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Parr, George B.

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=SENATOR LUNDON JOHNSON=

1950 APR 20 PM 6 45

I WOULD APPRECIATE IT VERY MUCH IF YOU WILL PUT THE PRESSURE ON SOME FRIEND AND TRY AND GET ME FOUR RESERVED TICKETS FOR THE DERBY MAY 6TH YOUR FRIEND=

=GEORGE PARR=

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Washington, D. C.

CHECK	CHARGE TO THE ACCOUNT OF	DATE	TIME FILED
	Lyndon B. Johnson, Personal	April 21, 1950	
TO George Parr San Diego, Texas Retel Have arranged for box with six tickets. Will airmail Monday. Regards. Lyndon B. Johnson straight message lbj m corres			

CROSS REFERENCE SHEET

Name or subject

George B. Parr

SEE

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Aug, 12, 1958

Correspondence preceding

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APR

George Parr

COPY

June 24, 1949

Dear George:

Here's a copy of a letter which I have just written to Chauncey Leake about Jose Garcia. As John told you on the phone, it's extremely difficult to do anything in a case like this, but I'm hopeful that this might be helpful.

John Lyle talked to me about the information you wanted regarding the vocational schools and what organization they operated under. If I understood him correctly, you are interested in the vocational schools providing training for veterans. If I am correct in this, the schools are under the jurisdiction of the Veterans Administration.

This program is administered through Mr. H. V. Sterling, Assistant Administrator for Vocational Rehabilitation and Education in the Veterans Administration here in Washington. In addition to the Veterans Administration and their connections with these vocational schools for veterans, the State Approval Agency with headquarters in Austin, Texas, under the direction of Mr. C. D. Cox are also directly concerned with this program. As a matter of fact before any veterans enrolled in the vocational schools can be paid by the Veterans Administration, the State Approval Agency must submit to the Veterans Administration their approval of the school. Once a school has the approval of the State Approval Agency then the Veterans Administration will pay such students as are enrolled in the school.

I hope this is the information that you wanted. If it isn't, please let Johnny or me know.

My warmest personal regards.

Sincerely,

Lynlon B. Johnson

Mr. George Parr
San Diego, Texas

cc: Congressman John Lyle
jc/mhl Veterans--Vocational Training Schools

COPY

June 23, 1949

My dear Friend:

It is a pleasure to send you the attached letter from Mr. A. H. Monk, Director of the Training Facilities Service of the Veterans Administration. Congressman Lyle and I were both pleased to note that the Veterans Administration agreed to pay tuition to your school during the period February 1 to May 1, 1949.

I enjoyed the opportunity of working with you on this matter and hope you will call on me again if there is further action required on this or any other problem.

Enclosed also is a copy of the letter written to Mr. Leon P. Howell, Manager of the Veterans Administration Regional Office at San Antonio by Deputy Administrator O. W. Clark.

With every good wish.

Sincerely,

Lyndon B. Johnson

Mr. Remigio M. Garza
Jim Wells County Vocational School
County Courthouse
Alice, Texas

wj/saj
vets - jim wells vocational school

June 20, 1949

7C

Honorable Lyndon B. Johnson
United States Senate
Washington, D. C.

Dear Senator Johnson:

Reference is made to my previous correspondence and telephone conversations with your office regarding the payment of tuition for veterans enrolled in live project courses in county vocational schools of Wilson, Duvall, Jim Wells, Kerr, Uvalde and Real Counties. For your information I am attaching a copy of a letter dated June 10, 1949 issued by the Deputy Administrator to the Manager of the Regional Office in San Antonio, authorizing payment of this suspended tuition.

I am glad to report that this matter now has been finally resolved in favor of the institutions.

Sincerely yours,

A. H. MOORE
Director, Training Facilities Service for
Vocational Rehabilitation and Education

Encl.

COPY

6/10 cml
6/11

June 6, 1949

My dear Friend:

The purpose of this note is generally to assure you that I have not forgotten about your problem with the Veterans Administration concerning the suspension of veterans attending Jim Wells County Vocational School from the Veterans Administration rolls.

I have been in touch with the proper officials here nearly every day since you first sent me a copy of your letter to Congressman Lyle. I have also worked with Congressman Lyle and at our request a full report on the situation was asked for from the San Antonio regional office. That report has been received, and the folks here are trying to work out somehow they can give your school some relief.

I don't know what the outcome will be, but I will do my best and keep you informed.

Sincerely,

Lyndon B. Johnson

Mr. Remigio M. Garza
Jim Wells County Vocational School
County Courthouse
Alice, Texas

wj/mhl
VA—Jim Wells County Vocational School
Garza, Remigio M.

RETURN TO WALTER

5/11
Cable will find
letter + call.
611

COPY

May 10, 1949

My dear Friend:

I very much appreciate your having sent me a copy of your correspondence with Congressman Lyle regarding the action of the San Antonio Regional Office of the Veterans Administration in suspending your vocational educational program. I have talked both with Congressman Lyle and the Veterans Administration officials here, and while I think frankly we have a tough fight, you can count on our doing everything in our power to keep the Veterans Administration from making its order retroactive to February 1.

I am particularly glad that you sent a copy of Mr. Mills' letter, because it gives your justification for having continued the projects. Just as soon as there is anything to report, Congressman Lyle or I will write or wire you.

Sincerely,

Lyndon B. Johnson

Mr. Remigio M. Garza
Jim Wells County Vocational School
County Courthouse
Alice, Texas

wj/whl
VA—Jim Wells County Vocational School
(Garza, Remigio M.)
RETURN TO WALTER

JIM WELLS COUNTY VOCATIONAL SCHOOL
COUNTY COURTHOUSE
ALICE, TEXAS

May 3, 1939

Hon. John E. Lyle
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

I am enclosing a letter that will help you understand our position with reference to a telegram from the Veterans Administration Regional Office, San Antonio, Texas, on or about April 21, 1949. (Copy attached)

We are sure that we were acting in good faith with regards to the policy of building houses for veterans (and only veterans). The attached letter from the State Board for Vocational Education, Austin, Texas, dated on February 24, 1949, will clear, I am sure, a lot of doubts as to why we were carrying out our program as we were. What I wish to point out is that the County Vocational Schools affected by the above stated instruction from the Veterans Administration Office are being hit below the belt and in all fairness, we should not stand to lose in this deal because we were acting fully within our instructions; and fully within the law to the best of our knowledge. I am also certain that the State Board for Vocational Education was acting in good faith and living up to their part of the contract with the County Vocational Schools.

The carpentry classes in Jim Wells County have worked mostly on public buildings and will continue to do so, but it is the clause which reads, "Tuition to all Veterans concerned is to be suspended on 2-1-29", that we are so much against. The act of making any adverse order retroactive two or three months in as ex-post facto law and these are just as unfair now as when the American Revolution was fought; in fact, worse, since they are unlawful now. If this threat by the Veterans Administration in the future; not if they can violate a contract that easy.

Any action on your part to help us clear up this mess will be greatly appreciated.

Respectfully yours,

Remigio M. Garza
Coordinator

cc Mr. B. C. Davis, Austin, Tex.
cc Mr. Carl B. Dunlap, Laredo, Texas
cc Mr. George E. Ijams, Washington, D.C.
cc Hon. Lyndon B. Johnson, Washington, D.C.

COPY

MR. W. E. LOWRY, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
STATE BOARD FOR VOCATIONAL EDUCATION
AUSTIN, TEXAS

IT HAS COME TO OUR ATTENTION THAT WILSON, DUVAL, JIM WELLS, KERR---
AND UVALDE COUNTY VOCATIONAL SCHOOLS CURRENTLY CONSTRUCTING PRIVATE
RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS WHICH IS IN VIOLATION OF THE VETERANS
ADMINISTRATION CENTRAL OFFICE. EACH COUNTY VOCATIONAL SCHOOL
CONCERNED AND STATE BOARD WERE NOTIFIED BY LETTER 2-2-49 FROM
CENTRAL OFFICE, PERTAINING TO PRIVATE WORKING PROJECTS IN CERTAIN
T & I COURSES.

TUITION TO ALL VETERANS CONCERNED IS TO BE SUSPENDED ON 2-1-49
AND TERMINATION TO ALL VETERANS ENROLLED IN INSTITUTION TO BE
DISCONTINUED ON 5-1-49, UNLESS COMPLIANCE WITH CENTRAL OFFICE
INSTRUCTIONS IS ASSURED. THIS ACTION WILL ALSO APPLY TO OTHER
INSTITUTIONS FOUND TO BE ENGAGED IN THE CONSTRUCTION OF OTHER
THAN PUBLIC BUILDINGS.

HOWELL-MANAGER
VETERANS ADMINISTRATION
SAN ANTONIO REGIONAL OFFICE

STATE BOARD FOR VOCATIONAL EDUCATION
Veterans Education Division
Austin 11, Texas

February 24, 1949

TO: Coordinators of County Vocational Schools Offering Trades and Industries
FROM: Kenneth L. Mills, Plans & Training Specialist
SUBJ: Carpenter 1

I have purposely put off giving out any information concerning the carpentry classes until some definite action has been taken. I realize that you have been receiving all sorts of conflicting reports and orders concerning the objective--now that the smoke has cleared away, I would like to give you the actual score and let you know what to expect.

~~RECEIVED~~
As you now, on December 7, 1948, the Central Office in Washington notified the thirteen VA Branch Offices to order the VA Regional Offices to inform schools and veterans of the following ruling: That work done in building trades classes which was conducted outside the class room or shop was held to be on-the-job training, and the veterans subsistence and amount of tuition would have to be reduced accordingly.

Several VA Regional Offices started interruption procedures immediately, and at the same time put out numerous memorandums which were later rescinded or changed. On January 12, Mr. Davis and I went to Washington for a meeting with VA Officials, the American Legion, the American Vocational Association, and representatives from Georgia, North Carolina, and several other southern states. As a result of this meeting and subsequent meetings called by the Veterans Affairs Committee of Congress, General Carl Gray, VA administrator, ordered the letter of December 7 held in abeyance until a ruling could be obtained from the Attorney-General. According to General Gray's ruling, any veteran who had been interrupted from carpentry classes would be reinstated immediately; I am sure that most of you have already gone through the necessary processing functions and have properly reinstated the veterans.

Congressman Olin Teague of Texas and Congressman "Don" Wheeler of Georgia have introduced new legislation which will make legal the program as it is now operated. At Congressman Teague's request, Texas has prepared proposed amendments to Public Law 346; those amendments have been finished and mailed to our Congressmen in Washington.

Mr. Lowry is going to Washington next week to assist in any way possible to insure passage of this measure. Col. Cox of the State Approval Agency will also be in Washington next week and will try to secure approval from all the approval agencies in the nation at a meeting there; he is very much in favor of the proposed amendments. So it is our hope that corrective legislation will be passed before the attorney-general's ruling is made; however, I believe his ruling will be favorable.

Coordinators of Schools Offering T.&I.
Page 2

If you are operating any of the building trades courses--carpentry, plumbing, house wiring, or painting-- you should continue them under the following conditions:

1. Do not enroll any more veterans until you have heard from this office.
2. Build, plumb, wire, or paint houses for veterans, schools, churches, or tax-supported institutions.
3. Get State Board Supervisor's approval on all projects before starting to work.
4. Plan projects for "instructional" content.
5. See to it that no consumable supplies find their way into such projects.
6. No profit may accrue to the school, an individual, or an organization.
7. All materials going into such projects must be paid for by the individual, organization or institution, for which the work is being done. ("Work", as used in this part, means instruction.)
8. The instructor must be in charge of the project instruction ~~at all times.~~
at all times.
9. Opportunity must be provided for, and thorough instruction required in, related technical subjects for at least one hour each day.

Do not be too hasty in closing carpentry classes and transferring the veterans to some other objective. Either the attorney-general's ruling will be favorable or necessary legislation is almost certain to be passed by Congress.

COPY

COPY

DUVAL

Continued from Page 1

however, for the Duval vote to control the state, as it did in the 1948 Senate race.

And Gov. Allan Shivers, who abetted Secretary of State John Ben Shepperd's tossing of the gauntlet at Parr's vote returns this year, has a score of three Duval County landslides to one against. He got the lopsided majorities in three primaries when he was winning the Lieutenant Governorship for two terms. But Parr turned against him in his race this year for Democratic nomination for Governor.

In county offices, the Parr control has been supreme ever since the year three Latin-Americans died in a blaze of gunfire from four Anglo-Americans. In district offices, it usually controls, but not every time.

It has been under attack several times. Battles against the Parr control started back in 1918. Archie Parr had been re-elected to a second term as State Senator from the sprawling border district.

D. W. Glasscock, then of McAllen, carried his fight to the Senate in a contest, challenging a lot of the votes Parr got. But Parr beat him narrowly on a Senate vote and kept his seat there for sixteen years more.

Again two years ago there were charges of voting irregularities in the Land of Parr. But Parr's friends won.

In those battles, however, the loser was challenging the winner. This year it was different. The Secretary of State threw out the votes of Duval County. That was, in effect, a challenge to Parr to go into court.

Parr has no intention of doing so. Many Texans can't understand why Duval County voters think so much alike that they agree almost unanimously in elections.

But to Parr, the 49-year-old county judge, oilman, banker, bus-

nessman, rancher and politician, it is perfectly simple.

