

Lindsey on Way Out?

Austin Bureau of The News

AUSTIN—You won't hear it in the governor's office, but street talk is that Jim Lindsey, the Preston Smith-appointed banking board member, won't get to keep his job much longer.

Lindsey, a Bryan publicist for Texas A&M, has been serving on a term that expired two years ago.

Lindsey reportedly is favored by some leaders in the banking industry but hotly opposed by others. That could produce political trouble in the Senate, where he would need 21 votes to be confirmed.

Gov. Briscoe, who has let Lindsey sit on pins for two years without filling the job, asked Atty. Gen. John Hill if a lawyer who has 18 per cent of a bank's stock and also is the bank's attorney could sit on the board. Appointments specialist George Lowrance says the question is just for clarity. But other Briscoe aides say the definition fits at least one candidate for the bank charter-granting job.

Hill didn't answer the question specifically. He said that anybody owning enough bank stock to insure his election to the board of directors is ineligible for appointment to the state banking board. Hill also called it a fact question on whether a bank's attorney could serve on the state board, saying this would depend on whether his involvement in bank management would prevent him from representing the interest of the general public.

THOSE conservatives newly in control of the House are at it again, this time saving the taxpayers absolutely nothing. On a 3-2 vote, the House Administration committee controlled by Speaker Billy Clayton decided that house members should be able to spend all \$4,000 of their January office staff and operating money—even though the legislature didn't convene until Jan. 14 and hasn't worked what you might call a demanding amount.

This comes from the same folks who brought you the modern miracle of letting House members who served last session and didn't spend all their expense account to spend it now—even though the term for which it was appropriated has expired.

LT. GOV. BILL Hobby served notice he will invoke a never-used Senate rule that may slow up the bill-writing process somewhat but that should permit more knowledgeable consideration of House changes in senate bills. The rule, unless short-circuited as it usually is, says when the House amends a Senate bill, the amended bill should go back to Senate committee.

Ordinarily, the Senate sponsor of the amended bill

moves on the floor to either accept the House changes or send the measure to a conference committee.

HOLD YOUR commissions and earnest money: Sen. Max Sherman of Amarillo is sponsoring a resolution to accept as a gift to the state a \$50,000 monument for the capitol grounds, from and to the Texas realtors. It may be approved.

SYNTAX of the week award to Gov. Dolph Briscoe for his response to a mildly tacky story about his wife recently in major news-weekly: "I don't read Newsweek and I don't think many other Texans do and those who do probably don't pay any attention to it, like I don't, so I have no further comment."

IT'S OF LITTLE concern now, since the project is dead, but a number of legislators were confused about the greater Denton area's charge into the field of medical education. Foremost, before the coordinating board and Gov. Dolph Briscoe killed it outright, was a proposed medical school for Texas Woman's University, which was to have been built on the north side of Fort Worth. Write this to that one.

Denton's North Texas State University may fare better in its attempt to take over the Fort Worth Osteopathic school. At least Briscoe and the coordinating board want that one.

QUOTES from notables: —From A. M. Alkin, Dean of the Senate, on a colleague's absence during a TV interview: "they can't pass his bill for him."

—From A. R. Schwartz, comic from Galveston, on an unfamiliar parliamentary tactic: "Could we call this the salami slice — you just take the slice you want?"

—From Fred Head, Athens, a definition of caving in to Briscoe's demands: "It's an adjustment to bring it within the guidelines that the governor wants to see."

—From Emmett Whitehead, Rusk, a definition of something or other: "It's like splitting on a hot stove."

SEN. BILL PATMAN, D-Ganado, said he will make his usual last-ditch effort to block a bill raising interest rates on small loans. Patman's analysis shows interest rates on a \$2,500 loan would increase from 18.57 per cent to 22.14 per cent (about \$80 higher), while the rate on a \$5,000 loan would go from 14.45 per cent to 20.07 per cent (about \$160 higher). Sen. William T. (Bill) Moore, D-Bryan, is sponsor of the rate measure.

WHEN SEN. PATMAN tried to get Sen. Moore's small loan bill shifted to another committee, it was

against the will of the chairman of human resources, Sen. Chet Brooks of Pasadena. "I told (Patman) I didn't want that . . ." Brooks confessed after he voted to keep the bill where it is.

A CULTURAL-economic gap? During legislative consideration of an emergency pay raise for state employes, a West Texas rancher was overheard at an early-morning eatery to complain about the high cost of government in Austin, snidely referring to the pay raise bill. But when he got his check, he also complained loudly. "Jesus, 25 cents for a cup of coffee."

THE GOVERNOR did it without fanfare. He proclaimed 1975 as international women's year in Texas and sent the proclamation to the chair of the Texas Women's Political Caucus.

"Let us now unite to make 1975 an outstanding year for women in the United States and lend our support to women around the world," the governor's proclamation stated. But Briscoe later said he wasn't sure what should be done about the U.S. Equal Rights amendment, which Texas ratified and which some Texas women want to see rescinded.

GOV. BRISCOE still isn't interested in talking about his role in Frances (Sissy) Farenthold's campaign finance lawsuit against him.

