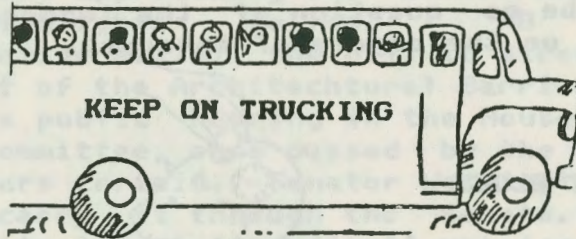
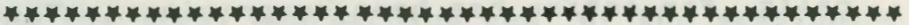




# News

MAY, 1987



After it seemed the bill was dead in Committee, HB330 - Access to Mass Transit, was finally called for a hearing in the House Transportation Committee. CTD membership showed great support for the bill. Members from El Paso, Houston, San Antonio, Amarillo and Dallas sent letters and written testimony, and called the Committee members letting them know of their support for the bill. In addition over a dozen people from Dallas and Austin presented excellent testimony or, for the sake of brevity, turned in witness cards at the public hearing.

The Transportation Committee members listened with interest to the testimony and read over the written materials presented them. Among those testifying on the need for better transportation for disabled persons was TRC Commissioner Max Arrell. Although there was no quorum for a vote that night HB330 was voted unanimously out of Committee at the meeting the following week.

Representative Guerrero, sponsor of HB330, had requested all the Texas transit systems to send her a description of their current services and meet with her to discuss the issue of improving services, where needed. As of the hearing, only eight systems had bothered to respond. This fact disturbed the

committee a great deal. As of this writing however, only two more have sent in information. CTD will be getting copies of the responses and will share them with anyone interested. (Call Stephanie at 512/443-8252). HB 330 has a long way to go in a short time, but the strength of the response to CTD's calls for action has been surprising. There can be no question of the importance of the issue or the degree of interest.

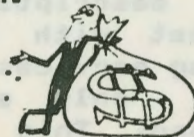
## BUDGET BLUES



CTD advocates should put away their summer fun equipment and get out their sleeping bags.....at least one special session will be needed to clear up the budget woes of our fair state. The Conference Committee is creeping along line by line in their deliberations over funding levels. After more than a week on Article I, they have four more Articles (or sections of the budget) to go in less than two weeks.

Article II, which covers most health and human services, will be up soon and our fate is very uncertain. Half of the committee members are friends of human services, however, the majority of votes so far have gone with the House (lower) dollar figure. Your calls and telegrams can make a big difference.

With time running out and no new revenue in sight it will be virtually impossible for the legislature to balance the state budget as the Texas Constitution requires. This will mean the Governor will have to call a special session, and the rumored time frame is the week after July 4th.



## STATE LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

As the session draws to a close the race is on to get bills safely through the log jam which is created by the over 2,000 bills filed and the fast approaching end of the session. Some highlights follow. HB 2295 (Representative Aikin), the bill to strengthen enforcement of the Architectural Barriers Act has had its public hearing in the House State Affairs committee, once passed by the House, which appears certain. Senator Washington has agreed to carry it through the Senate. This bill, in its latest (and final) version would strengthen the referral process of non-compliance case to the Attorney General's office for enforcement. In addition it would allow the office to charge fees and penalties for failure to comply which would raise more revenue for the office.

HB 550 and SB 511 (Rep. Vowell and Senator Montford respectively) are moving along quickly now. These bills provide for the continuation of the Commission for the Deaf. The House version has passed the House and the Senate version has had its Committee hearing.

The In Home and Family Support Bill, HB 1154 and SB 808 has passed the House and is awaiting a vote in the Senate. This bill will provide a range of support services to developmentally disabled persons living in the Community. Funding from the Texas Planning Council on Developmental Disabilities has been identified for a pilot project, through DHS, to serve non-mentally developmentally disabled persons. SB 1249 (Senator Sarpalius) and HB 2401 (Representative Guerrero) provides for a rear window sticker to identify deaf drivers to the police. A number of dangerous misunderstandings of deaf drivers by police have led to this legislation. The House version has passed the House and is moving quickly through the Senate.

Several bills relating to voting are also close to becoming law. (SHB 2418 (Representative Glossbrenner) which would allow for voter registration in public agencies, is now in Calendars Committee in the House. CTD has long supported the concept of agency voter registration. SB 1265, which would delay the purge of voters who have moved and not re-registered until November 30th, has passed the Senate and is in the House Calendars Committee.

Once the session has ended, CTD will put out a report on the "final results" of our legislative efforts. BUDGET BLUES

### IRS LOBBYING REGULATIONS

In response to more than 1,000 letters from around the country, the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) has announced changes in proposed lobbying regulations. The implementation of lobbying reform legislation enacted ten years ago would threaten the ability of non-profit organizations to lobby.

