MONTHLY REPORT

OF THE

# ATTORNEY GENERAL

OF THE

# STATE OF TEXAS



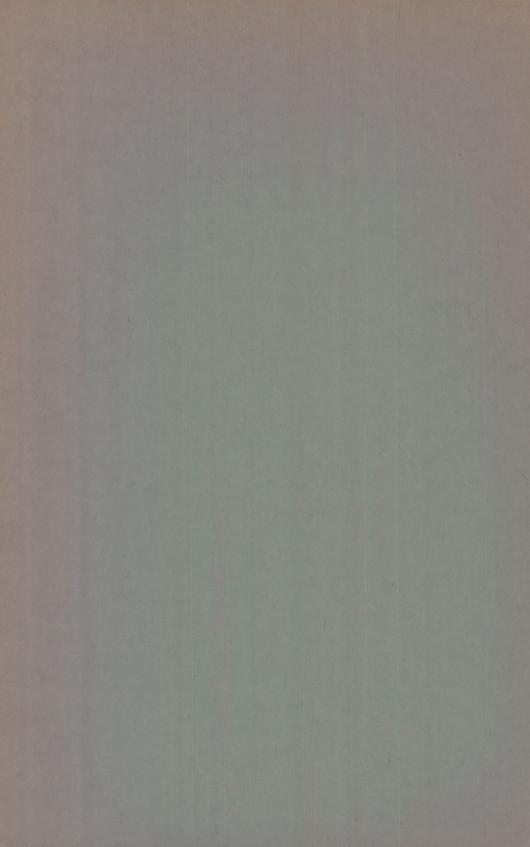


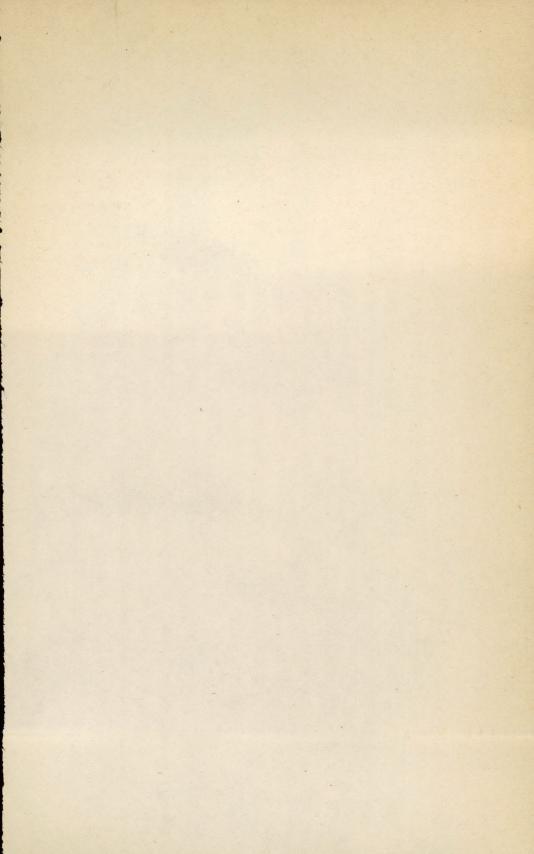
GERALD C. MANN ATTORNEY GENERAL

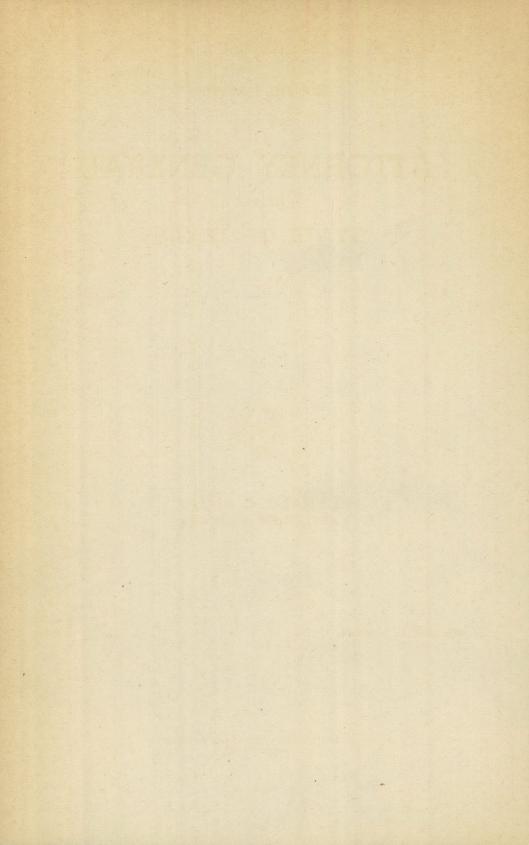
**VOLUME 1, NUMBER 6** 

JULY, 1989

FIRM FOUNDATION PUBLISHING HOUSE Austin, Texas







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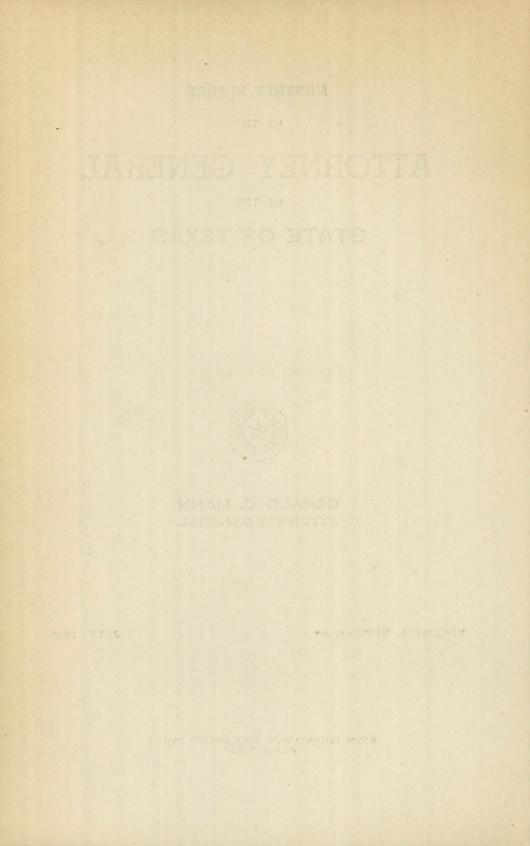


# GERALD C. MANN ATTORNEY GENERAL

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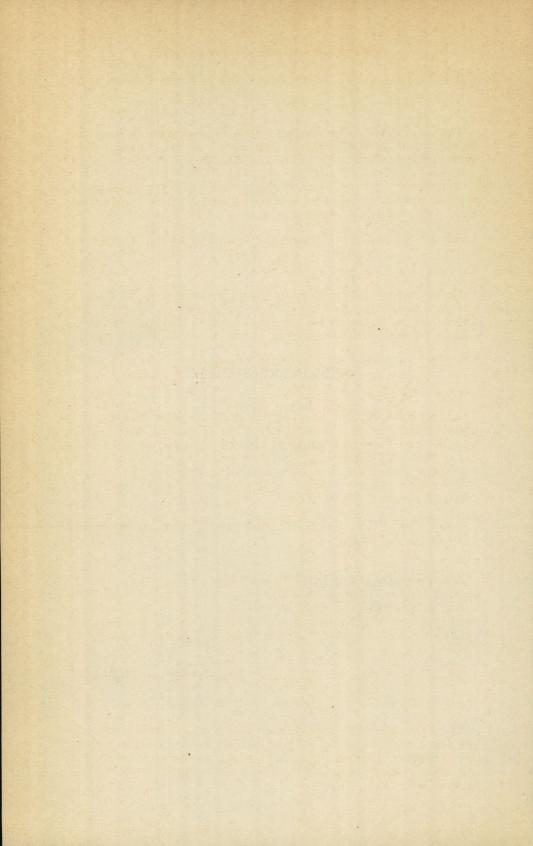
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# OPINIONS RENDERED

July 1, 1939 To July 31, 1939



#### 0-110 To: C. W. Butler, Jr., Member, Texas Prison Board, Crockett Date: June 29, 1939

The son-in-law of the warden of the Texas Prison System may be employed by the Texas Prison Board as the General Manager of the System. Arts. 432 and 433, P. C.

A member of the Texas Prison Board may not keep an inmate or convict at his home to serve as cook, yard boy, chauffeur, etc. Arts. 6166a and 6166g, R. C. S.

#### 0-114 To: Geo. H. Sheppard, Comptroller of Public Accounts Date: July 14, 1939

Under Article 7057a, R. C. S., a pipe line company such as the Cordova Gathering System, a first purchaser of oil from producers, is liable for gross production taxes on overage oil resulting from inaccurate gauging at the time the oil was run.

#### 0-223 To: Geo. H. Sheppard, Comptroller of Public Accounts Date: July 6, 1939

Article 5538, R. C. S. (suspending statutes of limitations upon *causes of action* for a certain period after death) does not toll or stop the running of the limitation period fixed by subsection (c) of Art. 7065a-13, V. A. C. S., for the filing of refund claims for motor fuel taxes, inasmuch as a cause of action is not created by such refund statute nor is a pure statute of limitations created by such Article 7065a-13.