He and his father have been friends of the Latin-Americans for a long, long time. The Parrs have been the Anglos of Duval who for over half a century have given the Mexicans a doctor when they were sick, food when they were hungry, ball when they were in jail—"just those forty-eleven little things that come up in everyday life," explained George Parr.

The Latin-American vote is the control there. Parr estimated nine out of ten of San Diego's 4,300 people are Latin-Americans. It is about two to one in Duval County's 18,000 population.

But back around the turn of the century when Archie Parr settled there, his son estimated, there were only about fifty Anglos in the county.

Archie Parr started befriending the Latin-Americans when he moved from his native Calhoun County on the Gulf Coast to the frontier border territory in 1882.

He was a ranch foreman with only the education he got by himself. He invested his earnings in Southwest Texas ranch land. Practically all of the workers on the ranches were Mexicans.

Parr helped them in many ways. That led him into local political affairs. He didn't mind a few extra taxes to help the people.

By the turn of the century he was a political figure. A little later he was a county commissioner.

Then in 1911 he had become the Anglo-American to whom the Latin-Americans looked for guidance. When the three Latin-Americans were killed in a political dispute it was Archie Parr who gave them this counsel:

Let law and order take its course. We can settle this without more bloodshed.

That was the beginning of the empire, George Parr told The Dallas News last week.

"In my opinion," said Parr, "it was then the Latin-American people became distrustful of the Yankees. They began to unite as a racial group.

"That killing accentuated their trust and faith in him (the elder Parr) and a loss for the Anglos."

And with it came their votes. Up until then, it had been a nip-and-tuck battle in every campaign between the Democrats and Republicans. Archie Parr became "Mr. Democratic Party" of Duval County.

Only once since then has anybody but a Parr friend tried to get on the Democratic ticket for a Duval County office. He found the filing fee too high.

In 1914 Archie Parr went to the State Senate. His first hard fight four years later was won by a hard core of Duval votes in the balloting and a narrow squeak in the Senate itself in a contest to unseat him.

For sixteen years he came back to the Senate without much trouble. But in 1934 came defeat. Jim Neal, another border country rancher, beat him for the Senate.

To George Parr, the reason is simple:

"Dad always stood by his friends."

The issue, he said, was over the state building a road through the vast King Ranch to shorten the route from Central Texas to the Rio Grande Valley. People in the Valley demanded it. But Parr stood by his friends of the Kleberg family, who didn't want their ranch cut up by public roads.

"Dad and I discussed it," Parr recalled, "and he talked about what his friends wanted. I told him, 'If necessary, go down with your friends, Dad—that is what you always taught me.'"

He did and that began a period of outward revolt against the Parr control of Duval. It was a change from the long years Archie Parr had been Senator and his next-to-youngest child, George, had been county judge since 1927.

It was just before what George Parr recalled was the hardest local county election fight since his dad ousted the Republicans. It was in 1936, Parr recalled, "when I was temporarily away as an unwilling guest of the government."

County Judge Parr had been at odds with the Federal Government since 1932 over the matter of his 1928 income tax. Internal Revenue Agents claimed Parr had overlooked paying on some income.

He had been indicted in federal court in March, 1932, but the case was not pressed for trial until May, 1934. George Parr pleaded guilty to income-tax evasion. He was fined \$5,000 and given a suspended 2-year term.

That didn't end it, though, for in May, 1936, just a few days before the end of his probation period, he was haled into court on a complaint he had not lived up to terms of the suspended sentence.

In June, 1936, he was ordered to a federal reformatory to serve time. He won a parole in May, 1937, and a pardon from President Truman on Feb. 20, 1946.

But he was gone from Duval County during the 1936 campaign and his father had been defeated for the Senate two years before.

An insurgent faction sprang up as an independent group to fight the Parr slate on the Democratic ticket. They thought, he explained, "that I had lost out."

But, as usual, Parr friends remained steadfast friends. The insurgents got around 600 votes; the Parr slate, 1,400. That is a close election by Duval standards.

Soon George Parr was back. He built a modernistic, Spanish-style 1-story office building across the street from the courthouse. Friends he had made since he left the University of Texas Law School and became county judge in 1927 all came back to see him. They asked favors of him and they were happy to vote like he voted.

For the first time in a quarter of a century, the Parrs handled their politics without holding an office. That was in the late thirties and early forties.

More and more the senior Parr turned over his political reins to son George. He was the one of five children who had the desire to live in the home county and run the political show.

Two older brothers, Givens S.

Parr and Atlee Parr, had tastes that ran more to business than to politics. Givens Parr is active vice-president of the Texas State Bank of Alice. George Parr is president of it. Atlee Parr is a rancher near Benavides, the old Duval County hometown.

One of two Parr daughters, however, picked up some of the elder Parr's love of politics. She is Mrs. Marie Parr Thompson of Goliad. For many years she was active in the Democratic party but in recent years switched to the Republican party.

The other Parr daughter is Mrs. Green Moffett of Corpus Christi, whose husband is judge of the Nueces County court at law.

Archie Parr died in 1942 at the age of eighty-one. That left son George Parr with undivided authority.

But to the Latin-Americans of Duval County it made no difference. They remained as willing to follow the wishes of the son as they had the father.

He had grown up among them, spoke Spanish as rapidly and fluently as they did. In fact, they consider him one of them rather than as an Anglo.

His manner of dress differs with the average in the ranch and oil land. Usually he wears a neat business suit rather than ranch togs.

Last year he returned to public office. The county judge died and George Parr was appointed by the commissioners court. This year his name was the only one on the ballot for an elective term.

He likes to hold the office, he explained, strictly because he loves politics. He has been giving the salary to the widow of the former county judge.

With the wealth that has come to him, largely through oil, Parr can afford to be a county judge without a salary and to keep on doing favors for his friends. And those friends keep on wanting to vote, just like Parr says when he passes out the word to them.

Tomorrow.—The great contest of 1918.

DUCHY OF DUVAL—II

12/4/50

Parr's Control Met 1918 Test

Editor's Note:—This is the second story of a series on the political history of the "Decisive Duchy of Duval," whose near-unanimous election returns have been questioned for thirty years.

By DAWSON DUNCAN
and ALLEN DUCKWORTH

The first real challenge of Parr domination of Duval County politics was made thirty-two years ago.

Archie Parr, the father of the present Duke of the Decisive Duchy of Duval, was seeking a second term in the State Senate.

D. W. Glasscock opposed Parr in the 16-county senatorial district.

Returns in the Democratic primary held in July, 1918, showed without counting Duval County—Glasscock carried eight counties with 6,404 votes; and Parr carried seven counties with 5,297.

When the Duval votes came in, the result in that county was 1,303 votes for Parr and only 23 for Glasscock.

This gave Parr a margin in the district of 118 votes.

Rival district conventions were held by Democrats at Corpus Christi on Aug. 24, 1918. Parr men said the Glasscock convention was illegal, and Glasscock men said the same thing of the Parr meeting. The Glasscock convention sent a certification of victory for its man to the Secretary of State at Austin, and the Parr convention did likewise for Parr.

The state Democratic convention at Waco supported Glasscock and

praised Gov. W. P. Hobby for sending Rangers to Duval to investigate alleged vote irregularities. The convention said the Duval vote should be disregarded. Persons not even American citizens were allowed to vote in Duval, according to the convention resolution as reported in the Senate Journal.

Glasscock was certified as the Democratic nominee. But Parr went to court, got an injunction against printing Glasscock's name on the general election ballot.

Glasscock launched a write-in campaign, but Parr won by 565 votes.

Glasscock claimed victory again with "a majority of all the legal votes."

The State Senate's committee on privileges and elections began hearing Glasscock's complaint against the seating of Parr on Feb. 4, 1919. The Senate finally seated Parr by a 16-to-14 vote, but not until more than a thousand pages of testimony were taken by the committee.

Glasscock alleged that Parr exercised "almost complete domination" over the Mexican population of Duval County and several other counties of the district.

He claimed there was "illegal voting" of illiterate and alien Mexicans, and "fraudulent payment of poll taxes."

Parr replied to charges of fraud by saying, in effect, they were made to prejudice the Senators and were too vague to be considered. He made a counter allegation that more than a thousand illegal ballots had been marked for illiterate voters and had been cast for his opponent, and that Texas Rangers were de-

See DUVAL, Page 18, Col. 1

DUVAL

Continued from Page 1
ployed to frighten Mexicans who were Parr backers.

Testimony supported charges of both sides. As a whole, the testimony, whether favorable to Parr or to Glasscock, was a revelation of political ignorance among many voters of the district.

Glasscock's attorneys called Manuel Garza Zuinga of Duval, a county commissioner, to testify and read a statement by him on how poll taxes were handled for some Duval voters.

"The voters as a rule pay their own poll taxes to the tax collector and he keeps the poll tax receipts in his possession until a few days before they are needed at the primaries or elections, when he mails them out to each voter," Zuinga stated.

Teodoro Sendejo told the committee he was presiding officer at a Duval box in the 1918 election. He had three assistants, Jacinto Jimenez, Mathias Amaya and Daville Garcia.

Sendejo said he could read, write and understand English "a little, not much." His election box assistants could not write English; only one could speak English "a little."

Thirty-one votes were cast at his box in the July primary, Sendejo said, and he didn't ask any voter to show a poll tax receipt. Sendejo said he and his assistants marked the ballots for voters.

Q.—Did you have any instructions from anybody as to how to make out a ticket (the ballot)?

A.—Yes, sir; I had a ticket with me.

Q.—A ticket with you?

A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—A scratched ticket?

A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—And you made out all of the tickets that you made out according to the scratched ticket?

A.—Yes, sir.

The witness said he obtained the model ballot from a deputy sheriff. He recalled only two or three persons who marked their own ballots. After the voting was over, he testified, the sheriff helped him fix up the final returns for the box.

Sendejo was asked if the deputy sheriff gave him any instructions about using the marked ballot.

"He just told me to go ahead and work the election according to that ticket," said Sendejo.

The witness said Glasscock got only two votes in that box—by persons who marked their own ballots.

Jesus Oliveira, election judge at Box 10, said he was the only official on duty who could read and write the English language. He testified that he marked about 270 ballots, voting them for Parr and other candidates whom Parr favored.

How did he know the Parr ticket, he was asked.

Oliveira said he saw it in the Ferguson Forum, a newspaper published by James E. Ferguson, who had been impeached and removed from the Governor's office.

Q.—Whatever Mr. Parr wants down there, you all do?

A.—Yes, sir.

Crisoforo Y. Hinojosa, who conducted the election in Precinct 3, said he made himself a list from the Ferguson Forum. The first voter had his ballot marked for him, on request, said Hinojosa, according to "the Parr ticket." The voters didn't seem to know who was running for office, except Parr.

"Everyone say, 'well, we want to vote the same ticket that the first voter voted,'" Hinojosa related.

M. A. Munoz, who was an election official at Box No. 1 in San Diego, Duval County seat, said he made out the ballots for almost half of the more than 200 voters in his precinct.

"They (the voters) said they wanted to vote for the Democratic party, for Mr. Parr and the rest of the fellows," said Munoz.

He was asked who the "rest of the fellows" were.

"Why, for Ferguson, for Governor, and Parr, for Senator—they didn't care about the rest," replied Munoz.

He added that the voters told him to fix the rest of the ballot "the way I was going to fix mine."

O. G. Allen, brother-in-law of Archie Parr, was asked if Duval County didn't usually go "one way for all of the candidates?" He said "yes" and was asked why.

"They all come up and want to vote one ticket," said Allen.

"What ticket?"

"The Mexicans vote the Parr ticket," Allen replied.

Tomorrow.—Destruction of the Ballots.

DUCHY OF DUVAL—I

Political Empire Born in Violence

(Editor's Note—This is the first story of a series on the political history of the "Decisive Duchy of Duval," whose near unanimous election returns have been questioned for thirty years.)

By DAWSON DUNCAN and ALLEN DUCKWORTH

Three Mexicans were shot to death thirty-nine years ago in Duval County and a political dynasty unequalled in Texas came into life.

It was then that Archie Parr ascended to the throne as the Duke of Duval. He created a political empire that has ruled the county for thirty-six years and defied all but one challenge from the outside during that time.

The Decisive Duchy of Duval still exists. But it has a second generation duke now, the first one's son, George B. Parr. The heir to the political throne has demonstrated a power to turn a flood of votes on or off. His power is as great or greater than his father's.

What goes on down in Duval County, just one county from the Mexican border, keeps popping up in the news.

Last month, Duval made front-page news again. That was because of a spectacular and unheralded write-in vote that almost decided a district judgeship, and because the state tossed a direct challenge to the Duke to prove his votes were on the up-and-up.

Duval's vote was thrown out and not counted. But this challenge wasn't accepted by the Duke. The fight to the finish, if there ever is one, is for the future.

Two years ago, the Land of Parr decided the junior United States Senatorship of Texas. That was the first time the bloc vote of Duval, plus lopsided majorities in satellite border counties, had swung so high an office.

By 87 votes, Lyndon B. Johnson beat out Coke R. Stevenson for the senatorship. Duval County chipped in 4,622 for Johnson and only 40 for Stevenson.

That was the dramatic touch to the Parr control of Duval.

