



GOVERNOR'S OFFICE
AUSTIN, TEXAS

JB 111

AT M. NEFF, GOVERNOR
B. WALTHALL, SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNOR
R. ESPA STANFORD, ASSISTANT SECRETARY

REPRODUCED FROM THE
HOLDINGS OF THE
TEXAS STATE ARCHIVES April 1, 1921.

A PROCLAMATION BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF TEXAS, IN
REGARD TO SENATE BILL NO. 111, HOUSE BILL NO. 361,
SENATE BILL NO. 193, AND HOUSE BILL NO. 154.

To the Honorable Secretary of State, State of Texas:

The Legislature of this State which adjourned on the 12th day of March of this year, passed and handed to me for consideration, and finally for my approval or disapproval, among many other bills, four very significantly important educational measures, namely:

I.

A bill carrying an appropriation of \$1,350,000.00 to purchase additional lands for the University of Texas.

II.

A bill appropriating \$3,000,000.00 to supplement the Available School Fund for the fiscal year ending August 31, 1922.

III.

A bill making an appropriation of \$4,000,000.00 for the aid of rural schools for the biennium beginning September 1, 1921 and ending August 31, 1923.

IV.

A bill appropriating \$50,000.00 with which to establish an Agricultural and Mechanical College in West Texas.

FOR AN EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM.

As a private citizen and as Governor of this State, I am for the cause for the promotion of which all four of these bills speak. They deal with the problem of education. They look to the making of a better citizenship. I am for education in all forms, at all times, and everywhere. The best use a government can possibly make of its money is to invest it in the boys and girls of the country. I am for more efficient teachers, better school houses and greater educational advantages. Happy am I always to assist in carrying out an enlarged educational program.

CONDITIONS GENERALLY.

Incomparably important, however, as is education, prudence prompts us to study these bills in the light of present financial conditions. The world is passing through a period of business transformation. The people are pioneering amid new conditions. The financial future is uncertain. We should not, at this time, inaugurate new enterprises requiring increased expenditures, nor should we lay additional tax burdens on the backs of the people.

TEXAS REVENUES AND DISBURSEMENTS.

A careful consideration of the financial affairs of the State discloses the fact that the anticipated maximum income of the State accruing to the benefit of the general fund from all sources, for the two year period under consideration, up to the full limit of our facilities for raising revenue will be approximately \$32,000,000.00. In other words, that is the available

amount of money we have in prospect during the coming two years to run the government, including all state departments, educational institutions, eleemosynary institutions, courts, etc., and out of which must come all our appropriations.

The session of the Legislature recently adjourned, appropriated out of this prospective fund, approximately \$13,000,000.00. I have vetoed bills aggregating something over a million dollars, leaving in round numbers \$12,000,000.00 to be paid out of this fund. The regular appropriation bill for the running expenses of the government and the maintenance of our state institutions for these two years has not as yet been passed. The Legislature will be shortly reconvened for this purpose. The minimum estimate for support of the government, including educational and eleemosynary institutions, courts, etc., is \$28,000,000.00. Adding this \$28,000,000.00 to the \$12,000,000.00 already appropriated amounts to \$40,000,000.00. In short, we have in prospect only \$32,000,000.00 in money, with which to meet an expense account of \$40,000,000.00. Our expenses must be kept within our revenues. Appropriations should not be made beyond the State's available ability to pay. Taxation should not be increased.

THESE FOUR BILLS.

These four bills under study carry an aggregate appropriation of \$8,400,000.00 which amount is included in the \$40,000,000.00 above stated. The \$28,000,000.00 for the actual running expenses of the machinery of the government, including all state departments, all our courts, eleemosynary and educational institutions, must necessarily first come out of our \$32,000,000.00. This will leave for the purposes of these four bills, in round numbers, \$4,000,000.00, instead of \$8,400,000.00 required by said four bills.

THE UNIVERSITY BILL.

What is the wisest way to use this \$4,000,000.00, all the money we

will have, in view of the demands of these four bills, is the question that now knocks at the door of our thoughts for solution. Senate Bill No. 111 appropriates \$1,350,000.00, with which to purchase additional lands for the University of Texas. There is no doubt that the University should have more land than it now possesses. The Senate and House, by almost unanimous vote, said that now is the time to purchase all the land provided for in this bill. I am now called on to approve the bill providing for the purchase of all the land, or to disapprove it and prevent the buying of any land. The purchase of this land will fix forever the habitat of this seat of learning and will eliminate this feature of its life from future political discussion; it will make immediately available the Littlefield donation of upwards of a million dollars, which sum being saved to the people of Texas, offsets an equal sum of the purchase price of this land, for the reason that this million dollars from the Littlefield estate would be lost to the State if this Bill should be vetoed. The property to be purchased by this bill will bring an annual rental of approximately one hundred thousand dollars a year, which money can be used in removing the "shacks" that now disgrace the University campus, and substituting therefor permanent buildings in keeping with the dignity of the State; it will be a permanent investment in the culture of the manhood and womanhood of Texas; it should also be remembered that this is the first appropriation ever made from the general revenues of the State for the permanent improvement of the University. Therefore, Senate Bill No. 111, providing for the purchase of additional land for the University of Texas, is hereby approved.