#### 0-299 To: Bert Ford, Administrator, Texas Liquor Control Board Date: July 6, 1939

A brewery is not entitled to a refund or deduction for the amount of taxes paid on broken bottles, which contain beer upon which a tax has been paid, nor is it entitled to a refund on bottles of beer that are broken upon which the tax has not been paid and which are stored in the brewery. Art. 666-23, V. A. P. C.

#### 0-307 To: Geo. H. Sheppard, Comptroller of Public Accounts Date: July 14, 1939

The Firestone Tire and Rubber Company is liable under the law for a chain store tax on places of business operating under the "Firestone Budget Plant Agreement" contract submitted to this office. Art. 1111d, V. A. P. C.; Gulf Refining Co. v. Fox, 11 Fed. Sup. 425.

#### 0-436 To: Walter C. Woodward, Chairman, Board of Insurance Commissioners Date: July 14, 1939

A statewide mutual assessment life insurance company operating under the provisions of Article 4859f, R. C. S., which has had transferred to it the membership of other companies is not entitled to make deductions from gross premiums of premiums paid by such transferred members as the "acquisition cost of all of the first year's premiums" in determining the net taxable premiums under Article 7064a, R. C. S.

#### 0-458 To: Bascom Giles, Commissioner, General Land Office Date: July 18, 1939

Under oil and gas lease No. 21518, covering S. F. 13371 (the land having been sold under Ch. 271, Acts 1931, Art. 5212-1c, V. A. C. S. by the State) the State of Texas has no legally enforcible right to participate in the bonus, rentals and royalties provided in such lease, other than to the extent of a 1/16th free royalty. *Winterman* v. *McDonald*, 102 S. W. (2d) 167; *Schlitter* v. *Smith*, 101 S. W. (2d) 543.

#### 0-461 To: Bascom Giles, Commissioner, General Land Office Date: July 14, 1939

Under the facts submitted to this office the State of Texas is entitled to one-half of the consideration paid to the Sabine Royalty Company under an instrument conveying mineral rights to B. F. Farris and the Roundup Oil and Gas Company inasmuch as the State was the owner of a 1/3 undivided interest in the oil, gas and other minerals at the time of the execution of the instrument. Arts. 5367-5368, R. C. S. (Relinquishment Act).

#### 0-503 (Conference Opinion 3074) To: L. L. Geren, County Attorney, Limestone County Date: March 30, 1939

Opinion 0-503 was rewritten as Conference Opinion 3074. See paragraph 3 of the report of the opinion in Vol. 1, No. 2, Monthly Report of the Attorney General, at p. 87.

#### 0-595 To: Chas. H. Theobald, County Attorney, Galveston County Date: July 21, 1939

The Commissioners' Court of Galveston County does not have authority to employ lifeguards for the Galveston beach and pay such life guards for their services out of county funds. Such an expenditure would not be for "county business." Sec. 18, Art. V, Texas Constitution.

0-643 To: R. I. Bledsoe, County Attorney, Presidio County Date: June 13, 1939

1. Article 7283, V. A. C. S., as amended does not govern the redemption of land sold under a decree and judgment of court for state, county and common school district taxes. The applicable statutes are Articles 7284a and 7284b, V. A. C. S.; *Hinkson V. Lorenzo I. S. D.*, 109 S. W. (2d) 1008.

2. The owner of land sold under judgment and decree of court for state, county and common school district taxes could not be required, as a condition to the redemption of such land, to pay or reimburse the purchaser at such sale for delinquent interest on school lands paid by him to the state to protect such lands from forfeiture during the redemption period. The owner would be entitled to a full and complete redemption by following Articles 7284a and 7284b, R. C. S. Nevertheless, the land will return to the owner charged with the state's lien for delinquent interest and the purchaser at the tax sale would become subrogated by virtue of his payment of this interest to the lien. *Meador* v. *Wagner*, 70 S. W. (2d) 794.

#### 0-678 To: Roy Sansing, County Attorney, Lipscomb County Date: July 28, 1939

The district court has original jurisdiction to try a delinquent tax suit and foreclose a tax lien on land for taxes accruing both prior to and subsequent to the death of the decedent without first presenting a claim for such taxes to the administrator or executor of the estate. Arts. 3509, 3522, 3528, 3530; *Graham* v. *Russell*, 152 Ind. 186, 52 H. E. 806; *In re Adams' Estate*, 272 H. W. 19.

#### 0-681 To: Quincy Hawkins, County Auditor, Henderson County Date: July 12, 1939

The costs collected in a case in which the defendant was charged with driving while intoxicated (Art. 803, P. C.) should be deposited in the Officers' Salary Fund of the county in which such costs were collected. Article 3912e, R. C. S. The fine should be deposited in the General Fund of the county (Art. 7700, R. C. S.) to be expended for the purposes enumerated in Article 6700, R. C. S.

0-701 To: E. L. Shelton, County Auditor, Johnson County Date: July 20, 1939 A commissioners' court in reassessing taxes on unknown and unrendered properties (Art. 7350) or in cases of invalid prior assessments (Arts. 7346, 7347, R. C. S.) should provide a valuation in accordance with values in the particular year involved in order that taxation may be equal and uniform. Sec. 1, Art. VIII, Texas Constitution. However, in this matter the commissioners' court has much discretion. See also 0-102 and 0-930.

0-754 (Conference Opinion 3068) To: Homer Garrison, Jr., Director, Department of Public Safety Date: May 24, 1939

A Texas resident who owns a truck-tractor or trailer used only outside the State cannot operate such vehicle in the State of Texas for any purpose without first securing a Texas license. Arts. 6686, R. C. S., 827b, V. A. P. C.

A Texas dealer cannot drive a new truck from the state line to his place of business and transport thereon a smaller truck or trailer. They may be transported or operated by him from the state line to his place of business upon compliance with the provisions of Art. 6686, R. C. S., but neither vehicle can be utilized as a carrier for the other.

0-765 (Conference Opinion 3069) To: Tom F. Coleman, Jr., County Attorney, Angelina County Date: July 1, 1939

That portion of Article 2750a, R. C. S., as amended, which provides that no contract may be signed by common or common consolidated school trustees until the newly elected trustee has qualified and taken the oath of office is in violation of Sec. 35 of Art. III, Constitution of Texas, and therefore void.

Common and common consolidated school trustees may execute valid contracts with principals, superintendents and teachers for a period not in excess of two years although an election for trustees has been held in the district and the newly elected trustees have not qualified and taken the oath of office. Art. 2750a, R. C. S.

Former Opinions 0-04, 0-309 and 0-952 modified.

0-770 To: Peyton Burke, County Auditor, Falls County Date: July, 1939

The county auditor has no legal authority to approve a claim submitted to him on a bid for machinery accepted by the commissioners' court which was not the lowest bid and which bid exceeded the maximum amount set out in the notice to bidders. Art. 1659, 1661, R. C. S.

The commissioners' court is without authority to permit a change in the specifications for machinery after an attempted letting of the contract so as to make the bids received within the maximum amount set out in the notice to bidders. *Webster* v. *Belote*, 138 S. W. 721, Art. 1659, R. C. S.

#### 0-811 To: W. J. Muller, County Attorney, Kinney County Date: May 30, 1939

Under Art. 3926, R. C. S., a county judge is entitled to a commission of one-half of one per cent upon all cash received by an executor including money borrowed by the executor to pay claims against the estate. *Goodwin* v. *Doins*, 280 S. W. 512; *Von Knowneritz* v. Ziller, 245 S. W. 423.

#### 0-812 To: Mortimer Brown, Executive Secretary, Teacher Retirement System Date: July 17, 1939

Under the Teacher Retirement Act (S. B. 47, 45th Leg., Art. 2922, V. A. C. S.) a member of the System must pay the \$1.00 annual membership fee to the Expense Fund each year, so long as the membership continues although such member may not be actually employed in the public schools of Texas for a given year. However, the Board of Trustees is not vested with power to transfer \$1.00 each year from a member's account in the Teacher Saving Fund to the Expense Fund for the purpose of covering the annual membership fee.

#### 0-818 To: S. B. Buchanan, Jr., County Attorney, Val Verde County Date: June 7, 1939

The exemption of certain written evidences of indebtedness from the stamp tax (Art. 7047e, R. C. S.) when secured by certain types of personalty as set out in subsection (a) of S. B. 24, 46th Leg., (amending Art. 7047e) extends to liens on all livestock on ranches and to ranch implements necessary for the use of a person carrying on that business.

# 0-821 To: Tom C. King, State Auditor and Efficiency Expert Date: July 5, 1939

Under Sec. 7 of S. B. 432, R. S., 46th Leg., an amount not exceeding the tax loss sustained through the presence within the boundaries of a school district of university lands may be allocated to a school district without the showing of need such as is required of other districts in applications for rural aid under the terms of H. B. 133, Ch. 60, Acts 1937, 45th Leg., 2nd C. S. The amendment to H. B. 133, Ch. 60, Acts 1937, 45th Leg., 2nd C. S. (S. B. 432, R. S., 46th Leg.) does not affect school districts having within their boundaries land purchased by the Federal Governments for National Forests, and such districts must still meet the need requirements set out in H. B. 133, supra, in application for rural aid. See also Opinion 0-334.

