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GCDP REPORT

AUSTIN, TEXAS

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AUGUST 1986

GOVERNMENT RESPONDS TO STATE BUDGET CRISIS

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The drastic drop in oil prices has hit State agencies' budgets hard. Reduced oil prices also contributed to the financial crisis by lowering sales tax revenues and employment levels. The actual rate of unemployment rose to 11.1% in June or 906,800 unemployed individuals.

Governor Mark White who called a special session beginning on August 6 urged confrontation of the projected \$2.9 billion dollar deficit and is now pushing for \$1.4 billion in cuts and a temporary sales tax increase from 4 1/8 cents on the dollar to 5 1/4 cents.

Jim Oliver, Director of the Legislative Budget Board, was quoted as saying, "Approximately \$13.4 billion of the budget is state general revenue funds and a \$2.3 billion deficit represents about a 15% cut. However, 58% of the \$13.4 billion can't be touched by the Appropriations Committee because it is determined by other laws (for example, Foundation School Program, Highways and other constitutionally protected programs).

Recently, the House Appropriations Committee, chaired by State Representative Jim Rudd, recommended a reduction of 5.6% or 1.4 million dollars from the Texas Rehabilitation Commission budget. In addition, TRC will contribute 4.2 million dollars in special federal funds instead of general revenue monies designated for case services. This reduction will meet the deficit with no current reduction in client services. GCDP has taken an 11% cut in operating funds and anticipates the same level of reduction for the 1987 program. The program will operate at a minimum level for the remainder of 1986 and 1987. These recommendations are not final until voted upon by both the House and the Senate.

Like all citizens, disabled Texans and their supporters (e.g., members of Mayor's Committees, employers, family members and service providers) must be prepared to clearly express their needs and funding priorities. The democratic process allows opportunity for voting and more. Legislators are available year 'round and want to hear from their constituents. Let them hear from you.

REACTION

Stephanie Thomas, Executive Director Coalition of Texans with Disabilities

"CTD" believes it is extremely irresponsible to consider cutting services to people, people with disabilities. Human services and their recipients have not shared in economic good times, but now we are asked to share with the rest in bearing the burden of economic hard times. Is that fair? I submit that it is not. And share with whom? Most of the Texas budget is dedicated funds. The State of Texas has to make a decision that people are more important than concrete. Let's stop apologizing for human services. Let's begin providing services Texans can be proud of."

Health and Human Services Coordinating Council

"Because the State provides only the most austere array of health and human services, any further reductions in these critical areas would place the individual recipients in jeopardy."

DID YOU KNOW?

The Governor's Committee Annual Employment Awards Conference has been scheduled for October 3 in Austin at the Wyndham Hotel-Northwest. To register for the conference or to obtain advanced program information, call GCDP staff person John Burns at 512-445-8270.

Due to the State budget crisis and GCDP funding cuts, the Governor's Committee has temporarily suspended the Barbara Jordan Awards. Consideration is being given to how these media awards can be reinstated at a lower cost and equal or better effectiveness.

National Employ the Handicapped (NETH) Week publicity kits have arrived. Determine how you might use the publicity kits with media professionals in your area and then call GCDP for your supply.

The Very Special Arts (VSA) has announced the third annual Itzhak Perlman Scholarship to recognize a student with a disability who has exhibited outstanding talent in the performing arts. The 1986 award will provide up to \$5,000 to a student with a disability who wishes to pursue further studies in voice. To obtain application information write the Special Projects Coordinator, VSA, Education Office, Kennedy Center, Washington, D.C. 20566, or call 202-662-8899. Deadline: 9-1-86.

The Supreme Court ruled in June that airlines are exempt from an anti-bias law, Section 504, protecting individuals with disabilities. The Court concluded that although airlines benefit from airports built and maintained with federal money, they do not receive federal money themselves and therefore are not subject to the anti-discrimination law.

On June 5 Senator Lowell Weicker, Chairman of the Senate Subcommittee on the Handicapped, introduced SB 2515—The Rehabilitation Act Amendments of 1986. The President's Committee on Employment of the Handicapped is most pleased that the bill does NOT contain language to transfer the functions of PCEH to the National Council on the Handicapped.

