

# PROCLAMATION

BY THE

## Governor of the State of Texas

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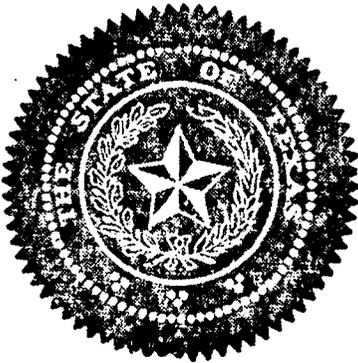
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**TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS SHALL COME:**

In signing Senate Bill 1, of the First Called Session, Fifty-Seventh Legislature, under the provisions of Section 14, Article IV, of the Texas Constitution, I am vetoing the following items and listing below my objections to these items:

- (1) Item 15, Article III, Page 309, second year only, "There is hereby appropriated from the Omnibus Tax Clearance Fund to the credit of the Farm-to-Market Road Fund for each year of the biennium beginning September 1, 1961, together with any balances in the Farm-to-Market Road Fund on hand at the beginning of each year of said biennium, the following amounts—\$15,000,000 in 1962 and \$15,000,000 in 1963." My reasons for taking this action on the appropriation for 1963 are set out in a statement which I issued on Thursday, August 24, 1961, which is attached hereto.
- (2) Item 2, Article IV, Page 396, "There is hereby appropriated and allocated out of the Omnibus Tax Clearance Fund to the Teacher Retirement System the State Contributions necessary to match member contributions, estimated to be—\$40,000,000 in 1962 and \$42,000,000 in 1963." Since teacher retirement matching fund appropriations have been made by a later Act, H.B. 2 of the Second Called Session, Fifty-Seventh Legislature, I have stricken this item from the General Appropriation Bill so that no confusion will arise over duplicate or conflicting appropriations.

S.B. 1 was received in the Governor's Office less than ten (10) days prior to the adjournment of the First Called Session of the Fifty-Seventh Legislature, and in accordance with the Constitution, the bill, together with this proclamation, is being filed with the Secretary of State.



IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto signed my name officially and caused the Seal of State to be affixed hereto at Austin, this the 26th day of August, A.D., 1961.

PRICE DANIEL  
Governor of Texas

By the Governor:  
P. FRANK LAKE  
Secretary of State

# STATEMENT

BY

## GOVERNOR PRICE DANIEL

Thursday, August 24, 1961

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I have this day vetoed the second-year appropriation from General Revenue for farm-to-market road construction in the sum of \$15 million. This leaves untouched the construction program now in progress as well as the \$15 million appropriated for the first fiscal year which begins September 1. Also available will be the \$35 million which is also earmarked for farm-to-market road construction and improvement out of  $\frac{1}{4}$  of gasoline tax revenues during each of the next two years.

I have taken this action because this appropriation for construction alone cannot be justified as long as there remains in Highway Department funds this sum of \$35 million annually also earmarked for farm road construction and improvement, with no provision from these funds for maintenance of the roads constructed. It is just as important to maintain our vast and important 33,000 mile farm road system as it is to build new roads.

All maintenance costs, now amounting to \$18 million annually, are now taken from the basic intra-state highway fund which is the poorest financed of all department programs. Dispersion of this amount, which is growing each year, takes away from the construction and maintenance of the important primary system which is already hard-pressed for adequate funds, and which is equally important to our rural communities and cities.

Because of this complete lack of maintenance funds within the presently earmarked farm-to-market road funds, the annual mileage of new construction of farm roads is being curtailed. A far better farm-to-market construction program, with more miles of new construction annually, will result if adequate provision is made for maintenance of these roads out of the \$35 million of presently earmarked farm roads funds coming from gasoline tax revenues.

This action in vetoing the second-year appropriation does not affect the \$15 million appropriation for the first year of the biennium. I have left this intact for the reason that the Legislature will not have the opportunity to convene again before the Highway Department must commit these expenditures for the 1961-62 farm road construction program.

As there will be a special session within the next few months, I shall submit re-appropriation of the second-year farm road funds along with provision for

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adequate maintenance money to be used from the additional \$35 million in earmarked funds.

In this connection, I have already called upon the State Highway Commission and representatives of the Texas Good Roads Association, Farm Bureau, and County Judges and Commissioners' Association to serve with other interested citizens on a committee to work out a proposed bill which will accomplish this purpose. If this is worked out there will be no second year curtailment in new construction, and there will be adequate maintenance from the total of \$50 million of farm road funds, and relief to the "orphan" fund available for construction of pure state highways.

Since its adoption in 1949, the Colson-Briscoe Farm-to-Market Road Program has contributed greatly to the growth and progress of our State. It is a valuable program which must be continued on a sound basis in the future. There is no doubt that it is in danger of being abolished within the next few years unless provision is made for maintenance out of one of the earmarked funds. The Highway Department cannot indefinitely pay maintenance costs for farm roads from funds badly needed for primary roads.

I want to make it abundantly clear that the veto action is not prompted by too much money in the Highway Department; on the contrary, gasoline tax revenues are being spread too thinly among all of the programs required of the Department today. It is a case of too much authorized for construction (now a total of \$50 million per year) and none for maintenance of farm-to-market roads.

We cannot continue heavy volume of farm-to-market road construction unless provision is made in some of these funds for maintenance of this capital investment.