The tax "loss sustained" by the presence of university lands within the boundaries of a school district as that term is used in Sec. 7 of H. B. 133, Ch. 60, Acts 1937, 45th Leg., 2nd C. S., as amended by S. B. 432, Acts 46th Leg., 1939, is not limited to any particular tax but would include loss to the bond as well as the maintenance fund. Opinion 0-821.

S. B. 432, supra, became effective on May 8, 1939, and is an amendment to the appropriation bill providing the "equalization fund" for the 1937-1939 biennium. The payment for losses provided for therein may be paid out of the Salary Aid Fund appropriated for the 1938-1939 fiscal year.

S. B. 432, supra, does not make it mandatory that the full amount of the "tax loss" because of the presence of university lands be made up to the school district. Such tax loss is merely the maximum amount which may be paid to a district claiming rural aid under the terms of S. B. 432, without regard to need.

If a school district containing university lands presents an application for rural aid as any other district, showing a need under H. B. 133 in excess of the "tax loss" sustained on account of having such untaxable lands, the maximum allocation to such a district would be the amount "needed" rather than the tax loss; and the amount receivable for "tax losses" should be included as revenue in the school district's budget before calculating such district's budgetary need.

The caption or title of S. B. 432, Acts 46th Leg., 1939, is sufficient. 39 Tex. Jur. 102; Love v. Commissioners' Court, 69 S. W. (2d) 153; Katz v. State, 54 S. W. (2d) 130 (dicta); State v. McCracken, 42 Tex. 383, and the act as a whole is valid.

0-863 To: Tom F. Coleman, Jr., County Attorney, Angelina County Date: July 6, 1939

Although Art. 432, P. C., is not applicable, a contract for laundry work between the board of managers of a county hospital and a laundry, one of the owners of which is a doctor and member of the board, is contrary to public policy and void. *Willis* v. *Abbey*, 27 Tex. 202.

0-871 To: L. R. Thompson, County Auditor, Taylor County Date: July 6, 1939

Lands and buildings given to a college as an endowment fund not falling within the classes of property mentioned in Sec. 2 of Art. VIII, Constitution of Texas, as exempt from taxation are not so exempt. Art. 7150, R. C. S.; Morris V. Lone Star Chepter No. 6, Royal Arch Masons, 5 S. W. 519.

#### 0-873 To: Chas. C. McMillan, County Attorney, San Augustine County Date: July 14, 1939

Warrants issued by a county for current expenses are void, where no provision is made as provided in Sec. 7 of Art. XI of the Constitution of Texas at the time the obligation is incurred and it is intended that they shall be paid out of revenues of future years, or where such warrants when added to valid outstanding warrants against the fund exceed the available balance and lawfully contemplated or expected revenues for that year. What may be reasonably and lawfully contemplated or expected revenues for the year does not necessarily depend upon actual collections. *Brezeale* v. *Stength*, 196 S. W. 247; *McNeil* v. *City of Waco*, 89 Tex. 83, 33 S. W. 322.

#### 0-879 To: Walter C. Woodward, Chairman, Board of Insurance Commissioners Date: June 29, 1939

Sec. 2a of H. B. 373, 43rd Leg. as amended (Art 4859f, R. C. S., as amended) does not have the effect of making a foreign life insurance company liable for the payment of taxes imposed upon premiums received from reinsurance of a fraternal benefit society such as the Shrine Benefit Fund, subsequent to the effective date of the act, and the Capital Life Insurance Company of Denver, Colorado, under the circumstances set forth is not liable for the tax imposed by Art. 4769, R. C. S.; Arts. 4857, 4858a, 4820, 4823, 4779, 7064a, R. C. S.

The payment of premiums by a fraternal benefit society or the Shrine Benefit Fund for reinsurance to the Capital Life Insurance of Denver, Colorado, a foreign insurance Company, does not represent premiums collected from "citizens of the state" within the meaning of Art. 4769, R. C. S.

#### 0-383 To: Fred T. Porter, County Attorney, Kaufman County Date: July 21, 1939

Under the charter of the City of Terrell when construed with Art. XI, Sec. 5 of the Constitution of Texas and Art, 1165, R. C. S., the maximum tax rate for all purposes (exclusive of the building of sidewalks) is \$2.25 on the \$100.00 valuation. This is inclusive of the school tax for the City of Terrell has assumed complete control of the city school system. Sources of revenue other than that obtained through the levy of ad valorem taxes cannot be considered in determining the amount of general obligation bonds that may be issued by the city. *City of Houston v. McCraw*, 113 S. W. (2d) 1215.

The City of Terrell may authorize the issuance of bonds for street improvements and levy a tax in payment thereof from any source not otherwise restricted by the charter. Art. 22 of the charter imposes no restriction but Art. 18 of the charter limits the total amount which may be levied for street and bridge purposes.

#### 0-892 To: Geo. H. Sheppard, Comptroller of Public Accounts Date: July 20, 1939

Neither a company owning and operating its own gathering system and thereby transporting its own oil from its producing leases to a pipe line nor a company operating as an integrated unit transporting its own oil from its producing leases to its own refinery is liable for the ad valorem tax on intangible assets imposed by Article 7105, as amended, R. C. S. Neither of such companies is an "oil pipe line company" or a "common carrier pipe line company" within the meaning of Article 7105. *Reagan Oil Purchasing Co.* v. *State*, 110 S. W. (2d) 1194; U. S. v. *Ohio Oil Co.*, 234 U. S. 548, 34 Sup. Ct. 956, 58 L. ed. 1459.

Both a company operating its own leases, buying oil from other producers in the field and transporting this oil to connecting trunk lines and a company gathering its own oil together with other oil purchased in the field and transporting the same to its own refinery are liable for the ad valorem tax on intangible assets imposed by Article 7105, as amended, V. A. C. S.; while neither of these companies are "common carrier pipe line companies" within the meaning of Art. 7105, they are each an "oil pipe line company" within the statute.

# 0-900 To: I. E. Lanier, County Auditor, Cass County Date: July 28, 1939

A sheriff who receives a salary as compensation for his services should be paid the sum of 4c for each mile traveled in his own automobile in the discharge of official business. Art. 3899, R. C. S.

0-901 To: H. A. Hodges, County Auditor, Williamson County Date: July 10, 1939

A sheriff or constable is not entitled to a fee for arrest when he is present and the arrest is made by a highway patrolman. Art. 1056, C. C. P.; Opinions 0-778, 0-106 and 0-768.

When a person is arrested for speeding and voluntarily comes into the office of the justice of the peace or mails a remittance, the following fees may be assessed: one dollar fine; five dollars' fee for the county attorney; four dollars' trial fee, making a total of ten dollars. Art. 1056, C. C. P.; Opinion 0-768.

#### 0-906 To: V. C. Marshall, Chairman, Texas Soil Conservation Board, Temple Date: July 19, 1939

In the event any of the funds set forth in Sec. 14a, H. B. 20, 42nd Leg., The Texas Soil Conservation Law, are exhausted, the State Soil Conservation Board is without power or authority to spend *contingent funds* on said items, the contingent moneys going not for enumerated items or purposes, but for contingencies not contemplated by the Legislature. 4 C. J. 1460; *Dunwoody* v. U. S., 22 Ct. Cl. 269, 280. See also 0-184.

The Texas Soil Conservation Board is authorized to hold its necessary public hearings at such times and places within the State as it may determine suitable and convenient.

An expense account of a county delegate to a soil conservation district convention must be properly itemized and certified, otherwise the Comptroller would be prohibited from preparing a warrant. Art. 4359, R. C. S.

Members of the Texas Soil Conservation Board do not come within the coverage of State and Federal Social Security Acts. Art. 165a, R. C. S. (Texas Unemployment Compensation Act), Sec. 410 (6), Sec. 1011 (7), Title 42, V. A. C. S. See also 0-575.

0-909 (Conference Opinion 3071) To: E. A. Watson, County Attorney, Crosby County Date: July 14, 1939

A commissioners' court does not have authority to enter into an agreement either in or out of the court to accept refunding bonds bearing a lower rate of interest in lieu of bonds held in the permanent school fund of the county; nor does it have authority to so accept, either in or out of court, a discount of past-due interest accrued on bonds held in the permanent school fund of the county. Sec. 7, Art. VI, Constitution of Texas; Art. 2824; Sec. 35, Art. III, Constitution; and *Bloud*, et al., v. *Orr*, 29 S. W. 558.

0-912 (Conference Opinion 3072) To: Tom L. Beauchamp, Secretary of State Date: July 13, 1939 Article 1415a, R. C. S., which requires business or commercial colleges organized after its passage in 1929 to give a bond, and exempting from its provisions all commercial colleges then in existence, is unconstitutional in that it is discriminatory and denies equal privileges and immunities. Sec. 19 of Art. I, Constitution of Texas; *Ex parte Baker*, 78 S. W. (2d) 610; *Ex parte Dreibelbis*, 109 S. W. (2d) 476.

## 0-913 To: Geo. H. Sheppard, Comptroller of Public Accounts Date: July 17, 1939

Rural Electric Associations organized under the "Electric Cooperative Corporation Act" (Art. 1528b, R. C. S.) are liable for ad valorem taxes on their property. See also Opinion 0-587.

By virtue of Sec. 30 of the "Electric Cooperative Corporation Act" (Art. 1528b, R. C. S.) concerns organized under such act are not liable for the gross receipts tax levied under Art. 7060, R. C. S.

