

STATE CAPITAL Highlights AND Sidelights by Vern Sanford TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION

AUSTIN — In years past, a favorite topic among legislators about this time in the session was, "When are we going to sine die?"

A sine die (final adjournment) resolution gave everyone a comfortable sense of direction. Now there's no need.

Under the new law, the regular session automatically ends after 140 days. For this session the 140th day will be May 29. But

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with the time two-thirds gone, there's no assurance vital tasks can be completed by May 29.

Both House and Senate are now working on the tax problem, but other measures of major importance — loan regulation school consolidation — claim their time and cause delays.

Some observers are freely predicting that the tax question this year, as in 1959, cannot be solved except in special sessions limited to that one subject.

LOAN BILL PASSED — House members passed and sent to the Senate a bill on one of the session's most difficult problems — small loan regulation.

Rep. Criss Cole's bill would allow interest rates up to 39.8 per cent on the smallest loans. An amendment was added to allow loan companies to make a service charge of \$4 every three months in addition to the interest.

Two amendments were passed with the aim of trying to prevent the market's being taken over by

large out-of-town chains. One would prevent the licensing of a loan company owned by a non-resident person or corporation. Another would prohibit any one loan firm's having more than 50 branch offices in Texas.

Another amendment would require the finance commissioner, who would be responsible for loan company licensing and regulation, to approve any charges for insurance in connection with loans.

LOAN INSURANCE RULING — Meanwhile, an attorney general's ruling gave additional direction to the effort to control total charges for small loans.

A loan company, said the opinion from Atty. Gen. Will Wilson's office, is not entitled to a commission for group insurance sold in connection with loans.

Many critics of the small loan industry have contended the loan companies have made extra and unjustified profits by serving as "agents" for the sale of credit insurance to borrowers.

Actually, according to the opinion, the creditor (loan company) is the buyer of the insurance policy and, as such, is not entitled to an agent's commission on the sale.

This opinion, it was felt, will help to clear up the sticky problem of keeping a lid on charges for insurance required of borrowers as security for loans.

SCHOOL CONSOLIDATION WEIGHED — Senate ran into problems over a bill designed to encourage small school districts to economize.

Under present law, if several common school districts in a

county consolidate, the first result is that state aid for the combined district is less than for the several separate districts. Government research specialists, however, have long advocated more consolidation in the interest of economy, efficiency and better school programs.

Sen. Tom Creighton of Mineral Wells is sponsoring a measure providing that common districts forming a consolidated district of 1,000 pupils or more shall, for 10 years, continue to receive as much state aid as before consolidation.

Sen. Culp Krueger objected that the requirements would penalize many of the low-population counties in his district. Besides, said Krueger, he didn't believe in "paying people to economize."

SENATE STUDIES ANNEXATION — A House-passed bill setting up ground rules for city annexation is being worked on by a subcommittee on the Senate State Affairs Committee.

Rep. W. T. Dugan of McKinney is sponsor of the bill which would allow cities to ring themselves with "buffer zones" over which they could exercise control of building, health and sanitation standards. A portion of the zone could be annexed each year. Bill also provides that an annexed area not provided with municipal services in three years may "disannex" itself.

Spokesmen for the Texas Municipal League spoke in favor of the bill at committee hearing. A representative of the Texas Home Builders Association spoke against it and asked for more

control over city extension of control.

70 MPH BILL PASSED — Senate passed and sent to the House a bill that would allow speed limits up to 70 miles per hour on some state highways.

Power to say which roads would have higher - or lower - speed limits would be in the hands of the State Highway Commissioner.

In support of the varying speed limits, Senator Wardlow Lane of Center said it was unreasonable to have the same 60 mile an hour limit on new divided highways and old, narrow, twisting roads.

Senator Preston Smith of Lubbock is sponsor. A controversial amendment by Senator Lane would make inadmissible in a court considering a speeding charge evidence gained by entrapment or gained by officers "lying in wait unobserved." Presumably this would, in effect, outlaw radar traps.

GOP ASKS ELECTION CHANGES — Spokesmen for the Texas Republican Party appeared before a House Committee in behalf of four bills to change the election code.

Two of the bills set up qualifications for poll watchers and election supervisors. Another would allow voters to put a mark beside the name of the person they wish to vote for instead of scratching all others. Another would repeal the provision for disqualifying a ballot on which two or more names are left unscratched for the same office.

