YOUNG CONSERVATIVES OF TEXAS



Rates The 70th Texas Legislature

June 1987

A public service by Texas' largest and most active youth political group

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A Message from the Chairman

Since 1975, Young Conservatives of Texas has prepared its scorecard of state legislators as a public service to the citizens of Texas so that they may be better informed as to the activities and performance of their representative lawmakers. These ratings serve to enlighten voters to the nature of their legislator's basic philosophy. They should not be construed as an endorsement of any party or official, but simply for the public information which they contain.

The votes used for these ratings are from the regular session of the 70th Texas Legislature. YCT has selected these votes because of their accordance with our organization's state legislative priorities, issued immediately prior to the session, or because they accurately reflect the doctrines of free enterprise and limited government outlined in YCT's Statement of Principles.

In the ratings, a "+" indicates the legislator voted **FOR** the conservative position as determined by YCT; a "-" indicates the legislator voted **AGAINST** the conservative position.

A "P" indicates the legislator was **present**, **not voting**; "E" represents an **excused absence**; "C" indicates the member was in the Speaker's chair and did not vote. No penalties were assigned for these actions. **Non-excused absences** are signified by an "A", and are counted as half a negative vote.

Two numerical scores follow each member's name. The first score represents the legislator's performance during the regular session of the 70th Texas Legislature. The second score is a composite YCT rating, based on the member's votes in all previous sessions, back to the 64th Legislature. The higher a legislator's rating, the greater the lawmaker's commitment to the conservative principles supported by the citizens of the State of Texas.

Richard A. Munisteri YCT State Chairman

Senate Votas

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Brooks		•			•		+		+			-	•	+		+		24	34
Brown	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	94	93
Caperton		•	•	÷	+		+	-	-	-		-	-	+	+		Е	25	28
Edwards	+	+	-		+	+	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	35	43
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Glasgow	+	-		Ε	Е		-	+		+	+	-	+	+	+	-	-	47	6
Green	100	-					-			+	-	-				+	-	12	41
Hamis	+	+	-	+	+	А	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	8	79	8
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Young Conservatives of Texas Rates the 70th Texas Legislature

Senate Vote Explanations

Motion (Santiesteban) to Table Leedom Amendment to CSSB 601 (Santlesteban). Kills an amendment to increase the minimum wage paid by employers from \$1.40 to \$3.35 per hour (failed 14Y. 16N). YCT-No. The state should proceed with this increase on its own initiative now before it is forced to do so by the federal government.

2. Motion (Lyon) to suspend regular order of business for consideration of CSSB 79. Would allow consideration of legislation which requires stringent standards for filing complaints and taking disciplinary action against a police officer or fireman (failed 19Y, 11N - 2/3 approval required). YCT-No. Such rigorous standards would unduly hamper the managerial authority of police and fire department heads.

Motion (Barrientos) to suspend regular order of business for consideration of 63. Would CSSCR consideration of a resolution establishing the Select Committee on Employee classification and Compensation (passed 21Y, 6N). YCT-No. The commission formed by CSSCR 63 is essentially a front for implementation of comparable worth, a government evaluation comparison of the so-called "value" of jobs which dictates salary level based on that evaluation. This proposal reflects the sexist premise of increasing pay for certain occupations simply because they are held predominantly by females.

4. Motion (Parker) to suspend. regular order of business for consideration of SB 285. Would allow consideration of legislation prohibiting an employer from firing or suspending an employee for reporting an alledged violation of safety

standards or for refusing to enter an area which the employee feels is unsafe, and providing penalties (failed 17Y, 12N - 2/3 approval required). YCT-No. This labor union bill absurdly abridges the rights of the employer by prohibiting the suspension of an employee if that employee refuses to work in an assigned area simply because, in the employee's opinion, the area is unsafe.

Motion (Sims) to suspend regular order of business for consideration of CSSB 582. Would allow consideration of legislation specifying qualifications and procedures of seasonal indutries and providing that seasonal workers be eligible for benefits only during the period of the year in which their seasonal industry is operational (failed 16Y, 12N - 2/3 approval required). YCT-Yes. It is unfair to force employers to provide benefits for seasonal workers during periods of the year in which the business in not operational and, thus, the worker is not contributing to the employer.

