidelines would cause the closing of all rural hospitals that were within 45 minutes of a metropolitan facility.

Lillian Kroeger, county hospital administrator, said "Eldorado is one hour and 15 minutes away from San Angelo hospitals, so the regulations may not affect us now. But sometime in the future the rules will get to us, because the federal government doesn't ever cut back on regulating anything once they get started."

Dr. Jim Brame sees the rules as... "more government meddling in private enterprise." He said people should be able to have a hospital anywhere they want to have one. If they can support it financially, then why regulate it away from them.

Congressman Bob Krueger called Mr. Califano's proposals "counter-productive" and shows a poor attitude towards rural Americans.

"I urge Secretary Califano to seriously take a look at the underlying problems within his department that have resulted in this gross display of a lack of sensitivity," Krueger said.

Nelson Wolff, 21st Congressional district candidate, in a letter to Califano, said rural health care is finally progressing at a steady pace. But... "Now the future of these hospitals is being threatened. For Congress to pass a rural health care bill and then for HEW to promulgate rulings which would force small town hospitals to close is the ultimate absurdity."

Governor Dolph Briscoe wrote President Carter and said the bureaucrats are "...dictating arbitrary and ill conceived formulas specifying local health care needs..." which should be left up to local governments to control.

The Governor reminded the President that federal government facilities are not covered by these "National Guidelines".

If you do not voice your opinion, then HEW will make up your mind for you. Address your comments to Joseph A. Califano, Jr., Department of Health, Education and Welfare, 330 Independence Ave. Southwest, Washington, D.C. 20201.

Briscoe-HEW rules are "federal meddling!"

Texas, not Washington bureaucrats, know their state's health care needs, Governor Dolph Briscoe said on November 23, 1977, as he criticized proposed National Guidelines for Health Planning.

"Arbitrary formulas maintaining, in essence, that health care needs are the same in rural areas in Texas as they are in New York are foolish and unfounded in fact or logic," the Governor said. "I will continue to fight for a more appropriate federal health policy."

"Washington officials need to realize that those persons most familiar with the needs of their area, those persons who must cope with problems on a daily basis, are the ones who should be involved in the decision-making process," Briscoe said.

The proposed guidelines, drafted by the U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare, would key the availability of hospital services to population density and average use of the services and facilities.

Briscoe has expressed his strong feelings about the situation in a letter to President Carter in which the Governor took exception to the proposed guidelines.

"We all share the same concerns about holding the line on the cost of health care but these proposed guidelines go too far," Briscoe said.

"Some hospitals might have to close their doors or, at best, curtail services with a resulting inconvenience to citizens," Briscoe said.

The guidelines, if fully implemented, will make it even more difficult for citizens in rural Texas to attract and keep doctors and other needed personnel in their communities, Briscoe said.

The Texas Hospital Association, the Governor said, has pointed out that 88 percent of Texas hospitals responding to a survey failed to meet proposed requirements for a hospital to have an obstetric unit.

The THA survey showed travel time to the next closest obstetrical hospital would range from five minutes to four hours with an average of 54 minutes.

"I don't think any Texan would want an expectant mother to face a four-hour automobile trip to reach a hospital," Briscoe said.

As proposed, the regulations would allow less than four hospital beds per 1,000 persons within a health service area and expect those beds to be filled 80 percent of the time on a yearly basis.

This, the Governor predicted, could result in the loss of more than 11,000 hospital beds in Texas.

Enforcement of the guidelines could involve withholding Medicare and Medicaid payments from hospitals that fail to comply.

"The imposition of arbitrary, rigid formulas for determining the appropriate availability of health services and facilities for the citizens of Texas is highly offensive and will, in the long run, result in rationed health care," the Governor said.

"The President apparently is listening to the bureaucrats and their ideas about a national health policy instead of letting local citizens tell Congress what their needs involve," Briscoe said.

The Governor said the situation is similar to circumstances surrounding the President's energy proposals which seem to reflect more input from psychologists and behavioral

scientists than energy experts and engineers.

Texas, Briscoe said, has many highly capable local and state elected and appointed officials, 12 health system agencies plus a series of state health agencies all quite capable of determining the health care needs of

the state's citizens without unnecessary federal meddling and interference.

The U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare has extended until December 9 the deadline for commenting on the proposed guidelines.

THE ELDORADO EXPRESS NEWS

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FIFTEEN CENTS

Commissioners will vote themselves a 5% raise


The Schleicher County Commissioners met in session Monday morning at the Court House and received a Legal Notice calling for 5% increases in salaries of elected Officials effective the 1st of January, 1978. This Legal Notice is printed elsewhere in this Express News issue and calls for the matter to be acted upon by the Commissioners at their next meeting on December 12.

The Court also plans to pass five percent increases for the salaried county employees, effective Jan. 1.

The scale of salaries paid elected SEE Commissioners P.10

Girl Scouts anyone?

Are there any girls in the Eldorado area interested in being a Senior Girl Scout or Cadette? If so, please contact Ann Hyde at 853-2704.



Something To Think About
by Jannette Wilkerson

"WHATEVER HAPPENED TO BABY DOLLS?"

Some people never outgrow their fascination for toys -- I'm one. But like everything else, toys just aren't what they used to be. I can remember when an 'ACTION' toy was something you had to pedal, push, or pull. Kids don't really play now as much as they sit and watch their toys.

Recently I was in a toy store to check out the new Christmas selection of "Kiddy Wonderful's", and it's amazing! Kids today have to be mechanical wizards to operate a simple Baby Doll. Not being able to resist the temptation to flip a few switches, I turned on a doll that threw up her arms and strolled like Frankenstein's Monster down the shelf and clobbered the six million dollar man and stepped all over Marie Osmond. Anticipating her next move, I ran ahead of her and grabbed Cher, Farrah Faucett, and G. I. Joe. Thinking I had outsmarted her, she then turned around and headed back to the box she came out of - labeled "Baby Come Back".

There's a new doll this year I wouldn't want to see crammed in the toy box. She's "Baby Heartbeat". That's right! This doll has a heart that really beats. There are dolls that eat baby food [Ugh!], crawl around on the floor, falls over and turns a flip, says 16 different phrases and probably one you can send to college. It seems to me these dolls are too real to be much fun. Instead of buying one, I

keep wanting to adopt it.

Toys for boys are just as complicated. Cars and trucks are obsolete. Now you buy a couple of electric sports cars with 100 yards of racing track. These are remote controlled and can be maneuvered up someone's breeches leg, with a little practice. War toys don't consist of jeeps and All-American looking soldiers any more. They have laser beam swords, ray guns, and soldiers from every Planet except Earth. Cowboys and Indians have been pushed aside for Apes. You can buy a boy doll that can be dressed for any occasion, from taking Barbie to the Prom, to shooting the rapids in a rubber raft.

Even baby toys have taken a turn to realism. There's a cow that drinks water and gives milk. Considering cattle prices, that might be sound purchase. If you buy your baby a C.B. radio that says -- "10 - 4 - Good Buddy" when you push a button, or a typewriter that types "Go-Bye-Bye" and "I'm Wet" -- chances are ----- Christmas day they'll drag a pan to bang on out of the cabinet or play with bows and ribbon all day.

And ya know, the Adults weren't left out - for \$9.95 - Ronco makes something for everything you could ever want to do....except skip Christmas shopping...and that's something to think about the next few frantic weeks.....

Amy Cheatham killed in accident

Mrs Amy Cheatham of Eldorado, age 16, was killed in a pickup-truck collision 6 miles south of Christoval on US 277 last Monday night.

The accident occurred about 8:30 p.m. Mrs. Cheatham was pronounced dead at the scene by Christoval Peace Justice Hazel Jones.

Three others injured in the mishap were 6 month old Jennifer Lynn Cheatham, Amy Cheatham's daughter; and 16 year old Kendre Celeste Dunham of Eldorado. Both were passengers in the Cheatham pickup. Carlton Roy Luckett of San Angelo, the 21 year old driver of the tractor-trailer rig, was treated and released from a San Angelo hospital.

Jennifer Cheatham and Kendre Dunham were taken to the Schleicher County Medical Center

where they were treated overnight and later released.

Funeral services for Mrs Cheatham were held Wednesday at 2:00 p.m. in the First Baptist Church in Eldorado with Rev. Gene Stark officiating. Internment was in the Eldorado Cemetery.

Mrs Cheatham is survived by her daughter Jennifer; her husband John; her father, Bill Harlin of Big Spring; her mother, Mrs. Linda Epps of San Angelo; her grandmother, Mrs. Amy Harlin of Mount Pleasant; and three brother, Billy Bob Harlin of College Station, and Jeff and James Harlin of San Angelo.

Pallbearers at the service were Sam A. Whitten, Earl Dean Clark, Sam Whitten, Randy Walling, Jed Edmiston, all of Eldorado; and Fred Bunch of Del Rio.

Christmas mailing time draws near

There are only 3 weeks remaining until the Christmas weekend. Now is the time for everyone to get their Christmas cards and packages mailed. Early mailing of cards and packages takes the heavy load off the busy days before Christmas.

Any mail that is being sent to another State should be mailed no later than December 15, so that the Christmas mail will have plenty of

time to be delivered by Christmas day.


