

# Signs of wavering on vetoing teachers' raises

LATIVE FOCUS

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s and formulating poli-  
pinions. As he has eased  
to the governor's chair,

White has become more comfortable with his role. It's sometimes still difficult, though, for the news media to evoke an emphatic response from him.

But regarding SB 93, White left no doubt in anyone's mind Monday when, after persistent questioning, he finally said SB 93 was unacceptable in its present form and he would veto it if it crossed his desk.

Minutes after those comments were uttered, word came that the House had moved unexpectedly and swiftly to adopt the Senate

bill. SB 93 was sent to the governor on Tuesday.

Just when it looked like White had taken a firm stand, sources in the governor's office suddenly began saying White "is not committed to a veto," and the word "compromise" pops up again and again.

White has until Monday to: (1) sign SB 93 into law, (2) veto it, (3) take no action so that it automatically becomes law or (4) convince the Senate to pull the bill back from the governor's office to give him more time for compromise.

It looked Wednesday like White might choose between the options of veto or recall by the Senate. Were he to veto the bill, it would surely be with the understanding that a compromise has been reached.

The compromise could be administration support of House Bill 44. That bill would "encourage" local school districts to supplement any cutback in state funding for teacher salaries with local funds by providing that these local funds "shall not be included in the base salaries of teachers of the district for the following

year."

In other words, the local funds would be a bonus rather than a raise. If there are other options, the administration obviously hasn't discovered them.

Having learned that White's steadfastness was faltering, I asked him Wednesday whether he was really holding all those work sessions to fashion a compromise.

The governor laughed devilishly and, elbowing my shoulder, he said: "Now, I couldn't tell you THAT."

Now doesn't that sound like the teachers are gaining ground?

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## Bill to divide to 2 divisions

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end Gov. Frank White,

the ABC Board and Howell, the sponsor of the Senate version of the bill.

The Senate also:

- Expunged the vote on SB 26, a bill by Bell to expand War Memorial Stadium with state income tax refund contributions. The bill was defeated in Tuesday's session. The amended bill establishes the fund, but does not outline a specific expansion project.

- Expunged the vote on HB 5, a bill to increase state income tax deduction on blood donations from \$25 to \$50, that was defeated by the Senate Tuesday. One senator said the bill will probably die in the committee, because American Red Cross officials think the bill would remove volunteer incentives.

- Confirmed the appointment of Bob Harrelson of North Little Rock as the State Building Services Department director.

Introductions in the Senate Tuesday included:

- Senate Bill 312, by Sen. Knox Nelson of Pine Bluff would create a state Water Code Commission to study the need for laws dealing with water rights.

- Senate Bill 321, by Sen. Morrell Gathright of Pine Bluff, would create a state constitutional commission to study the state constitution, submit recommendations for proposed amendments.



DemPhoto by Clay K. Corson

### Speaks on fees bill

Rep. John E. Miller of Melbourne (Izard County) speaks before the House in favor of SB 15, the bill to

lower vehicle title transfer fees from \$11 to \$5. The bill passed 99-4

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## Bill amended to include chiropractors

With some resistance from the Arkansas Medical Society, a Senate committee Wednesday amended a bill, which would modernize the state's vital statistics laws, to include chiropractors in the bill's definition of "physician."

The committee gave a do-pass recommendation to the amended version of Senate Bill 256, sponsored by the committee, but was drawn by the vital statistics division of the state Health Department.

The proposed bill outlines procedures for maintaining vital statistics records and includes requirements that an attending physician must sign birth and death certificates.

Sen. Knox Nelson of Pine Bluff, committee chairman, asked Henry C. Robinson, State Registrar of Vital Records, why the bill excluded chiropractors in the definition of "physician."

"Well, I guess I'm supposed to be honest," Robinson said, and, following laughter from Health officials, added that the deletion was made at the request of the Arkansas Medical Society.

Robinson said: "As far as the department is concerned, it wouldn't matter" whether chiropractors were included in the definition.

Michael W. Mitchell of the Arkansas Medical Society said the current laws, which include chiropractors in the definition, do not present any problems for the society. Mitchell said adding chiropractors to the definition would "give more power" to chiropractors, who "admit they are not qualified to do some of the things in the bill," such as sign death certificates or deliver babies.

Nelson, who said he didn't "believe that's correct," added, "If I was having a baby and there was no one around, I'd be damn glad to have a chiropractor around."

## White signs bill to increase pay

Gov. Frank White has signed two more bills into law, bringing the total to 19.

On Tuesday, White signed Senate Bill 219, which will give state employees an average 10 percent pay increase on July 1, 1981. The pay plan, which now has nine salary "steps" or pay levels, would be increased to 10 steps on July 1, 1982.

## en bill ogram

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a committee mem-  
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Arkansas companies

# House panel OKs bill allowing first-class cities to levy sales tax

By STEVE BREWER

ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

A House committee approved a bill Wednesday that would allow cities of 2,500 people or more to levy a local sales tax of up to 1 percent.

Current law allows cities with a 30,000 or more residents to levy such a tax if the voters approve it. The bill, by Rep. L.L. "Doc" Bryan of Russellville, would lower the population requirement to include all first-class cities.

Such a tax still would require approval from the electorate before it could be enacted.

The House City, County and Local Affairs Committee gave the bill a "do pass" recommendation Wednesday after a brief hearing. The bill now goes to the floor of the House and, Bryan said, he

He said the city's fire insurance rating may decline if the improvements aren't made, which would mean higher fire insurance rates for the residents.

### State Capitol events scheduled for today

Here are the events scheduled at the state Capitol today, the 25th day of the 73rd General Assembly:

Senate

10 a.m. - Senate convenes in the Senate Chamber. Committees will not meet.

House

10 a.m. - Rayburn and Tex...