0-915 (Conference Opinion 3070) To: Leo Presnall, County Attorney, Upshur County Date: July 3, 1939

An order of the commissioners' court placing the precinct officers of one precinct in a county upon a salary basis and leaving the remaining precinct officers upon a fee basis is void (Art. 3912e, R. C. S.; Conference Opinion 3045); and the precinct officers of the one precinct erroneously compensated on a salary basis under the void order of the commissioners' court should now be compensated on a fee basis. Art. 3912e, R. C. S.

# 0-919 To: Tom A. Craven, County Auditor, McLennan County Date: July 13, 1939

A constable is entitled to no mileage fees in traveling to make an arrest without warrant before conviction for a misdemeanor. Wharton Co. v. Ablday, 19 S. W. 291. In executing criminal processes he is entitled to  $71/_2$  cents per mile for each mile actually travelled. After conviction the constable is entitled to ten cents per mile when traveling by private conveyance and  $71/_2$  cents per mile by rail for each mile actually travelled in going for and returning such prisoner to the county jail. Arts. 1065, 1067, 233, C. C. P.; McCalla v. City of Rockdale, 46 S. W. 654. See this opinion for the different specific fact situations.

0-925 To: R. S. Wyche, County Auditor, Gregg County Date: July 10, 1939 H. B. 817, Acts, 46th Leg., R. S., amending Art. 6869, R. C. S., and to be known as Art. 6869b, R. C. S. (increasing the number of deputy sheriffs that may be appointed in counties of less than 20,000) is to be construed with Art. 3902, R. C. S., as amended, with the later article controlling. H. B. 817 does not pertain to nor in anywise affect the salary or compensation of deputies as provided to be fixed under Article 3902, as amended. The term "deputies" as used in the bill signifies and is inclusive of such deputies assigned to the court as "court bailiffs" and such deputies, if any, discharging the duties of "jailers."

H. B. 817, 46th Leg., authorizes any one of the fourteen deputies named, including jailers, duly appointed by the sheriff as regular deputies, authorized under Art. 3902, as amended, and qualifying as such, to perform the duties of sheriff. The compensation to be paid a matron in counties of less than 40,000 is not affected by H. B. 817 but is controlled by the provisions of Art. 1041, C. C. P., as amended.

H. B. 817, 46th Leg., which contained an emergency clause provicing that it should become effective "immediately upon being signed by the Governor," became a law ten days after being filed in his office, even though the Governor did not sign the bill. Sec. 14 of Art. IV, Constitution of Texas. To give effect to the intention of the legislature the word "immediately" should be construed as synonymous with "upon its passage" or "from and after its passage" or words of like import.

#### 0-926 To: A. E. Hickerson, County Auditor, Montgomery County Date: July 14, 1939

The Montgomery County Hospital Board of Managers does not have authority to sell policies of insurance for hospital service under a membership plan as a means of financing the county hospital affairs. Arts. 4478-4494, inclusive, R. C. S., as amended.

#### 0-928 To: Ross Doughty, Jr., County Attorney, Uvalde County Date: July 6, 1939

When an owner renders three lots for taxation *in solido* for several years, one of his heirs may not pay and demand receipt for pro rata taxes on her one-sixth inheritance without paying taxes, penalties, interest, etc., delinquent on the entire tract for such period. Sec. 15 of Art. VIII, Constitution of Texas; Article 7528, R. C. S.; *State Mortgage Corporation* V. *Ludwig*, *et al.* 48 S. W. (2d) 950.

0-930 To: Geo. H. Sheppard, Comptroller of Public Accounts Date: July 11, 1939 H. B. 456, 46th Leg., Art. 7354d, R. C. S., permitting the commissioners' court, acting as a board of equalization, to reduce assessed values of properties on the tax rolls in certain cases, is unconstitutional and void as a whole. *Rowan Drilling Co. v.* Sheppard, 87 S. W. (2d) 706; Sec. 20, Art. IX, Constitution; State v. Mallet Land and Cattle Co., 88 S. W. (2d) 471; Sec. 2, Sec. 16, Art. I, Sec. 52, 55, Art. III, Secs. 10, 13, 15, 18, Art. VIII, Sec. 20, Art. IX, Constitution of Texas.

#### 0-946 (Conference Opinion 3067) To: J. E. McDonald, Commissioner of Agriculture Date: July 8, 1939

Under the provisions of Art. 5764a, V. A. C. S. (Texas Citrus Marketing Act, H. B. 654, Acts 1937, 45th Leg.) the State of Texas is without power or authority to control the movement of citrus fruit shipped interstate, or to control and regulate citrus fruit going into interstate commerce. Art. I, Sec. 8, Clause 3, Constitution of the U. S.; *McDonald et al.* v. *American Fruit Growers, Inc., et al.*, 126 S. W. (2d) 83.

#### 0-947 To: J. B. Engledow, Assistant County Attorney, Limestone County Date: July 5, 1939

The opinion holds in accordance with 0-275 with reference to the transfer of territory from independent school districts to common school districts by the county board of school trustees. Art. 2742 (f), R. C. S., as amended.

#### 0-950 To: Richard S. Morris, County Attorney, Armstrong County Date: July 13, 1939

Under Article 7345b, R. C. S., as amended, a taxing unit may sell at private sale land purchased at a tax sale after the period of redemption has expired and within six months thereafter. If not sold within that period, it is to be sold by the sheriff of the county where the land is situated when he is requested in writing to do so by the taxing unit obtaining the judgment; but the statute does not forbid the purchasing taxing unit to sell the same at private sale after six months has elapsed from the date of the redemption period.

A taxing unit purchaser of land at a tax sale may, before the period of redemption has expired sell, convey or assign at private sale its right to receive the redemption money from the owner, together with the title which will vest upon failure to redeem within the statutory period. *Tuner* v. *Smith*, 119 S. W. 922. Art. 7345b, R. C. S. The right may be conveyed by quitclaim deed with an assignment clause assigning the right to collect the redemption money.

#### 0-960 To: Harold McCracken, Assistant Civil District Attorney, Dallas Date: July 12, 1939

Article 5951, R. C. S., does not authorize a county clerk, before he receives a commission from the Secretary of State for a party appointed a notary public, to "notify said party to appear before him within ten days, pay for his commission, and qualify according to law." The party is entitled to receive such notice after his commission has been received by the clerk and he may qualify at any time within ten days from the receipt of such notice. The exceptions contained in the article are then available to him. See also Conference Opinion 1777.

0-962 To: Bill S. Watkins, County Attorney, Llano County Date: July 14, 1939

A commissioners' court may pay from the proceeds of road bonds a fee charged by an engineer to survey the right-of-way and such expenditure may be found by the commissioners' court as necessary for the "acquisition of the right-of-way" within the proposition submitted to the electorate.

#### 0-971 To: O. J. S. Ellingson, General Manager, Texas Prison System, Huntsville Date: July 7, 1939

The proper venue for the filing of a complaint charging one with receiving property stolen from the state is determined by the provisions of Art. 200, C. C. P. Travis County would not otherwise have jurisdiction.

0-972 To: Wayne Lefevre, County Auditor, Clay County Date: July 25, 1939

A county fee officer, duly qualified and under bond, has full authority as to the disbursement of his own compensation out of fees of his office, provided he does not retain as his annual compensation in excess of the maximum and excess fees allowed to be retained by law. Articles 3883, 3891, R. C. S. Such county fee officer is allowed to deduct the expenses of his office for items enumerated in Art. 3899 (a), R. C. S., subject to being approved and audited by the county auditor or commissioners' court.

#### 0-974 To: G. A. Walters, County Attorney, San Saba County Date: July 14, 1939

When one of several taxing units in a delinquent tax suit bids the property in, the purchasing taxing unit need not pay any mon $\in$ y, but it will hold the property in trust for the use and benefit of itself and other taxing units parties to the suit; when the property is sold, the proceeds after payment of costs and expenses are to be divided pro rata in proportion to the tax liens of the units. Art. 7345b, R. C. S. An order of sale or execution on a judgment foreclosing a lien for delinquent taxes may issue within ten years from the rendition of the judgment. Arts. 7326, 7345b, and 3773, R. C. S.

#### 0-975 To: Bascom Giles, Commissioner, General Land Office Date: July 18, 1939

The Commissioner of the General Land Office is authorized to file and accept an oil and gas lease executed under the Relinquishment Act (Arts. 5367 and 5368, R. C. S.) by a surface owner who owns only an undivided interest. *Humble Oil and Refining Company* V. *Lloyd*, 108 S. W. (2d) 213.

A proportionate reduction clause in an oil and gas lease executed under the provisions of the Relinquishment Act does not operate to reduce the bonus, rentals and royalty payable to the State of Texas. *Greene* v. *Robinson*, 8 S. W. (2d) 655; *Colquitt* v. *Gulf Production Co.*, 52 S. W. (2d) 235; *Lemar* v. *Garner*, 50 S. W. (2d) 769.

#### 0-977 To: Tom L. Beauchamp, Secretary of State Date: July 14, 1939

The C. T. Corporation System or a proposed corporation with the same purpose clause (based on Sec. 49 of Art. 1302, R. C. S.) is not authorized under such a purpose clause to render the legal services outlined to this office, such as the preparation of corporate charters and papers in behalf of others and the submission of the same to the office of the Secretary of State. Such practice is an unlawful practice of law. Art. 430a, P. C. See also Opinion 0-647.