The Eldorado Post Office has sheets of special Christmas stamps available. The price range for these are \$0 for \$6.50, and 100 for \$13.00.

Postmaster Wayne McGinnes says it's too early to tell how this year's Christmas mail will compare with last year's, but he expects it to be possibly higher.

CANCER SOCIETY BAKE SALE

The Cancer Society bake sale will be held Dec. 21st, in front of the First National Bank.

Place your order early for a special homemade treat for your holiday get-together. Call Jannette Wilkerson at 853-2197.



Home Front News

Dean & Polly White visited with Mr. and Mrs. "Dud" Dudley last Tuesday on their way back from a hunting trip in the Big Bend.

Claudia Meador of Dallas visited the Ed Meadors during the holiday. Saturday evening Mr. and Mrs. Dudley, Mrs. Mattie Howard and Jayson Borger of San Antonio, Mr. and Mrs. Mike Hale and Davis of Sonora, Mr. and Mrs. Bill Hale of Odessa, and Tim Armstrong of Denison, Texas, were at the Roundhouse for a visit.

Mrs. Mattie Skeet Howard, niece of Mr. and Mrs. P.S. Dudley, and her grandson, Jayson Borger of San Antonio, spent Saturday and Sunday in the Dudley home.

Bryan Oglesby & Randy Williams went down south to Lafayette, La., over Thanksgiving holidays to visit Randy's family, Gene & Nell Williams, Ricky, Rachelle & Rocky. Bryan complimented the Cajun hospitality and especially the fine cooking.

SEE Page 4

Home Front Continued

The framework is up and roof decking in place on the addition being built onto the rear of the Jerroll Sanders house on North Lee Street. Renfro of Sonora is the contractor.

Santos Pina has the framework up on the room being built onto his house on the San Angelo highway. A fireplace is included in this addition. Santos is doing most of the work himself.

Alice Henry's mother, Euda B. Isaacs, has moved from Austin to San Angelo two months ago. Alice and Lou Henry's daughter, Marsha Ann, and her husband, James M. Powell, visited during the Thanksgiving holidays. James acquired a job with Tucker Drilling Co. and he and his wife will be moving their mobile home on the Will Isaacs Estate, near her mother. They will be

moving from Austin within the month. Euda B. Forehand, Alice Henry's sister, visited over the Thanksgiving holidays.

Buff, June and Holley Whitten visited with the Ike Whittens over the Thanksgiving holidays in Texas City, Texas.

Visitors in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Lester Dahlberg for a Thanksgiving supper were:

Mr. and Mrs. Wilbert Block; Mr. and Mrs. Michael Block & Jearmy; Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Schwartz, Cindy, Kent, Kyle & K.C.; Marie Schwartz; Mr. and Mrs. Jerome Schwartz & Clara Faye Schwartz; Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Louis Schwartz; Mike Taylor & Tana Sue Taylor. Also visiting were: Mr. and Mrs. Aaron Cuba & Mrs. Dahlberg's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Otto J. Schwartz; Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Hohnsee and daughters, Jill & Teresa; Mr. and Mrs. Marshall Huling and their two children. Danyce Victoria, Justin Marshall, and Ellen Schwartz were unable to attend.

Mr. and Mrs. Abbie Ussery and family returned Sunday from Little Rock, Ark., where they spent Thanksgiving visiting with Peggy's sister and brother-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Paul Woolfolk and daughter Chas. While there they visited all the places of interest and the Little Rock Zoo. Also accompanying them on the trip was Peggy's mother, Mrs. Tena Kelly and her niece Joan Lozano.

The Rev. and Mrs. Keith Wyatt and family spent part of last week in San Antonio visiting his parents, Lt. Col. and Mrs. Joe Wyatt.

Mr. and Mrs. R.E. Griffith, Rick, Mike & John spent the holiday with their family in Monahan. They visited Mrs. Griffith's mother, Mrs. B.L. Simmers, her sister and family, Mr. and Mrs. James Porter. Another sister, Mr. and Mrs. Doyle Farmer of Ft. Stockton, joined the group along with the Griffith's daughter and family, Mr. and Mrs. Glenn Jones and Robyn of Andrews, and another daughter, Linnie Harris of Austin along with other members of the family. The Griffith's also visited Mr. C.L. Williams at the Nursing Home in Odessa.

Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Jones spent the Thanksgiving weekend in Menard where they visited her uncle and aunt, Mr. and Mrs. Jim Thigpen.

Mr. and Mrs. Walter Wallis, Mark and Wade, visited relatives in Llano and Johnson City during Thanksgiving.

Nick Andrews of Austin spent Thanksgiving here with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Curtis Andrews.

Mr. and Mrs. Ken Peters of San Angelo spent Thanksgiving here visiting his parents, Mr. and Mrs. E.C. Peters.

Mr. and Mrs. Butch Hext, Rodney and Clay of Albuquerque, New Mexico, Deanne and Herman Walker of Kerrville, and Mrs. H. Gordanier from here, visited Granvil and Mary on their 40th wedding anniversary. Michelle and Trey Walker came in Sunday night after a trip to Disneyland.

Robert G. Lam, a senior student at Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary, will preach at the service Sunday morning at the First Presbyterian Church.

Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Nash from Odessa, Texas, visited the Jack Harris family over the Thanksgiving holidays. Dianna Harris killed a six point buck. She is the daughter of Johnnie and Jack Harris.

Jannette Wilkerson, Shannon, Cody and Heather spent Thanksgiving in Midland and Odessa with Gladys Wilkerson, Terri Vick and Toni and David Crider. Robert returns this week from West Virginia.

Mr. and Mrs. Don Taylor and boys from Abilene, spent the Thanksgiving holidays with Mr. and Mrs. Delbert Taylor.

Mrs. Derl Griffin flew to Los Angeles, Calif. on Nov. 8th, to visit her brother, Raymond Rodgers. They did a lot of sight seeing and then went on to Fresno, Calif., where they spent Thanksgiving week with their sister and brother-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Wm. L. Johnson. Mrs. Griffin also visited her husband's aunts and uncles, Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Stovall and Mr. and Mrs. Dick Stovall and their son and wife, Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Stovall. While in Calif., Mrs. Griffin and her brother also visited their uncle and aunt, Mr. and Mrs. Nelson Rodgers in Ventura. She returned home on Nov. 28th., after having a very enjoyable time.

Mrs. Evelyn Wimer spent the Thanksgiving holiday in Uvalde, with Mickey and Barbara Pennington. Other visitors in the home were Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Pennington, Blair and Stacy of Austin, Mr. Johnny Johnston of Austin, Mr. and Mrs. David Harrell of San Antonio, Mrs. Nova Harrell of San Antonio, and Mr. and Mrs. Steve Campbell of Uvalde.

Mr. and Mrs. G. G. Whitley of Rush Springs, Okla. spent the week prior to Thanksgiving visiting Mr. and Mrs. Harry Mercer. Mrs. Whitley is Mr. Mercer's sister.

The Mercers spent Thanksgiving week on Galveston Island with Dr. and Mrs. Jimmy Mercer and Andrew. They visited in College Station with Rev. & Mrs. Roy Shilling on their return trip to Eldorado.

Thanksgiving guests in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Lambert were Mrs. Jan Gower and Jamie of Lubbock, Mr. and Mrs. J.A. Smith and Ronnie of San Angelo, and Mr. and Mrs. Billy Allen Smith and family of Waco. Mrs. Gower and Jamie stayed for a weekend visit with her parents.

Holiday visitors in the Clay Porter home were their children Mr. and Mrs. Carl Porter of Kilgore and Mr. and Mrs. Ronnie Williams, Shanon and Shane of Alpine.

Mrs. Ethel Etheredge had her grandson, Evans, of Midland visiting her over the holiday.

Mr. and Mrs. Roy Jones of Alpine visited over the weekend with the Gene McCallas and other relatives.

Mr. and Mrs. Albert (Sonny) Stanford and family of Midland visited here last week with Mr. and Mrs. Skeet Mace and Mr. and Mrs. Truett Stanford and other relatives.

Jimmy Dan Doyle visited here recently with local relatives from San Angelo.

Lynn Whitaker spent the Thanksgiving holidays with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Guy Whitaker. He is a Freshman at Baylor University, Waco.

Mrs. Ernestine Hext spent Thanksgiving in Eldorado with her mother, Mrs. Viola Finnigan, and son-in-law and daughter, Dr. and Mrs. Harold Skaggs and family of Austin. Mrs. Hext is now a patient in the local hospital, having been transferred from St. John's in San Angelo.

The John Pitts family spent part of last week in the Holidome in San Angelo, while on vacation.

The Duplicate Bridge Club held their Christmas party and Club Tournament on Thursday night of this week in the Memorial Building.

Mr. and Mrs. E. W. Craig of San Angelo visited here recently with friends. He is a former Schleicher County Judge.

David Vannett has moved a ready built house to a lot in South Eldorado and has moved here with his family from Sonora. His children entered the local schools Monday.

St. Luke Missionary Baptist Church will have charge of the service this Sunday afternoon, Dec. 4th, at the Nursing Home here in Eldorado.

