

# Texas Woman Senator Calls for LVT

by CLAYTON C. BAUER

**C**OULD race riots break out in Houston, Dallas and other Texas cities? Newly elected Senator Barbara Jordan of Houston, the first Negro to serve in the Texas Senate since 1881, believes they could.

All of the ingredients which made up the Newark environment are present in Houston, said the only woman member of the Lone Star legislature. "We don't have a ghetto as centralized as Newark's but we have the same situation decentralized."

While calling for effective programs directed toward slum conditions, Miss Jordan offered no set formula. She did however disassociate herself from the usual generalizations of professional politicians by attacking personal and corporate income taxes as a means of settling revenue problems.

"We would have enough money for our cities if we would get serious and do a complete reevaluation of the method of property taxation," she said. "But as long as we don't have a tax system that grows with the state we're going to continue to have fiscal problems." She objected to the scatter-gun approach to raising money—"a little

from gasoline, a little from liquor and from the sales tax." Lamenting the failure of Texas officials to thrash out proper sources of state revenue, she wanted no part of the one cent local option city sales tax passed by the legislature, nor did she think the legislature or the governor were ready to exploit fully the proposed liquor-by-the-drink taxation.

According to a Dallas Morning News report on July 23rd, Senator Jordan suggested that current assessment ratios too often failed to match property values; she believed that for the most part valuations were too low and the assessment ratio was also too low, and a periodic assessment was needed.

The Georgist movement has claimed and honored some of the great humanitarians of history, and it has never lacked for courageous spirits. A welcoming hand is extended to this wise and dauntless Texan who has advocated a forward-looking reform. Whether or not she ever heard of Henry George, she is in a position to join the vanguard of those who will plan the rehabilitated city of the future.