COED COMMUTES TO EUROPE AS AIR STEWARDESS BETWEEN COLLEGE CLASSES



Marie Louise Hurley, a CCNY coed during the week and a Pan American stewardess on jet flights to Europe over weekends, at work in the college library (above), chats with a classmate in front of the College's Lincoln Monument at Shepard Hall (bottom left) and leaves a jet liner at a Paris airport (bottom right).

Marie Louise Hurley, a junior at the City College of New York, commutes to Europe between classes.

On weekdays she attends class as a psychology major like any other undergraduate. But on weekends she flies to Europe and back as a stewardess with Pan American World Airways. A slim, attractive young woman, Peggy, as she's known to friends and fellow students, was born in Louisiana where she attended Baton Rouge High School.

After spending two years training to be a nurse, she decided to become a doctor and enrolled at the University of Tennessee's medical branch in Memphis. Afterwards she transferred to Louisiana State University as a premedical student.

"In 1954 I took a long look at myself," she says. "I decided I wanted to see what the world was like first, before tying myself down to a permanent career."

She applied to Pan Am and was accepted. After completing a seven week training course she was assigned to an overseas route. During the next few years Miss Hurley flew all over the world, including Central and South America, the Pacific, the Orient and Europe.

Her schedule is a busy one. She attends classes from Monday to Thursday. On Friday morning at 8:30, she travels from her apartment at 23rd St. and 6th Avenue in Manhattan—bringing her college textbooks with her—to Idlewild Airport where she makes her pre-flight preparations. At 10:00 A.M. the Boeing 707 Jet Clipper on which she serves takes off and flies non-stop to London, and then to Brussels and Dusseldorf, where it lands at midnight European time.

She spends most of Saturday studying. On Sunday morning, the plane leaves at 8:45 from Dusseldorf airport, landing at Amsterdam and London before making the over ocean hop to New York. It lands at Idlewild at 1:00 P.M., New York time. The rest of Sunday is given over to further study.

A junior, she hopes to be graduated in 1962, or earlier if she attends summer classes as she did last year.

How does she feel about her career as an airline stewardess? "I love it," she says. "It has given me an opportunity to see the world and learn about people that I would never have had otherwise. Quite frankly, I think any girl could profit by serving as a stewardess, at least for a time."

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About Your HEALTH

A weekly public service feature from the Texas State Department of Health.



It is a sad thing to disillusion those who cherish the myth of their "immunity" to poison ivy or oak or sumac, but the season of prevalence of these toxic plants is fast approaching, and forewarned is forearmed.

Botanical scientists say it is doubtful that anyone is absolutely immune to their poisonous substance. More and more authorities agree that susceptibility is a mere matter of degree, varying with conditions of the individual, the condition of the plant and the circumstances of exposure.

Texas has its fair share of the 100-plus plants and plant products known to be capable of causing sometimes severe skin irritations. Among them are the persim, lady-slipper, cultivated primrose (especially when in flower), lily bulbs and stalks, stinging nettles and vanilla beans.

But by far the most common cause of plant dermatitis in Texas and elsewhere in the United States is poison ivy, known to botanists by the tongue-twisting name of Rhus-toxicodendron. A cousin, poison sumac, by name - is common in the swampy regions of eastern Texas, and can sometimes produce severe reactions.

For all practical purposes, poison ivy and poison oak are the same thing. Poison oak is simply any poison ivy that grows as a bush rather than a vine.

Poison ivy is an unusually inconsistent species of plant. Besides growing as a bush and a vine, the size of its berries and the outline of its leaves often vary widely. Its leaves are characteristically egg-shaped and

pointed, but the edges may be smooth and unbroken or saw-toothed. Moreover, these variations might occur on a single plant, or the leaves on an entire plant may be similar.

But in one matter, poison ivy is almost invariably consistent - its leaves practically always grow in clusters of three.

Most researchers agree that actual physical contact with the plant juice either directly or indirectly is necessary before the poisoning agent can cause the typical blisters and skin inflammation.

Thus ivy poisoning is best prevented by learning to recognize the plant and avoiding it. And of course, it is always prudent to wear protective clothing such as leggings and gloves when going in areas where poison plants are known to flourish. Once exposed, immediate washing with laundry soap and water helps to remove the resin.

Mr. and Mrs. R. W. Howard of Lamesa returned to their home Tuesday, after a week end visit with their son, L. B. Howard and family.

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