STATE CAPITAL Highlights AND Sidelights

by Lyndell Williams TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION

AUSTIN—Legislative tax policy planners received a super-rosy picture of the state's economic outlook and governmental income potential.

One storm cloud on the horizon, however, is the uncertain energy picture and, particularly, the specter of an "anti-Texas" federal energy passage emerging from congress.

"Everything looks good," Houston economist George Crosby told the House Ways and Means Committee at a special hearing here. "The energy situation is the main uncertainty."

Crosby noted Texas is the fastest-growing state among the top 20, unemployment is below the U.S. average and declining, and an increase in industrial plant construction is offsetting a decline in residential building.

Bill Allaway, a revenue estimator for State Comptroller Bob Bullock, said income from the sales tax bill will continue to increase at the rate of 11.8 per cent and 11.3 per cent during the next two years—reaching a total of \$4 billion for the 1978-79 fiscal period.

In spite of a decline in production, natural gas taxes also are continuing to increase. Severance taxes on gas are expected to reach \$550 million in 1978 and \$670 million in 1979, according to Allaway's forecast.

The Ways and Means Committee also was reminded that Texas is one of three states which taxes gasoline at under seven cents a gallon (five cents). At four per cent, the Texas sales tax is about mid-range for the nation. The cigarette tax is among the highest (18.5 cents a pack). The gas severance tax also is among the highest, and the oil severance tax rate about mid-way for the oil-producing states.

Outside Sales Approved

Texas Railroad Commission allowed a major Texas gas distributor to sell surplus natural gas out of state without prior approval.

Lo-Vaca Gathering Company, however, must credit part of the profits from such short-term interstate sales to Texas consumers, the commission determined.

The commission said the surplus sales could have as much as seven to 12 cents per thousand cubic feet effect on potential gas cost increases.

The interstate sales further would have to be interrupted and gas returned to Texas when needed by residential consumers. Copies and detailed descriptions of each sales contract must be filed with the commission for subsequent review.

Logs Are A Luxury

Wood for the home fireplace is becoming a luxury fuel, depending on where and how you buy it, according to Agriculture Commissioner Reagan V. Brown.

Brown's survey noted wood which sold for \$30 to \$35 a cord two years ago, mixed loads of green and dry firewood, now ranges from \$60 to \$95, with some quoted as high as \$120 a cord.

Brown advised wood buyers to be aware of how much wood makes up a legal cord. He said a rick can be a ripoff since there is no legal definition of that measure, and here is no definite number attached to "a pickup load."

A legal cord of wood is a reasonably tight stack of logs measuring four feet wide, four feet high and eight feet long, or 128 cubic feet. Prices vary. In Central Texas, oak is quoted at \$60 to \$70 a cord. In metropolitan Houston and Dallas, though, oak will cost you \$75 to \$90 a cord. Mesquite is also bringing \$95 to \$120 in Houston and Dallas.

Attorney General Opinions

A city may lease a spoil disposal site for production of marine life (mariculture), Atty. Gen. John Hill determined.

In other recent opinions, Hill concluded: The Board of Nurse Examiners can promulgate rules regarding the use of titles indicating that a person is a licensed registered nurse. Prosecution must be based on violation of the law, not the rule.

Policy of the Adjutant General's Department requiring employees to retire when they become eligible for two annuities, such as military reserve retirement benefits and reduced social security benefits, is invalid.

A periodic listing of new Texas businesses in Texas Employment Commission files is public information.

Wilson County Memorial Hospital District includes all of Wilson County except those portions previously included within the Nixon Hospital District.

Federal, State Courts Speak

The Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals sent back to the U.S. District Court at Tyler an order of major changes and additions to Texas Youth Council programs. The higher court said the lower court erred in refusing to let TYC offer additional evidence of reforms it had made since the 1973 trial.

The U.S. Supreme Court has set arguments December 7 in a case testing federal agency powers to order Texas natural gas diverted into the national pipeline system against wishes of the owner.

Atty. Gen. Hill is appealing a federal district court decision which, he says, could permit national banks to act in unauthorized insurance agents.

A Houston probate court hearing on the Howard Hughes state case has been recessed until December 5 after attorneys for the temporary executors claimed Assistant Atty. Gen. Rick Harrison prevented them from getting a deposition from longtime Hughes aide Noah Dietrich. Meanwhile, the State of California is trying to stop the Houston proceedings by U.S. Supreme Court order.

Short Shorts

The Railroad Commission has denied protests of 17 Texas cities against Lone Star Gas Co.'s accuracy in figuring costs of gas based on out-of-period adjustments.

New voter registration certificates for 1978-79 are being mailed to registered Texas voters this month. The old certificates should be used for voting until next March 1.

The State Highway and Public Transportation Commission has approved a \$30 million state bridge replacement program involving 143 structures.

Texas Industrial Commission members were warned federal clean air act amendments may curtail industrial development in the state.

State Comptroller Bob Bullock designated a 21-member task force to expedite collection of a special local sales tax fund the new San Antonio mass transit authority.

Food Specials

SPECIALS GOOD THURSDAY, FRIDAY & SATURDAY

<h2>FROZEN FOOD</h2> <p>Totinos PIZZAS 89¢</p> <p>Minute Maid LEMONADE 6 oz. 29¢</p> <p>Gold King HUSH PUPPIES 16 oz. 49¢</p> <p>Morton MINI-DONUTS 9 oz. 79¢</p> <p>Food King Krinkle Kut POTATOES 2lb. 49¢</p> <p>Food King FISH STIX 8oz. 49¢</p> <p>Shurfine CAKE MIXES 59¢</p> <p>Shurfine Tomato CATSUP 32 oz. 79¢</p> <p>Shurfine Cooking OIL 24 oz. 89¢</p> <p>Shur Fresh SAUSAGE 2 lb. \$1 79¢</p> <p>Shurfine Saltine CRACKERS 16 oz. 49¢</p>	<p>Cricket LIGHTERS 79¢</p> <p>3 FOR 49¢ Gerber BABY FOOD strained</p> <p>Kraft MIRCLE WHIP 32 oz. 88¢</p> <p>VELVEETA Cheese Spread 2 lb. \$1 89¢</p> <p>Perless Almonds NUTS Walnuts Mixed 1 lb. 98¢</p> <p>303 Thrifty Maid Cream Style CORN 4 FOR 1 00</p> <p>AQUA NET Hair Spray 79¢</p> <p>Shurfine CORN FLAKES 12 oz. 49¢</p> <p>Shurfine FROSTED FLAKES 15 oz. 79¢</p>
<h2>FRESH PRODUCE</h2>	
<p>Colorado Red POTATOES 19¢ Lb.</p> <p>Texas ORANGES 5 lb. 79¢</p> <p>Texas GRAPEFRUIT 5 lb. 89¢</p> <p>Danjou PEARS 39¢ Lb.</p>	



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KRUEGER OF TEXAS



By
**U. S. Representative
 Bob Krueger**
**RURAL
 HEALTH CARE**

Two decades ago the growth of the cities of Texas left many rural towns and small cities without some of the facilities that city dwellers take for granted.

An institution first affected in many small and middle-sized towns was the community hospital and related medical services.

Because practices in the cities are more financially lucrative, many doctors gave up their small family practice to move to the city; because large hospitals pay well, many nurses left the towns they grew up in and went to the cities; probably there are even numerous instances when the head of a household, in deciding where to live, chose the city, one reason being that his family would have better access to good medical facilities.

But in the past few years, the residents of Texas' smaller cities have worked hard to reverse the dangerous trend of small towns and cities not having sufficient medical facilities.

We in Congress have tried to help. We have just passed in the House, for instance, the Rural Health Care Bill which provides medical reimbursement to people who are cared for by paramedics and nurse practitioners. These skilled professionals, though not certified physicians, go a long way toward taking heavy workloads off doctors and toward giving small-town residents the immediate attention they need, particularly in the absence of doctors.

I am proud of the people of Texas for confronting this problem and doing something about it, in many

Scrap paper drive set for Monday

The Woman's Club will stage their monthly scrap paper drive this coming Monday morning, Dec. 5, with collection point the east porch of the Memorial Building.

This drive is put on the first Monday of each month by the club with Mrs. R.D. Johnson and Mrs. S.D. Harper in charge of arrangements.

They request that all scrap paper contributed be

turned in no later than 10:30 Monday morning. Old newspapers, catalogs, magazines, as well as large paper bags are all solicited. The Woman's Club takes a pick-up load of scrap paper to San Angelo each month where it is sold to a dealer. Each month the amount of such scrap grows larger. The next meeting of the club will be on Dec. 13th with the theme of "Visions of Sugarplums."

cases without outside help from government.

This is one reason why I have been stunned to learn of new guidelines proposed by the Health, Education and Welfare Department that would discourage local communities from continuing to improve their medical facilities.

In short, these proposed guidelines would cut off federal funding of some hospital services, the most important being obstetrics services in cities with populations of less than 100,000 when hospitals have less than 500 births annually.

The impact of these guidelines is that many expectant mothers in small towns and cities would have to drive 30 miles in order to have their child. That is unacceptable.