0-986 To: Cecil H. Tate, County Attorney, Bailey County Date: July 14, 1939

Federal Migratory Game Preserves owned exclusively by the United States Government are not subject to state and county ad valorem taxes. 40 Tex. Jur. 24; 26 R. C. L. 96, 97; Art. 7150, R. C. S.

#### 0-990 To: D. Richard Voges, County Attorney, Wilson County Date: July 8, 1939

H. B. 205, 46th Leg., amending Art. 1055, C. C. P. (relating to half fees to officers in certain cases) while constitutional and valid does not operate as a retroactive law, and officers are not entitled to be paid fees by the county from the time of our Opinion 0-23 (holding old Art. 1055, C. C. P., as amended, unconstitutional) to the effective date of H. B. 205. The substitution of the words "discharges the same by means of working such fine out on the county roads or on any county project" in H. B. 205, would not call for a materially different interpretation from that placed on the words "satisfied the fine and costs adjudged against him in full by labor in the workhouse, on the county farm, on the public roads or upon any public works of the county" as same appeared in Art. 1055, C. C. P., prior to amendment. Especially is this true when considered in connection with Art. 793, C. C. P., and Opinion 0-677.

#### 0-992 To: W. W. Boyd, Director of Coastal Division, Game, Fish and Oyster Commission, Corpus Christi Date: July 14, 1939

The State of Texas has the authority to regulate and control the taking of fish, shrimp and all other marine life from the coastal waters within its territorial limits. *Poon* v. *Miller*, 234 S. W. 673; *Manchester* v. *Massachusetts*, 139 U. S. 240, 258.

#### 0-996 To: Geo. G. Roane, County Attorney, Fort Bend County Date: July 26, 1939

The commissioners' courts in counties operating under the General Road Law of the State of Texas (Title 44, Vol. 7, V. A. C. S.) are not empowered or authorized to buy automobiles, pickups or trucks for the county to be used by the commissioners in the performance of their official duties. See also 0-752.

#### 0-1003 To: Tom A. Green, County Auditor, McLennan County Date: July 31, 1939

A constable is inhibited by Article XVI, Sec. 40 of the Texas Constitution from receiving under the provisions of Art. 999, R. C. S., any compensation for performing the duties of city marshal, and this section of the constitution also prohibits the constable from acting as a member of a city fire department of a city within his precinct and receiving pay for such services.

A county juvenile officer appointed under the provisions of Article 5142, R. C. S., 1925, as amended, is not authorized to receive an allowance from a city within such county for expense in the use of his car in the performance of the duties connected with the juvenile department of such city, assuming such duties of the county juvenile officer to cover and include the same as such city would be authorized to have performed and vested in any city police officer. 34 Tex. Jur. 531, 534; Stringer V. Franklin Co., 123 S. W. 1168.

0-1011 To: H. L. Washburn, County Auditor, Harris County Date: July 13, 1939 Although the purpose clause of the Tri-city Fresh Water Supply District No. 2 of Harris County includes the construction of sanitary sewer lines and disposal plants and seems a bit broad under Article 7881, et seq., R. C. S., nevertheless this district was held to have been validly created in Cause No. 10,904, *Cyril Ptacek, appellant, v. Roy Hofheinz, et al., appellees, by the Gal*veston Court of Civil Appeals, May 11, 1939.

#### 0-1012 To: Geo. H. Sheppard, Comptroller of Public Accounts Date: July 6, 1939

A county ordered a quantity of motor fuel from B. Company and the same was shipped by rail on May 27th freight prepaid, terms net 30 days, price f. o. b. point of origin on open bill of lading. The motor fuel reached A. Company at the point of destination on May 30th. *Held*, May 27th is the date of sale or purchase within the meaning of Art. 7065a-13, R. C. S. (refunds of motor fuel taxes) title having passed to vendee on delivery to the carrier.

#### 0-1014 To: Ned G. Wallace, Assistant District Attorney, Conroe Date: July 10, 1939

The board of trustees of an independent school district cannot award a contract for the purchase of material to be bought from a member of the board.

#### 0-1016 To: Geo. H. Sheppard, Comptroller of Public Accounts Date: July 6, 1939

A sheriff commissioned by the Governor under the authority of Article 1005, C. C. P., for the purpose of travelling to Montana and returning with a prisoner must look for his compensation to Article 1006, C. C. P., even though he also holds a *capias* for the arrest of the fugitive. *Brightman* v. *State*, 122 Tex. 318, 59 S. W. (2d) 112.

#### 0-1017 To: Hubert G. Wright, Assistant County Attorney, Willacy County Date: July 8, 1939

The County Judge of Willacy County, being on a fee basis, is not entitled to additional compensation for presiding over the commissioners' court. Arts, 3883, 3895, 3891, and 3926, R. C. S.

0-1018 To: Andrew J. Hickey, County Auditor, Victoria County Date: July 29, 1939

It is the duty of a drainage district to replace or repair bridges over drainage district ditches; however, if the drainage district fails or refuses in this respect, the county should replace or repair bridges over drainage ditches on its public roads, and it may recover over against the drainage district for the cost of these improvements. Art. 8161, R. C. S.; 15 Tex. Jur. 532-5; 7 Tex. Jur. 354-6.

#### 0-1021 To: Van Haile McFarland, County Attorney, Maverick County Date: July 5, 1939

The functions of a city which has dissolved and ceased to have a corporate existence may not be continued by the county; nor may the county become the owner of the public utilities of the city in such an event. The powers of a county are confined to "county business." Sec. 18, Art. V, Texas Constitution; Sun Vapor Electric Light Co. v. Kenon, 30 S. W. 868; Edwards Co. v. Jennings, 83 S. W. 585.

0-1022 To: E. A. Watson, County Attorney, Crosby County Date: July 28, 1939

The commissioners' court may legally employ a county home demonstration agent (under the provision of Article 164, R. C. S., as amended) and pay her a salary for the remaining five months of 1939, even though no provision was made for the employment of such agent, nor were any funds set aside for the purpose in the county budget for the year 1939, if the commissioners' court makes a fact determination that this is a case of "grave public necessity to meet unusual and unforeseen conditions which could not, by reasonably diligent thought and attention, have been included in the original budget." Art. 689a-11, R. C. S.

0-1023 To: E. P. Jennings, County Auditor, Hardin County Date: July 10, 1939

A person visiting and employed in this state having a visitor's automobile license is required to register his automobile in this state if his sojourn here extends more than one hundred and twenty days after the date of issuance. Art. 827b, P. C.

In using the term "resides" in Article 6675a-2, R. C. S., the intention of the legislature was legal residence with respect to the application for registration of motor vehicles.

#### 0-1024 To: Tom L. Beauchamp, Secretary of State Date: July 6, 1939

The purpose expressed in the application for charter of the "National League for Perpetual Democracy" is political and only incidentally educational. Consequently, it does not fall within subdivision 2 of Art. 1302, R. C. S.

#### 0-1026 To: Leo Presnall, County Attorney, Upshur County Date: July 7, 1939

A privately owned school bus used for hire in the transportation of school pupils should be registered under either Sec. (j) or Sec. (2) of Art. 6675a-1, R. C. S. If it is operated between two or through two or more incorporated cities, towns or villages, then it must necessarily be classified as a motor bus (Sec. 2). Under other circumstances it may properly be classified as a passenger car (Sec. j).

#### 0-1027 To: Charley Lockhart, State Treasurer Date: July 10, 1939

The State Treasurer has no authority to make refunds on damaged or destroyed cigaret tax stamps which have been used by attaching them to cigarets held by a person in Texas for the purpose of making a first sale of the same. Art. 7047c-1, R. C. S.

#### 0-1028 To: Tom L. Beauchamp, Secretary of State Date: July 22, 1939

The proposed charter of the Taxpayers Association of Nacogdoches County is not for an educational undertaking within the purview of subdivision 2, Article 1302, R. C. S.

#### 0-1029 To: Warren McDonald, County Attorney, Smith County Date: July 14, 1939

Opinion 0-342 (dealing with the rights of aliens to engage in the liquor business in Texas under the Texas Liquor Control Act) does not conflict with Opinion 0-866 (the right of aliens to practice medicine in Texas) and Opinion 0-711 (the right of aliens to engage in the practice of cosmetology). Opinion 0-342, upholding the validity of the Texas Liquor Control Act, with respect to its denial of the right of aliens to engage in the liquor business in Texas is constitutional and should be followed. *Barteneyer* v. *Iowa*, 21 L. Ed. 929.

#### 0-1030 To: Mrs. Eloween Mesch, R. N., Secretary, Board of Nurse Examiners Date: July 17, 1939

Under Articles 4513-4528, inclusive, R. C. S., the Board of Nurse Examiners has no supervisory control over schools for practical nurses and the state has no authority to restrain the operation of such schools.

0-1032 To: Tom L. Beauchamp, Secretary of State Date: July 22, 1939

The proposed charter of the Motor Club of East Texas is not for an educational purpose within the purview of subdivision 2 of Article 1302, R. C. S. See also Opinion 0-1028.