THE TWO APPROPRIATION BILLS FOR THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

House Bill No. 361 and Senate Bill No. 193, carrying respectively \$3,000,000.00 and \$4,000,000.00 appropriations for the general benefit of the

public schools of Texas, are both meritorious measures. The common purpose of each is laudable. Scarcity of available money will not permit, at this time, the approval of both. That there will not be sufficient money coming into the State Treasury to give all the aid needed to our public schools is a matter I deeply regret. "It is a condition and not a theory that confronts us."

Therefore, I do now hereby approve House Bill No. 361, appropriating \$3,000,000.00 to supplement the Available School Fund, and do now hereby disapprove and veto Senate Bill No. 193 appropriating \$4,000,000.00 to further aid certain public schools, for the following reasons:

There is not sufficient money available to carry out the provisions of both bills; financially, the three million dollar appropriation can be more easily met than the four million dollar appropriation; the three million dollar appropriation is constitutionally and automatically distributed, without any additional cost whatever, into every nook and corner of the State, while the distribution of the four million dollars will entail an expenditure, in government^{al} machinery for distribution, counting the twenty thousand dollar provision in the bill for research work, of approximately one hundred thousand dollars; the three million dollar appropriation benefits every community in Texas, according to scholastic population, while the other appropriation has exclusive limitations and benefits only a certain class of schools; there is no other source from which the available funds can be supplemented except as provided by this three million dollar bill, while school districts can avail themselves of the purposes aimed at by the provisions of the four million dollar bill, by voting the tax provided in the Constitutional Amendment adopted by the people at the general election last November. So heartily, however, am I in favor of adequate appropriation for the public schools of the State, that

I desire here to record that, if the special session of the Legislature finds that money can be had from any proper source, above the necessary running expenses of the government, I shall gladly join in making an appropriation of not only the four million dollars hereby vetoed, but for any other reasonable amount the State is financially able to appropriate without increasing the taxes of those already bearing the burdens of the government.

THE WEST TEXAS A. & M.

House Bill No. 154 has for its purpose the establishment of an Agricultural and Mechanical College in West Texas. This bill is hereby disapproved and vetoed, for the following reasons:

1st. The advisability of establishing at this time a West Texas Agricultural and Mechanical College was passed on by the State Democratic Executive Convention at Fort Worth last September. A resolution recommending that this college be established by the present Legislature was rejected by the platform committee and later voted down by the Convention. That a Democratic administration should do the thing it was asked not to do by the State Democratic Convention, does not seem to me to be the wise and prudent thing to do. In accepting the nomination of this democratic convention, as Governor, I pledged myself to abide its dictates; now, to do what it refused to endorse, after full and free discussion, would not only not be right, but such action would be fundamentally wrong. When a political party speaks as to a matter of policy or expediency, the administration created by that party should obey.

2nd. Aside from party instructions, this is not the time to lay new foundations for State Institutions. We should wait until times are natural and normal. Things are now uncertain and unsettled. Our people are financially hard pressed. The cattlemen are proclaiming a state of semi-bankruptcy, horses

are cheap, there is no market for sheep, cotton is below the price of production, and the closing of some bank is almost a daily occurrence. We should not now, while every business in the State is standing with its back to the wall, fighting to live, lay the foundations of new institutions. Neither in public nor private business should foundations for new institutions be laid, unless we can see our way clear to complete them. Years ago the State laid the foundations for two educational institutions at two different places in Texas, and yet the State has never built on the foundations laid. I sincerely question the wisdom of beginning another similar institution anywhere in Texas, as provided for in this bill, until we are in financial condition to do so, and until times have become normal.

All four of these bills were passed by the House of Representatives and the Senate of Texas together constituting the Legislature of this State. The Legislature is a branch of the government co-ordinate with the executive branch thereof. Out of regard for their judgment as to the policies of our State, as well as because of the merit of the cause these bills were intended to promote, it would have given me pleasure to have avoided the choice among said bills that necessity compels me to make. I recognize that the members of the legislative branch of our government perform their duties under the same sanctions and obligations that bind me. To authorize me, as governor, to run counter to their collective judgment as expressed in legislation, only the soundest reasons can justify. Especially is this so when not only my judgment approves but my heart applauds the cause in behalf of which such legislative judgment is expressed. Upon the return of the legislators to the coming called session, it shall be my pleasure to join with them in the solution of the financial difficulties that compel me to endorse part of their action and to reject

the other, provided it can be done without increasing the taxes of those already bearing the burdens of the State. I had no alternative but to choose among the four bills. I have exercised that choice after days and nights of anxious thought and desire to do the best thing, under all the circumstances, for our people. Therefore, by the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the State of Texas, I hereby approve the bills so above referred to as being approved, and hereby veto the bills above referred to as being vetoed.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be "D. W. Webb", written in a cursive style.

Governor.