Already I have written Joe Califano, secretary of HEW, and Cong. Paul Rogers, chairman of the House Subcommittee on Health and Environment, and called upon them to re-examine these dangerous guidelines for funding, guidelines written without even having consulted the very people who are affected by them, the administrators and board members of the nation's small hospitals.

The bureaucrats who drew up these regulations seemed to not know that travel in rural areas—particularly during the winter season—is not always as easy as it might appear to HEW officials who can hail a cab or catch a subway. There are also many poor whose autos are not even capable of making a 30-mile trip and certainly not under the emotional circumstance of having as a passenger a mother about to give birth.

But my reservations are not restricted to the physical well-being of expectant mothers and their newly-born.

It is the counter-productive attitudes of the people who drew up these guidelines that bother me even more.

The guidelines were obviously written by people of limited perspective, people who really do not understand the problems of America, people who are not attuned to the strength and vigor of the nation's small cities, who do not understand the pride that Texans take in their home communities.

I urge you to let your representatives in Washington know how you feel about this move to cut back on medical services in small towns, and at the same time, I urge Secretary Califano to seriously take a look at the underlying problems within his department that have resulted in this gross display of a lack of sensitivity.

Lions committee will meet Wednesday

The committee of past presidents of the Lions Club, who are planning and promoting the 50th Anniversary observance set for May of 1978, will hold a meeting this coming Wednesday afternoon, Dec. 7, in the directors room of Southwest Texas Electric Co-Op.

Pat Ragsdale is the chairman and he has appointed members to have

charge of the various aspects of the event, such as barbecue, finance, securing a speaker, etc. The celebration next May will mark 50 years since the Eldorado Lions Club was chartered in May of 1928. The Sonora Lions Club was established at the same time and that Club, too, is planning a 50th anniversary celebration.

Girl Scout Troop 225 meets

Troop 225 of the Junior Girl Scouts meeting was held at 3:30 p.m. on Nov. 29th. The roll was taken and one member was absent.

The girls started working on the tray favors for the Nursing Home and discussed more about

Christmas caroling set for Dec. 17 from 6 to 7:30 p.m. The meeting was closed with the Pledge of Allegiance and the Girl Scout Promise.

Leaders are Ann Hyde and Nancy Terry.

Troop Reporter,
 Elosia Hill

This Week's Bridge Tuesday Wednesday Bridge Club Bridge Club

Mrs. Wilson Page entertained the Tuesday Bridge Club with a luncheon and bridge at the Maier House in San Angelo. Mrs. Phil Olson won high club, Mrs. John Logon of San Angelo won high guest, Mrs. P. S. Dudley won low, and Mrs. Polly Ellis of San Angelo won travel.

Mrs. Mary Coupe entertained the Wednesday Bridge Club on Nov. 16th with a dessert bridge. There were two tables of players present. Mrs. Leslie Baker won high and Mrs. Luke Thompson Sr., won bingo.

Savings Bond sales announced

August sales of Series E and H United States Savings Bonds in Schleicher county were reported by County Bond Chairman Leslie L. Baker. Sales for the eight-month period totaled \$15,171.00 for 61 percent of the 1977 sales goal of \$25,000.00.

Texas sales during the month amounted to \$20,760,679 while sales for the first eight months of 1977 totaled \$184,224,319 with 63 percent of the

yearly sales goal of 276.9 million achieved.

September sales for the nine-month period totaled \$21,657.00 for 87 percent of the 1977 sales goal of \$25,000.00.

Texas sales during the month amounted to \$25,683,912 while sales for the first nine months of 1977 totaled \$209,908,231 with 76 percent of the yearly sales goal of 276.9 million achieved.

TOWER TALKS by U.S. Senator for Texas JOHN TOWER



Tax Incentives to Conserve

WASHINGTON—Texans and all other Americans stand to reap real tax benefits from the emerging energy legislation now under consideration in Congress, a fact not generally appreciated.

Under provisions of the Senate's recently passed Energy Tax bill, taxpayers can realize substantial savings on their income tax returns, and at the same time join in our national effort to conserve precious fuels.

Among a number of provisions individuals can count on to ease the tax bite if Congress acts favorably on the Senate bill are credits for residential home insulation and similar credits for the installation of solar, wind or other innovative energy saving equipment.

While the arcane language of the Internal Revenue Service represents hieroglyphics to many Americans, the important thing to remember is that a tax credit is different from a tax deduction. A credit is an amount individuals can deduct from the total amount owed the Federal government, while the deduction allows taxpayers to add up allowable expenses, then subtract them before taxes are computed. Tax credits can mean real savings.

The energy bill if passed with the energy tax credits will mean savings of up to \$400 for individuals who invest in specified energy saving devices. And in this time of inflation and a squeeze on the dollar not to mention tax increases, every saving becomes an important one.

Final action on the legislation awaits the conference committee, which must decide if the Senate's more liberalized provisions will prevail. Homeowners under the Senate language could subtract from taxes owed 20 percent of any energy savings outlays up to \$400. Those whose credit exceeds the tax owed would receive a refund from the Treasury.

Included in the category of allowable energy saving expenses are insulation, storm windows and doors, devices for improved furnace efficiency, heat pumps, fluorescent lights, more efficient boilers, evaporative coolers, hydrogen heating systems, or equipment that burns wood or peat.

If you can convince the Treasury that other devices are legitimate energy savers, they too can be credited to your income tax return. The Senate bill extends these credits through 1985.

With the expectation that solar and other alternative energy suppliers are on the threshold of economic development for widespread use, the Senate bill extends energy credits to individuals to defray the cost of solar equipment. The credit would amount to \$2,200 for both new and existing houses or apartments and would apply to leased solar equipment as well. The credits would be available through 1985.

Unless eliminated in conference, one Senate provision would allow the Nation's elderly to receive additional breaks for the higher cost of energy. Low income taxpayers 65 and over receive a credit of \$75 for incomes up to \$7,500 a year, with diminishing reductions for those senior citizens with incomes between \$7,500 and \$12,500.

Energy conservation is a responsibility we all must assume. If the Congress passes this package of incentives to conserve, we can achieve our goal and measure the savings in real tax dollars.

The Eldorado Express News is interested in the activities of your Church, Club or Organization.

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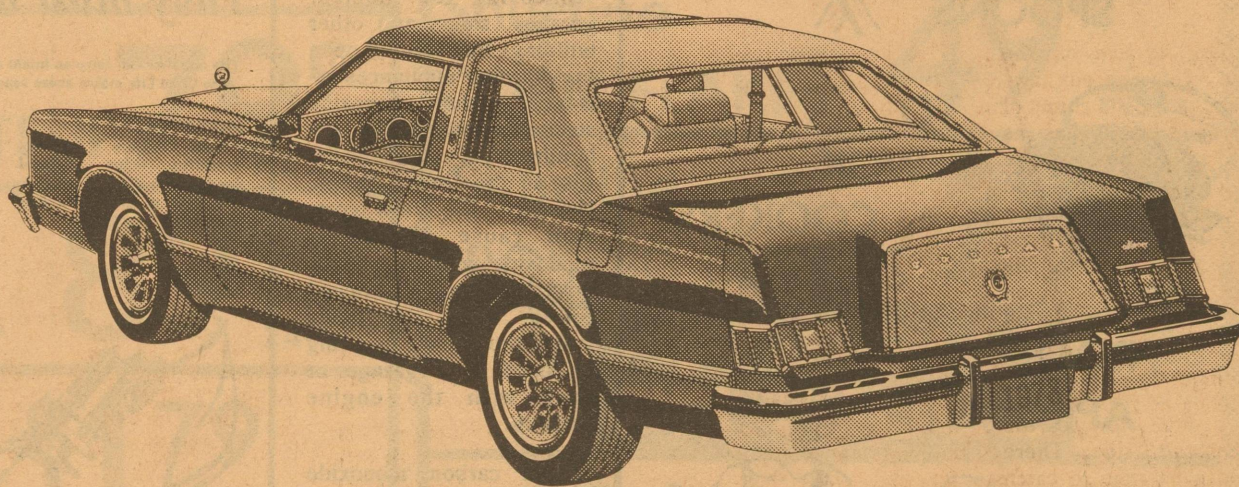
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Texas oil and gas production continues at high level

(Compiled by Texas Mid-Continent Oil & Gas Association)

The average price of natural gas paid Texas producers in 1977 was 83¢ per thousand cubic feet, State Comptroller Bob Bullock reports.

Stimulated by higher prices for natural gas and new-found crude oil, Texas oil men in 1977 are drilling more wells than in any year since 1962. The first 9 months, they drilled 10,823 wells, a 16% increase over

1976; 84.7% increase over 1971, the low point of postwar drilling activity.

The new Department of Energy has a budget of \$10.4 billion. Federal regulation of energy costs exceeds the value of the annual Texas crude oil output by about \$1 billion. Cost to U.S. taxpayers is equal to a tax of \$3.51 for each barrel of oil produced in the U.S. in 1976.

Texas homes and industry require 68% of Texas' natural gas production. President Carter's National

Energy Plan would control sales of this intrastate gas as well as sales to other states.