Through the years, though, his ability to turn a near-unanimous vote to his friends has been constant. Politicians aided by the bloc vote, however, have changed from time to time. Friends have become foes and foes, friends.

Back in 1934, for instance, James V. Allred was struggling to win the race for Governor. The first Duke of Duval put out the word for his run-off foe, Tom Hunter. Hunter carried Duval County by a ratio of 2 to 1. Allred won, however, by a small state-wide majority.

Two years later, though, it was just the opposite. Allred beat Hunter 50 to 1 in Duval. Allred now is a Federal District Judge in Corpus Christi.

And Stevenson, who blamed loss of a United States Senate seat because of Parr's influence, many times before had benefitted by the Duval vote. It favored him in two races for Lieutenant Governor and two for Governor.

Those races weren't tight enough.

See DUVAL, Page 11, Col. 1



The late Archie Parr. . .
He was the first Duke of Duvals.



George Parr. . . Tells
how political dynasty was
founded in Duval County.

George Duval
Parr

July the fourteenth
1 9 4 1

Honorable G. B. Parr
San Diego
Texas

My dear Friend:

Now that the election is over I want to take a minute to thank you.

The results might not be what we wanted, but when a man has friends like you behind him it seems to me that he should be able to take most any kind of a disappointment. You certainly did an outstanding job for me and I'll never in this world forget it.

Thanks a million times and be sure to call on me whenever I can help you on this end of the line.

Best personal regards always and let me hear from you.

Sincerely your friend,

Lyndon B. Johnson

lbj e

CLASS OF SERVICE

This is a full-rate Telegram or Cablegram unless its deferred character is indicated by a suitable symbol above or preceding the address.

WESTERN UNION

(26)

R. B. WHITE
PRESIDENT

NEWCOMB CARLTON
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

J. C. WILLEVER
FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

SYMBOLS

DL = Day Letter

NT = Overnight Telegram

LC = Deferred Cable

NLT = Cable Night Letter

Ship Radiogram

The filing time shown in the date line on telegrams and day letters is STANDARD TIME at point of origin. Time of receipt is STANDARD TIME at point of destination

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UNOFFICIAL RETURNS DUVAL COUNTY JOHNSON 1100 ODANIEL 53

MANN 37 DIES 10=

G B PARR.

file

1100 53 37 10.

THE COMPANY WILL APPRECIATE SUGGESTIONS FROM ITS PATRONS CONCERNING ITS SERVICE

George Parr

September the third

1 9 4 1

Honorable George B. Parr,
San Diego,
Texas.

Dear George:

Upon my return from a little check-up at Mayo's, I found your letter. I am shoving off in a few minutes for the hospital and will probably be laid up for a few days. When I get out I want to come to Texas, and hope I can have a long talk with you.

The matter which I talked to Marie and John about should be worked out, and we should pick the individual in our section of Texas who is best equipped to render outstanding service to the Government in some capacity, and at the same time demonstrate the real ability and patriotism of our Latin American friends.

I have no specific assignment in mind. I feel like the person elected should be one whose appointment would be generally pleasing to the great area called South Texas. He should have a good educational background and if possible have already had some experience in working with our South American enighbors. In short, all in all, we want to pick out a fellow that we would be proud of and then concentrate on getting an assignment for him in a responsible position.

If you will give some thought to it, I will do my best to get down there and talk to you about it when I get back on my feet.

My friends in your area did their part. There was certainly no blame attributable to them. If all Texas had been as loyal and dependable, it would have been a different story - and next time it will be.

Let me hear from you.

Sincerely your friend,

lbj m
SENATORIAL - DUVAL

Lyndon B. Johnson.

August 29, 1941.

Dear Lyndon:

I will appreciate it very much if you would give me some details about the class of person that you would like to have ---like--education --age-- and the class of work he would be required to do and what it would pay. When I know all this I know that I will be able to give you the name of a person that went down the road for you --- and will continue to do so.

With best wishes and kindest regards, I am

George Parry

George

to

George B. Parr
San Diego, Texas

Dear Mr. Parr

August 29, 1941

I am writing you

to inform you

that I have

received your

letter of the 20th

and am glad to

hear from you

and hope you

are well and

happy

I am

Very truly

Yours

George B. Parr

LYNDON B. JOHNSON
10TH TEXAS DISTRICT

Parr, Dec
COMMITTEE ON
NAVAL AFFAIRS

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C.

December 28, 1942

Mr. E. G. Lloyd
Alice Texas

Dear Mr. Lloyd:

Your letter of December 21st has arrived during the absence of Congressman Johnson, who is already in Texas. I am therefore hastening to send your letter to him at 813 Brown Building, Austin. His telephone number is 5124 in Austin, and I am sure he will want you to get in touch with him by letter or by phone.

If during his absence in Texas this office can be of any assistance to you in Washington, please let me know.

Sincerely,

Mary Rather
Secretary

Mr J
Corr. Lloyd, E. G.

LLOYD & LLOYD
ATTORNEYS AT LAW
ALICE, TEXAS

E. G. LLOYD, JR.
FRANK B. LLOYD

December 21st, 1942.

Honorable Lyndon B. Johnson,
Member of Congress,
Washington, D. C.

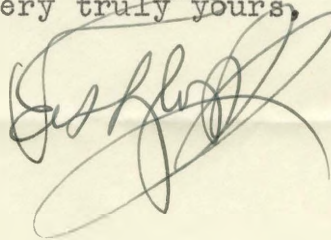
Dear Mr. Johnson:

We are representing Mr. George B. Parr
in a matter and he has requested that we
discuss with you a situation that has arisen
in connection therewith.

If you are to be in Texas before the
next Congress convenes I should like to
arrange to meet you at some place convenient
to you; otherwise I can go to Washington to
see you.

With all good wishes, I am

Very truly yours,



egl:w

cc- Mr. George B. Parr
San Diego, Texas.

Selected Names
COPY ~~CASE & PROJECT~~

GENERAL

July 15, 1953

Dear George:

When you wired me recently I passed on your recommendations to Secretary Benson. Here is the reply I have received from Under Secretary Morse.

As you may know, I flew down to Amarillo with President Eisenhower last Friday. The Department is taking a portion of the actions which you recommended, but I am afraid that what they have agreed to do thus far will be just a drop in the bucket compared to what is needed.

The feed and loan programs are not going to have any lasting benefit unless something can be done to stabilize the market. I have been urging the Secretary of Agriculture to use money which he has already available for the purchase of cattle, but thus far the Administration has not seen fit to do this.

I am afraid they will wait until the situation is so bad that they will have no other choice, and by that time it will be too late for a lot of our folks. Rest assured I shall keep on doing my best.

Sincerely

Lyndon B. Johnson

Mr. George Parr
San Diego
Texas

wj dj

X Natural Resources
Water Drought
X Agriculture Livestock



DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
WASHINGTON

RECEIVED

JUL
JUN 10 1953

July 9, 1953.

Hon. Lyndon B. Johnson
United States Senate

Dear Senator Johnson:

This is in reply to your letter of June 20, quoting from a letter with recommendations pertaining to the drought situation in Texas and the cattle market.

The Department has been aware of the distress caused by the severe decline in cattle prices during the past year. We fully realize the difficult position in which many cattlemen find themselves, with the sharply lower prices, particularly those in the drought-stricken sections of the country. Because of this situation we called representatives of the industry to a conference here on June 26. The President has declared a large part of the Southwest eligible for emergency federal relief. We are proceeding as promptly as possible to aid sufferers in the Southwest with emergency federal relief as outlined in the enclosed statement. The statement also contains the recommendations made by the livestock, credit, and retail trade committees that met with us on June 26 to advise on action to meet the drought problems. We have proceeded to carry out many of the actions recommended by the industry committees and are giving further study to the possibility of further steps to be taken in the emergency situation.

The cattle industry committee recommended that Government purchases of beef be held to quantities for which outlets are available and that stockpiling is undesirable. The enclosed press release indicates the action we have taken to step up the purchases of beef.

Sincerely yours,

Paul D. Morse

Under

Secretary's Records
(Signed)

Enclosures

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Office of the Secretary

July 6, 1953

Following is a summary of steps taken to date to relieve distress in the drought-stricken areas of the Southwest.

1. The President has designated a number of counties in Texas, Oklahoma, Colorado, New Mexico, Kansas, and Arkansas eligible to receive emergency Federal aid.

2. The Department has arranged to step up purchases of beef for school lunch and other outlets. Purchases will begin immediately and will total at least 200,000,000 pounds over a period of 20 weeks.

3. Railroads have agreed to lower freight rates on feed moving into the area. Consideration is also being given to reductions on cattle shipments leaving the area.

4. Federal credit agencies are taking such action as they can within present limits of authorities and funds and Congress is considering proposals for a loan program more specifically adapted to the emergency needs prevailing.

5. Supplies of feed concentrates and grain from Commodity Credit stocks will be made available under a schedule of reduced prices approved by the corporation's Board of Directors. The feedstuffs and prices delivered in the drought counties are as follows:

Cottonseed pellets and meal	\$35.00 ton
Corn	1.00 bu.
Wheat	1.10 bu.
Oats	.50 bu.

6. Committees, composed of local Department officials, farmers, and bankers, are being set up in each State to assist in administering the program. Committees are also being set up in each county to pass upon applications for feed and credit. Each county committee will be headed by the PMA chairman and will include the county agent, director of the Farmers Home Administration, a prominent farmer or rancher, and a local banker. All aid will be on the basis of need.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Office of the Secretary

Washington, June 30, 1953

Government Will Step up Purchases of Beef for School Lunch, Other Outlets:

The government will step up its beef purchase program to provide a total of at least 200,000,000 pounds of canned beef, gravy, hamburger and boned beef for next year's school lunch program and other outlets, the U. S. Department of Agriculture announced today. Purchases will begin immediately and will total at least 10,000,000 pounds per week and may be continued for the next 20 weeks.

"The drought and the general cattle situation are two separate problems," explained Secretary of Agriculture Ezra Taft Benson in making the purchase program announcement, "but they are now inter-related and will be so for some weeks at least. It is important that a form of the relief we give to livestock people in the stricken areas be directed toward stemming the trend to ruinously low prices for stock forced into liquidation by the drought condition.

"This purchase program should aid the drought sufferers immediately while stringing out over the entire period of heavy cattle marketing an orderly purchasing program that will tend to stabilize prices. We would be buying the meat in any event for school lunch programs, and by taking it at this time, in the specified forms, we lend assistance to both the drought sufferers and the long-term cattle outlook."

The Secretary explained that money for the purchase program would come from Section 32 funds, and that the program carries through on one of the recommendations of the Livestock Advisory Committee that met here last Friday.

Major part of the purchases will be 120 million pounds of canned beef and gravy produced from U. S. Utility and lower grade carcasses. These purchases should help the price situation for producers in the Southwest by providing an outlet for many cattle now being sold in the area.

In addition, a 60 million pound purchase of ground beef-hamburger style to be produced from U. S. Commercial grade carcasses should permit more orderly marketing of the large numbers of cows anticipated to be sold this fall. Under the Mutual Security Agency program, about 10 million pounds of frozen carcass beef, U. S. Utility grade, will be purchased for the Greek Army.

A review of USDA livestock market news reports from the Southwest so far this week show that cattle marketings have slowed considerably from what they were last week. The decreased marketings have been accompanied by a broadening demand for the cattle coming off the Southwest ranges and by a substantial increase in prices for cattle being marketed on Southwest markets (Ft. Worth, San Antonio, Kansas City, Wichita, and Oklahoma City.)

COPY CASE & PROJECT

June 25, 1953

Dear George:

Following up my note of the 20th, I am enclosing a speech I made on the floor of the Senate Monday, a letter I wrote to the Secretary of Agriculture on Tuesday, a radio broadcast I will make over 50 Texas stations on Sunday, and my weekly Newsletter to Texas, which will be published in the weeklies next week.

I am hard at it to do something for the cattlemen.

Sincerely

Lyndon B. Johnson

Mr. George Parr ✓
San Diego
Texas

AIR MAIL

wj dj

COPY

June 20, 1953

Dear George:

I appreciate your constructive suggestions. The cattle situation has gotten into a real mess, just as I told people last Fall it would.

There isn't too much I can do about it since the Republicans are in control both in the executive and the legislative branch, but I have been trying every way I knew how to persuade the folks in power to do something along the line of the suggestions you make.

I will continue to help every way I can, and have brought your ideas to the attention of Secretary Benson in the hope that he will get busy on them or something like them.

Best personal regards.

Sincerely

Lyndon B. Johnson

Mr. George Parr
San Diego
Texas

wj dj

COPY

June 20, 1953

Dear Mr. Secretary:

I have received a very strong communication from Texas making certain recommendations with reference to the drouth situation in Texas and the cattle market. This communication follows:

"We recommend and request your consideration of the following three point program to relieve the disastrous drought situation in the entire area and the demoralization of the cattle market. First we request the entire area where we are suffering the most prolonged and severe drought in recorded history be declared a drought disaster area. And that we become eligible to buy the surplus cotton seed meal and other feeds presently held in storage by the US Department of Agriculture. Second that the government take the necessary steps to provide a system of credit for those engaged in agriculture in the drought area to enable them to stay in business. Third the US Department of Agriculture initiate a program to purchase at least two million head of cows and can and storage the meat for future use in school lunch rooms and similar programs. We feel this is necessary to prevent the complete demoralization of the cattle market."