According to IRS, the proposed regulations will no longer be applied retroactively to 1977, but will apply only to activities that occur after the date of publication of final regulations, sometime in the future.

In addition, IRS will consult with "interested parties" in the development of new rules. The IRS also has stated that "until such time as final regulations are published, service personnel will not use the proposed regulations in conducting examinations, issuing rulings or otherwise disposing of cases."

A public hearing on the proposed regulations will be held May 11th in Washington. In connection with its review of the proposed regulations, the IRS will consider whether reproposing part or all of the regulations is appropriate.

This action by the IRS is clearly a response to the grassroots effort put forth through letters to congressmen and the commissioner of the IRS. Many members of key committees with oversight and funding authority for the IRS (Senate Finance and Appropriation, House Ways and Means, and Government Operations) also responded to grassroots concern and wrote to the commissioner, calling for withdrawal of the regulations.



**HANDS ACROSS AMERICA DISTRIBUTES MORE THAN \$1,000,000, TO 43 GROUPS AIDING THE HUNGRY AND HOMELESS IN TEXAS**

\$1,010,730 was awarded on May 7th by USA for Africa/Hands Across America to 43 groups working to help the hungry and homeless of Texas. The funds are part of the money raised on May 25, 1986 when more than 6 million Americans joined hands to focus attention on the plight of the nation's hungry and homeless.

Texas is one of the 35 states utilizing the HANDS ACROSS AMERICA "Committee/Coalition" grant process. The process is working successfully across the nation to foster comprehensive, collaborative statewide approaches to address the problems of hunger and homelessness. Individuals and representatives of some 300 organizations from every corner of the state were involved in the organizing process. The state was divided into eight regions and both regional and statewide meetings were held. A forty-six member Statewide Advisory Committee was created. Kevin Tracy, CTD Board Member and Jean Langendorf, CTD Co-Executive Director served on this committee. Regional coalitions

emerged -- including a 21-organization group in El Paso, a group in Tarrant County and a third in East Texas. Additionally, innovative urban-rural proposals were developed in Austin and Midland. The statewide committee forged the various proposals into a plan considered the best way to utilize the HANDS ACROSS AMERICA allocation for Texas.

## *Announcing*

The El Paso Center of the Deaf is proud to announce that the El Paso Marriott Hotel has become the first full-service hotel in the history of El Paso to become totally accessible to all types of disabled citizens. The Marriott was already accessible for the physically and visually impaired. Now with additional equipment designed specifically for the hearing impaired, 3% of Marriott's rooms are dedicated to serving this special population.

In addition to the smoke light which has been on property for four months, they now also have telecaptioning devices which decode the television with closed-captioning; a telecommunication device which allows the hearing impaired to "talk" on the telephone; a phone ringing device which flashes a lamp alerting the guest that a phone call is coming through and an alarm clock designed to flash the lights on and off, thus waking the individual up.

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### **CTD EDITORS' NOTE**

The CTD Newsletter is edited and published by the Coalition of Texans with Disabilities, a statewide cross disability consumer group. Any member who wishes to submit future articles for publication should send them to:

CTD  
P.O. Box 4709  
Austin, TX 78765

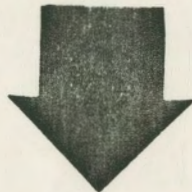
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## **YOU'RE NOT ALONE**

Tamalyn is writing a book about brothers or sisters of a developmentally delayed sibling. "There are a range of emotions and hidden feelings....I had a range of feelings (love, joy, guilt, resentment, etc...) towards my sister. If the book helps just one person to realize that he's not alone in his feelings, it'll be worth it." If you want to share any ideas or have any questions that you want answered please call or write to Tamalyn, P. O. Box 3712, Pinedale, CA 93650, 209/227-4901.



## **GOIN' BACK TO HOUSTON, HOUSTON!**

As the song says....and where it all began nine and a half years ago...the idea for a state coalition of citizens with disabilities. And that is where we will be holding our 10th Annual CTD Convention. The dates...and mark them well on your calendar now...October 30 - November 1, 1987. You can help make this convention the biggest and the best....by your being there.

**Don't miss the convention!**

**\*\*\* A DECADE OF DISABILITY RIGHTS ADVOCACY \*\*\***



# Coalition of Texans with Disabilities

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# Mark Your Calendar...

## COALITION OF TEXANS WITH DISABILITIES



HOUSTON HOSTS TENTH ANNUAL

CTD CONVENTION

\*\*\* A DECADE OF DISABILITY RIGHTS ADVOCACY \*\*\*

OCTOBER 30 - NOVEMBER 1, 1987



*Holiday Inn*  
HOBBY AIRPORT

FOR INFORMATION CONTACT:

**CTD Annual Convention**  
P.O. Box 4709  
Austin, Texas 78765  
512/443-8252

