



**PAT WOOD, III**

**Chairman, Public Utility Commission of Texas**

In February, 1995, Governor Bush appointed Patrick Henry Wood, III, to the three-member Public Utility Commission of Texas to regulate the state's telecommunications and electric power industries. Wood serves as Chairman of the Commission at the pleasure of the Governor. His term ends on August 31, 2001.

A native of Port Arthur, Texas, Wood received a B.S. in Civil Engineering from Texas A & M University and a J.D. degree from Harvard Law School. He has worked as an engineer with Arco Indonesia and as an attorney with the Baker and Botts law firm in Washington, D.C. Wood also served as legal advisor to a member of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and as legal counsel to the Chairman of the Texas Railroad Commission.

Wood's remarks will focus on the coming changes in the Texas telephone and electric power industries. He believes that competition can do a better job than regulation in delivering customer benefits and service innovations. Throughout his career, he has worked to advance a pro-customer, market-oriented vision of utility regulation.

Pat and his wife, Kathleen, live in Austin. Many of our club members know his parents, Sissy and Pat Wood, Jr., of Port Arthur. We welcome Pat back home to Jefferson County and the Rotary Club

of Beaumont. This week's program was arranged by **BESSIE CHISUM**.

**"30" SOMETHINGS**  
**FOR YOU TO MEET THIS WEEK**  
 LINDA MOORE - Badges  
 ANN SCOGGIN - Ticket Sales  
 RICK SZALACH & LEE FREELAND - Buffet Lines  
 BRAD FOWLER - Registration

**PROGRAM REVIEW...**

Last week's meeting was well attended as numerous guests and Rotarians were on hand for a very special meeting. In a rare format the program this week featured a debate between two political candidates seeking the State Senate District 4 position. Incumbent Michael Galloway debated candidate David Bernsen. Both men were allowed an opening comment and later answered questions from the floor. Larry Beaulieu presided over the match to insure no candidate took more than the allotted time.

Mr. Galloway, originally from Tomball, Texas, informed the crowd that when elected in 1994 he was the youngest Senator at the age of 29. He also was the first Republican Senator from this district since 1876 ousting then Senator Carl Parker. He stated that during his tenure he and the legislature have held the line on spending, reformed the welfare system and cut taxes.

Additionally, sentences were increased for violent crimes and lawsuit reform was passed during his service. He stated that he is proud of his record and that he is looking forward to serving our area again.

Mr. Bernsen announced his candidacy last year and has been visiting all areas of the district and listening to the people. The issues raised repeatedly during his tour were: 1) Water 2) Healthcare 3) Education and 4) Jobs. He believes that

Southeast Texas water should remain here for our future. He intends to enhance the quality of education in our area and will work on building an environment which will promote job growth.

Questions were taken from the floor and each candidate was allowed to respond. The first question was: "What can be done with our relationship with Mexico to minimize circumstances that occurred to the local auto dealer who is in a Mexican prison at this time?"

Mr. Bernsen felt that the legislature can be responsive in this area and indicated that he would attempt to establish a committee with elected officials from Texas and elected officials from the bordering communities in Mexico.

Mr. Galloway indicated that the executive branch handles our relationship with Mexico. He said this situation has occurred often and he would attempt to insure the public is better informed of the regulations that may affect our citizens when they enter Mexico. He also indicated that Federal rather State Government is in a better position to deal with this type of problem.

The next question raised was: "What is the most important single issue?"

Mr. Galloway stated the most important issue was the current budget surplus. He estimated there is a surplus of approximately \$3 billion and will increase to approximately \$6 billion. Many want to spend this on programs, but Mr. Galloway favors returning it to the people in the form of additional property tax relief. On a local level he felt the most important issue was water and annexation.

Mr. Bernsen indicated that the most important issue is water, with budget surplus and education being important also. He would like to see the budget surplus used to endow the public education system. But, water is the primary issue that will affect Southeast Texans in the future.

The next question was: "What

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