#### 0-1033 To: State Board of Control Date: July 5, 1939

The Texas Prison System is without authority, express or implied, to execute a bond as required by statute to secure the faithful performance of printing contracts, and consequently the Board of Control is without authority under existing laws to award a contract for various types of printing or binding to the System. The requirement of Sec. 21 of Article XVI of the Texas Constitution that bids be let to "the lowest responsible bidder," means one able to respond in damages to the state. Articles 608, 613, R. C. S.

#### 0-1034 To: David E. Mulcahy, County Attorney, El Paso County Date: July 14, 1939

The Commissioners' Court of El Paso County does not have the authority to purchase law books from county funds for the use of the library of the Court of Civil Appeals, Eighth Supreme Judicial District, El Paso, Texas.

#### 0-1035 To: T. M. Trimble, First Assistant State Superintendent, Department of Education Date: July 6, 1939

If the director of equalization of the Department of Education received tuition reports and applications for aid and supporting data within a time sufficient to discharge his duty in making apportionment of state-aid money, such director is empowered and authorized to approve such application and appropriate state-aid money, even though the application is received after June 15. The time set out in H. B. 133, Acts, 2nd C. S., 45th Leg., Sec. 23, is directory and not mandatory.

#### 0-1036 To: Tom C. King, State Auditor and Efficiency Expert Date: July 14, 1939

The running of the statute of limitations will bar recovery by a county of understated fees of office of a tax collector, and the limitation begins to run as of the date incorrect fee reports were made to the county. Articles 5526, 5527, 5529, 3896 and 3897, R. C. S.; *McKenzie et al.* v. *Hill County*, 263 S. W. 1073; 28 Tex. Jur. 99.

0-1040 To: Wayne Lefevre, County Auditor, Clay County Date: July 7, 1939

The statutes impose no duty upon the county attorney to represent the county in condemnation proceedings and the commissioners' court may contract with the county attorney to represent the county in such proceedings and compensate him as per contract. Jones v. Beltman, 171 S. W. 287; Lattimore v. Tarrant County, 124 S. W. 205; Sec. 21 of Article V, Texas Constitution.

#### 0-1041 To: Woodrow Curtis, County Attorney, Frio County Date: July 6, 1939

The term "resident" as used in Article 667-5, P. C., requiring that one be a "resident" of the county for more than a year as a prerequisite to obtaining a retail beer dealer's license is synonymous with the term "domicile" and one who has only a business homestead in a county cannot qualify as a resident.

#### 0-1042 To: Bert Ford, Administrator, Texas Liquor Control Board Date: July 28, 1939

The state beer tax as to the holder of a manufacturer's license is not due the state as long as the beer remains in storage where the same is brewed. Sec. (d), Art. 667-23, V. A. P. C.

#### 0-1043 To: Julian Montgomery, State Highway Engineer Date: July 18, 1939

A non-resident owner and operator of a passenger motor vehicle properly registered in another state or county and who is employed in Texas may operate such vehicle in this state for 25 days without payment of a fee; if he is to be here longer he should obtain a non-resident registration within the 25-day period and then the vehicle may be operated for one hundred twenty days from the date of issuance of such receipt without payment of the customary registration fee. Art. 827b, P. C.

#### 0-1044 To: Geo. H. Sheppard, Comptroller of Public Accounts Date: July 6, 1939

Taxes (Art. 7047f, R. C. S.) wrongfully collected by the Comptroller under an opinion of the Attorney General and placed in the General Revenue Fund may not be refunded to the taxpayer. *Manion* v. *Lockhart, State Treasurer,* 114 S. W. (2d) 216; Sec. 6. Art. VIII, Constitution of Texas. The remedy of the taxpayer is to follow the procedure set out in Article 7057b, R. C. S.

0-1045 To: Geo. H. Sheppard, Comptroller of Public Accounts Date: July 22, 1939

When a taxpayer tenders an amount in full payment of all his taxes, which amount is less than the amount of taxes which he owes, such tender is not effective and should not be considered in determining the amount of the penalty to be charged against him. 40 Tex. Jur. 843; Stuard et ux. V. Thompson, Tax Collector, 251 S. W. 277; State v. Fulmore, 71 S. W. 418.

#### 0-1046 To: Geo. H. Sheppard, Comptroller of Public Accounts Date: July 20, 1939

The prize tax levied by Article 7047f, R. C. S., is due upon prizes given away by the American Legion while sponsoring a rodeo under the facts submitted to this office.

#### 0-1047 To: T. M. Trimble, First Assistant State Superintendent, Department of Education Date: July 19, 1939

The Extension Department of The University of Texas and the State Department of Education have legal authority to serve as cc-sponsors of the state-wide W. P. A. Adult Education Project.

#### 0-1049 To: Homer Garrison, Jr., Director, Department of Public Safety Date: July 6, 1939

1. The entire 25c fee collected from applicants for certificates of title to motor vehicles under the "certificate of title act," H. B. 407, R. S., 46th Leg., should not be deposited in the State Treasury upon receipt from the county tax collectors by the Department of Public Safety and the 10c due the county tax collector returned to him by warrant because a portion of this amount is a fee of office and not state money. The department should deposit in the State Treasury 15c of the 25c and return 10c to the tax collector in any manner it might deem best.

2. When an application for certificate of title has been *finally* denied, all of the 25c fee becomes state money and should be deposited in the State Treasury. However, 10c of the money collected (to go to county tax collector if certificate of title is granted) should not be deposited in the State Treasury until it has been determined that no appeal will be taken and that the matter has been finally disposed of.

#### 0-1050 To: W. B. Baker, County Attorney, Coleman County Date: July 17, 1939

It is a violation of the law for a person to operate a motor vehicle without an operator's or chauffeur's license and the provisions of Article 6687a, V. A. C. S., are still in full force and effect.

#### 0-1051 To: A. M. Turney, County Attorney, Brewster County Date: July 14, 1939

Three Thousand Dollars is the maximum amount of fees allowed to a sheriff who performs the duties of assessor and collector of taxes in counties having a population of less than 10,000 inhabitants. Sec. 16, Art. VIII, Constitution of Texas; Art. 7246, 7246a, 3883, 3891, R. C. S.; 34 Tex. Jur. 447.

#### 0-1052 To: Charley Lockhart, State Treasurer Date: July 5, 1939

The stamp tax levied by S. B. 24, by the 46th Leg., being an amendment to Article 7047e, R. C. S., applies to renewals of instruments executed and filed prior to the effective date of the original Article 7047e, such date being October 30, 1936.

#### 0-1053 To: R. S. Wyche, County Auditor, Gregg County Date: July 21, 1939

After the county budget has been finally approved by the commissioners' court, the commissioners' court would not be authorized to amend the original budget, unless the expenditures set out in the amendment to the budget were emergency expenditures and were caused and necessitated by a grave public necessity to meet unusual and unforeseen conditions which could not, by reasonably diligent thought and attention, have been included in the original budget. Article 689a, V. A. C. S.

#### 0-1059 To: David Cole, County Auditor, Stephens County Date: July 8, 1939

The District Clerk of Stephens County is entitled to \$8.00 for each felony case on which indictments were duly returned and filed when such cases are finally disposed of in the trial court, regardless of whether the indictments were returned and filed before or after the last preceding presidential election. Articles 1026, 1027, C. C. P.; 34 Tex. Jur. 508.

#### 0-1060 To: Ben J. Dean, District Attorney, Breckenridge Date: July 21, 1939

Litigants in the District Court of Stephens County whether there by virtue of the original jurisdiction of such court prior to the passage of H. B. 599, 46th Leg. (transferring civil and criminal jurisdiction of the county court to district court) or there necessarily by reason of its broadened jurisdiction, must pay the fees provided in Article 3927-3928, R. C. S., rather than those provided in Article 3930, R. C. S.

0-1061 To: G. A. Walters, County Attorney, San Saba County Date: July 19, 1939

County convicts cannot be required to wear a ball and chain. Art. 794, C. C. P.

The county does not have the right to work its convicts on the public streets of an incorporated eity as such work would not be "public works of the county." Articles 793, 794, C. C. P.

# 0-1063 To: Frank Wright, County Auditor, Fannin County Date: July 13, 1939

It is not necessary for the county auditor to approve a voucher on the county available school fund, after it has been signed and approved by the county board of trustees and the county superintendent, in order for it to be valid. Arts. 1652-1653, R. C. S.

#### 0-1064 To: Chas. B. Cook, Secretary, Texas State Board of Embalming, Austin Date: July 18, 1939

S. B. 276, 46th Leg., providing for the establishment of a State Board of Embalming was passed by the legislature as an emergency measure and became effective immediately upon the signing of the bill by the Governor.

The right of appeal of a person who has had his license revoked by the State Board of Embalming is governed by Sec. 4, Ch. 287, Acts, R. S., 44th Leg., Art. 4582a, V. A. C. S.

#### 0-1065 To: Leon Kotosky, Assistant County Attorney, El Paso County Date: July 31, 1939

The county judge and county clerk are entitled to fees for rendering the services provided for under Sec. 2 of H. B. 614, 46th Leg., amending Sec. 18 of Art. 4477, V. A. C. S. (dealing with delayed registrations of births and deaths) and Articles 3925 and 3930, R. C. S. are governing. Each is entitled to 50c for entering the order and certifying the same to the Bureau of Vital Statistics.