6. Motion (Lyon) to suspend regular order of business for consideration of SB 144. Would allow consideration of legislation requiring the driver of a motorcycle to wear protective headgear (passed 23Y, 6N). YCT-No. Similar to the required use of seat belts in automobiles, this measure proposes an unreasonable regulation by the government over operators of a motor vehicle who are capable of deciding for themselves whether to utilize a motorcycle helmet.

7. Motion (Parker) to suspend rules for consideration of HB 1431 on Third Reading. Would allow consideration of final passage of legislation enabling county commissioners courts to invest county funds in certificates of deposit issued by the state or national governments (failed 18Y, 10N - 4/5 approval required). YCT-Yes. Local county governments should be entitled the right to ensure the security of their funds through investments in CD's.

8. Motion (Truan) to suspend regular order of business for

consideration of SB 856 on Third Reading. Allows consideration of legislation providing procedural specifications on the transport of hazardous materials by railroad companies (failed 14Y, 13N - 2/3 approval required). YCT-No. The bill imposes unnecessary and burdensome regulations upon the railroad industry for reporting an excessive amount of information to the Texas Railroad Commission.

9. Adoption of Amendment 1 (Parmer) to CSSB 229 (Montford). The amendment removes key provisions of legislation deregulating dominant carriers in the telecommunications industry and substitutes new language restoring regulation (passed 16Y, 15N). YCT-No. The Parmer amendment would effectively negate the deregulatory intent of the bill.

10. Motion (Washington) to suspend regular order of business for consideration of CSSB 590 on Second Reading. Allows consideration of legislation prohibiting the use of mandatory testing for AIDS by employers, and providing penalties (failed 12Y, 16N) YCT-No. This bill would not only infringe upon the rights of the employer to protect other employees from the possibility of contracting AIDS from an employee infected with the disease, but this measure would apply to all industries indiscriminately, thus abridging the rights of customers of health or food services who deserve complete insurance and protection from contraction of AIDS. Until greater knowledge about this communicable disease is available, the state should allow employers every available means within law to help prevent the spread of AIDS to both customer and fellow employee.

11. Motion (Jones) to suspend rules for consideration of SB 34 on Second Reading. Provides state budget execution authority to the governor for the purposes of improving fiscal management (failed 12Y, 18N). YCT-Yes. The governor should be granted the ability to make necessary adjustments in state spending,

especially when expenditures can be avoided.

12. Motion (Uribe) to suspend the regular order of business for consideration of SB 426 on Reading. Allows consideration of legislation prohibiting the appointment of a department head to the board of trustees of the Texas Municipal Retirement System (passed 19Y, 9N). YCT-No. This labor union bill would prevent the appointment of managers who are frequently the most experienced municipal employees eligible to sit on the board of trustees. The measure would discourage employees from working diligently to attain the head of his or her department because such a position would prevent that employee from sitting on the TMRS board.

13. Motion (Parker) to suspend the regular order of business for consideration of CSSB 1280 on Third Reading. Allows consideration of legislation providing for unpaid parental leave for a period of up to 24 weeks by state employees who meet specified qualifications (passed 21Y, 8N). YCT-No. The state already provides ample medical or annual leave for state employees for

reasons of pregnancy or illness. The period of 6 months leave allowed to attend one's child is excessive, and would severely inhibit the operation of

state government.

14. Motion (Leedom) to suspend rules for consideration of CSSB 100 on Third Reading. Allows consideration of legislation revising the definition of "employee" under the Texas employees uniform group insurance plan to exclude temporary emloyees of the state (failed 20Y, 10N 4/5 approval required). YCT-Yes. The state should not be compelled to finance the inordinate cost of insurance benefits for employees whose service to the state is only temporary.

15. Motion (Glasgow) to Table the Washington Amendment to CSHB 4 (Glasgow-Senate Sponsor) on Second Reading. Kills an amendment to legislation consolidating existing agencies into a

new Department of Commerce (Economic Development Package) which would require the new agency to award at least 10 percent of its contracts annually to "disadvantaged businesses" (failed 13Y, 17N). YCT-Yes. Apart from the provision's ambiguity, this special-interest measure was geared at compelling the state to contract with businesses based purely on the race or sex of the companies' management without regard to qualification or merit required for the award of such contract. The amendment forces the state to purchase unqualified services, and its intentions have clearly discriminatory overtones.

