

MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNOR.

Mr. R. B. Walthall, Secretary to the Governor, appeared at the bar of the House on yesterday, and being duly announced, presented the following message from the Governor, which was read to the House today, as follows:

Governor's Office,
Austin, Texas, March 8, 1923.

To the House of Representatives, Thirty-eighth Legislature.

Gentlemen: I am returning herewith to you, with my disapproval and veto, House bill No. 294. This bill provides for the creation of a new and additional district court for Texas to be designated as the One Hundredth Judicial District.

First. We have at this time entirely too many district courts in Texas. A considerable number of our courts now in existence have but little to do. Certainly we should be slow to create new courts while many of those we already have do not have sufficient work to do. There is no private enterprise anywhere in Texas which would employ additional help to do a particular kind of work while many of those already in the employ of the institution did not have enough work to do to occupy their time. The private institution would readjust matters so that the employes would be kept reasonably busy with the work assigned them. It is conservatively estimated that the running expenses, directly connected with and incident to the operation of a district court, are approximately \$25,000 a year. There are now pending in the Legislature, or have already been enacted into law, some fifteen or more bills creating that number of new district courts in Texas. All these bills will probably pass and come to my desk for consideration. The proponents of each particular bill think that their court, above all courts, is an absolute necessity. Scarcely any of the respective districts need, if anything, more than temporary relief.

Second. For the purpose of giving temporary relief it is neither wise nor necessary to establish a permanent court. When a court has been once established it seems absolutely impossible at any time to abolish it; courts and public offices once created seem to run on forever.

Two bills now pending before the Legislature, one providing for exchange of benches and the other providing for

five district courts for all Texas, will give, according to the judgment of those who have considered the question, necessary relief, not only in a few particular cases in Texas, but throughout the entire State. We presume these two bills will pass both the House and the Senate within the next few days. These two contemplated laws, when put into operation, will, together, relieve, where crowded, both the civil and the criminal dockets of Texas.

Third. To say the least, if it is imperative that the district courts of the counties mentioned in this bill be given temporary aid, the two proposed laws above mentioned would accomplish this; and when the next Regular Session of the Legislature convenes, if it were found that such aid has not been sufficient to relieve the congested condition of the court dockets, the State could then go to the expense of creating another permanent district court for the counties composing this new judicial district. The fact that there may be a large number of cases on a court docket does not necessarily mean that the courts need temporary relief, nor does it always indicate that the court is kept busy trying cases. All of us who have practiced law to any extent realize the truth of this statement.

Believing that it would be unwise and not in keeping with the principles of strict and rigid economy to create another permanent district court in Texas, when we have at this time, conservatively stated, about twenty more district courts than we need, I am returning herewith to you with my veto, this bill that seeks, following others of similar nature, to create courts and offices that are not needed.

Respectfully,
PAT M. NEFF,
Governor.