Recently IBM established a National Support Center for Persons with Disabilities. Headquartered in Atlanta, Georgia, this Center provides information to professionals on the use of IBM computers by persons with disabilities. Call 1-800-IBM-2133 for more information.

GOVERNOR APPOINTS COMMITTEE MEMBERS

In March Governor Mark White appointed members to the GCDP. Members represent a broad cross-section of business, professional and disabled persons. It is required that at least half of the membership be individuals with disabilities. The Committee meets at least four times a year and reports annually to the Governor on its activities.

Margaret A. Nosek of Houston serves as Committee Chair. Nosek is an assistant professor in the Department of Rehabilitation and director of research for Independent Living Research Utilization Project at the Baylor College of Medicine. She has authored numerous documents and publications on disability-related matters and is currently a consultant to the National Council on the Handicapped.

Kathy Weldon of Austin serves as Vice-Chair of the Committee. Weldon is an adaptive teacher for the blind and deaf-blind at Criss Cole Rehabilitation Center in Austin. She is a professional dancer, member of the Commission on Arts, and was the first Miss Deaf Texas in 1976.

Gary L. Adrian of Austin is a planner in the City of Austin's Housing and Community Services Division and is specifically involved in the administration of the City's architectural barrier removal program. Adrian attended both Lubbock Christian College and the University of Texas.

Martha Arbuckle of Austin is Coordinator of Services for Disabled Persons at the Texas Department of Human Services. Arbuckle also chairs the Austin Mayor's Committee for Disabled Persons, participates as a member of MIGHT, the Advisory Commission for Capitol Metro and the Attorney General's Disability Rights Advisory Committee. She was the 1981 recipient of the President's Committee on Employment of the Handicapped Distinguished Service Award.

Sandy Bailey of Waco has a degree in mental health from McLennan Community College and is working towards a degree in data processing. Bailey hopes to one day own and operate a computer firm. She is an active member of the United Cerebral Palsy (UCP) of Waco and UCP of Texas.

Omar Carreon, Sr., of Weslaco is district representative for the Christian Record Braille Foundation. Carreon attended Lamar and Pan American Universities. He is a member of the Lions and Jaycees Clubs.

Texana Conn of Austin has been involved for the past 45 years in matters related to disabled individuals. Conn founded Austin's Vaughn House which is a residential rehabilitation center. She is fluent in sign language, works on the volunteer council of Austin State School, and is a member of the Technical Advisory Committee for Texas School for the Deaf.

Robert Frost of Keller is the director of Instructional Media and Cable TV at Tarrant County Junior College. He received his bachelor's degree at North Texas State University and his master's at East Texas State University. He serves as president of the Fort Worth Association for Retarded Citizens.

Larry Gardner of Lubbock is the owner and president of Southwest Home Health Service, Inc. Gardner is

knowledgeable in the area of computer technology and the political process. In addition, he is a member of the Lions Club in Lubbock.

William J. Martin of Austin is vice-president of Wilson-Stoeltje-Martin architectural firm. Martin is chairman of the Board of Directors of Liberty National Bank and is a member of the American Institute of Architects, the Austin Chamber of Commerce, and the Executive Committee of Bergstrom-Austin Community Council.

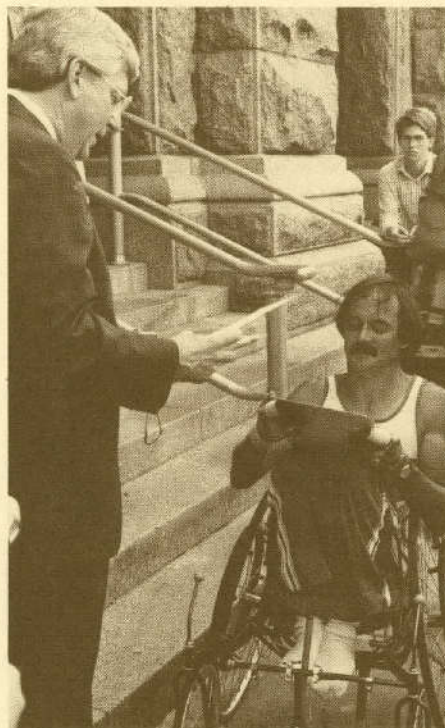
Sonya Masinter of San Antonio is director of the Parent Education Early Intervention Program (PEEIP) which serves developmentally delayed or disabled infants. Further, Masinter is a member of the Birth to Three Intervention Network, a member of the Mayor's Commission on Children and Families, and a past member of the Handicapped Access Board.