It seems to me these suggestions merit close consideration and attention. I shall appreciate your giving me your reaction to them along with your thoughts as to what action the government might take which would relieve the alarming situation in the cattle industry in Texas and elsewhere.

Sincerely

Lyndon B. Johnson

Honorable Ezra Taft Benson
The Secretary of Agriculture
Washington, D. C.

Processing Note:

12/11/2024

The next three scans are of physical copies of Western Union telegrams that are housed in this folder. It should be noted that the original copies of these telegrams are also housed in this folder, however, they have not been scanned due to preservation concerns.

Austin Mar

Scan Technician

CLASS OF SERVICE

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WESTERN UNION

W. P. MARSHALL, PRESIDENT

FX-1201

SYMBOLS

DL = Day Letter

NL = Night Letter

LT = Int'l Letter Telegram

VLT = Int'l Victory Ltr.

The filing time shown in the date line on telegram and day letters is STANDARD TIME at point of origin. Time of receipt is STANDARD TIME at point of destination

PA 356 DB 372

D. LDA209 PD 1 EXTRA NL PD=LAREDO, TEX, 18: 11 18 PM 7 53

=HON. LYNDON JOHNSON=

US SENATE, WASHDC=

WE RECOMMEND AND REQUEST YOUR CONSIDERATION OF THE
FOLLOWING THREE-POINT PROGRAM TO RELIEVE THE
DISASTROUS DROUGHT SITUATION IN THE ENTIRE AREA AND
THE DEMORALIZATION OF THE CATTLE MARKET. FIRST, WE
REQUEST THE THE ENTIRE AREA WHERE WE ARE SUFFERING
THE MOST PROLONGED AND SEVERE DROUGHT IN RECORDED
HISTORY BE DECLARED A DROUGHT DISASTER AREA. AND THAT

THE COMPANY WILL APPRECIATE SUGGESTIONS FROM ITS PATRONS CONCERNING ITS SERVICE

WESTERN UNION

W. P. MARSHALL, PRESIDENT

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PA 356

D. L. 209/2

18

PM 7 54

WE BECOME ELIGIBLE TO BY THE SURPLUS COTTON SEED MEAL
AND OTHER FEEDS PRESENTLY HELD IN STORAGE BY THE US
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE. SECOND, THAT THE GOVERNMENT
TAKE THE NECESSARY STEPS TO PROVIDE A SYSTEM OF CREDIT
FOR THOSE ENGAGED IN AGRICULTURE IN THE DROUGHT AREA
TO ENABLE THEM TO STAY IN BUSINESS. THIRD, THE US
DEPARTMENT OF AGRUCULTURE INITIATE A PROGRAM TO
PURCHASE AT LEAST TWO MILLION HEAD OF COWS AND CAN AND
STORAGE THE MEAT FOR FUTURE USE IN SCHOOL LUNCH ROOMS

THE COMPANY WILL APPRECIATE SUGGESTIONS FROM ITS PATRONS CONCERNING ITS SERVICE

COPY LBJ LIBRARY

WESTERN UNION

W. P. MARSHALL, PRESIDENT

FX-1201

SYMBOLS

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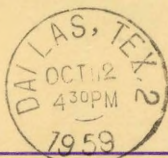
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AND SIMILAR PROGRAMS. WE FEEL THIS IS NECESSARY TO
PREVENT THE COMPLETE DEMORALIZATION FO THE CATTLE
MARKET =

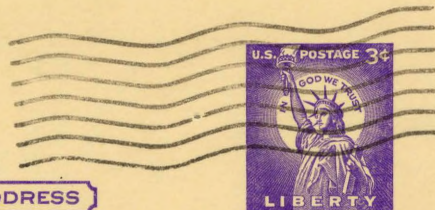
GEORGE B PARR, PRESIDENT, SAN DIEGO STATE BANK

THE COMPANY WILL APPRECIATE SUGGESTIONS FROM ITS PATRONS CONCERNING ITS SERVICE

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THIS SIDE OF CARD IS FOR ADDRESS



Hon. Lyndon B. Johnson,
L. B. J. Ranch,
Johnson City, Texas.

Big Lyndon Supporter

To The Dallas News:

If Sen. Lyndon Johnson is elected President, will he appoint George Parr to be Secretary of the Treasury?

EPHRAIM WOOD.

Hubbuck Texas

7

GENERAL FILE (A-2)

Dear Mr. Johnson:

The above clipping is one I thought you might like to see.

If and when you are elected President, would you appoint Mr. Parr Secy. of the Treasury? you certainly would use him some good fat Govt. job, as only for the Duke of Duval you would not be in the U. S. Senate to-day, his 87 majority put you there, I hope we can bring up a good Democrat that will beat you in the next election.

R. L. THORNTON..

R. L. Thornton

selected names

STUART LONG, Editor

Confidential—Not for Publication

Vol. 7, No. 8

January 2, 1955.

RECEIVED
JAN 11 1955

AMID their Christmas and New Year cards, Texas lawyers got a ballot from the State Bar, in which they are asked to vote yes or no on a proposal to redraft Art. V, the judiciary article of the Constitution. The proposed redraft is published in the Bar Journal just mailed out. Arguments for it by CHARLES I. FRANCIS, Houston, and against it by WILLIAM E. LOOSE, Houston; CARL RUNGE, San Angelo, and R.R. HOLLOWAY, Brownwood, are carried in the magazine. In general, it is the proposal known as the Missouri Plan. It can safely be predicted that it will lead to some talk when it becomes generally known.

SALIENT points in the proposed redraft include: 1. Combination of the Supreme Court with the Court of Criminal Appeals. 2. Giving the Supreme Court wide power over lesser courts, including creation of districts, designating jurisdiction, deciding how many judges each court shall have, and collecting all the fees of the lesser courts and paying out the expense checks for them. 3. Removing Supreme Court and Court of Appeals justices from popular election. Every six years, the people would be allowed to vote on whether a judge remains in office or not. If the people say no, then an elaborate system for appointment to fill the vacancy would go into effect. If it is a Court of Appeals place, a District Commission made up of three lawyers elected by the District Bar and two laymen appointed by the Governor would choose three nominees. The Governor would appoint one of the three to serve until the next general election, at which time the people would have a yes or no vote on him. Each district commission would choose one of its members to serve on the Supreme Court Commission, which would nominate three for places on that court, with the Governor selecting one of the three. District and county judges would be elected by the people, but there is a provision by which the people could give away this right, too, to some sort of appointive system to be devised by the Legislature. 4. Abolishing all corporation and justice courts, and placing those cases in the county courts. 5. Permitting the Legislature to make sheriffs, prosecuting attorneys and county clerks either elective or appointive, as it sees fit. 6. Giving the Supreme Court the power to prescribe all rules for practice, pleading and procedure, as well as for licensing, disciplining and disbarring attorneys. An Administrative Director would be named by the Supreme Court to handle these details, and many others, including the decision as to where the county and district clerks would have their offices.

THE COUNTY JUDGE would have only judicial duties. County administrative matters would be handled by an elected Board of County Commissioners. The Supreme Court would decide how many part-time and full-time county judges were needed, and if it chose, could combine two or more counties into a single county court district. Nine-vote verdicts would be authorized on district juries, and five-vote verdicts on county juries. If the voters in a county retain their right to elect district judges, it will be for six year terms, the same as if it were made an appointment of the Governor. All court fees would be State funds, administered by the Supreme Court. The Legislature would appropriate money to make up the difference if a county's collections didn't pay its court bills. If there was a surplus of fines and fees, it would be divided among the county and the cities in the county. To ease the pain for constables, justices of the peace, corporation court judges, county judges-at-law, and other attaches of present courts, it provides that all of them will be carried forward into the new set-up until they die or retire, or until they are removed by the voters.

LAWYERS have until Jan. 10 to mail in their ballots. If a majority of the lawyers voting approve the plan, it will be introduced in the coming legislative session. If it is, it can well become one of the big issues of the session.

FOUR DAYS after he became the man to sit longest in the Governor's chair, Gov. ALLAN SHIVERS said he has too much to do. Shivers told the Senate Investigating Committee probing irregularities in block land sales under the \$100 million veterans' land program that ex officio boards on which he is supposed to sit, like the Veterans Land Board, "ought not to exist". He told the committee that he could not remember specifically how many Board meetings he had attended, but guessed the number wasn't very high. He said he attended only when the Board had to approve bonds—"maybe three or four times". Board minutes of the twice-monthly meetings show Shivers not present at any of the meetings when transactions under investigation were approved. Neither was Atty. Gen. JOHN BEN SHEPPERD, who with Shivers and Land Commr. BASCOM GILES, make up the constitutional membership of

the Board which has bought nearly \$100 million worth of land for re-sale to GIs. When approval was given by the Board to the big block sales, Shepperd was represented by his first assistant, BOB TROTTI, except for one meeting at which former assistant CHARLES MATHEWS sat in. Shivers' executive secretary, MAURICE ACERS, sat in for him on all occasions, except one, when no one was there for the Governor.

NEITHER Shivers nor Shepperd was questioned at any length by the committee. Giles began his testimony with a statement that he believed responsibility for the Board's actions had to be shared alike by all members. Later, after a conference with Acers, he began amending this view, saying primary responsibility was his, but was cut off by Sen. Hardeman before he finished his amendment. Giles and Shivers defended the program as basically good, Shivers saying that some questionable things could be expected in a program so big. (There have been 20,000 applications for land; under question are about 250 sales involving over \$2 million). Both Shepperd and Auditor C.H. CAVNESS said there are many more block deals which will take several months to look into. Outside Shivers' recommendation that the Governor be removed from his role of supervision over the program, the committee got no specific suggestions for legislation. Shepperd's office is briefing the deals for possible criminal action, as well as civil action to cancel the deals and make the promoters buy back the land they sold the State at strong mark-ups. As the Senate Committee recessed to Jan. 12, the full membership of the Board met, and disapproved all pending applications of three firms involved in the probe--Rio Val, Alamo Land and Wintergarden Development Cos. It took no action on those firms' proposals of last week to assume the debt of the veterans whose names had been used for some purchases which Rangers found the GIs didn't know they were making.

IN BRIEF, the transactions followed this general pattern. Land would be bought on credit, or with small down payment. GI deals would be quickly worked out and the land sold to the State in time to pay off the land, leaving a profit for the promoter. Value of the land went up in one case calculated by Cavness from \$26.30 to \$47.95 an acre in four months. The Rio Grande Corp., headed by T.J. McClarty, Yoakum, bought 11,085 acres in Webb County for \$310,000, with \$50,000 down. A year later he sold it to the corporation for \$288,000, and a month later sold it to the State for 77 vets for \$511,450.

DUVAL COUNTY, which has occupied one Veterans Land Board member most of this year, was "turned back" to Dist. Atty.-elect SAM BURRIS by Atty. Gen. Shepperd at a ceremony in the Duval courthouse this week. Shepperd gave credit to Shivers, HOMER GARRISON, Jr., of the Safety Dept. and his Rangers, Auditor Cavness, Federal officials, and National GOP Committeeman JACK PORTER for helping him in his Duval crusade. (He said Porter had never been mentioned before in connection with Duval, but "he has been a great help to me many times when we would get on 'high center'". He gave aid at his own expense, and made trips to Washington to cut red tape when necessary.") The Duval County Clean Government League gave Shepperd a scroll. Shepperd is having a book printed for free distribution about his Duval exploits, but will continue to help Burris if he's needed...The Rio Grande border is being re-opened to cattle Jan. 1, for the first time since the foot-and-mouth disease outbreak. Cattlemen are expecting a rush of cattle northward to U.S. markets...The Houston Press had published an apology to Texas labor unions for publication of a letter to the editor charging that "all unions everywhere are under the absolute control of communists or their agents..." The Press found, after publication, that the name signed to the letter was phoney. As a result of the apology, the Texas State Federation of Labor-AFL has dropped plans for a libel suit. Said The Press: "...such contentions as those made in this letter are completely false and so ridiculous as not to merit consideration by even the most unthinking reader."

THE TEXAS COUNCIL OF CHURCHES meets Jan. 5-7 in Fort Worth and is expected to adopt a statement on school desegregation. A committee headed by Dr. M.E. SADLER, president of TCU, is drafting a "Message to Texas Churches" for consideration by delegates from churches with nearly 1.25 million members...The late MAURY MAVERICK's collection of books on the Far East has been bought by the University of Houston Library...The National Education Assn. inquiry into teachers' working conditions in the Houston schools found that two of five teachers had been subjected to pressures, either to support political candidates, or to teach slanted views on current events. The NEA found that "fear and uncertainty exist" in the Houston schools. The report is somewhat anti-climactic, however, since a liberal majority was elected to the Houston school board in November.

THE Jan. 8 special House election to replace Rep. DAVID RATLIFF of Stamford has drawn four candidates, ONIS CRAWFORD and CLEBURNE HUSTON of Jones County, MOYNE KELLY (former State Hospital Board executive director) of Dickens County, and BOWEN POPE of Jones County...Agriculture Commr. JOHN WHITE found a new way to take office for his third term. The oath was administered by his father, Farmer ED WHITE, at the family farm near Wichita Falls.