About half of Texas crude oil was sold at the federally-controlled price of \$5.17 a barrel, which was \$6.47

under the world market price -- a \$3.8 billion subsidy to U. S. oil consumers in 1976.

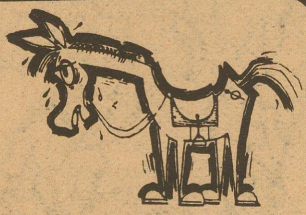
Oil and gas tax revenues pay for one out of every three books used by Texas school children.

U. S. refiners, now in the 4th year of an industrywide fuel conservation program, cut down on fuel needs, mostly natural gas, by 12.2% in 1976. This equals an energy saving equivalent to 57.3 million barrels -- 3% of 1976 imports. Twenty-six percent of this

refining capacity is in Texas.

About one-fifth of Texas natural gas is being sold for more than \$1.75 per thousand cubic feet, which is the top price allowed under the Carter energy plan now before Congress.

From The Horses Mouth



by Jerry Swift
Schleicher County Agriculture Agent

COLLEGE STATION -- The foreign and domestic food policy of the United States is generally held in disfavor by Texas farmers and ranchers, a recent survey shows.

The survey, conducted by Dr. Ronald Knutson, economist in marketing and policy with the Texas Agricultural Extension Service shows that the majority of Texas producers favor a reduction in the food stamp program and a tightening foreign food aid program.

"Regarding the food stamp program, producers voiced strong feelings that people should work for a living and that only those families in extreme poverty or receiving a minimum level of nutrition should receive aid," noted Knutson. "They felt strongly that the food stamp program has gotten out of hand in terms of size and scope. Although beef and milk producers are the greatest beneficiaries of the program, their attitudes varied little from other producers."

Knutson pointed out that the domestic food aid program has been expanded to attract the support of urban congressmen for the new farm bill just passed. This program is administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and last year took 60 percent of the department's budget. In addition to food stamps, the program includes school lunches and

child nutrition. "As far as foreign food aid is concerned, most Texas agricultural producers felt that this should be limited primarily to emergency situations," said Knutson. "They favor efforts by the recipient country to control population as well as to increase food production as a condition for foreign food aid. In actuality, however, such food aid programs tend to increase dependence on aid, foster further population growth, depress prices in the recipient countries, and thus reduce incentives to produce."

"On the 'right to food' issue, Texas agricultural producers again showed their displeasure of any give-away program without a willingness on the part of the recipient to care for himself and work for a living. They feel that a 'right to food' exists only for those who have the financial resources to buy on the open market and who are willing to work," noted the economist.

"Domestic and foreign food aid programs will continue to be major political issues in the years ahead," emphasized Knutson. "They are issues that are receiving strong reaction from consumers, government officials, Third World nations and the church, and they will continue to have marked effects on agricultural producers."

O'Harrow bulls in Abilene sale

The Leon Valley Angus Association will be holding its annual Angus bull and female sale tomorrow, Saturday, December 3, in Abilene at the Abilene Christian University Allen Farm. The sale begins at 10 A.M.

Mrs. Jim O'Harrow will have five performance tested bulls that will be sold at the sale. Mrs. O'Harrow said that the sale originally had scheduled 100 bulls would be offered in the sale by various Angus

consignees in this area. The total number was cut to 50 recently and all the bulls consigned by Mrs. O'Harrow remained in the group. One bull was rated in the top ten of the total number of bulls offered. Mrs. O'Harrow said that all of her bulls did well in the feeding test that they participated in. One bull, Royale O'Harrow, had an average daily gain of 3.86 lbs., the highest of all bulls in the test.

Nursing Home Notes

Yours truly is back on the job, safe and sound, after having made two long plane trips and a five-day visit in Norman, Oklahoma with my nephew Joe Charles Christian and his wife Melva and daughter, Michelle, and son Michael. Both days that I made the flights were beautiful and there was so little wind that I felt like I was sitting in the plane, four thousand feet above the ground, and not moving, and I had to look down at the ground, at objects, to prove that we were, indeed, moving at about 120 miles per hour.

After we crossed over the Red River into Oklahoma, there were water holes and irrigation ditches in every direction and they were all full of water, which proved that that State has been receiving good rains, so perhaps, our time is coming soon.

There were a good number of visitors in the Home last week: Beaulah Harris had the following visitors: Jacky Harris and his wife from El Paso, Texas, Jimmie and Bell Harris of Marfa, Texas, Alva Lee Harris and son, Scott, of Van Horn, Texas, and they also visited their friends Damon and Nancy Wagoner. The three Harris young men are Beaulah's grandsons. Mr. and Mrs. Jackie Kincheloe and son, Eric, from Evant, Texas visited his parents, the Charles Kincheloes family.

While in Eldorado they

came by the Nursing Home to visit with Betty Lee Croy. Mr. and Mrs. J.W. Hawkins of Cleburne, Texas and Mr. and Mrs. Roy Mac Hawkins and Ricky of Ft. Stockton, Texas visited with their father and grandfather, John Hawkins. Myrtle Wade had her daughter, Mrs. Clarence Jessup, with her during the Thanksgiving holidays. Lizzie McCalla's grandson, Maurice Christian and his wife and son Bill from Monahans, Texas visited her while they were in Eldorado visiting his mother, Mrs. Sallie Christian. Mrs. Iola Reeves also visited Lizzie McCalla. The United Pentecostal Church, whose pastor is Walter Ford of Eldorado, conducted the service here in the Dining Room Sunday. There were a few visitors from out in town present.

Next Sunday, Dec. 4th, the St. Luke Missionary Baptist Church will conduct the service here. Y'all come!!

The Bingo winners last Wednesday were: Bess Andrews - 2; Lester Garrett - 1; Beulah Harris - 2; Frank Reed - 1. On Friday the winners were: Zeral Holland - 1; Beulah Harris - 1; Bess Andrews - 2; Delia Gardener - 1. Thanks go to Ruthie Day for the above list of winners. We couldn't get along without her.

Snap judgement has a way of becoming unfastened. LaVita Brooks, Beaulah Harris, Reporters.

The Eldorado Express News is interested in the activities of YOUR Church, club, or organization. All you need is a phone call to the Express News and your activity will be in your HOMETOWN Newspaper. Call 853-2032 to have it in the next issue of the Eldorado Express News. It's important to you, and that makes it important to US. WE DO NOT CHARGE FOR LEGITIMATE NEWS ITEMS. TRY US!!!!

Gov.'s office issues distribution figures

Austin--Governor Dolph Briscoe has approved five criminal justice grants affecting the area served by

the Concho Valley Council of Governments. They are: --\$29,865 to the regional council for the 1978 planning grant; --\$62,061 to CVCOC for upgrading of the regional Texas Law Enforcement Telecommunications Network in the sheriffs departments of Kimble, Reagan, Tom Green, Irion and Menard counties and the police departments of Brady and San Angelo; --\$30,959 to the San Angelo Police Department for the Special Squad; --\$25,080 to CVCOC for continuation of regional law enforcement officers training; and --\$4,798 to the Brady Police Department for a reporting and records system.

The local grants were among 121 approved by Governor Briscoe statewide from Law Enforcement Assistance (LEAA) funds under the Crime Control Act of 1976.

DAVIS
Eldorado 853-2872
COW POKES by Ace Reid
"Wul, you got sumpin', whew, I never heard such language!"
OUR SERVICE IS ALWAYS FIRST CLASS, AND SECOND TO NONE TRY US!

Kirkpatrick joins Mobley
Mr. Dale Kirkpatrick has joined Mobley Transports, Inc. as General Manager, according to John Mobley, the firm's President. With Mobley he will have responsibility for directing operations and marketing for the three divisions in Eldorado, Breckenridge and McCamey. He will headquarter in Loop Plaza Office park in San Angelo.

BANK CENTS
From the Management and Staff of The First National Bank of Eldorado

When you and your family take your shopping dollars out of your town to shop or save, do you know what it does to your own tax payments? For every dollar you and your family spend in our town, that same dollar multiplies itself by a minimum of three to one. Each of these dollars spent pays part of your tax load. If every one in this beautiful city of ours spent all of their spending and savings dollars outside, our taxes would increase by 3 times per year. It is not the intention of this bank to tell you where to shop or save, but, when thinking about going out of town to shop please remember this message.

We want you to know more about our business!!!
The First National Bank of Eldorado
MEMBER FDIC

Gold Medal FLOUR 1 10 lb. \$1.59
Wilson BACON 2 lb. \$2.49
Round Steak 1 lb. \$1.39
Chuck Roast 69¢ lb.
303 Del Monte CORN29c
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CALL 387-3748
SONORA ORDERS TO GO
Let us get you out of the dog house... Tell her you're bringing dinner home with you tonight!
From Sheep & Goat Raisers Association

Predator bills pose threat for ranchers

Keeping an eye on the people who write our laws can take up a good chunk of your time, but it has its rewards. Sometimes you're quick enough to nip a bad bill in the bud, other times you at least save the price of a ticket to a horror movie or a comedy, depending on which piece of legislation you just got through reading.

A couple of recent ones lean a little toward the Frankenstein side. There may also be time to catch them before they hatch.