16. Motion (Lyon) to suspend regular order of business for

regular order of business for consideration of SB 126 on Third Reading. Allows consideration of legislation enabling the issuance of a search warrant by a magistrate to a peace officer based on an oral statement by that officer if exigent circumstances prevent the availability of time necessary to obtain a written affidavit (passed 20Y, 10N). YCT-Yes. This bill would allow a police officer to obtain a search warrant by oral request when circumstances require immediate use of that warrant. specifically if critical evidence would be lost during the time necessary to obtain a warrant under present requirements for a written affidavit.

This measure facilitates the timely expedition of duties inherent in the profession of law enforcement.

17. Motion (Barrientos) to suspend regular order of business for consideration of CSSB 261 on Third Reading. Allows consideration for legislation enabling officers of the Department of Public Safety to engage in partisan political activities and campaigns (passed 19Y, 7N). YCT-No. DPS officers, as with other employees on the state payroll, should not participate in the election of officials who supervise the operation and financing of their own department. The citizens of Texas expect their peace officers to serve as impartial servants of the state and the law without the overt behavior of political involvement.

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Young Conservatives of Texas Rates the 70th Texas Legislature

House Vote Explanations

1. Substitute motion (Ceverha) not to concur with Senate amendment 3 to CSHB 1831 (Watkins). Objects to Senate deletion of the bill's provision prohibiting the expenditure of student fee monies to support candidates or political organizations, exempting student newspapers (failed 62Y, 79N). YCT-Yes. No student should be forced to subsidize political beliefs to which he is opposed. Also, such expenditure of state funds reflects a corrupt and improper role of the government, especially evident when this prohibition was removed by Sen. Gonzalo Barrientos, who himself received campaign ads paid with mandatory student fees.

2. SJR 55 (Stlles-House Sponsor)
Adoption. Amends the Texas Constitution to allow the Legislature to issue up to \$400 million in bonds for grants to design and build local public facilities (passed 123Y, 22N). YCT-No. As part of Lt. Gov. Hobby's "Build Texas" program, this pork-barrel prototype of FDR's Works Progress Administration forces the state to take on more debt to finance projects which local communities should finance themselves. The Legislature should work to stimulate the state's economy through the private sector, not by increasing the number of Texans on the government's payroll.

3. SB 251 (Hackney - House Sponsor) on Third Reading. Provides for the privatization of management within the Texas Department of Corrections (passed 122Y, 19N). YCT-Yes. This proposal, endorsed by YCT in its Statement of Legislative Priorities, will provide cost savings through private sector management of our state's penal institutions.

4. HJR 1 (Schlueter) on Second Reading. Provides for a constitutional amendment prohibiting the imposition of a state corporate or personal income tax. (passed 105Y, 36N). YCT-Yes. The amendment, also endorsed by YCT in its Legislative Priorities, would ensure Texas citizens of our state's commitment to avoiding this detrimental form of taxation in the future and preserving incentives to potential incoming businesses.

Motion (Shaw) to Table Toomey Motion to Recommit CSSB 123 (Rudd-House Sponsor) on Second Reading. Kills the Toomey motion to send the budget back to the Appropriations Committee with instructions to substantially reduce it and report the bill back to the House within seven days. (passed 95Y, 54N). YCT-No. All possible reductions in state spending had not been implemented in the committee's report on

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the budget. Further consideration of these reductions was necessary to avoid pressure for greater tax increases.

6. Substitute Motion (L. Evans) to concur with Senate amendments to HJR 3 (Schlueter, et al). Provides House approval to Senate amendments on the Economic Development Package prohibiting state funds from being deposited in banking institutions which do business in South Africa (failed 71Y, 71N). YCT-No. Texas is in no position to make superficial foreign policy statements which rightfully rest with our federal government, especially when our state cannot afford to do so.

7. Amendment (Whaley) to HB 484 (Melton) on Second Reading. Provides for the chemical castration of individuals convicted of a sexual offense (failed 66Y, 64N - 2/3 approval required). YCT-Yes. This proposal would serve as a logical treatment to prevent future sexual offenses by those found guilty of such crimes in addition to serving as an effective deterrent, discouraging sexual abuse of other women by potential criminals.

