ESTABLISHING THE TASK FORCE ON AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

WHEREAS, Texas' ranchers and farmers are the backbone of Texas' economy and contribute significantly to the State's high standard of living; and

WHEREAS, the estimated economic impact of agricultural production and agribusiness activities by Texas' ranchers and farmers on Texas' economy is more than $33.7 billion per year; and

WHEREAS, the total value of farm assets in Texas totals more than $62 billion--approximately three-fourths of the total assets of all state and national banks in Texas; and

WHEREAS, cash receipts from agricultural commodities in Texas were nearly $10 billion in 1979; and

WHEREAS, suppliers of farm inputs, food processors, distributors, and others also benefit from agricultural production; every one dollar of farm sales leads to more than $3.40 in the Texas economy; and

WHEREAS, Texas is the number-one producer of cattle, calves, cotton, and sorghum; and

WHEREAS, Texas ranks among the top ten states in production of 16 of the nation's top 25 commodities; and

WHEREAS, Texas ranked second in the nation in agricultural receipts; and

WHEREAS, agricultural productivity by Texas' farmers and ranchers, and agribusiness must be improved and any loss of agricultural productivity on Texas' economy is of serious concern; and

WHEREAS, the high technology agriculture of Texas requires a continued development and infusion of new production methods and information to support its programs; and

WHEREAS, problems of disease, pests, climate, new marketing systems, and changing economic conditions are ever changing; and

WHEREAS, research extension and higher education in Texas can equip agriculture and related industries to increase the productivity of Texas' agriculture and provide for a healthier and more prosperous society; and

WHEREAS, the State of Texas must set as its goal to become the number one leader among the states in agricultural production; and

WHEREAS, there is a need for the State of Texas to develop and implement policies and strategies to achieve the goal of leader among the states in agricultural production.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, William P. Clements, Jr., Governor of Texas, under the authority vested in me do hereby create and establish the GOVERNOR'S TASK FORCE ON AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT, hereinafter referred
to as TASK FORCE.

The TASK FORCE will consist of not more than 40 members, representing all segments of Texas' agribusiness community, appointed by the Governor who shall serve for two-year terms and at the pleasure of the Governor. The Governor shall designate a Chairman and Vice-Chairman from the membership who shall serve in those positions at the pleasure of the Governor.

The TASK FORCE is charged with the following responsibilities:

a. Examine in detail the status of Texas' agricultural production and agribusiness;

b. Examine in detail methods by which productivity of Texas' agricultural production and agribusiness can be improved and strengthened;

c. Develop recommendations for legislation to address the needs of Texas' agricultural industry.

d. Perform other duties as may be requested by the Governor.

On or before January 1, 1983, the TASK FORCE shall make a complete written report of its activities, findings, and recommendations to the Governor.

The TASK FORCE shall meet regularly at the call of the Chairman. A majority of the membership shall constitute a quorum. The Chairman shall, with the consultation of the Governor, establish the agenda for TASK FORCE meetings.

The members of the TASK FORCE shall serve without compensation and without reimbursement for their travel and expenses.

All agencies of State and local governments are hereby directed to cooperate with and assist the TASK FORCE in the performance of its duties.

This Executive Order shall be effective immediately and shall remain in full force and effect until modified, amended, or rescinded by me.

Given under my hand this 4th day of January, 1982.

WILLIAM P. CLEMENTS, JR.
Governor

ATTEST:

Secretary of State
January 6, 1982

For immediate release:

Governor Bill Clements has created by executive order the Governor's Task Force on Agricultural Development. The Governor named Robert Parker of Paris, Tx. to be chairman of the task force. Parker operates a feed mill and is president of the Paris Milling Company.

Texas' farmers and ranchers are the backbone of the state's economy. The estimated economic impact of agricultural production and agribusiness activities on Texas' economy is over $33.7 billion a year. The total value of farm assets in the state totals more than $62 billion — approximately three-fourths of the total assets of all state and national banks in Texas. The state is the number one producer of cattle, calves, cotton and sorghum; ranking among the top ten states in production of 16 of the nation's top 25 commodities. Texas ranks second in the nation in agricultural receipts. Agricultural productivity by Texas' farmers, ranchers and agribusiness must be improved because loss of agricultural productivity on our economy is a serious concern.

Governor Clements said, "This task force will examine in detail the status of Texas' agricultural production and agribusiness and methods by which they can improve and strengthen and it will develop recommendations for legislation to address the needs of Texas' agricultural industry. This group will help Texas achieve its goal of becoming the number one state in agricultural production."

The task force will consist of not more than 40 volunteers representing all segments of Texas' agribusiness community.