PROCLAMATION

BY THE

Governor of the State of Texas

NO.

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS SHALL COME:

I am vetoing and filing with the Secretary of State House Bill No. 25, passed at the recently adjourned Regular Session of the Forty-Eighth Legislature.

This bill, together with five other bills, to-wit, House Bill No. 652, House Bill No. 497, House Bill No. 712, House Bill No. 310, and Senate Bill No. 182, are all vetoed by me as part of a general policy of protecting the State revenues during the present emergency.

In my first message to the Forty-Eighth Legislature, I stated:

> "A strict policy of economy should be followed, and no new taxes will then be necessary. It will be necessary to maintain tax levies already in existence."

The Legislature cooperated heartily with the policy announced in my message. Appropriations were reduced substantially and a strict policy of economy was adopted. No new taxes were levied. In discussions with Members concerning this general policy of economy and of maintaining the present revenues to the State, I announced generally that I would veto any bill which had the effect of reducing the present revenues. In the maintenance of that harmonious spirit of cooperation between the Executive and Legislative Departments of our government, it is often necessary for each to repose a measure of confidence in the other. This confidence should never be impaired by a breach of faith on the part of either, directly or indirectly. The statements I have made concerning the maintenance of present tax levies amount to a commitment on my part to veto House Bill No. 25. Whether wise or unwise, the obligation has been incurred. It must be carried out.

In the Forty-Seventh Legislature, a bill, of which Senator Mauritz was the author, remitting all ad valorem taxes to all the counties in the State, was introduced. That bill, if it had become the law,

would have reduced the State revenues by some Ten Million Dollars. It would have become the law except that the Governor vetoed it. It was passed over his veto in the Senate and only failed of such passage by a narrow margin in the House. In the Forty-Eighth Legislature, Senator Mauritz introduced Senate Bill No. 153, which provided the State tax on property shall never exceed 17½¢ on the One Hundred Dollar valuation. This would reduce the State ad valorem tax by one half and would cause a loss in State revenues of Five Million Dollars per year.

We had a deficit in the General Fund when the Legislature convened last January of approximately Thirty-One Million Dollars. I felt keenly the responsibility for preventing any increase in that deficit. I expressed the belief to the Legislature in the message referred to, that the deficit would be substantially decreased by following a vigorous program for the collection of taxes and by economical functioning of the agencies of the State government. The achievement of this objective would not permit a decrease of Five Million Dollars in the General Fund of the State by remitting one half of the ad valorem taxes to all the counties. In my effort to prevent passage of the Mauritz bill, I announced publicly that I would veto all tax remission bills, and there is now no alternative except to comply with the commitments which I have made.

House Bill No. 25 reached my office less than ten days before the end of the Regular Session of the Forty-Eighth Legislature. In accordance with the Constitution, it is being filed with the Secretary of State together with this proclamation containing my objections to the bill.

IN THE OFFICE OF THE
SECRETARY OF STATE
1st DAY OF May 1943
10 O'CLOCK AND 30 MINUTES a. m.
Sidney Latham
Secretary of State
BY THE GOVERNOR:
Sidney Latham
SECRETARY OF STATE

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF I HAVE HEREUNTO signed my name officially and caused the Seal of State to be affixed hereto at Austin, this the 29th day of May, A. D., 1943.

Coke R. Stevenson
GOVERNOR OF TEXAS