Selected GENERAL

Jack
File in
file. for

Garr

United States Senate

MEMORANDUM *Friday*
12:10

1.7.

Call Dorothy

DOMESTIC SERVICE	
Check the class of service desired; otherwise this message will be sent as a full rate telegram	
FULL RATE TELEGRAM	SERIAL
DAY LETTER	NIGHT LETTER

WESTERN UNION

W. P. MARSHALL, PRESIDENT

1206

INTERNATIONAL SERVICE	
Check the class of service desired; otherwise this message will be sent at the full rate	
FULL RATE	DEFERRED
CODE	NIGHT LETTER

NO. WDS.-CL. OF SVC.	PD. OR COLL.	CASH NO.	CHARGE TO THE ACCOUNT OF	TIME FILED

Send the following message, subject to the terms on back hereof, which are hereby agreed to

Washington, D. C.
June 22, 1949

Mr. George Parr
San Diego
Texas

In order to export wire to Mexico applicant must file application in triplicate addressed to Office of International Trade, Department of Commerce, Washington 25, D. C., attaching evidence that he has material available or contracted for. Oysters may be imported purely by clearance through U. S. Customs. At time of importation, Food and Drug Administration will inspect product and determine whether its entrance into United States can be approved. Any importation contracts therefore should contain provisions making contract contingent upon acceptance of product by Food and Drug Administration at time of import.

Lyndon B. Johnson, USS

Official Business
Government Rate
Day Letter Paid

wj dj

Landon

Mr Radcliffe

NO-5224

United States Senate

gmfr

MEMORANDUM

Doc 384 3451

Importation of opium

Food & drug admin.

US Customs House

423 Consl St.

N.O.

Anderson
Whitekather

4386

J. Geo Parr

Parr, Rec.
Sent

COPY

February 18, 1954

Dear Grady:

I appreciate very much your letter of February 16 and am glad to reassure you of my determination to give Texas fair, clean, and honorable representation.

Never since I announced for the Senate in 1948 has Mr. George Parr discussed his business matters with me. Since I came to the Senate I have received several hundred thousand letters. Many of them have contained requests for assistance of various types, whether involving projects, legislation, or personal matters such as veterans' cases, military problems, passport visas, etc. In all cases I have tried to be helpful to my constituents regardless of the location of their homes, but I can assure you that no one section of Texas has received more favorable representation from me than any other section.

I am delighted to note that you are prospering, and I hope you will continue to be successful. I certainly want to be helpful if there is any way that I can be. Perhaps as it turns out, it was better that I was unable to be of any real assistance in connection with the College.

Thanks, too, for your advice on several subjects. I shall certainly bear it in mind.

Sincerely,

Lyndon B. Johnson

Dr. Henry Grady Harlan
P. O. Box 282
San Antonio, 6, Texas

LBJ:WJ:mf

Southwestern Musician

A MONTHLY MAGAZINE

VIRGINIA W. HARLAN
CO-EDITOR

HENRY GRADY HARLAN, PH. D., MUS. D.
EDITOR - PUBLISHER

J. LAWRENCE
PRODUCTION

OFFICE:
710 GIBBS BUILDING

TELEPHONE:
FANNIN 8618

SAN ANTONIO 6. P. O. BOX 282. TEXAS

February 16, 1954

Senator Lyndon Johnson
United State Senate
Washington, D C

Dear Lyndon:

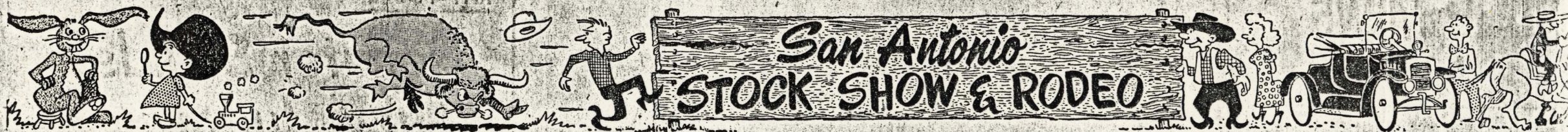
You will be interested in the statement made here by the declared "Duke of Duval" concerning you. It is now generally accepted, here, that the votes in Duval turned the tide for you and against Coke in 1948. However, the feeling is that Coke accepted the votes for years and, as Governor, made no attempt to clean-up the "long-known existing condition". So they held nothing against you on the score. However, they have been particularly observant as regards blessings you might have been urged to do. My question is: Have you granted any favors to that constituency?

I have always voted for you and I got a lot of votes for you in 1948. You see my family has lived at Bishop in Nueces County since 1914. We have known the Parr deal all these years and have always voted against it and, largely on that ground, my brothers voted for you and against Coke for the Senate, though they had been strong for him as Governor. We hope you have kept yourself clear of this obligation, though I have some fine lawyer friends in Alice who got sucked-in years ago and they can't stop. Of course they have made the money, but lost the respect of their former warm friends who have remained for clean government. Your name has certainly been used in a bad way as regards the present investigation. And it is surprising how many people, who voted for you in 1948, now state they are in a state of in-decision.

I now know a lot of facts about my dismissal from SWSTC in 1947 that I didn't understand then, and I also know that you were pressured out of rendering the help I requested. All of that is water under the bridge and I hold nothing anybody, for I have prospered far beyond what I had any hope for realizing there. But, now, I want to help the man who keeps his skirts clean, as I hope you have. Many think you have not and, irrespective of the truth, it is going to cost you some votes.

I never was your teacher, but I always liked you and I have supported you in every election. You have much to commend you. On the other hand, I disagree with you on many situations. However, that is also not too important; what is important is that you give us clean representation, that we stay off the extreme of Trumanism-inflation as well as the other extremity of Hoover conservatism. It will take good living and hard work to achieve this result. You and Price Daniel comprise a strong pair. Stay straight on sound Texas and American principles. Remove the \$75. limit on social security; let people work and earn, have SS as an annuity. Lyndon, answer my question, personally, please.

Cordially, *Henry Grady Harlan*
H. Grady Harlan



FAIR

Fair through Wednesday; cooler Tuesday night; moderate to fresh northerly winds, diminishing Tuesday night. High Tuesday, 70; low Wednesday, 45; high Wednesday, 70. Sunset Tuesday, 6:24; sunrise Wednesday, 7:11; sunset Wednesday, 6:25.

Midnight 64	2 a.m. 65	4 a.m. 63	6 a.m. 61
1 a.m. 66	3 a.m. 63	5 a.m. 62	7 a.m. 59
		8 a.m. 58	

U.S. Official Weather Report

SAN ANTONIO NEWS

★ The Dependable Home Newspaper ★

VOL. 36—NO. 141 SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS, TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 1954

32 Pages

CLAIM DUVAL BRIBED



SAN ANTONIO NEWS

★ The Dependable Home Newspaper ★

HOME
EDITION

PRICE 5 CENTS

VOL. 36—NO. 141 SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS, TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 1954

32 Pages

AIM DUVAL BRIBERY

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herly winds,
Tuesday, 70;
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3 6 a.m. 61
2 7 a.m. 59
ort 8 a.m. 58

Packing of Juries Is Charged

By PAUL THOMPSON
Staff Writer

SAN DIEGO, Feb. 16.—Charges of jury-packing and attempted bribery will rock the Duval County investigation Saturday in the state's heaviest punch yet thrown in its airing of conditions in this George Parr-bossed political bal-
wick.

James L. MacDonald, Freedom Party's candidate for Duval County sheriff, will tell a hearing in the Duval courthouse that two years ago an attempt was made to buy him out while he was grand jury commissioner.

A bitter foe of Parr's political machine, MacDonald will claim he was offered a prime chunk of real estate and \$500 monthly for slipping machine-controlled men into three jury panels.

At a hearing before Dist. Judge C. Woodrow Laughlin, MacDonald will state he turned down the offers and was threatened with death for his action.

All this became known Tuesday during an interview with MacDonald in which the sheriff candidate handed Parr a stiff raking over, and said he will testify against the Duval Duke at 10 a.m. Saturday.

Atty. Gen. John Ben Shepperd confirmed that MacDonald has been subpoenaed for the hearing.

Judge Laughlin will pass on a motion by Shepperd to dissolve a grand jury which is investigating Duval County affairs. Jurymen, according to Shepperd, take orders from Parr and hence are "not free to act."

(Turn to Page 5-A)
PACKING

Packing

(Continued from Page 1)

Specifically, the attorney general will charge:

1. Parr tried to bribe MacDonald on April 23, 1952.

2. names of all three grand jury commissioners who named the present grand jury were on a list of names Parr handed MacDonald that day.

3. Four members of the present jury were named on the same list.

On file with the attorney general is a photostatic copy of 90 names purportedly listed by Parr and left with MacDonald two years ago. Eighteen of the names were proposed for grand jury duty and the rest for two petit jury panels, MacDonald has told Shepperd.

The photostat includes names of Vidal Garcia, W. C. Kelly and Pedro Coronado, grand jury commissioners who selected the jury panel which Shepperd seeks to oust.

Also listed are Irinio Canales, J. M. Caden, Jose Tovar and Amado Caballero, all members of the grand jury under fire.

Still others on the list are:

Jose de Leon and O. D. Barrington, jury commissioners for April of 1953; and J. A. Heras and Tyson Summy, jury commissioners appointed by Judge Laughlin in February to pick an eight-man jury for duty in April.

Questioned by reporters, Shepperd made it plain that all men on the 90-name list have been established as Parr supporters.

McDonald gave San Antonio News a detailed account of what happened on April 23, 1952, the day he asserts Parr came to him at his Benavides home with the bribe offer.

A sworn statement giving the account is on file with Shepperd, McDonald said, and will be read into the record in Saturday's hearing.

McDonald's account follows:

"George B. Parr, at my home, told me he wanted to talk with me. I knew Parr personally so I invited him in.

"Parr first asked me what my salary was. I told him \$500 a month. He then said, 'Mac, I'm going to put you on my payroll for \$500.'

"To this I replied, 'Well, George, people just don't hand out \$500 a month for nothing.'

"George replied that Judge Sam G. Reams was going to appoint me on the jury commission to pick a grand jury.

"Naturally," George said, "I want the right men on that jury. I have here a list of names, which

I want you to put on that jury."

"With that, Parr handed me a paper on which were three lists, one with 18 names marked Grand Jury; and two lists of 36 names each marked, Petit Jury, First Week, and Petit Jury, Second Week.

"I examined this paper, not knowing what to say. Parr evidently sensing I was hesitant, made the following statement:

"I understand you have an interest in the — lease on my property on which there is an R.F.C. loan.

"If you will take care of this for me, I will see that you get that lease. I'll send you in to Lyndon Johnson in Washington and have him clear it through R.F.C."

"With that Parr left. I didn't agree or disagree. He never gave me the chance.

"Judge Reams appointed me on that grand jury commission, but not one man's name on the Parr lists was placed on the grand or petit juries.

"After the grand jury was empaneled, my phone rang one night and a stranger's voice told me:

"MacDonald, you have double-crossed Mr. Parr. No one in Duval County ever double-crossed Mr. Parr and lived. This is your first and last warning, MacDonald. You leave Duval County. If you don't you will be killed."

"I received other threats later, of a similar nature and in July, 1952, four Parr deputies approached me with a search warrant for my car, searched it for a gun, did not find one, and told me, 'we are taking you to San Diego to see George.'

"At the sheriff's office I was told to sit down a few minutes. I waited much longer than that and was about to leave when Parr came in and told me I had double-crossed him. I said I never agreed to do anything for him. An argument followed in which Parr said he would run me out of the county, and that he had had better men than me killed.

"I remarked that he might have someone else kill me, but that he did not have the guts to kill me himself."

Brownsville Vessel Sinks, Crew Saved

BY ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW ORLEANS, Feb. 16. — All crewmen apparently were safe after a fishing vessel sank off the Port Aransas bar in the Gulf of Mexico, the Coast Guard said.

The Viking, owned by Tim Hay of Brownsville, ran aground Monday about 30 miles from Port Aransas, the Coast Guard reported. The cause of the accident was not known.

22 Jan 44
Personal
FAB

Parr Income Tax Being Probed, Brownell Says

Wally Hwang
Nov 2-8-42

CORPUS CHRISTI, Tex., Feb. 4

—UP—Gov. Allan Shivers, speaking from the sidelines of George Parr's political empire, pointed west to the "one place in Texas where freedom is about to be stamped out," but pledged the state to correct that situation "God giving us time."

The state has "ballot thieves and political gangsters" in Duval county "on the run," Shivers said in a speech at Corpus Christi.

At Washington, meanwhile, Attorney General Herbert Brownell Jr. said the Treasury Department is conducting an income tax investigation of George Parr, the "Duke of Duval" county.

Brownell told a news conference he discussed the Parr case with Shivers in Texas, where the attorney general recently visited.

Treasury Jurisdiction

"The information I received was within the jurisdiction of the Treasury, and I referred it to them," Brownell said. "There is nothing pending in the Justice Department about Parr."

Shivers, who in a speech at San Antonio Wednesday threatened to declare martial law in Duval county and send in 50 Rangers if that was necessary "to bring freedom to those people," announced that a joint state-federal investigation into use of public funds in the politically-turbulent area was about ended and he believed it would "bear fruit."

