ESTABLISHING THE COUNTY OFFICIALS ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO THE GOVERNOR

WHEREAS, many actions by the federal government and the State of Texas through legislation and regulation directly affect Texans living or working in the counties of Texas and their county governments; and

WHEREAS, county officials are locally elected, are close to the people, and are able spokespersons for the counties and the citizens residing therein; and

WHEREAS, the establishment of a meaningful communication mechanism between the counties and the Governor will promote an understanding of problems and issues and will facilitate their resolution through the proper cooperation and coordination of the activities of the office of the Governor and the county governments throughout Texas; and

WHEREAS, the establishment of a permanent advisory committee of officials to have direct input to the Governor of Texas and to serve as a sounding board for his policies and programs will greatly assist both the Governor and county officials throughout the state in the performance of their duties; and

WHEREAS, the Governor of Texas is the highest elected officer of this state and is directed by constitution, statute, and tradition to be the chief spokesman for the State of Texas in dealing with the federal government.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, William P. Clements, Jr., Governor of Texas, under the authority vested in me, do hereby create and establish the COUNTY OFFICIALS ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO THE GOVERNOR, hereinafter referred to as the COMMITTEE.

The COMMITTEE will consist of at least thirty county officials designated by the Governor, broadly representative of each region of the state with a proper balance between counties of various sizes 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 COMMITTEE is directed to meet at least once annually 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 COMMITTEE meetings.

The COMMITTEE shall, in addition to the agenda set by the Chairman and the Governor, make such studies and reports as the Governor may from time to time request and shall keep the Governor and the county officials throughout Texas advised as to the COMMITTEE'S activities.

The members of the COMMITTEE shall serve without compensation and without reimbursement for their travel and expenses.
All state agencies are hereby directed to cooperate with and fully assist the COMMITTEE 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 of Texas

ATTEST:

Secretary of State

Filed in the Office of Secretary of State
JAN 01 1982
Statutory Documents Div.
January 5, 1982

For immediate release:

Governor Bill Clements today announced creation of the County Officials Advisory Committee to the Governor. Harris County Judge Jon Lindsay of Spring will serve as chairman of the group. Co-vice-chairmen will be Tarrant County Judge Mike Moncrief of Fort Worth and Montgomery County Judge R.A. Deison, Jr. of Conroe.

The committee and the office of the Governor will discuss issues confronting Texas counties and work together toward resolution of the variety of problems facing Texas' 254 counties. The committee will be a meaningful communication device between the counties and the Governor, serving as a sounding board for his policies and programs.

Governor Clements said, "As President Reagan shifts responsibility for local services back to the local level where it belongs, it becomes more important to maintain close contact with county officials. The advisory committee, in addition to advising me on desirability of bills before the Legislature, will provide direct input on the affect of federal funding cutbacks at the county level.

"Some programs probably shouldn't be funded at either the federal or local level and that's what getting government off the taxpayer's back is about. Judge Lindsay has proven ability for getting the most out of the tax dollar. He believes that county government must maintain its low property tax rate yet still provide quality basic services that citizens expect from local government.

"Judge Moncrief served as State Representative and now as County Judge and understands the problems of Texas counties. He is an active reserve officer with the Fort Worth Police Department, an independent oil producer, and is especially interested in providing more financing, security and shelter for area children. His variety of interests and expertise will be valuable to the committee.

"Judge Deison represents the fastest growing county in Texas, a segment of county government that's changing from rural to urban. As former Mayor of Conroe and current president of the Houston-Galveston Area Council, Judge Deison will provide input on legislative changes needed to facilitate our state's rapid growth."

The County Officials Advisory Committee to the Governor will consist of at least 30 county officials who will serve without compensation and without reimbursement for their travel and expenses.

#