

Dear Harold  
I do hope you  
are well -  
Regards,

AJ  
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# Officials tour new offices in depository

By **CHRISTY HOPPE**

For months now, county officials have been trying it out for size.

TSBD, they called it, tentatively at first.

**BUT DURING** the last few weeks they've gotten better and faster. Now, it's practically one word — teesbeedee.

Tuesday, reporters got a look at the renovated Texas School Book Depository, as they still call it. But they'll probably join the elected officials in calling it teesbeedee before long.

County commissioners acted like proud parents as they conducted the first tour through what will be their new offices and courtroom.

The county purchased the historic building in 1977 for \$400,000 and have spent about \$2.4 million on remodeling. Only the first two floors have been redone, with the third floor — to house the county's public works department — scheduled for completion in 1982.

**COMMISSIONERS** and County Judge Garry Weber sat in the cushy leather chairs and felt the plush wine-colored carpet Tuesday, gazing at a setting more comfortable and spacious than their current cramped quarters in the Dallas County Records Building.

The new courtroom sports a 2nd-story observation deck encased in glass on three sides and unfinished wood paneling and ceilings. It's not unlike a Colorado ski lodge, except the atmosphere promises to be a bit more austere.

The differences in the building now and when the county bought it are amazing, said Commissioner Roy Orr.

"It hadn't been occupied for a long time," Orr said. "It looked dirty and woolly — like me."

The second floor houses the five offices of the commissioners and county judge. They are all the same size, but, just to make sure, "We measured the offices," Orr said.

**ALTHOUGH** the elected officials smiled and clucked about their new quarters, an occasional wrinkle had to be ironed out.

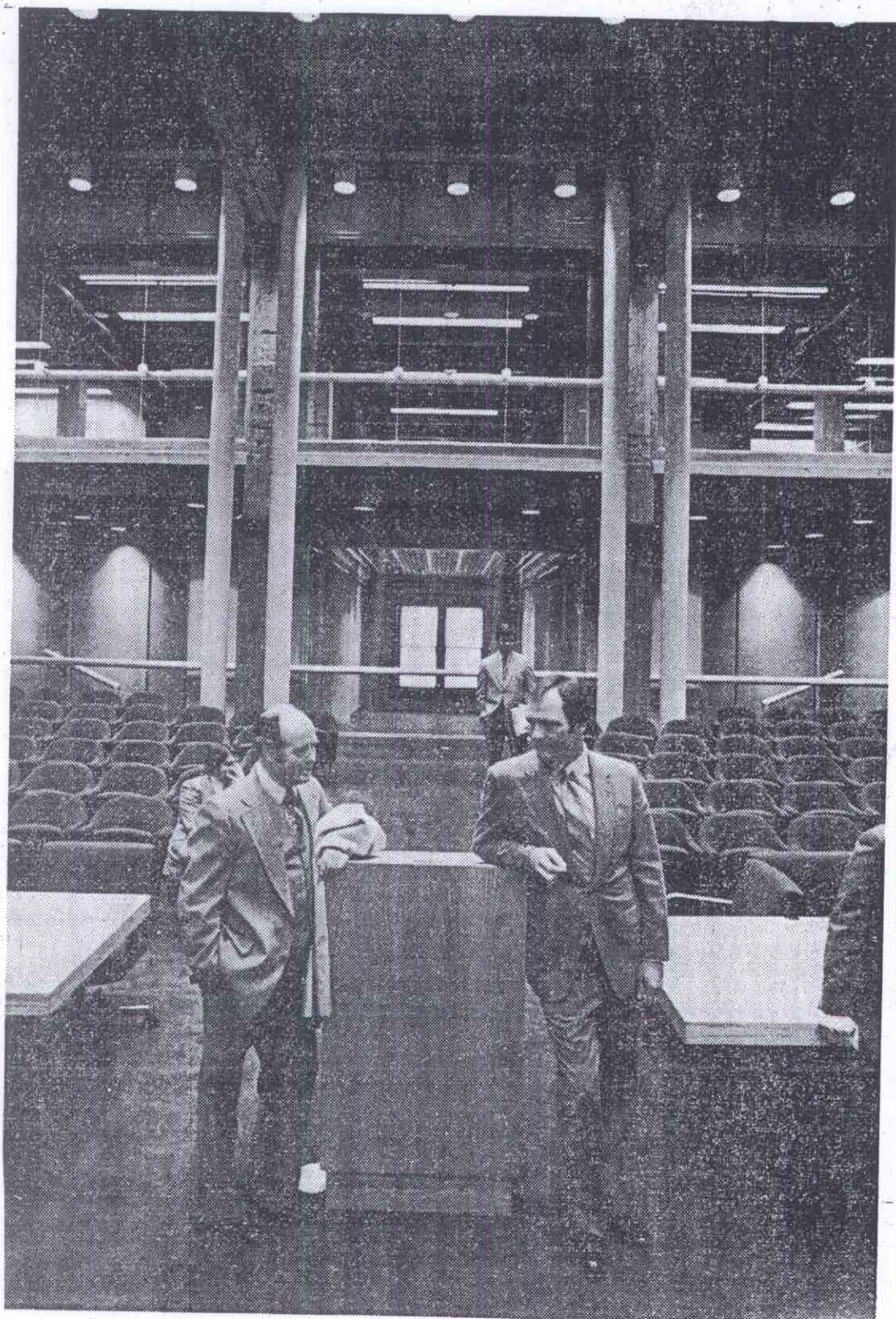
Commissioner Nancy Judy, for instance, said her office shared a wall with the men's restroom. She discreetly investigated the situation for potential noise pollution and asked that sound proofing be installed.

"I could just see having an important conversation," she said, "when this roar comes through the wall."

"It sounds like you were next to a river," another county official said.

With that problem solved, the county still must wait until a future bond issue to do any restoration on the remaining four floors of the TSBD. Money originally earmarked for the project was deferred for improvements in the county jail.

**NO WORK** has been done to the sixth floor, the perch said to have been used by Lee Harvey Oswald in 1963 to shoot President John F. Kennedy. The floor is closed now, but it will be preserved and later opened as a public exhibit with money raised from private contributions.



Dallas Morning News: Jay Godwin

**Roy Orr (left) and Garry Weber relax while inspecting new quarters.**