8. HB 555 (C. Evans) on Third Reading. Provides state budget execution authority to the governor for the purposes of improving fiscal management (passed 78Y, 67N). YCT-Yes. The governor should be granted the ability to make necessary adjustments in the administration of state spending, especially when expenditures can be avoided.

9. Motion (Hury) to table Warner Amendment to CSHB 23 (Roberts). Kills the Warner amendment which would have substituted the federal speedy trial system into CSSB 23 (passed 85Y, 58N). YCT-Yes. CSSB 23 sought ultimately to re-create a more effective Speedy Trial Act which would assuredly guarentee those defendants who truly desire a speedy trial to receive one. The Warner Amendment would have created an unworkable system for Texas courts.

10. Amendment (Richardson) to HB 943 (Wilson). Prohibits the use of Metropolitan Transportation Authority funds for the influence of elections or the passage or defeat of legislative measures (passed 70Y, 46N). YCT-Yes. Similar to Vote #1 (see above), government agencies should not be involved in partisan political activities, particularly because taxpayers would be forced to subsidize candidates or doctrines to which they are opposed.

11. HB 147 (Robinson) on Third Reading. Allows a county and city (whose population is less than 15,000) to enter into an agreement transferring partial responsibility to the county for indigent health care services (passed 95Y, 42N). YCT-Yes. The bill relieves the burdensome obligation of small

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cities to finance the treatment of indigents who reside outside the municipality.

- 12. Motion (Patronella) to Table Ceverha Amendment to CSSB 24 (Patronella-House Sponsor). Kills the deletion of penalties for non-reporting within the "hazing bill" (failed 62Y, 75N). YCT-No. The Ceverha amendment deleted excessive penalties for individuals who have knowledge of a hazing incident but fail to report it. Law enforcement authorities should concentrate their efforts on those who actually commit hazing rather than unreasonably punishing those who may have simply known about an offense.
- 13. Motion (Clark) to Table HB 2236 (Beauchamp) on Third Reading. Kills legislation granting authority to the Department of Public Safety to issue standards for trailer hitches and other towing devices (passed 96Y, 50N). YCT-Yes. HB 2236 would have allowed the DPS to create burdensome regulations on trailer hitches when federal standards already exist in this area.
- 14. CSHB 512 (Riley) on Second Reading. Creates an offense for failure to pay rental charge for property held under a rental agreement (passed 99Y, 44N). YCT-Yes. This legislation more adequately protects the property rights of citizens whose leasing agreements are abridged.
- 15. CSHB 2020 (Roberts) on Second Reading. Allows child-care for incorrigible children in religious institutions (failed 64Y, 78N). YCT-Yes. This legislation would provide a less restrictive method of state licensing of religious child-care homes while protecting the compelling interest of the state.
- 16. Amendment (Clark) to SB 601 (A. Moreno-House Sponsor) on Second Reading. This amendment increases the minimum wage paid by employers from \$1.40 to \$3.35 per hour, effective 1988 (passed 84Y, 61N). YCT-Yes. While the establishment of a minimum wage remains at issue, the state should proceed with this increase on its own initiative now before it is forced to do so by the federal government in the future.
- 17. Amendment (Roberts) to SB 202 (T. Smlth and Colbert-House Sponsors) on Third Reading. Gives all private and parochial schools a cap on liability. (failed 88Y, 57N 2/3 appoval required). YCT-Yes. Religious and educational institutions, who operate as non-profit organizations, should be given the same protections granted all other charitable organizations under the laws of the state.
- 18. Motion (Hury) to Table L. Evans Amendment to SJR 34 (Hury) on Second Reading. Kills an amendment which would have substantially weakened a constitutional amendment allowing the state the right to appeal unfavorable judgements in a

court of law (passed 119Y, 23N). YCT-Yes. Prosecutors should be allowed to appeal adverse rulings by trial courts as defendants are entitled within the judicial system.

