SB 417 Farabee

DIGEST: This bill gives the Railroad Commission the authority to consider rates proposed by bureaus for motor carriers, buses and railroads. It also exempts rate bureaus from state antitrust provisions.

REASONS FOR VETO: It is bad public policy to exempt these bureaus from antitrust laws. Also, it is unnecessary. The bill is not designed to help the public. The federal government is currently moving toward deregulation of a number of transportation industries; it does not make sense to place rate bureaus into law since they work against the benefits of competition.

REACTION: Senator Farabee said that this bill was not the "keystone of his legislative package," but that he disagreed with the veto. It was not an unconstitutional measure, and he has asked the Attorney General for ruling on consideration of rates proposed by bureaus. This practice is already used by the Railroad Commission; it is really the only practical way to do things. Finally, Senator Farabee said that Senator Schwartz had confused the bill as being a de-regulation issue, which it wasn't.

SB 457 Santiesteban

DIGEST: SB 457 provided that the parties in criminal cases would have to file only the original and one copy of their appellate briefs.

REASON FOR VETO: SB 457 was vetoed since it was a companion to HB 1565, which was signed by the Governor.

REACTION: The authors of SB 457 and HB 1565 (Nabers) agreed to the Governor's veto of 457 in favor of 1565.

SB 490 Parker

DIGEST: SB 490 required commissioners courts to provide longevity pay for investigators employed by the district or county attorneys.

REASONS FOR VETO: This sort of requirement should not be forced on local units of government unless the state is going to help defray the expense of paying these investigators. If counties want to provide longevity pay to investigators let them do so on a voluntary basis.

REACTION: Counties are required to provide longevity pay for every other county law enforcement officer except investigators. Without longevity pay, there is a great incentive for many of these very competent persons to leave the employment of the county and go into business as private investigators. Further, contrary to the Governor's concern that this requirement was being forced on the counties, the counties did not voice any opposition to the bill while it was in the Legislature.