Asked if he would move to open his still-sealed deposition in the case, he said he would talk to his lawyers about it. Asked if he is still trying to give back \$15,000 in cash—an aborted campaign contribution—to South Texas rancher-banker Clinton Manges, the governor referred the question to his Houston attorney.

Joe Reynolds, the governor's lawyer, said it is "incredible," but that he still hasn't even been able to contact Manges, much less get the money back to him. "We're still trying to get in touch with him," Reynolds said.

SEN. JACK OGG says he may trot out his bill to prohibit smoking except in designated areas of public places . . . if he thinks he can get the 25 Senate votes to suspend a constitutional rule against passing laws in the first 60 days of the session. Ogg, a conservative Democrat from Houston, expects most of his opposition to come from fellow conservatives.

THE PRESSURE is on for including a legislative pay raise on the April 5 constitutional amendment ballot. Rep. Ray Hutchison, R-Dallas, chairman of the House committee which handles such matters, said he is resisting.

HUTCHISON was tempted to kill it, but stopped short: Bill Healy of Paducah, on a re-ascension to power, added for the first time to the appropriations bill a provision allowing members of the legislature to spend up to 21 cents a mile of state money to lease air planes. Healy got in trouble during the constitutional convention for leasing planes for rides back home.

THE DALLAS Chamber of commerce begins its weekly luncheons Tuesday for the Dallas county legislative delegation and invited guests, such as the governor, lieutenant governor and house speaker. The meetings are set for the swank Headliners Club atop the new American Bank Building here.

THE "WHO'S in charge here?" department gets Sen. Moore's comment that he doesn't know what's in his public employes' pension bill. "Ask Everett Anschutz (pension fund director). He brought the bill to me," Moore said.

SENSITIVITY rises among lobbyists for teacher groups, who seem to be increasingly isolated from early maneuvering on school finance reform. It didn't help any when out-of-state experts told visitors to a seminar that successful school finance reform in their states was, for the most part,

achieved without the full support of—and in one case, almost despite—teacher groups.

LT. GOV. BILL Hobby's press aide, Bob Cargill, says he can't win: "When Hobby last session let the Senate fight its differences on the floor, he was blamed for lack of leadership. This session, when he called members to his office to discuss disputes, he was accused of hatching back-room deals."

REP. BILL Prenal of Bryan, new chairman of House Appropriations, is having to cut down to part-time from his \$14,160-a-year job with the Texas A&M Research Foundation. He can now put in only a day or so a week at the private, non-profit organization dedicated to finding money for Aggie research projects.

IT WAS JUST part of a joke to rib Secretary of State Mark W. White Jr. When there were numerous shouted objections to considering his confirmation in open session of the Senate. To further alarm White, who had been brought to witness the proceedings, the motion to keep the session open fell one vote short.

After much hemming and hawing, one senator changed his vote before the total was announced, and a somewhat bemused White got to stay in the chamber and see himself confirmed (unanimously) to a second term.

AT LEAST TWO legislative aides are doing part-time duty for the news media. Robert Mansker, who lost to Smith Gilley of Greenville in last spring's primary and then became his assistant, is moonlighting as a back-home journalist. And John Galloway, an aide to Rep. G. J. Sutton of San Antonio, also files copy for the black news media string in which Sutton's family is involved.

THE HARRIS County delegation is squabbling with Houston Mayor Fred Hofheinz, because his honor is pushing for state financial assistance to big cities for mass transit while doing nothing toward creation of a mass transit authority to serve Harris county and metropolitan areas outside the county.

Delegation Chairman Rep. Bill Blythe, R-Houston, wrote Hofheinz a letter asking him to reveal his intentions.

ATTY. GEN. HILL reached all the way back to the Constitution of 1876 and even farther, to the common law, for his authority to intervene in the Southwestern Bell Telephone Co. intrastate rate hike. In spite of claims that Texas is the only state without regulation of intrastate telephone tolls, Hill claimed jurisdiction under the common law obligation to challenge an action detrimental to the economic health of the state and the attorney general section of the constitution, which says he should take action in the courts "to prevent any private corporation from exercising any power or demanding or collecting any species of taxes, tolls, freight or wharfage not authorized by law."

WHEN ONE-THIRD of the House jumped in to propose the same utilities regulation commission, only 5 of the 28 Dallas-Tarrant legislative delegations joined the program. They are Reps. John Bryant, Eddie Bernice Johnson and Jim Mattox from Dallas, Chris Miller and Doyle Willis from Fort Worth.

But the make-up of the entire sponsoring group isn't as big-city liberal-oriented as the Dallas-Fort Worth contingent would indicate. Indeed, it is a combination of big-city liberals, small-town conservatives and rural populists.

THE SENATE formally invited country music great Roy Acuff to pick and sing in its chamber when Acuff is near Austin next week for a performance in Pflugerville. Acuff, a cousin of Sen. Kent Hance of Lubbock, has produced such long-time country hits as "Wabash Cannonball," "The Great Speckled Bird" and "Wreck on The Highway."