At a Corpus Christi Rotary meeting Shivers said: "A county west of us known as Duval is one place in Texas where freedom is about to be stamped out."

"It is a condition that free Texans shouldn't allow," he said. "God giving us time, we aren't going to allow it. I think we've got them on the run. I think in a short time you'll see an end to that condition and we will end it with your help."

Asked Protection

Shivers said a Duval county group came to him two years ago and told him they would "stand up to battle the situation" if they were guaranteed protection. This was granted, the governor said, and "they gave a 28 per cent show of opposition."

He referred to polled voting strength of the "Freedom Party," an anti-Parr political group in Duval county.

Shivers said his administration had been given the cooperation of the Department of Justice, the Bureau of Internal Revenue, State Department of Education, attorney general's office, state auditor's office and the Department of Public Safety in the campaign against the Parr machine—"even though they may indict a few of the department's members."

Shivers referred to the action of a Jim Wells county grand jury Wednesday in indicting Ranger Capt. A. Y. Allee and Ranger Joe Bridge on counts of assault with intent to murder Parr. The indictments stemmed from a bloody court house corridor brawl at Alice between the two Rangers, a Ranger technician, Parr and his nephew, Duval County Sheriff Archer Parr.

DUCHY OF DUVAL—IV

Balloting Dispute Revived in 1948

Editor's Note.—This is the fourth story of a series on the political history of the "Deceptive Duchy of Duval," whose near-unanimous election returns have been questioned for thirty years.

By **DAWSON DUNCAN**
and **ALLEN DUCKWORTH**

After surviving the State Senate investigation of 1919, Duval County settled down to make its top-sided voting a tradition.

The first Duke of Duval, Archibald Parr, died in 1942. He was succeeded in political power by his son, George Parr, the second Duke of Duval who still runs the politics of the Latin-American county and has influence in adjoining counties.

Politicians began to accept the near-unanimous Duval votes with little or no protest. On occasion, the Texas Election Bureau received reports from Duval of "complete" returns before poll-closing time.

Although the State Democratic

Convention had denounced Duval's political system in 1918, the indignation of that day was replaced by an attitude of amusement.

Two years ago, however, the Duval vote ceased to be a joke—at least for the candidate on the short end of the stick.

That was when Lyndon B. Johnson and Coke Stevenson waged their photo-finish campaign for United States Senate.

Texas suddenly realized that this one county—Duval—could control an entire state election if the result were close enough.

For a while, it appeared there would be a full-scale investigation of Duval and adjoining counties where Parr is influential. But Associate Justice Hugo Black of the United States Supreme Court ordered a halt to a federal district court inquiry after it had proceeded only two days.

Johnson was declared winner of the Democratic nomination by only eighty-seven votes. The state-wide total was Johnson, 494,191; Stevenson, 494,104.

The ballots from Duval and from Box 13, in adjoining Jim Wells County, were many times over his margin of victory.

Controversy over Johnson's vote in the Latin-American Land of Parr raged for weeks. It went

See DUVAL, Page 14, Col. 1

DUVAL

Continued from Page 1
from an exchange of angry words between Stevenson and Johnson into the Democratic State Convention, into federal district court, into a federal circuit court of appeals and finally to the United States Supreme Court where Mr. Justice Black put an end to the investigating.

Republicans, who were in control of Congress, pledged an inquiry. But the Democrats won and the next Congress dismissed the contest against Johnson. The Department of Justice made motions like an investigation, but finally decided to let the matter ride.

The Johnson-Stevenson drama began about 9 a.m. on Aug. 28—date of the runoff primary of 1948. At that hour, it became apparent that a close count would be necessary to decide the winner of Senate nomination.

The Texas Election Bureau in Dallas, an unofficial agency that collects returns for the state's newspapers and radio stations, sensed the trend and started double-checking all reports.

Stevenson was leading by only 854 votes at 1:30 a.m. Sunday, the day after the election.

News from Duval alarmed the Stevenson camp.

Although Duval had, in some past elections, been the first county to report a complete count, the election bureau was informed Sunday that one box still was out. A report on that box was promised by 3 p.m. that day.

It was dusk, however, when the complete Duval vote came in. John-

0147 D.M.1615

Texas Election Bureau Telegraph Form A

TO CORRESPONDENTS: Before filing, see that figures are not transposed. When sending final returns, write "complete" after words "County Returns." Where a candidate receives no vote, write "none" in blank opposite his name.

*At lower left of this form please show number of voting boxes which have reported complete in your county at time of this report.

TO OPERATOR: Send at press rate. Rush

Collect. WITE (COLLECT 44 LB) TDN2 ALICE Texas, August 28, 1948

TEXAS ELECTION BUREAU, Dallas, Texas.

125 JIM WELLS

County Returns COMPLETE

Senator—Johnson 1786

Stevenson 769

STATE LEGISLATURE 77 CANNON 1959 GARRETT 519

Congress, District

Civil Appeals, District 11

11 Boxes Complete

Signed C. D. DUBOSE

1021P

CLAIM OF SERVICE
This is a full and complete statement of the facts and circumstances surrounding the election of the above named candidate to the office of the above named office, and the same is true and correct to the best of the knowledge and belief of the undersigned.

WESTERN UNION

SYMBOLS
DL—Day Letter
NL—Night Letter
CL—Cable Letter
MLT—Cable Letter
R—Radio

The filing time shown on this form is the time at which the message is received by the Western Union office at the point of origin. Time of receipt at destination is shown at point of destination.

COPY

FOR COLLECT ALICE TEXAS SEPT 3 1948

TEXAS ELECTION BUREAU

DALLAS NEWS BLOC

DALLAS, TEXAS

COMPLETE OFFICIAL RETURNS FROM 125 JIM WELLS COUNTY SENATOR

JOHNSON 1988 STEVENSON 770 LEGISLATURE CANNON 2160 GARRETT 579

C. D. DUBOSE

Coke Stevenson disputed his opponent's gain in Jim Wells County, which adjoins Duval, during the 1948 election controversy. The complete unofficial return on election night gave Lyndon B. Johnson 202 fewer votes than did the official return six days later. Reproduced above are telegrams received by the Texas Election Bureau Aug. 28 and Sept. 3.

son got 4,622 votes; Stevenson 40. The missing box had added 427 votes to Johnson's total, but only 2 for Stevenson. This gave Johnson the state-wide lead that Sunday night.

Stevenson regained the lead Monday noon by a 210-vote margin.

Counties were checking and re-checking the unofficial totals they had sent to the election bureau.

Johnson complained about revisions.

"If I lose this election I want to lose it by the votes of the people and not by mistakes and corrections," said Johnson.

The election seemed settled Tuesday night: Stevenson had a lead of 349 votes and the election bureau estimated it had accounted for all votes in the state except about forty from Borden County in its unofficial tabulation.

On Wednesday—four days after the election—the Texas Election Bureau announced it had received returns, marked "complete" from every county. The bureau pointed out, however, that an official canvass would be necessary to decide the winner.

Telegraphic reports to the bureau were being verified by mailed reports.

Stevenson was leading by 362 votes. His followers felt their man was safe. After all, they argued, all the bad news was in; he had survived the lopsided land of Parr votes.

But Stevenson had overlooked a conflict in the reports of votes from the now-famous Box 13 in Jim Wells County.

Box 13 is ten miles from San Diego, home of George Parr, and is, like Duval County, heavily populated by Latin-Americans who speak more Spanish than English.

Here is the time-table of the Jim Wells County vote reports:

At 6:39 p.m., on the day of the election, the Texas Election Bureau received a telegram from Jim Wells County saying returns were incomplete, but that Johnson had 1,049 votes to Stevenson's 260.

At 10:21 p.m., a wire to the bureau from its correspondent said Jim Wells had completed its count. The score was Johnson, 1,786 votes; Stevenson, 769.

These figures were verified by a mail report from the correspondent of the bureau.

Six days after the primary, however, the election bureau received this telegram from its correspondent:

"Complete official returns from Jim Wells County, Senator John-

son 1,988, Stevenson, 770****

This new total added only one vote to Stevenson, but gave 202 more votes to Johnson.

And statewide, Johnson went into a 17-vote lead on the unofficial count.

Johnson and Stevenson, by this time, were engaged in a word duel. Stevenson charged he was being counted out of the running.

Johnson said he knew the real totals all along through an independent check, and could not be responsible for the Texas Election Bureau's system of collecting returns.

"When every vote is honestly counted in every county," said



Lyndon B. Johnson was smiling and confident at the executive committee session, where he was declared Democratic nominee for Senate.

Johnson, "Lyndon Johnson will be certified the winner of the nomination."

It was obvious that the battle would go to the State Democratic convention, which normally does a routine duty in certifying nominees to the Secretary of State for the November general election.

Stevenson and Johnson partisans

began a campaign to get a majority of delegates to the Fort Worth convention.

Johnson made a radio appeal for convention support. He argued that the convention had a simple duty under law; it should count up the votes as reported by the Democratic County Executive Committees and had no authority to investigate the balloting.

There were appeals to Washington for an FBI investigation. Other parties wanted a State Senate or United States Senate probe.

George Parr said the Duval election was "as clean an election as ever has been held. I invite investigation." He said Johnson got the big majority there because "he is our friend."

Stevenson men started some investigating on their own hook. Kellis Dibrell, San Antonio lawyer and former FBI agent, filed an affidavit in Jim Wells County alleging that 200 illegal votes had been added in Box 13.

A new Democratic executive committee took office in Jim Wells. There was a hint that the committee would try to recount the votes. Time was running short. The state convention was only five days away. Without the Jim Wells votes, Johnson would be defeated.

Johnson attorneys obtained an injunction to prevent the new committee from eliminating any votes "on the ground of illegality, irregularity or fraud in the holding of said election."

The scene shifted to Fort Worth on Sept. 13, 1948, when the Democratic State Executive Committee met to set up the state convention.

The executive committee met all day and into the night.

Stevenson's friends argued they had evidence of fraud.

Johnson's counsel retorted that the purported affidavits were obtained from persons of Mexican descent under threats.

When the committee vote was taken, Johnson was declared the winner. The decision was close. Johnson won by a single committee vote.

Stevenson planned a fight on the convention floor the next day. The convention was divided on the Johnson-Stevenson matter and also over support of the presidential nominee, Harry S. Truman. The Johnson forces perfected a coalition with the Trumanites. The Trumanites won convention control and kicked out most of the anti-Truman and anti-Johnson delegates with the Truman victory came certification of Johnson.

Johnson appeared on the platform and was given an ovation.

George Parr was introduced and applauded.

Stevenson men didn't try to contest in the convention. They were beaten there and knew it.

But even as Johnson and Parr were being applauded, two Stevenson attorneys, Connie Renfro of Dallas and Kellis Dibrell of San Antonio were preparing to drive to Harrison County, on the Louisiana border.

Dogs yapped as the two attorneys pulled up, about 4 a.m., at the farm home of Federal Judge T. Whitfield Davidson.

Judge Davidson dressed and sat down behind a table. Renfro outlined their complaint. The judge granted a temporary restraining order against the Secretary of

State, forbidding him from putting Johnson's name on the general election ballot, and setting a hearing at Fort Worth Sept. 21. Tomorrow, The contest enters federal court.

DUCHY OF DUVAL—III

Ballots Destroyed In Two Disputes

(Editor's Note—This is the third story of a series on the political history of the "Decisive Duchy of Duval," whose near-unanimous election returns have been questioned for thirty years.)

By **DAWSON DUNCAN**
and **ALLEN DUCKWORTH**

Twice, during election controversies, Duval County ballots have been destroyed.

They were burned two years ago, when Coke Stevenson was disputing Lyndon Johnson's right to the United States Senate nomination.

The ballots were torn up thirty-two years ago, when D. W. Glasscock was contesting the late Archie Parr's re-election as State Senator.

A State Senate committee on privileges and elections inquired into the Glasscock charges. On Feb. 6, 1919, the committee put J. V. Palacios, county and district clerk of Duval, on the stand. A portion of questioning follows:

Q. A subpoena duces tecum was served on you to bring the ballots cast at the primary election in Duval County of last year, and the ballots of the general election.

A. I brought the general election ballots.

Q. Didn't bring the primary ballots?

A. No, sir.

Q. Why?

A. I haven't got them.

A Senator wanted to know what became of the ballots.

"I don't know, sir; I suppose they were destroyed," said Palacios.

O. G. Allen, brother-in-law of Archie Parr, the then Duke of Duval, was called. Allen, the chairman of the Duval County Democratic Executive Committee, was ordered to bring tally sheets and other records of the primary election.

Allen said he couldn't produce the records; they had disappeared.

Juan O. Trevino, sheriff and tax collector of Duval, testified he once had possession of the primary ballots and kept them in the county judge's office.