Philip Miller of San Antonio is the owner of a retail piano and organ business. Miller is a member of the Board of Trustees at San Antonio's Westside YMCA. He has worked to impact the employment outlook for disabled Texans through his work as chairperson of the Employment Subcommittee of the GCDP.

Merry Nielsen of San Antonio received her bachelor's degree at the University of Texas. Nielsen is vice-president of the Mental Health Association in Texas and a member of the Conservation Society.

Sharon A. Pomar of Laredo is interested in seeing the GCDP increase accessibility throughout the state. Pomar received her bachelor's degree from Texas A&I University. She would like to share information gained on government services with individuals with disabilities in the Laredo area.

Joe W. Russell of Dallas is vice-president of Corporate Relations of E-Systems, Inc. Russell attended the University of Texas and Southern Methodist University. He is a member of the American Management Association, the Dallas Mayor's Committee for Employment of the Disabled, and the Development Board of the University of Texas at Arlington.



On June 23, wheelchair athlete Jim Hayes of Arlington rolled 205 miles from Austin to Arlington in under 36 hours to hand deliver a proclamation issued to him by Governor White. The proclamation opened the 6th National Veteran's Wheelchair Games in Arlington on Wednesday, June 25 and earned more than \$20,000 in pledges supporting Jim Hayes in his roll.

LOCAL COMMITTEE NOTES

Disabled Applicants Find Work

In the Spring the Harris County Committee for Employment of Disabled Persons held a Job Fair. More than 200 job applicants participated in interviews with some 15 employers. Eight of the employers had immediate openings and as a result six individuals were placed in competitive employment. Additionally, a luncheon was given in conjunction with the Job Fair which attracted 49 employer representatives.

Job Fair organizers took a different approach and recruited only among rehabilitation counselors and job placement specialists for job ready individuals. Previously, advertising was done citywide for disabled individuals to participate in the Job Fair.

As a follow up to the Job Fair, Romie Landrum of the Employment Development Committee reported that a list of applicants has been compiled from the recent Job Fair. This applicant resource list will be sent to employers and will be used to match applicants and employers during the next job fair.

Job Fairs are just one aspect of the Governor's Committee and the local committee programs to promote employment of disabled persons and to establish meaningful links with various sectors of the community to create a better public awareness of the abilities and special needs of disabled persons.

Ordinance Drafted To Address Civil Rights of Austinites

The Austin Mayor's Committee for Disabled Persons (AMCDP) has been working with the City of Austin for several years to ensure accessibility for disabled citizens. Recently, as an outgrowth of this work, the Committee prepared an ordinance specifically addressing the "civil rights" of disabled citizens. The draft ordinance has been submitted to City staff and the Mayor's Committee hopes to have this ordinance placed on the City Council agenda no later than

First Annual Scholarship Awarded

Kevin Adair of Dallas received the Dallas Mayor's Committee first annual \$1,000 scholarship award. He plans to attend the University of Texas at Dallas and major in psychology.

The DMC plans to award the \$1,000 scholarship annually. Applicants must be disabled and a resident of Dallas or the North Texas area. Leadership, scholastic standing, financial need, character, seriousness of purpose and educational goals will be considered in the selection process.

The scholarship funds are disbursed through the recipient's institution of advanced learning. The institution is requested to administer the funds on behalf of the recipient. Scholarship money can be used for registration, tuition, books, room and board as long as a full-time student status is maintained. An applicant may reapply annually.

