HB 2167 continued

wants to exempt some counties, that's the way it should be. It's not fair to single out some counties for a gubernatorial veto while others are exempted. This veto discriminates against the people of Houston County. They should be able to make their own decision.

This is a purely local matter. The Governor wants to "get Big Brother involved." The sponsor prefers general law because it is more compatible with his "fundamental philosophy of grass roots government." His present plan is to reintroduce the bill early enough in the next session to override a veto if necessary, if the bill is desired by the people of Houston County.

HB 2186 Rains

DIGEST: This bill allows the Commissioners Court of Hays County to approve the hunting and fishing regulations issued by the Parks and Wildlife Commission.

REASONS FOR VETO: Texas should have uniform wildlife regulations throughout the state. Counties should not be allowed to opt in and out of certain provisions. The Parks and Wildlife Commission has specialists such as biologists that county commissioners do not have.

REACTION: Representative Rains was not surprised by the veto. The Governor believes no county should be exempt from the regulations of the Parks and Wildlife Commission.

HB 2199 Benedict

DIGEST: This bill allowed the killing of racoons in Brazoria County only to protect livestock, poultry, and property and during open season from November 1 to December 31.

REASONS FOR VETO: This bill would have allowed open season for racoons in Brazoria County to be one month before the season opens in surrounding counties. This would encourage racoons to be killed in other counties and brought to Brazoria County. The Parks and Wildlife Commission opposed this bill.

REACTION: Representative Benedict was "puzzled" by the statement in the proclamation that the Parks and Wildlife Commission was opposed to this bill. Parks and Wildlife had never expressed any problems with this legislation. The Governor would like uniform regulations around the state but this is impossible when some areas of the state are hunted more than others. This bill was an attempt to preserve the racoons in Brazoria, which are being killed off because their pelts are selling for $25.00 each.