19. Amendment (Repp) to CSSB 270 (Cavazos). Requires the state to compensate school districts for expenses incurred in compliance with the requirement for seat belts in school buses (passed 76Y, 68N). YCT-Yes. If the state enacts this seat belt regulation, the burden of its cost should remain at the state and not be passed down to local school districts.

20. HJR 112 (Finnell) on Third Reading. Amends the Texas Constitution to provide four-year terms for state representatives (failed 87Y, 56N - 2/3 approval required). YCT-No. Members of the Legislature's lower chamber should remain as close to their constituents as possible. Extended terms will only lead to making career politicians out of state representatives.

21. Amendment (McWIIIIams) to CSHB 1829 (McDonald) on Second Reading. Allows for segregation of inmates within the Texas Department of Corrections who test positive for Acquired Immune Defiency Syndrome (passed 92Y, 49N). YCT-Yes. Until adequate medical treatment for this communicable disease is discovered, the state should adopt measures such as this to prevent the spread of AIDS within our prisons.

22. HB 4 (A. Smith) - Adoption of Conference Committee Report. Consolidates existing state agencies into a single, newly-formed Department of Commerce and provides for the issuance of revenue bonds to encourage economic development. (passed 98Y, 43N). YCT-Yes. This bill. endorsed by YCT in its Statement of Legislative Priorities, is the core of the Speaker's Economic Development Package. The proper role of the state government is to serve as a catalyst for the creation of jobs in the private sector, and not to simply fund porkbarrel projects in the public sector (as in Lt. Gov. Hobby's "Build Texas" plan).

23. Amendment (Hilbert, et al) to CSSB 298 (Vowell-House Sponsor) on Second Reading. The amendment deletes the provision of CSSB 298 granting the Department of Human Services jurisdiction over the coordination of sex education in public schools (failed 64Y, 79N). YCT-Yes. Education of our state's children in matters relating to sex should be left to parents and the family, and jurisdiction over classroom education should be reserved to local school districts, not DHS.

24. HB 1565 (R. Smith) on Second Reading. Sunsets the current workers' compensation system in 1991, as recommended by the House Select Interim Committee on Workers' Compensation

Insurance, to serve as a catalyst for total rewrite of the statutes in the future (passed 76Y, 72N). YCT-Yes. Without elimination of the Industrial Accident Board and current workers' compensation statutes, no impetus would exist for meaningful reform in this area. 25. Motion to Table HB 2572 (Rudd, et al) on Second Reading. legislation enabling the Appropriations Committee to reduce line item amounts within the Foundation School Program; current guidelines require legislators to consider FSP in a single bloc of expenditures (failed 59Y, 82N). YCT-No. HB 2572 would not only provide increased flexibility for legislators, but woul ensure that only the basic amount needed to finance the FSP would be expended without the provision of wasted, unnecessary funds.

Young Conservatives of Texas is an independent, non-partisan youth organization dedicated to the preservation of individual liberties and freedoms through

limited government.

YCT is organized to facilitate the participation of young men and women in the political process. YCT Believes that there is no better way to educate and train young citizens as to the workings of our government than to have them directly participate in the process.

Some of the ways that YCT is active in

the political process include:

Elections: YCT leaders are constantly involved in the electoral process at every level. YCT members provide not only the manpower necessary to run a campaign, but also serve as hired staff. Some of our members run as candidates, themselves.

YCT has established itself as the largest and most active conservative youth group in the state, and is already organizing and preparing for its role in the 1988 elections.

LobbyIng: YCT has consistently coordinated statewide lobbying campaigns on behalf of conservative legislation. YCT organizes letter writing campaigns, lobbies legislators personally, testifies before legislative committees, holds press conferences, conducts massive direct mail campaigns, and coordinates many other projects on behalf of Texans to promote conservative legislation at the state and federal levels.

Conventions/Conferences: YCT annually hosts a State Convention featuring state and national speakers. The 1988 YCT State Convention is scheduled for late February in Austin. YCT is expecting several prominent speakers, as well as informative and educational panels and discussions, followed by several straw polls on important races and issues.

YCT holds special seminars and lectures on campuses across Texas on topics ranging from economics to politics. In addition to these and other projects, individual school and community YCT chapters hold regular meetings featuring guest speakers, films, debates and other activities.

Young Conservatives of Texas

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