Q. Where are they now?

A. They are destroyed.

Q. Who destroyed them?

A. I did.

Q. How did you destroy them?

A. Me and the judge, the county judge.

Q. How?

A. Destroyed them.

Q. How did you destroy them, tear them up, or burn them up?

A. Tore them up.

Q. What day was it you destroyed them?

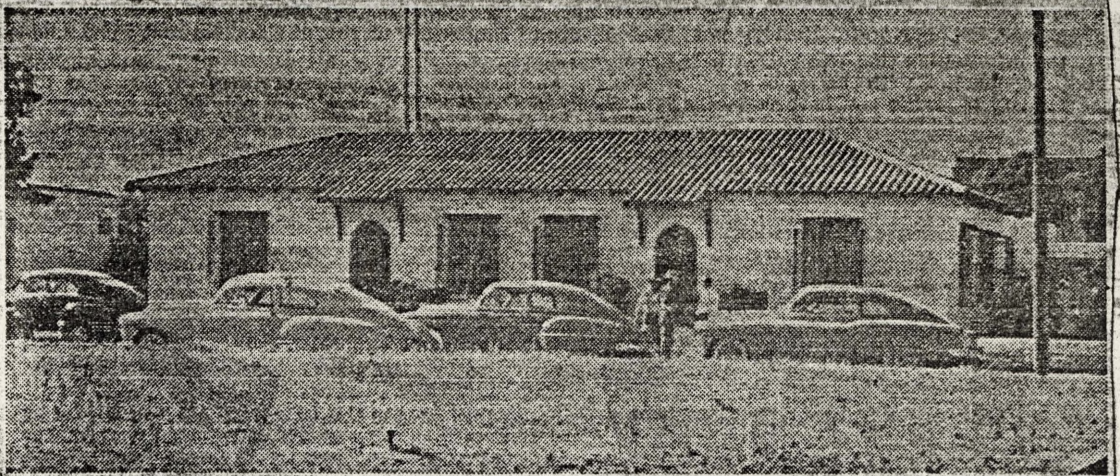
A. I do not remember exactly, but it was about ninety days after.

Q. After what?

A. The primary election.

Trevino said the ballots were destroyed because the boxes were

See DUVAL, Page 9, Col. 1



—Dallas News Staff Photo.

This is the modern, Spanish-type office building that George Parr built in San Diego. It is across the street from the Duval County Courthouse. The oilman, banker, rancher, businessman and politician also is county judge of Duval.

Parr on Mr. Glasscock had been elected to the Senate, didn't you?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. At the time you destroyed the ballots?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. You knew that they would probably be needed in that contest—the ballots of the primary election?

A. I didn't know that they would be needed.

Trevino testified that he not only destroyed the ballots, but also the poll tax lists and tally sheets.

Parr's attorneys countered previous testimony by attempting to show there was some peculiar voting on the other side, in counties other than those complained of by Glasscock.

Guadalupe Molina testified that she voted in LaSalle County, just northwest of Duval, and that her ballot was already made out for her when she arrived at the polls in the November general election.

She said she voted for Woodrow Wilson for President. She also said she voted for Wilson for State Senator.

When asked about her vote for Lieutenant Governor, she said she voted "for the general." What general? she was asked. "The general of the state," was her reply.

Domingo Cisneros, another Parr witness, told of having his ballot marked for him in the general election.

Fulgencio Gonzales said he voted for Woodrow Wilson for President and for Governor.

Parr attorneys sought to prove that some Mexicans who wanted to vote for Parr had their ballots marked for Glasscock.

Melchior Pena, who voted at Encinal in LaSalle County, said his ballot was fixed when he got to the polling place but he thought he voted for Parr. The record showed his ballot was for Glasscock.

Witness after witness was called, and most of them added to the evidence that the average Latin-American in the senatorial district was utterly confused on politics.

It was shown that Mexican citizens, living in Texas, had been issued poll taxes and had voted.

One witness, through an interpreter, said she thought she was an American now because she had been baptized in Texas.

A LaSalle County Mexican said he voted for "the present Governor" whom he identified as Woodrow Wilson.

From Laredo came a witness who said he voted for Glasscock for Attorney General. Another said he voted for Glasscock for Congress.



—Associated Press Photo.

There are many political triumphs in the history of the Decivise Duchy of Duval, but none so mighty as that of 1948, when Lyndon B. Johnson was named United States Senator. Here's George Parr, second Duke of Duval, enjoying himself at the Democartic convention at Fort Worth, where Johnson's 87-vote victory was proclaimed.

Still another Laredo Mexican thought Parr and Glasscock were running for Governor. He voted for one in the primary and the other in the general election.

There were stacks of affidavits designed to show illegal voting. Several claimed that voters were handed ballots already marked and folded when they entered the polls.

Gaspar Chapa of Hidalgo testified that his voting was easy.

"One of the clerks showed me where to scratch and I scratched."

After a month of testimony,

which filled more than a thousand pages of the Senate Journal, Senator Parr addressed the committee. He said the issue was simple.

"They (the Glasscock supporters) went out and tried to get every Mexican vote they could, and I went out and tried to get them all and I got more votes than he did and that is all that is the matter with them," Senator Parr said. "My majority is more than his and the votes ought to be counted."

The committee's majority report

DUVAL

Continued from Page 1
needed for general election in November.

Q. You knew there was a controversy as to whether or not Mr.

rejected the Glasscock complaint. A minority, however, recommended that the election be declared void because "there were so many irregularities, violations of the law in the conduct of election, and so many illegal votes cast, that it is impossible to ascertain with cer-

tainty the true result of the election as to the office of State Senator from the Twenty-third Senatorial District."

Senator Parr was saved by two votes when the Senate as a whole voted 16 to 14 on March 12, 1919, to seat the Duke of Duval.

Parr continued to serve in the Senate until 1934. He died, at eighty-one, ten years after leaving the Senate, having served twenty years in all.

He was credited, during his Senate service, with being instrumental in having the Texas College

of Arts and Industries established at Kingsville, and he was the author of the state aid bill that helped finance construction of Corpus Christi's rock breakwater.

Tomorrow—Duval County Does It Again: The Johnson-Stevenson Senate Controversy.

DUCHY OF DUVAL—V

Records Vanish In Vote Inquiry

(Editor's Note: This is the first story of a series on the political history of the exclusive Duchy of Duval, whose near unanimous election returns have been questioned for thirty years.)

By **DAWSON DUNCAN**
and **ALLEN DUCKWORTH**

An investigation of election fraud charges in the Duval County region was ordered two years ago by United States District Judge T. Whitfield Davidson.

For a few days, it appeared that facts might be developed to prove or disprove the allegations by former Gov. Coke R. Stevenson, who insisted that he had been deprived illegally of the United States Senate nomination.

Judge Davidson, sitting at Fort Worth on Sept. 22, 1948, appointed special masters to collect what facts they could find in disputed counties and report back to him.

Pending the investigation's completion, Judge Davidson issued a temporary injunction preventing Lyndon B. Johnson's name being placed on the Nov. 2 general elec-

tion ballot as the Democratic nominee for Senate.

The election observed Judge Davidson from the bench, was under a cloud because efforts to examine records had been blocked.

"Throw open the doors and let the light in," the judge declared in overruling objections by Johnson's attorneys that the court had no authority to review the election.

Inquiries were started in Duval, Jim Wells and Zapata Counties, but they lasted only two days.

Before investigators could dip their hands into the ballot boxes and make a detailed check of the disputed votes, Judge Davidson's injunction was dissolved by Supreme Court Justice Hugo Black.

While nothing was proved in the short-lived investigation as to whether Stevenson was right or wrong, there was enough testimony to throw a bit of light on the political manners of the Latin-American counties.

Records seemed to disappear into thin air.

An important witness went to Mexico the day before the hearing. Stevenson claimed irregularities in Duval, Jim Wells and Zapata Counties. Johnson had been de-

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Map locates politically famous Duval County. During the 1948 federal court investigation, hearings were conducted in San Diego, county seat of Duval, and at nearby Alice, Jim Wells County, and Zapata in Zapata County.

DUVAL

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clared winner of the runoff primary by only eighty-seven votes for the entire state. Stevenson attorneys hoped to show enough irregularities in the disputed counties to throw out the few votes needed to put Johnson behind.

Most of Stevenson's attack was centered on Box 13 at Alice, in Jim Wells County.

Jim Wells County adjoins Duval. Alice is only a few minutes' drive eastward from San Diego, the Duval County seat.

George Parr, the political boss of Duval, has business interests in Alice; it was developed in testimony taken there before the investigation was halted.

One of the witnesses on Sept. 27, 1948, was Givens S. Parr. He said he was active vice-president of the Texas State Bank of Alice.

"Who is the president?" asked Connie Renfro of Dallas, a Stevenson attorney.

"George Parr," Givens Parr replied. He explained that George Parr was his brother.

Another business link with Parr was seen in the personnel of the legal staff at the Alice hearings. One of the anti-Stevenson attorneys was Ed Lloyd of Alice. He is a member of the firm of Lloyd & Lloyd. Martindale and Hubbell, a legal directory, shows that Lloyd & Lloyd represent the Texas State Bank of Alice and the San Diego State Bank in Duval County. George Parr is president of both banks.

Givens S. Parr testified that B. F. Donald Jr., retiring secretary of the Jim Wells Democratic Executive Committee, was cashier of the bank.

Donald was subpoenaed as a wit-

ness to produce poll lists of the 1948 runoff primary election.

The list was said to be in Donald's custody in the vault of the Alice bank, of which Parr is president.

Efforts to find Donald were futile.

Stevenson attorneys wanted, especially, to check the poll lists for Box 13.

Stevenson attorneys claimed the list for Box 13 would show a change of color of ink for the last 200 names.

They had alleged that 200 voting names had been added five days after the election, "thereby crediting to Johnson 200 votes which had never been cast in said precinct." Stevenson's private investigators, who included Kellis Dibrell and Jim Gardner, San Antonio attorneys and former FBI agents, said they could produce witnesses to testify that their names were on the voting list, but they did not vote.

A witness who testified before Judge Davidson in Fort Worth said his name was listed as having voted in Box 13, but he was not in Alice during election hours on Aug. 28.

This witness was Hector Cerda. A previous witness for Stevenson said he had obtained a glance at the poll list and had noted Hector Cerda as having been voter No. 920. From the official court transcript of the questioning of Cerda:

Q.—State whether or not you voted on that day?

A.—I did not vote.

Donald could not be located. So Mrs. Donald was called to testify before Judge Davidson's special master, W. R. Smith Jr. of San Antonio.

Mrs. Donald said her husband left town the day before the hearing. She did not know where he had gone, or how, until he telephoned and said he was in Mexico.

Still in quest of the poll list, the

hearing turned to Luis Salas, who was election judge at Box 13. Salas said he was born in Mexico and had been a United States citizen for seven years.

Salas was asked if he had one of the three copies of election records of his box.

Under the law, three copies are supposed to be made of precinct election returns.

"Immediately upon completion of the counting of the ballots," said Art. 3124, a law pertaining to primary elections, the precinct judges are supposed to make out three copies of election returns. One copy is to be sealed up and sent to the county (Democratic) chairman within twenty-four hours after ballots are counted. A second copy goes into the ballot boxes, together with the ballots, and the box is to be locked. The third copy "shall be retained by the presiding judge of election for a period of twelve months succeeding the date of election." (Note.—The next year, the Legislature changed the law to take custody of the third copy from the precinct judge, directing him to deliver it instead to the county clerk.)

Salas didn't have his copy.

Also, he revealed that Donald's copy had disappeared.

The witness said there had been so much talk about Box 13 he decided to double check his record with the duplicate in Donald's possession.

"I had been hearing a lot of talking about that there was something wrong with the election," related Salas. "The election was level, nothing wrong with the election." He said no names were added after voting ceased.

Salas said he got Donald's records for Box 13 to check against his own, just to be sure everything was all right.

That was on Sept. 15, 1948, the day after the Democratic state convention met in Fort Worth and declared Johnson the 87-vote winner. And it was the morning that Judge Davidson had granted the court order against Johnson.

"I got those copies from him (Donald) and put them in my car to go with mine," Salas said.

"After I check it up I went to the Baile Espanola." (A dinner was given there in Salas' honor.) "I stayed there from 5 until 9:30, something like that, and when I come back they stole everything from the car."

So, the hearing proceeded to try to find the Box 13 records that should have been deposited in a locked ballot box. Some of the boxes were not locked. And one of the Precinct 13 ballot boxes seemed to be missing. At least, it couldn't be identified.

There was a dramatic moment when it was thought that Box 13 had been located.

Mrs. Juanita Hulsey, deputy county clerk for Jim Wells County, produced a box she said was understood to be from Precinct 13, and told the court she had kept it hidden in a vault because of the election controversy. But when the box was examined in court, it contained not the returns from Precinct 13, but what appeared to be those from Precinct 5.

George Parr called at the Alice courthouse during the hearing. He greeted Salas. They talked in Spanish.

Johnson attorneys, several times

during the hearing brought out local political bitterness. By inference, they connected this local rivalry with the charges of election irregularities.

Too, they continued to challenge the right of the federal court's special master to delve into the election, especially opposing any opening of ballot boxes.

Johnson's counsel also brought

out that Capt. Frank Hamer, a former Texas Ranger and a special Texas Ranger and a friend of Stevenson's, had visited Jim Wells County after the election. This was an attempt, it was implied, to frighten residents into making certain statements.

Meanwhile, hearings were held in Duval and Zapata, a county just southwest of Duval and almost adjoining.

Ernesto Benavides, who was a precinct election judge in Duval, revealed that his copy of the election records had disappeared.

Q.—Did you keep a copy of the returns and poll lists and tally sheets for yourself?

A.—Yes, I keep one, but I left it at the schoolhouse and then later I couldn't find it.

Q.—It disappeared?