0-1067 To: Forrester Hancock, Criminal District Attorney, Waxahachie Date: July 14, 1939

In order for a person to qualify as a candidate for trustee of an independent school district in a city he need only comply with Art. 2927, R. C. S., and must have resided in Texas for a period of twelve months and for six months in the county, precinct or municipality in which he offers himself as a candidate, next preceding the election at which he offers himself for election. Article 2771, R. C. S.

#### 0-1069 Supplement to 0-37 To: E. W. Easterling, County Attorney, Jefferson County Date: July 6, 1939

Expenditures incurred in the creation and establishment of a water control and improvement district and approved by the commissioners' court by a *nunc pro tunc* order, purportedly under the authority of Article 6830, R. C. S., which is a re-enactment of Section 7, Art. XI of the Constitution of Texas, cannot be deducted from the Permanent Improvement Fund of the county (Sec. 9 of Art. VIII, Constitution) and only from the General Fund after it has been established that the expense is for a "county purpose" which it cannot be concluded to be; i. e., a purpose beneficial to the county as a whole.

# 0-1070 To: A. A. Miller, County Attorney, Newton County Date: July 18, 1939

When the commissioners' court becomes satisfied that a bond of any county officer which has been approved by it is for any cause insufficient, it may require a new bond or additional security to be given upon its own motion or likewise upon the application of a surety to be relieved. *State* v. *Wells*, 61 Tex. 56; *Finch* v. *State*, 9 S. W. 85; Articles 5998, 6001, 6002, R. C. S.

# 0-1071 To: C. Burtt Potter, County Attorney, San Patricio County Date: July 8, 1939

The mayor of a town and a city commissioner would not be eligible to hold at the same time the office of independent school district trustee, although neither office pays a salary—the offices being incompatible. Section 40 of Article XVI, Constitution of Texas; *Thomas* v. *Abernathy County Line I. S. D.*, 290 S. W. 152.

# 0-1072 To: Wayne Lefevre, County Auditor, Clay County Date: July 18, 1939

The one-half of one per cent commission (Art. 3926, R. C. S.) from the receipts of properties handled by an administrator is payable to the county judge upon the submission of exhibits and the annual report and such commission is not payable at the time of the sale of the property. Arts. 3320 and 3321, R. C. S.; *Grice* v. Cooley, et al., 179 S. W. 1098.

0-1073 To: Don D. Parker, County Auditor, Eastland County Date: July 12, 1939

If parents wish to transfer their children from one school district to another school district in the same county and make the proper written application to the county school superintendent, it is mandatory that the county superintendent make such transfer subject to being set aside on appeal to the county board of school trustees of the county as provided in Article 2696, R. C. S., as amended.

#### 0-1076 To: Geo. H. Sheppard, Comptroller of Public Accounts Date: July 19, 1939

Under the delinquent tax contract and extension agreement submitted to this office and entered into between Mills County and E. B. Gilliam, Jr., the latter party acquired no rights after July 30, 1939, to complete suits filed prior to that date.

#### 0-1077 To: Julian Montgomery, State Highway Engineer Date: July 8, 1939

The State Highway Commission cannot permit a bidder to withdraw his bid after the same has been received, opened and read, and the Highway Commission cannot return the bidder's deposit. Article 6674-h, R. C. S.

#### 0-1080 To: Chas. H. Theobald, County Attorney, Galveston County Date: July 8, 1939

This opinion holds in accordance with Opinion 0-980 that the phrase "other governmental subdivisions" as used in S. B. 402, 46th Leg., providing for discounts in ad valorem taxes if paid within a certain time, was used by the legislature in its broadest significance so as to include common school districts.

#### 0-1081 To: T. O. Walton, President, Texas A. & M. College, College Station Date: July 13, 1939

Students of A. & M. College, driving motor vehicles owned by the Federal Government for the Texas Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit and drawing pay from state or private funds, are "chauffeurs" within the purview of Article 6687a, V. A. C. S., and must obtain chauffeurs' licenses, being neither exempt under the act nor under principles of constitutional law. Opinions 0-470 and 0-457; Johnson V. Maryland, 41 Sup. Ct. 16.

#### 0-1083 To: M. R. Bullock, County Attorney, Pecos County Date: July 14, 1939

A commissioners' court has no legal authority to expend county funds for the erection and maintenance of a community recreational building. Sec. 9 of Article VIII, Constitution of Texas.

# 0-1087 To: R. C. Musslewhite, District Attorney, Lufkin Date: July 8, 1939

A mere election of a teacher at a school board meeting, and entry of the election in the minutes, is not enough, standing alone, to constitute a contract since the essential elements of a contract are not present. Article 2809, R. C. S.; 10 Tex. Jur. 12, et seq.; 56 C. J. 388.

## 0-1088 To: Industrial Accident Board Date: July 13, 1939

Under Article 8307, R. C. S., the Industrial Accident Board or the trial court on appeal has the power to request an injured employee to submit to a medical examination. He cannot be required to submit to the examination (Austin & S. W. Ry. v. Cluck, 97 Tex. 172, 77 S. W. 402), but if he refuses to do so, the board has the right to deprive the employee of any and all compensation during the continuance of such refusal. The nature of the examination is left entirely to the professional discretion of the physician. The injured employee does not have the right to take with him into the examination anyone but his own physician.

## 0-1090 To: C. Woodrow Laughlin, County Attorney, Jim Wells County Date: July 31, 1939

Where a tax collector compensated on an annual fee basis deposits in the depository bank of his county such fees as by law he would be authorized to retain, such depository bank has the right to require such fiduciary to furnish proof of the amount legally due the tax collector as a condition precedent to the withdrawal of same. Arts. 2549, 7250, 7260, 7261, V. A. C. S.; *Kiser* v. *Austin, Banking Commissioner, et al.*, 277 S. W. 411, affirmed, Com. Ap. 286 S. W. 1082.

# 0-1091 To: Sam T. Holt, County Attorney, Panola County Date: July 31, 1939

Distribution of moneys in the county road and bridge fund is governed by Articles 6675a-10 and 6740, V. A. C. S., and the rule laid down in *Stovall* v. *Shivers*, 75 S. W. (2d) 276, affirmed, Com. Ap., 103 S. W. (2d) 363. As to that portion raised from automobile registrations, the commissioners' court should regard the roads and highways of the county as a system to be built, improved and maintained as a whole to the best interests and welfare of the county (Art. 6675a-10); with respect to county raised moneys, they must be "judiciously and equitably" expended (Art. 6740). The commissioners' court is not compelled to follow any mathematical formula in dividing the fund. (Art. 6740).

# 0-1092 To: W. Lee O'Daniel, Governor of Texas Date: July 6, 1939

Under Sec. 12, Art. IV, and Sec. 28, Art. V, Constitution of Texas an appointment by the Governor to fill a vacancy in the State Judiciary Department is subject to confirmation by the Senate.

Under the second clause of Sec. 18, Art. III, Constitution of Texas, a member of the legislature during the term for which he is elected, is ineligible for appointment to a vacancy existing in the State Judiciary. Brown V. State, 43 Tex. 478; Harrington V. Pardee, 82 Pac. 83; Marbury V. Madison, 1 Cranch. 137, 2 L. ed. 60.

## 0-1093 To: Charley Lockhart, State Treasurer Date: July 10, 1939

The State Treasurer does not have the authority to permit the deposit of securities by a bank with another bank under a trust receipt running to the State Treasurer instead of requiring the securities themselves to be deposited with him. Articles 4982-4986 R. C. S.

# 0-1095 To: Charles T. Bannister, Criminal District Attorney, Corsicana Date: July 14, 1939

It would not be a violation of the Nepotism Law, Art. 432, P. C., for the trustees of a common school district to employ the wife of a man who is the brother of the wife of one of the trustees. Seabrook v. First National Bank of Port Lavaca, 171 S. W. 247.

C-1099 To: Geo. H. Sheppard, Comptroller of Public Accounts Date: July 26, 1939

Money paid into the Highway Light Test Fund by manufacturers of headlighting equipment for each headlight device submitted to the Highway Department (or Department of Public Safety) for testing under the provisions of Article 6701, R. C. S., is not now appropriated for the use of the University of Texas in testing the headlight equipment. Sec. 6, Art. VIII, Constitution of Texas; Atkins V. State Highway Department, 201 S. W. 226.

# 0-1100 To: D. W. Stockes, Cashier, Texas Prison System, Huntsville Date: July 26, 1939

The Comptroller of Public Accounts is unauthorized to approve for payment a claim for premium on an insurance policy out of an appropriation made to the Texas Prison System to pay "liability insurance premiums" when the policy is for both casualty and liability insurance. See also Opinions 0-201 and 0-842.

#### 0-1101 To: Geo. H. Sheppard, Comptroller of Public Accounts Date: July 31, 1939

The State Board of Dental Examiners cannot legally employ one of its members as secretary to aid the Board in performing the duties prescribed by Art. 4550a, V. A. C. S., and pay him a salary out of the general registration fund, nor may the Comptroller approve for payment a voucher for salary or expenses for either such position so long as the same person continues to hold both positions. Articles 4543, 4550a, 4551, V. A. C. S.; Sec. 33, Article XVI, Constitution of Texas.