One of the measures, House Bill 9348, was sponsored by Rep. William Whitehurst, Virginia. The other, Senate Bill 2226, belongs to Birch Bayh, Senator from Indiana. The Texas Sheep & Goat Raisers' Association is strongly opposed to both of them.

Whitehurst's bill is called the Predator Conservation Act, and well deserves the name. It would outlaw the killing of predators on federal lands, pure and simple.

Texas is fortunate enough to have very little federal grazing land, but our producers cannot afford to be unconcerned about the plight of stock-raising neighbors in other states. Many of these producers are forced to use federal grazing leases because their own holdings are checkerboarded throughout the federal lands. Texans near federal parks and military installations also know the folly of protecting predators on any sizeable chunk of land.

Whitehurst defends his bill by bemoaning the "indiscriminate slaughter" of predators. None of the control methods he attacks are either indiscriminate or particularly conducive to slaughter, but he apparently doesn't know that, or at least he hopes that no one else will.

Senator Bayh's bill shows somewhat more sophistication and cunning. It would outlaw the use or possession of almost any effective poison for predator control -- anywhere, public or private land. It would also end the present cooperative federal state predator control program, allow the federal government to set standards for surviving state programs, and allocate federal money for the protection of predators. Bayh calls his bill the

Antipoisoning Act of 1977, but the real purpose, evident from even a quick scan of the bill's wording, is to end predator control programs, period. In fact, the official description of the measure begins...."A bill to authorize a national policy and program with respect to wild predatory animals...."

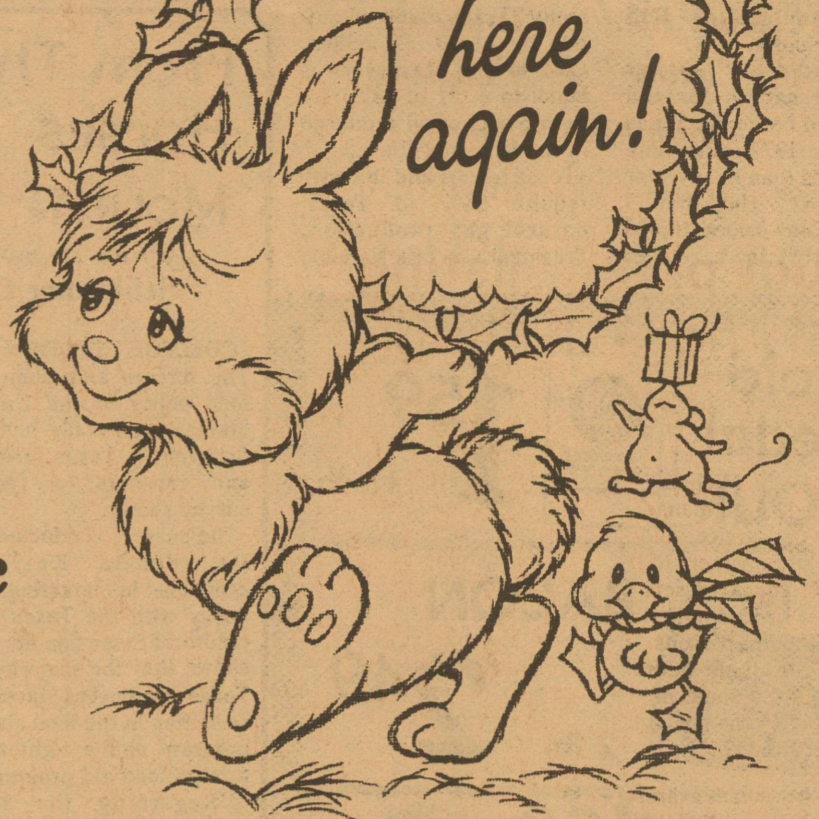
Stopping such ill-conceived legislation may be a tall order, but it's essential that we try. At their best, our predator control programs are losing ground to predators every day, and an end to the programs would mean a virtual death sentence to the sheep and goat industry.

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- Grape
- Grapefruit
- Orange
- Punch
- Orange/Pineapple

3 for 99¢

32 oz.

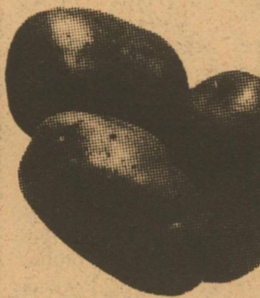
Kellogg's APPLE JACKS



1 109

15 oz.

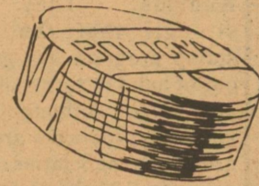
Russet POTATOES



59¢

5 Lb.

Good Value BOLOGNA



1 Lb.

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T.V. American Single Sliced CHEESE

69¢

8 oz.

BANANAS



19¢

Lb.

Good Value Whole Hog SAUSAGE

1 Lb.

99¢

Eggo WAFFLES



159¢

11 oz.

Rainbow TOWELS

Jumbo Assorted Colors

39¢

Zesta CRACKERS



63¢

1 Lb.

Atlas ANTI-FREEZE

379

1 Gal.

Good Value SUGAR

99¢

5 Lb.

Folgers Flake COFFEE

13 oz.

289

BIG RED DRINK

63¢

64 oz.

LIQUID-PLUMR

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**Local
 golf club
 plans
 elections**

The annual election of officers and covered dish supper will be held Dec. 8th at 7:00 p.m. at the Eldorado Golf Clubhouse. We urge all members to attend.

**Comptroller predicts
 record sales**

State Comptroller Bob Bullock said last week that Texans may be headed for their biggest Christmas holiday shopping spree if retail sales continue at their current brisk pace.

Bullock said that city sales tax collections--a prime indicator of the buying public's mood--are up an impressive 22 percent to date over last year, the biggest increase in recent years.

"This increase in retail sales reflects a growing confidence in the Texas economy which we feel will carry over into the holiday shopping period," Bullock said.

"If everything continues to go as expected, Texas merchants should have one of their best holiday sales seasons yet."

**Dual phone listings
 are now available**

General Telephone customers may now order dual name listing in the telephone directory, according to Michael A. Sydiskis, division manager. This new service allows residential customers to list two first names or sets of initials with a single last name, if both persons reside at the same address and share the same phone number. Nicknames may be included also.

Jones, E.A. (Buddy), & Mary

Each customer decides which name will appear first in the listing.

If each person wishes his/her name to appear first, customers still have the option of purchasing an extra listing at a small monthly charge.

Existing customers who select to order the dual name listings will pay a one-time charge, but if other service is requested at the same time, such as a second telephone, no charge will be made.

Here are some examples of dual listings available: Smith, Samuel & Sarah

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 Serve You Better!**



The more you shop at home, the better your local merchants do. The more business they do, the more goods they begin to order. And, the more goods ordered by them, insures a better selection for you. When you shop locally, you're doing yourself a favor!

**Eldorado
 Express News**

OBITUARIES

ANTON JOSEPH WILLEKE

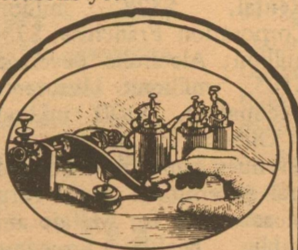
Mr. and Mrs. Gus Willeke and family, who live on the former V.H. Humphrey place on the north edge of Eldorado, were called to Odessa last weekend by the death of his father, Anton Joseph Willeke, who died at his home in Odessa at the age of 83 after a long illness.

Funeral services and burial were held Friday in Odessa.

Mr. Willeke was born March 10, 1894, in San

Angelo. He was married to Eula Mae Smith Jan. 27, 1926, in San Angelo. They moved to Odessa in 1954 from Garden City. He was a retired rancher and a member of St. Mary's Catholic Church.

Survivors include his wife; two sons, Tony Willeke of Odessa and Gus Willeke of Eldorado; one daughter, Mrs. Louise Powers of New Orleans, La., and nine grandchildren.



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 Code Hands
 OR WHY
 MORSE
 was all
 KEYED UP.**

In 1832, Sam Morse knew he had a great idea at his fingertips. Sending messages by wire.

When he did, the results were electrifying. The future of the telegraph (and Sam Morse) was assured.

Your future could be assured, too, if you get this message: Invest in United States Savings Bonds. Sign up for the Payroll Savings Plan where you work and your earnings will automatically buy Bonds.

And your results could be even more electrifying than Sam's.

Buy U.S. Savings Bonds. They're something to get keyed up about.

Series E Bonds pay 6% interest when held to maturity of 5 years (4 1/2% the first year). Interest is not subject to state or local income taxes, and federal tax may be deferred until redemption.



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**JUST
 JOGGIN'
 ALONG!**

By Express News
 Publisher, ED MEADOR

Welcome to December!

It's been a long year, and yet seems it just sort of "flew" by. Here we are looking at that particularly pleasant time when the holiday season is upon us, and we pause to assess our accomplishments--or failures--of the past months, and look forward to the advent of a new year, with the prospect of better things to come.

What makes Christmas-time fun? So many things--like the anticipation seen in the eyes of the children, the good smells coming from the kitchen, the hustle and bustle that seems to grab hold of everyone. Best of all is the feeling that comes over us that this truly is a time when brotherhood and good will step in and really become a part of our lives.

