

ATASCOSA COUNTY JUDGES REPORT

I know the scandal at the Texas House Speaker's office is all over the news, but I want to give you the take on it from the County Judges perspective. The big scandal is that a person named Michael Quinn O'Sullivan has launched an attack on the House Speaker (Dennis Bonnen – District 25 and Dustin Burrows – District 83) because of things they said that may have violated ethics rules. Mr. O'Sullivan secretly recorded a meeting with Speaker Bonnen and just released it. I want to point to a lesser statement by both men in the transcript by Bonnen: "In this office and in the conference room on that end, any mayor, county judge that was dumb ass enough to come meet with me, I told them with great clarity, my goal is for this to be the worst session in the history of the legislature for cities and counties." And by Burrows: "I hope the next session's even worse (meaning for the cities and counties)."

I have been sharing with you in this column that the last two state legislative sessions had many plans to assault the cities and counties. I know because I testified against these things. My point is that Bonnen said it out loud, and his lieutenant, Burrows was in lockstep with him. The sad thing I must tell you is that there are many other important elected state officials whose silence is deafening. These officials were in lockstep with these two. Both Bonnen and Burrows have announced that they are not seeking reelection. I hope more are going to leave.

Please call and write your state representative, state senator and governor and ask their position on these issues. Ask them to support your city and your county. You, the citizen elected us, and you can fire us. You don't need micromanaging from Austin.

Quote, "Always do your best. What you plant now, you will harvest later." – Og Mandino

Thank you for listening. We want you to be proud of your county government.