#### 0-1104 To: Wm. Hurwitz, Assistant Criminal District Attorney, Longview Date: July 19, 1939

Instruments representing obligations and creating liens by voluntary contract are of a nature similar to the liens specifically described in Article 7057e, V. A. C. S., and must be stamped before being admitted to record.

#### 0-1105 To: Geo. H. Sheppard, Comptroller of Public Accounts Date: July 22, 1939

If by the 1940 U. S. census a county is shown to have less than 10,000 inhabitants (although it may once have had more) under the Constitution (Sec. 16, Art. VIII) the sheriff is entitled to hold the office of assessor and collector of taxes in addition to that of sheriff.

#### 0-1117 To: Geo. W. Cox, State Health Officer Date: July 31, 1939

Under the provisions of S. B. 200, 46th Leg., registration numbers must appear on revenue stamps for bedding labels issued by the State Department of Health prior to the time of the issuance thereof; however, these numbers need not be printed on the stamps but may be placed thereon by means of handwriting or by means of a numbering machine.

#### 0-1118 To: Geo. H. Sheppard, Comptroller of Public Accounts Date: July 31, 1939

S. B. 89, Acts, 1939, 46th Leg., does not donate all political subdivision tax losses, such as schools, roads, cities and towns, in addition to donating county ad valorem tax losses in each county (as a result of the purchase or lease of land in the county by the Federal Government).

## 0-1121 To: H. A. Hodges, County Auditor, Williamson County Date: July 18, 1939

A person cannot legally qualify as a deputy constable for a justice precinct in which he does not reside. Arts. 2927, 2928, 6879a, R. C. S.; *Murray et al.* v. *State*, 67 S. W. (2d) 274; *Brown* v. *Meeks*, 96 S. W. (2d) 839.

# 0-1124 To: Fred Norris, County Auditor, Polk County Date: July 29, 1939

In counties having a population of less than 150,000 inhabitants, the court may appoint one or more bailiffs to attend upon the grand jury, and the compensation of each such bailiff is \$4.00 per day. The statutes have made no provision for the allowance of any other compensation to such bailiffs, such as automobile expense and upkeep. Articles 367 and 367b, C. C. P.

# 0-1126 To: Geo. H. Sheppard, Comptroller of Public Accounts Date: July 22, 1939

The Texas State Park Board may not delegate to its secretary (not a member of the Board) the right to approve claims against the appropriations for such board. Articles 6067, 6067a, 4344, 4345, R. C. S.

# 0-1129 To: T. M. Trimble, First Assistant State Superintendent, Department of Education Date: July 24, 1939

The action of the county superintendent in performing his ministerial duty in entering a transfer of a scholastic may be reviewed by the county board of trustees upon proper application to such board by an interested school district. Art. 2696, R. C. S.

# 0-1130 To: L. A. Woods, State Superintendent of Public Instruction Date: July 31, 1939

When H. B. 933 (Rural Aid and Equalization Fund Bill) and the general departmental appropriation bill are construed together, it is apparent that the action of the Governor in deleting certain positions from the appropriation for the Education Department, notwithstanding these items are also enumerated in H. B. 933, was an effective veto of the appropriations for these positions. Under the provisions of H. B. 933, 46th Leg., and the general departmental appropriation bill for the Department of Education the State Superintendent of Education may not with the approval of the Joint Legislative Advisory Committee maintain the several salary schedules which the Governor deleted from the general departmntal appropriation bill, although by such action the State Superintendent may remain within the limit allocated to the School Equalization Aid Division.

## 0-1131 To: Geo. W. Cox, State Health Officer Date: July 20, 1939

The \$10,000 appropriation made to the State Board of Health by Sec. 8a of S. B. 200, 46th Leg., is an emergency appropriation by the legislature for the balance of the fiscal year ending August 31, 1939. Any or all of this appropriation as is necessary to carry out the purposes of S. B. 200 may be expended prior to August 31, 1939.

The sums of money appropriated to the State Board of Health by S. B. 200 in Sec. 8b thereof are independent appropriations for the fiscal years ending August 31, 1940 and 1941. While it was the intention of the legislature that the department be selfsupporting from fees and other collections (Sec. 8c), the amounts set up in Sec. 8b are the maximums that may be spent for the fiscal years ending 1940 and 1941 from such collections. For the fiscal year ending 1940 the Board may spend not more than \$34,400 if that amount of money be collected and be necessary for the administration of the act.

The intention of the legislature in S. B. 200 was that as to the \$10,000 appropriated to the State Board of Health for the fiscal year ending August 31, 1939, vouchers drawn thereon must be approved by both the State Health Officer and the State Treasurer. As to the amount appropriated for the fiscal years ending 1940 and 1941 it is not necessary that the State Treasurer approve such accounts.

## 0-1137 To: R. T. Burns, County Attorney, Walker County Date: July 22, 1939

The provisions of Article 1646a, R. C. S., allow an audit of county offices and finances in a county under 24,000 population upon an order of the district judge or grand jury regardless of whether or not such audit is desired by the commissioners' court.

0-1140 To: Tom L. Beauchamp, Secretary of State Date: July 28, 1939

The provisions of Ch. 19a, Title 32, R. C. S., 1925, relating to non-par corporations (Articles 1538a to 1538m inclusive) apply only to domestic corporations and the amendment of charters of domestic corporations. The articles contained in Ch. 19, Title  $\pounds$ 2, R. C. S., 1925, (Articles 1529 to 1538 inclusive) set forth the conditions under which a foreign corporation will be permitted to do business in Texas; and Article 1538d, R. C. S., need not be complied with by foreign corporations. Article 1530, R. C. S., would control in all instances in the matter of foreign corporations regardless of its divisions of capital stock into par and non-par shares.

#### 0-1142 To: Harry Boyd, County Attorney, Henderson County Date: July 31, 1939

A person who is trustee of an independent school district and an agent of a fire insurance company may not legally issue a policy covering the school buildings owned by the school district. Art. 432, P. S.; see also Opinion 0-1014.

#### 0-1143 To: T. M. Trimble, First Assistant State Superintendent, Department of Education Date: July 31, 1939

Under the facts submitted to this office the Sarah B. Milroy Hospital, a corporation with a capital stock having a par value and organized for private profit, is not exempt from the payment of taxes to an independent school district. The fact that such institution does some charitable work is not sufficient to bring it within the exemptions of Sec. 7, Article 7150, R. C. S., and Sec. 2, Art. VIII, Constitution of Texas.

#### 0-1144 To: Robert D. Penn, County Attorney, Reeves County Date: July 22, 1939

When the plaintiff dismisses (Art. 2089) in vacation a civil suit instituted by him before any answer is filed and pays all costs accruing thereon, the county judge is not entitled to the Three Dollar trial fee provided in Art. 3929, R. C. S.

### 0-1147 To: W. S. Bussey, Chief, Weights & Measures Division, Department of Agriculture Date: July 28, 1939

Under the particular facts set out the weigher of the Gosho Concentration and Compress Company, Galveston, Texas, is not a "public weigher" within the meaning of Article 5680, R. C. S. Therefore, he is not required to give a bond and meet other requirements of that article. ATTORNEY GENERAL MONTHLY REPORT-JULY

#### 0-1152 To: O. J. S. Ellingson, General Manager, Texas Prison System, Huntsville Date: July 29, 1939

A convict who has actually served as much as one year flat time (as under the facts upon which this opinion is based) is entitled to receive \$50.00 from the State of Texas when discharged. Articles 6166z-1, 6166m-1, V. A. C. S.

#### 0-1155 To: W. A. Morrison, Criminal District Attorney, Cameron Date: July 28, 1939

An attorney employed by the commissioners' court under Articles 7335 and 7335a, R. C. S., to collect delinquent state and county taxes is not entitled to a commission upon delinquent taxes due cities and towns and independent school districts he may have been instrumental in collecting. The commissioners' court would have no authority to make a contract for the collection of such taxes. Art. 7343, R. C. S.

#### 0-1158 To: Tom L. Beauchamp, Secretary of State Date: July 31, 1939

It is not necessary for the Attorney General to approve the dissolution of a farmers' cooperative society. Articles 2514-2524, R. C. S.

### 0-1159 To: B. F. Reynolds, County Attorney, Throckmorton County Date: July 31, 1939

The commissioners' court cannot use money that is derived from the sale of bonds duly issued for the purpose of building county highways for purchasing a site for a state highway warehouse. Articles 701-703, 6674q-4, R. C. S.; 21 Tex. Jur. 686; *Carroll v. Williams*, 202 S. W. 504.

## 0-1162 To: W. P. Sexton, County Attorney, Orange County Date: July 28, 1939

A justice of the peace is not entitled to a 5% commission on money collected for the State of Texas under the provisions of Articles 950-951, C. C. P.; nor is the sheriff entitled to this commission unless he actually collects the same.

## 0-1180 To: Marvin H. Brown, Jr., Criminal District Attorney, Fort Worth Date: July 31, 1939

A constable is not entitled to a fee of \$2.00 for executing a warrant of arrest when the arrest is actually made by city officers without a warrant and the prisoner turned over to the constable before the warrant is issued by the justice court. Articles 1011, 1065, C. C. P.

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