So don't fool around...You'll enjoy it more if you get that Christmas spirit early!

Indicative of the time of the year are all of the specials to be seen on television.

For those who watched, Bing Crosby made his final curtain call on CBS's "Bing Crosby's Merry Olde Christmas" Wednesday night. There had to be a lump in your throat and a couple of tears as you heard his final rendition of "White Christmas", and thought of all the happiness and joy that Bing has brought to the world. But that song has become as much a part of Christmas as has "Silent Night, Holy Night", and Bing will continue to live in the hearts of all of us.

We have had our problems with weather this year, and the prices paid for farm and ranch products haven't really been to our liking. But take heart...If what I saw yesterday is any indication, there's better times ahead. A string of 350 head of black-faced ewe lambs sold at Producer's Auction for \$70.20 cwt. They weighed 72 pounds and that figures \$50.54 per head. If we could ever get cattle, sheep and cotton together at the same time, and couple that with a good moisture condition, Schleicher County might ring some bells.

Congratulations are in order to Mort Mertz who was named to the Texas Animal Health Commission on Tuesday by Governor Dolph Briscoe. Mort will be a welcome addition to the commission, and will give area stockmen a direct line to make their views on animal health problems known.

Well, it's time to put aside whatever you want your better half to spend for Christmas, and get ready to spend the rest of it on feed. Practically everyone is watching dollars roll around on the ground since the feeding season made a premature appearance this year. Hopes of adequate moisture still prevail, and if farmers and ranchers weren't optimists, there would be a lot of empty pastures around these parts. Don't give up too soon--the forecast for December is "drier than normal". That means it's a good time for the weatherman to get embarrassed!

**Local cagers lose
 three games**

at Iraan Tuesday

The Eaglettes' varsity team lost to Iraan 72 to 54 Tuesday night. Mary Kay White scored 33 points, Sammie Jay 6 and Susan Mertz 15.

The girls' "B" lost to the Iraan girls' "B" 41 to 33. Those scoring for the Eaglettes in this contest were Lorrie Powell 13 points, Jolynn Jay 4, Lori Griffin 3, Toni Fatheree 3, Mary Byrd 2, Ronda Kerr 6, and Angela Ann Fay 2.

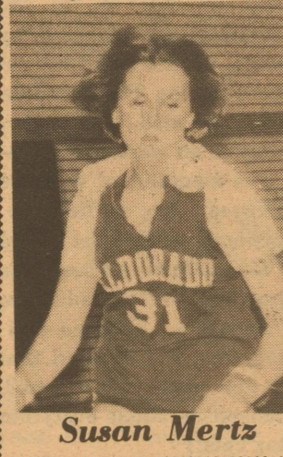
The Eagle varsity boys' team lost 64 to 45. Eagles who scored were Ernesto Martinez 11 points, Larry Fatheree 15, David Robledo 14, Kyle McCormack 3, and Steve Short 2.

Next Monday night, Dec. 5, the Eagles boys will go to Sonora for games starting at 6:00 o'clock. The following night the Eaglettes' A&B teams will host McCamey for games starting here at 6:30.

This space could have had a news item about you. Just call your news to us at 853-2032. The Express News personnel care about you.

EAGLE DAIRY MART

Eaglette
 of the Week



Susan Mertz

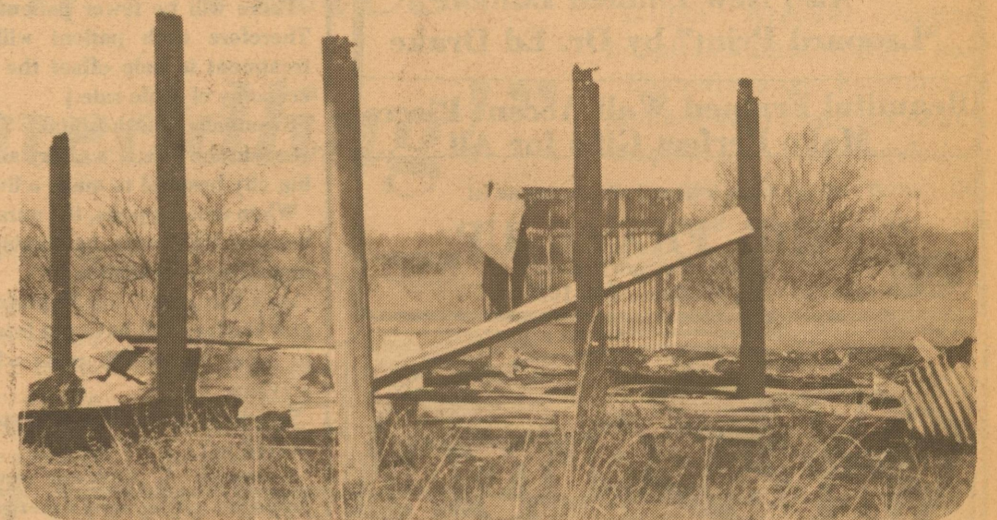
SPECIAL

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**Two
 Burritos \$1.33
 Small
 Coke**

**HOMEMADE
 CHILI
 95¢ A BOWL**

**Bar-B-Q
 Plate
 \$2.25
 FRIDAY ONLY**



Not only has Mr. Mort Mertz lost many acres of pastureland to fire this year, but yesterday morning at about 9:30, a fire burned down this small tim barn on his

property. Mexican aliens passing through the area were assumed to be the cause of the fire. Photo by Jim McWilliams.

**Booster Club now meeting
 once a month**

The Eagle Booster Club met Monday, November 21. There was such poor attendance that those parents attending voted to meet only once a month during this season.

We have consigned a band from Houston to play for the dance after All Sports Banquet. The students should really enjoy "Shade

Tree" as they are known in Houston for their popular music.

Bumper stickers are still on sale by our members, and if for any reason, you have trouble with your sticker, it will be replaced free of charge.

Also, we are trying to put together the scrapbook of nostalgia from this year's

football season. If you have anything (clippings, pictures, ribbons, etc.) you would like to share with us, please contact Betty Lacy. They will be preserved forever and any students would enjoy returning in the future and "remembering."

**DUE TO THE HIGH COST
 OF MAILING, WE ASK
 OUR CUSTOMERS TO
 COME BY THE OFFICE
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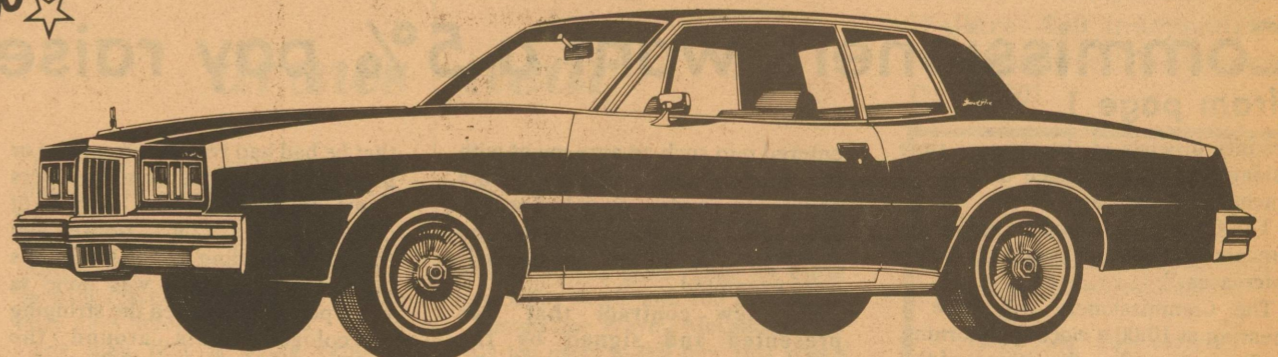
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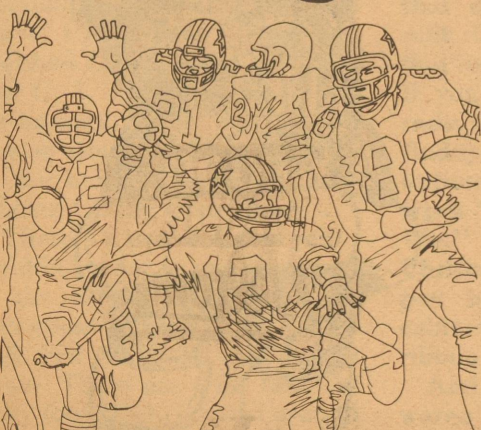
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ELDORADO

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High school Xmas party planned

The Eldorado High School and Junior High Christmas parties have been planned for Monday night, Dec. 12. Mr. and Mrs. EHS will be crowned at the High School party. Any organization that wishes to nominate candidates for the Mr. and Mrs. EHS title must turn them in no later than NOON today, Friday, Dec. 2. Please turn in the nominations to Robert Jay, at the Eldorado High School office.

The school faculty Christmas dinner party will be held in the school lunchroom on the night of Dec. 19th.

Eldorado High, Jr. High, and Elementary Schools will be dismissed for the long Christmas holidays at 2:30 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 21. School will start again after the 11 day holiday, on Monday, January 2nd.

