SPONSOR'S VIEW (cont'd): The Governor should "at least extend the courtesy" of talking with a person whose bill he intends to veto, to give the sponsor a chance to explain the bill, Browder said.

Ticket scalping
(HB 738 by Bryant)

DIGEST: The bill would have made it a Class B misdemeanor to buy or sell for more than face value an admission ticket to an athletic event sponsored by or participated in by an educational institution. The bill would also have prohibited the unauthorized resale of tickets to athletic and entertainment events not sponsored by an educational institution. Unless authorized by an event's sponsor, resale would be prohibited within 1,000 yards of the event, its ticket offices, and its parking lots. Resale for more than $3 above the original price would be prohibited under any circumstances. For a first offense, the seller could be fined $50 to $200 (Class C misdemeanor). Each subsequent offense would be a Class B misdemeanor.

GOVERNOR'S REASONS FOR VETO: The Governor cited inconsistencies in the bill as the reason for his veto. Specifically, scalping of tickets at college athletic events carried a stiffer fine than scalping at professional athletic or entertainment events. Further, at college-sponsored events both the buyer and seller would be guilty of an offense while only the seller would be guilty at professional events.

SPONSOR'S VIEW: As introduced, the bill would have prohibited scalping only at college-sponsored events. The Senate broadened the scope of the bill to include professional events. Rep. Bryant said he never intended the bill to apply to professional entertainment and sports events, but since the bill returned to the House late in the session, he chose to concur with Senate amendments rather than risk killing the bill. He said the Governor received pressure to veto the bill from people who held season tickets to professional football games.

NOTES: The HSG analysis of this bill appeared in the May 6 Daily Floor Report.

Expanding Houston's civil service system for police and firefighters
(HB 761 by Green)

DIGEST: HB 761 would have expanded coverage under Houston's civil service system for police officers and firefighters to personnel that perform such law enforcement duties as warrant service, airport policing, and