A.—Yes, sir.

And down in Zapata County, all copies of vote returns from Precinct 3 disappeared.

Miss Elia Gonzales of Lopeno, who was presiding judge of Zapata's Precinct 3 during the primary election, said she made out the three election forms and took all records to County Judge M. B. Bravo. Asked if she didn't keep one copy, required by law for twelve months, Miss Gonzales said she wouldn't remember. Her testimony indicated that she gave all of the records—all three copies—to the county judge on election night. Under the law, one copy is supposed to be delivered after the

counting to the county Democratic chairman.

Mrs. Josefa Gutierrez, who was Zapata County's Democratic chairman, said no returns were delivered to her from any of the county's four precincts on election night. All went to County Judge Bravo.

It was not until Sept. 2 when some, but not all, members of the county Democratic executive committee met in Judge Bravo's office, that Mrs. Gutierrez saw the returns. There, returns from all four precincts were presented to her.

She said she went to the post office to mail a report to the Secretary of State of Zapata's vote, then left for Laredo. The four precinct records were left on Judge Bravo's desk.

Judge Bravo, as a witness, was asked what he did with the returns.

"I left them there on my desk," he testified, "instead of putting them back in the file I left them on my desk, and they remained there for quite a few days. I'd say they remained there for four or five days, anyway, or a week or two."

When Judge Bravo finally put the returns in his filing cabinet, he testified, all four envelopes were there.

After reading about testimony in Fort Worth before Judge Davidson, when the inquiry was ordered, Judge Bravo said "I felt like I should check up." He said "some of our Republican residents from

here were up in Fort Worth testifying."

"They said something about what votes there were in some precincts," Judge Bravo continued. "I don't remember which, so I went and checked it and found that No. 3 was gone."

J. M. Burnett, special master for Duval and Zapata Counties for Judge Davidson, ordered all ballot boxes impounded in the two counties.

Before the ballots could be checked, however, the investigation was called off.

Johnson's attorneys had been waging a legal race against time.

In a few days, it would be Oct. 2—the date when the general election ballot was supposed to be posted. If something wasn't done quickly, Johnson's name wouldn't be on the ballot. A long investigation, it seemed, regardless of what was proven or disproven, would be disaster.

A trip to a United States Circuit Court of Appeals was fruitless, but in Washington, Johnson found relief.

Supreme Court Justice Hugo Black dissolved the injunction.

Justice Black said that if fraud existed, it was a criminal matter and could be punished if Stevenson charges were brought as such and sustained. But, he ruled, a federal district judge had no authority to enter the business of conducting elections.

When advised of Black's decision, Judge Davidson directed the spe-

dial masters in the Land of Parr to close shop.

Impounded ballots in Duval, Jim Wells and Zapata were restored to local custody.

There remained talk of a United States Senate investigation. Two Senate investigators did some snooping in Duval. They expressed interest in the Duval ballots.

But no one will ever do any investigating of those Duval ballots of 1948, when Duval gave Johnson 4,622 votes, and Stevenson 40.

The Senate probers learned that the ballots were burned by a Duval County courthouse janitor on Oct. 19, 1948.

Reason? The same as given in 1918, when ballots were torn up during the Glasscock-Parr contest. Duval officials said they were getting ready for the general election and had to clean out the ballot boxes.

The Senate investigation fizzled. And a rules committee dismissed a petition asking that Johnson not be seated. The committee said Stevenson went about his contest in the wrong manner.

Commented Stevenson: "The committee just had to find an excuse for its ruling. They just whitewashed the whole thing."

All the furor didn't lose any local face for the second Duke of the Decisive Duchy of Duval. In June, 1949, the Commissioners Court of Duval named George Parr county judge.

Tomorrow.—Duval does a neat job of handwriting.

DUCHY OF DUVAL—VI 12/8/50

Parr Turns Down Challenge of Vote

(Editor's Note.—This is the last story in a series on the political history of the "Duchy of Duval," whose near-unanimous election returns for thirty years have been unique in Texas.)

By DAWSON DUNCAN
and ALLEN DUCKWORTH

The faucet of Parr-controlled votes was turned on and off this year just like you can the tap water in your shower.

It was just as simple as that in the Duchy of Duval for its political boss, County Judge George B. Parr. He is the second Duke of Duval. His father, the late Senator Archie Parr, was the first.

Near-unanimous voting has been the rule in Duval for more than a third of a century. But this year a new twist was added.

Parr let his Latin-American voters, who dominate the country, turn thumbs down in November on a Democratic nominee for District Judge they had just as overwhelmingly approved a little more than three months before in the party primary.

It was the first time Parr had bucked a Democratic party nominee. He and his father always had been staunch Democrats.

It was the first time, too, the Latin-American voters showed such aptitude in writing in the name of a candidate against the party nom-

inee. And apparently the write-in campaign was not talked about very much before election day.

The intended victim of the surprise maneuver was District Judge Sam G. Reams of Falfurrias. Duval County votes gave the nod to one of Parr's friends, State Representative A. J. Vale of Rio Grande City.

On the same day Vale was being re-elected to the State Legislature from his 6-county Seventy-fourth District, which does not include Duval. The Seventy-ninth Judicial District has four counties—two that overlap, Brooks County, Reams' home; Starr County, Vale's home; and Jim Wells and Duval Counties.

In the July primary, Parr didn't object to Judge Reams. The judge was unopposed for election to two years remaining of a term to which he had been appointed last Decem-

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DUVAL VOTE SAMPLES

Duval County has had some sudden switches in political sentiment.

Notable is the change in voting attitude toward such political figures as Coke R. Stevenson, Tom Hunter, Ross Sterling, Mrs. Miriam A. Ferguson, Allan Shivers and James V. Allred.

Here are a few samples of voting, by years:

1924.—For Governor: Mrs. Miriam A. Ferguson 1,260; Felix D. Robertson 5.

1926.—For Governor: Mrs. Miriam A. Ferguson 1,210, Dan Moody 25.

1928.—For Governor: Louis J. Wardlow 1,161, Dan Moody 28.

1930.—For Governor: Barry Miller 1,473, Ross Sterling 60; Mrs. Miriam A. Ferguson 13, seven others combined 24.

Second primary: Mrs. Ferguson 1,171, Sterling 78.

1932.—For Governor: Ross Sterling 1,249, Mrs. Miriam A. Ferguson 108.

1934.—For Governor: Tom Hunter 3,253, James V. Allred 107.

1936.—For Governor: James V. Allred 2,579, Tom Hunter 34.

1938.—For Lieutenant Governor: Coke R. Stevenson 2,627, Pierce P. Brooks 198.

1940.—For Lieutenant Governor: Coke R. Stevenson 3,643, two opponents' combined vote 141.

1942.—For Governor: Coke R. Stevenson 2,336, five opponents' combined vote 77.

1944.—For Governor: Coke R. Stevenson 3,310, all eight opponents' combined vote 17.

1946.—For Governor: Beauford H. Jester 4,018, Homer P. Rainey 60.

For Lieutenant Governor: Allan Shivers 4,017, Boyce House 57.

1948.—For United States Senator: Lyndon B. Johnson 4,622, Coke R. Stevenson 40.

For Lieutenant Governor: Allan Shivers 3,793, Turner Walker 48.

1950.—For Governor: Caso March 4,239, Allan Shivers 108, all five other candidates combined 3.*

(*Texas Election Bureau figures. All others from Texas Almanac.)



Sam G. Reams. . . Duval didn't love the judge in November like it did in July.

DUVAL

Continued from Page 1

ber by Gov. Allan Shivers. Two years ago, Duval County also gave Reams the usual lopsided vote when he ran for District Attorney.

The general election didn't follow pattern, though, in Duval.

No word came from the Duchy of Duval of the results for five days and fifteen hours. Years ago Duval often sent complete, but unofficial, election returns to the Texas Election Bureau the day of election before voting time was ended.

On Monday after the Tuesday election, Duval County Commissioners met on schedule to canvass the vote officially.

The result: Reams, 43; Vale, 4,739 write-ins.

Two other neighboring counties

also gave Vale some write-ins, totaling 925 in Brooks and Jim Wells. But Vale's home county was unanimous for Reams.

In the four counties, the Duval vote swung the majority to Vale, 5,664 to 5,250.

That set the stage for Duval to get a direct rebuff from a top state official for the first time in a general election and a challenge to go into court for an airing of the matter.

Blandly, the Duke of Duval remained unperturbed. The startling change in heart of Duval voters didn't startle him.

"The first time (in the Democratic primary) we were for him (Reams) and the second time we were against him," he said. "That's the only explanation."

It was not that simple to Judge Reams, who was startled.

He told The News this week he

heard some rumors about a write-in on Sunday night before the Tuesday election. The Judge said he talked on Monday with Parr, who had been friendly in the past.

"He said there would be no write-in," said Judge Reams.

Reams thought the sudden change of heart by Duval voters might be traced "to a hot election contest in Jim Wells County. Mr. Parr's friend lost."

The election suit was tried before Judge Reams.

The write-in misfired.

Vale declined to accept.

Secretary of State John Ben Shepperd refused to count the Duval vote, the election board backed him up, and Reams was declared elected.

It was just another episode to Parr.

The 49-year-old Anglo-American leader of the Latin-American voters last week sat in his county judge's office at San Diego and told The News of his political philosophies that keep the Latin-Americans welded into a voting bloc.

Furor in public meetings and newspapers over Duval voting no longer bothers him. He explained:

"You know, when I was a kid just starting out, those things used to irritate me. I would read those stories and want to rear up. But now I read 'em just like a third party."

He thinks Duval County bloc voting helps his people down there. His political creed is based on helping his friends.

"Lots of people say I am radical," he theorized. "But when I fight for a change it is just to give my people a say in the government. I am not against concentrated wealth, but I do say there is a middle road for everyone to travel."

"I've got money. I'm wealthy by some standards. But I'm willing to let my money go tomorrow if a change is necessary for the good of the people. I have always been

against entrenched power and for the little man."

Parr has a spread of about 65,000 acres of ranch land, he said, mainly in Webb and La Salle Counties, with some of it in Duval County. It is dotted with oil and gas wells. He is president of two banks and has other business interests. But he takes little credit for earning his wealth.

"I didn't get it because I was smarter than somebody else," he explained. "I had luck getting the start and, you know, money makes money."

Parr keeps an ear tuned to the future for changes he thinks his people want. One Rio Grande Valley political power lost out because he failed to take in newcomers who came so fast they soon outnumbered the oldtimers in another county, he recalled.

"We took note of that," Parr explained. In line with that, he has given veterans a big role in the official family. Three of the four Duval County commissioners, the district clerk, all of the sheriff's deputies and many other employees are veterans.

Predominantly, too, they are Latin-Americans.

When criticism of bloc voting comes along, Parr shrugs his shoulders, smiles wryly and reasons thusly:

"They give us unshirted hell. But they forget we had 2,000 boys in the service. That is about the highest average for any county."

"They talk about democracy and say we vote against democracy by voting as a unit."

"The only reason we vote as a unit is because the voters have gotten so used to the proposition that it is for their own benefit."

"We have taught them that in unity there is strength."

In that way, he explained, "here in Duval County we have no discrimination, no segregation, no intimidation of the Latin-Americans."

Parr is proud of the way Duval County turns out the vote.

He estimated the county this year has 5,400 poll tax votes plus about the state average of exempt first voters and over-age voters, making a total of around 6,500.

In his memory, the biggest turnout was in this year's general election, when 4,782 voted in the district judgeship race. Next highest were the 4,662 votes cast in the senatorial race two years ago.

"It's politics 365 days of the year, and every year—not just election year—with us," he explained.

Through kindness, friendship, aid when they are in trouble and personal contact, the Latin-Americans want to vote for their friends, Parr said.

"We pass the word along who are our friends," he explained. "Friends vote for friends. Never was a vote coerced here."

He added:

"Voting comes from long training. We teach them that it is their duty to vote in every election. It takes a long time, but if you

thority to throw out Duval returns.

Two days later Shepperd pleaded for his action not to be taken as a precedent, but to spur the Legislature on to modernizing Texas' election laws.

And he pointed out what he did shifted the burden to Duval County to prove its votes were legal. The court test would have to be in Travis County, seat of the Capitol, he said.

"For the first time," he said, "it will enable the people of Texas to get this thing on the table and get a chance to take a fair look at it."

The time had come, Shepperd declared, to challenge the Duval system.

"Vacillating, turning of heads, winking and hiding behind legal technicalities by past recipients and future aspirants of Duval County's gratuities have in the past allowed, and will continue to allow, the situation to go unchallenged."

But Parr told The News he has no intention of going into court with a challenge.

"Will Shepperd's action be appealed?" he was asked.

"Who would appeal?" he countered. "What have we got to appeal for? We voted and our man didn't take it."

Then he explained even if Duval won a court order making the state count its votes, Vale had declined to take the office. That would leave Governor Shivers free to do nothing and thus let Judge Reams stay on the court until after the next general election.

So far as Parr is concerned, it's the end of the tussle over the district judgeship for the time being.

Anyway, in his philosophy, things in politics seem to go in circles. Some now fighting him, he mused, once were recipients of Duval County help; some of his friends now once started out fighting him.

It's business as usual—politics 365 days out of every year—not just election years, in the Decisive Duchy of Duval.