The Elementary school grades will have their Christmas parties and exchange gifts in their classrooms after the lunch period on Wed., Dec. 21. Santa Claus will be giving bags of candy to the children before the buses run on the 21st. The distribution of candy will be sponsored by the American

Commissioners want a 5% pay raise from page 1

county officials at the present time along with the proposed increase is included in the Legal Notice.

The Commissioners are calling the upcoming hikes "cost of living increases."

The Commissioners will have a hearing at 10:00 o'clock the morning of December 12 on the subject of the salary hikes. If any of the public wishes to protest for any reason they will have an opportunity then to do so. The Commissioners will officially vote on the hikes on Dec. 12 and if they are approved, the five percent salary hikes will go into effect on the 1st of January, 1978.

Judge Robert L. McWhorter presided at the Monday meeting of the full compliment of Commissioners: Thomas Richard Jones, Gene McCalla, Joe Christian, and David Meador. Mrs. Helen Blakeway, County Clerk, read the minutes of the previous meeting held Nov. 14.

Amending of the original Social Security agreement was the second major item of business on the agenda. County Treasurer A.G. McCormack was on hand to explain to the Commissioners that when the 1951 County Commissioners Court

entered into such an agreement with the Government placing county employees under Social Security coverage, part-time workers and those hired on an emergency basis were exempted.

The new contract that was presented and signed by the Commissioners and Judge calls for all workers, including those hired part-time, to have Social Security deductions taken out of their pay checks.

An interesting sidelight that came up in regard to the 1952 Social Security coverage of county employees was that for that year \$3,600 was paid on the 22 employees that Schleicher county had on the payroll. Currently, the county pays about \$12,000 a year on 45 employees. The larger amount is due to more county workers as well as to the higher percentage of deductions taken from wages.

Routine business included paying of bills, including the Petit Jury list of a week earlier and approval of the Trapper's Report submitted by Ross H. Martin.

Commissioner McCalla reported

that he had had requests from two or three women for the Commissioners Court to take up the matter of decorating the Court House and Memorial Building for the Christmas holiday season. This was done in years past and included the stringing of colored lights around the buildings and the installation of a star on top of the Court House. There was discussion about what could be done at this late date and the proposal was postponed until next year, after the Commissioners agreed that time was growing too short for such a major project. Judge McWhorter pointed out that the Court House building was completely rewired a few years ago and decorative lighting would call for a special circuit to be run from the basement.

Commissioner McCalla also reported that he had had a request from Arch Edmiston to hire a county employee and equipment for some part-time work and this was turned down by the Commissioners.

The meeting was closed with an executive session on personnel matters. No action was reported following this closed meeting.

JAWBONING
with Editor, Jim McWilliams

GOOD OLD JOSEPH A.

I once heard someone say (I think he was a bureaucrat too), "If Edison hadn't invented the lightbulb, we'd all be watching TV by candlelight." He was probably the one who said, "There is one born every minute...and they're all working here with me in Washington!"

The mentality of some people in Washington's "Ivory Towers" has baffled me ever since I was told that generals make good presidents.

That didn't make any sense to me, and neither does the proposed HEW guidelines for Hospital care.

Joseph A. Califano and his nearsighted friends got together and decided that a big hospital would work better than a few small ones. (That's the general consensus about everything in Washington, except on tax cuts!)

To put the facts on the table, the new rules may cost Eldorado its clinic, hospital, and nursing home.

If the new rules close the obstetric clinic, keeps children from being admitted to the local hospital, allows only 12 beds, and requires most people to drive to San Angelo for medical treatment, then Dr. Brame will be left to treat runny noses and scraped knees.

There will be fewer patients for Dr. Brame to treat. Therefore each patient will have to pay more for treatment to help offset the lost income. (It's the old economy of scale rule.)

Eventually, the hospital will have too few patients to warrant the Doctor's salary and he may have to go to the big city hospital to make a living.

When that happens, the nursing home will have to close because HEW says the nursing home must have a doctor immediately available.

Isn't that great! Our Department of Health, Education, and Welfare will have put into effect new rules designed to lower our health costs while increasing our health services.

See how much our government's bureaucrats have helped us?

If Joseph A. Califano cannot see how foolish his proposals are for rural Americans, then he has no insight at all.

Our only hope lies in the Surgeon General. Maybe he can rule that the Department of HEW may be hazardous to our HEALTH.

Jim McWilliams

Out back in West Texas

Reports from hunters, deer processing plants, landowners and Parks and Wildlife Department biologists indicate most everyone is pleased with the deer season, so far.

The deer are moving, the weather continues to be relatively mild and most of the animals harvested thus far are in fairly good condition with certain exceptions.

Deer taken near or along river bottomland are fat and healthy due to the good acorn crop in West and Central Texas. However, biologists say this acorn crop fell early this year and is now in short supply.

On the other hand, deer harvested from our more overly grazed mesquite-savannah flats are of lesser body weight and could be in for some more trouble when and if we get into a hard winter situation.

As you might expect, most of the animals harvested so far are buck deer and will normally be in better condition this time of the year than does. Does have been reported to be in fair to poor condition due to their diminished ability to successfully compete for food with the rest of the deer herd. This is one of the reasons P&WD biologists have been recommending that hunters who have access to doe permits utilize these early in the season while the animals are still in relatively good condition.

Some ranchers in West Texas have taken this advice to heart and have required their hunters to take a doe deer before allowing them to shoot a buck.

Antler development this year has been good and big racks have been reported on several harvested deer. A 26-pointer was taken near Big Lake and a 16-pointer was downed by a 14-year old youth in Sweetwater. A 25-pointer was taken off the Rocker B Ranch during the first weekend. This is the first time the public has been allowed to hunt on this big ranch for quite some time, and you would expect this ranch to produce some whoppers this year.

VIOLATIONS NOTED

Game wardens have been kept pretty busy this season in Central and West Texas with road hunting and shooting after hours being some of the most prevalent violations.

Illegal hunters with citizen band radios have been causing some landowners some real headaches. One particular landowner I talked to is particularly nervous since two years ago when some road hunters shot one of his prize horses by mistake.

Citizens and landowners are urged to call P&WD whenever they suspect a violation of this type is occurring.

MULE DEER

Mule deer season in the Trans-Pecos opened this weekend (Nov. 26) and will continue through Dec. 4. P&WD biologists are predicting a fair to good hunt this season.

The Trans-Pecos has been hard hit by the drought. Last year, the harvest of mule deer was down by some 31 percent and the number of hunters decreased by 14 percent.

Elton & Wayne
Back from hunt

Elton & Wayne McGinnes hunted deer on the Strauss Ranch near Alpine, Texas. Among the hunting party were Kenneth Wilhite from Houston, and Tee Horton from San Angelo, Tex. All four of the men shot a buck and enjoyed the hunt. It rained all of Monday night, but the rest of the hunt was great.

Texas Taxes

By BOB BULLOCK, State Comptroller

AUSTIN — A book consisting largely of column upon column of dry, impersonal dollar figures usually doesn't make very exciting reading, but I've just finished one such book that should be on Texas' best seller list.

In fact, the book—really a report—was prepared by my office as required by law. Its title: *State of Texas 1977 Annual Financial Report*.

And while they probably won't be making a movie based on it, the report contains some pretty interesting information for anyone who has ever wondered where the state gets its money.

Or how it spends it.

The report shows that the fiscal year ended August 31 was a record one for Texas in terms of state finances with income totaling \$7.36 billion. This is up 11.6 percent from the previous year.

The closing cash balance was almost \$2 billion, up \$336 million from that at the close of Fiscal 1976.

(A state fiscal year is from Sept. 1 through Aug. 31).

The four percent state public education sales tax, the report shows, continued to be the work-horse in the terms of tax went for highways. \$400 million producers, raising \$1.7 billion lion was spent for mental or 38 percent of all tax health and corrections programs and \$1.3 billion went for other programs.

Energy-related taxes—oil, gas and motor fuels—accounted for 30 percent of the state's tax income.

Biggest revenue producer without raising or adding new in that category was the natural gas production tax which brought \$474 million into the state treasury.

Skyrocketing natural gas prices have pushed the natural gas production tax from the state's seventh largest revenue producer to second.

The other major taxes and the amount of revenue produced include Cigarette and Tobacco, \$288 million; Motor Vehicle Sales and Rental, \$328 million; Corporation Franchise, \$236 million; Alcoholic Beverage, \$105 million; Insurance Occupation, \$120 million.

One-fourth of all state revenues came from the federal government in the form of assistance for welfare and public health programs, highways and education. This amounted to \$1.8 billion.

In terms of outgo, the state spent \$6.6 billion in Fiscal 1977, up seven percent

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over 1976.

Nearly one-half of the money spent by the state—about \$3.1 billion—went for public education.


Welfare accounted for \$661.7 million in the terms of tax went for highways. \$400 million producers, raising \$1.7 billion lion was spent for mental or 38 percent of all tax health and corrections programs and \$1.3 billion went for other programs.

Texas has been very fortunate in that it has been able to meet its responsibilities without raising or adding new taxes.

Hopefully, this prosperity will continue.

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