The 62nd Legislature of the State of Texas has now gone home after enacting the highest tax bill in the state's history, an appropriation bill of more than $7,000,000,000.00 filled with special give-aways to favored interests. In spite of the overwhelming popular support this legislature failed to enact any significant environmental or pollution bills, failed to enact any welfare reform measures, failed to substantially reform the criminal law and the penal system, failed to respond to the increasing drug problems of youth and the society, failed to improve the Family Code, failed to improve care for the mentally ill and retarded, failed to investigate the stock fraud allegations, failed to improve higher education opportunities but increased the cost of tuition.

In this unfortunate history of legislative failure, the Texas House of Representatives played an unprincipled role.

Working an average of less than three full days a week, the Texas House wasted legislative time honoring insignificant dignitaries, attending parties given by lobbyists, and taking junket free ride trips in and out of the state. In the closing days of the regular legislative session the House passed unevaluated, undeveloped, and unamended pieces of legislation because "the members did not have the time to know what they were voting on." Some blatant examples are the emergency passage of the legislation legalizing liquor by the drink and mistakenly failing to tax the alcoholic beverages.

The Legislature did not even "have the time" to reapportion the state as required by the Constitution, a special session had to be called by the Governor for this purpose.

The circus sceptical of the Legislature has been the object of many jokes, but to some members of the Legislature this is no laughing matter, they are the Dirty Thirty.

The Dirty Thirty are laiberal and conservatives, Democrats and Republicans, representatives of small towns and large cities, freshmen and veteran legislators. Because the Dirty Thirty all consider themselves independent, they are not a block of votes, and they often find themselves on different sides of substantive issues. The Dirty Thirty are a group of members of the Texas House of Representatives who find a common ground by positively opposing the inadequate leadership of the Texas House and seeking to reform the rules and procedures by which the Texas House perpetuates insensitive and inadequate legislation.

The Dirty Thirty as members of the House of Representatives want to change the rules of your legislative body which now:
1) Throttle full and open debate on important issues such as taxation, appropriations, stock fraud investigations, pollution and education.

In the last session of the Texas Legislature, the Dirty Thirty refused to go along with Speaker Gus Mutchler. The Dirty Thirty demanded a full, competent, and complete investigation of the Sharpstown Bank and the stock manipulation with its connection to members of the Legislature.

The Dirty called for a complete financial disclosure of personal interests by officials of the State of Texas for the past two years as well as for the future.

Because of the efforts of the Dirty Thirty the House leadership, commanded by Speaker Gus Mutchler, killed the legislative programs of the Dirty Thirty or buried their legislation in the deep freezes of controlled committees. The Dirty Thirty contend that basic reforms have priority over any single piece of Legislation.