For additional information about the scholarship fund contact Karen Roher, Santa Fe Minerals, at 214-521-3151. Roher is a member of the Board of Directors of the Dallas Mayor's Committee.

Community Van Helps To Meet Local Need

The first public notice announcing the availability of a community van in the Bryan-College Station area generated more than 60 requests within a three hour period. The transit system office was bombarded with calls expressing a tremendous need for wheelchair accessible transportation within the community.

The Bryan-College Station Mayor's Committee was eager to help find an accessible transit system. So, members of the committee began work by talking with citizens to identify a need and facilitate action to meet that need. Today, the result of those special efforts is a new community van service, "The Lift", which is a large van equipped with a hydraulic lift to transport individuals

who are mobility impaired.

Now, talk about the town is that the community should seriously look into the possibility of developing a major transit system, allowing disabled persons access to all public vehicles.

Safety in the Workplace

With the assistance of the GCDP employment subcommittee the Corpus Christi Mayor's Committee for Employment of the Handicapped has obtained a new employer training course entitled "Emergency Planning for Workers with Disabilities." Developed by PCEH the program identifies ways to provide safety and evacuation of employees with disabilities during emergency times at the workplace.

The 2 hour course will be presented in the Corpus Christi area in cooperation with the City of Corpus Christi.

Mayor's Committees in Texas are welcome to borrow these training materials according to Chris Marshall, Project Coordinator. For additional information contact Chris Marshall at P.O. Box 8204, Corpus Christi, Texas, 78412, 512-992-7124.

September 1, 1986.

"At a time when disabled persons' rights are being curtailed on the federal level," says Martha Arbuckle, chairperson of the AMCDP, "I feel it is important for the City to pass an ordinance to protect and maintain the quality of life we have been working to achieve in the Austin area for individuals with disabilities."

GENERAL MEETING AND EMPLOYMENT AWARDS CONFERENCE

October 3—Austin

The Governor's Committee will convene its Annual General Meeting and Employment Awards Conference on Friday, October 3, in Austin. The event will be held at the newly opened Wyndham Hotel-Northwest. Governor Mark White is invited to the event

and, if able to attend, will award Governor's Citations in six categories including Disabled Person of the Year, Employer of the Year (two awards), Physician of the Year, Citation for Meritorious Service, Governmental Agency of the Year and Public Employee of the Year.

Plan now to attend the fall conference. Pre-registration by October 1 is required. Conference materials will be available on October 3 beginning at 8:00 a.m. There is a morning program which includes a general session and three concurrent workshops followed by an awards luncheon. The event is open to the public and there will be a charge of \$12.50 to attend.

Parking and accessible lodging for mobility-impaired persons will be available. The Wyndham Hotel offers a flat fee of \$60.00 for both single or double rooms. We hope to see you there! For information on the Employment Awards Conference, please contact John Burns at 512-445-8270.



The Texas Governor's Committee for Disabled Persons is in compliance with the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and is an equal opportunity employer.

NETH WEEK SLATED FOR
OCTOBER 5-11, 1986

National Employ the Handicapped Week, which will be observed October 5 - 11, is sponsored by the President's Committee on Employment of the Handicapped. NETH Week provides us with an opportunity to highlight positive steps employers have taken in hiring people with disabilities.

Census Bureau data reveals that 12,320,000 people of working age (16-64) report a work disability. This number represents 8.5 percent of the American working-age population.

- 51% of those who report a disability say they are prevented from working by their disability
- 1 disabled adult in 5 has attended college
- 1 disabled adult in 3 participates in the nation's labor force
- slightly more than 1/3 of men with disabilities or 36.3% are employed
- almost 1/5 of women with disabilities or 19.9 percent are employed

GCDP REPORT

The GCDP Report promotes employment and public awareness of the abilities and special needs of persons with disabilities. This quarterly GCDP Report is published by the Governor's Committee for Disabled Persons.

Communications may be addressed to: Cindy Counts, Editor, GCDP Report, 118 East Riverside Dr., Austin, Texas 78704. You may also call (512) 445-8741 VOICE or TDD.

Taped Copies of the GCDP Report will be provided upon request.

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