



Staff Photo

**BOB BINDER CONFERS WITH DR. BUD DRYDEN**  
Binder cast first vote Thursday

# Binder Fulfills Vow To Oppose Rebates

New council member Bob Binder started his two-year term on a positive note Thursday, voting "yes" on his first official vote.

He gave his approval, along with the other six re-elected incumbents, to the council minutes of the March 8 meeting.

On a more serious matter, however, Binder fulfilled a campaign promise that he opposes utility rebates, voting against five cash settlements.

The rebate system provides for developers to be reimbursed by the city for as much as 60 per cent of costs incurred installing water and sewer lines in subdivisions.

Binder's negative vote joined Councilman Jeff Friedman's "no," bringing the usually approved rebates a little closer to failure.

Friedman attempted to abolish the system two years ago but failed.

One council source has said the system is likely to be scaled-down during the just-begun council term.

Later in the meeting, Binder and Friedman were the recipients of a special presentation by staff members of "The Rag," an Austin counter-culture newspaper.

Bill Meacham presented the two a tin-can telephone stretching across the council chairs from Friedman to Binder, since, Meacham said, they are known "in the community as the more liberal council members."

"Since council members need to confer during meetings, and these two sit at opposite ends of the chamber, we hope this helps," said Meacham.

"Will it work for all

minorities," quipped Councilman Berl Handcox, and amid the ensuing laughter Mayor Roy Butler, who sits in the middle of the council desk, said, "I believe I can tap into that line."

## Man Given Life Term By Jury

HOUSTON (AP) — Michael Lloyd Self, 24, has been assessed a life sentence by a jury which convicted him of murder in the Aug. 4, 1971 death of a teen-age girl.

The district court jury of 11 men and one woman assessed the penalty Wednesday after earlier finding him guilty of killing Sharon Shaw, 14, of Clear Lake. The body of the girl was found early last year in a drainage ditch near Taylor Bayou.

Self, a Webster service station attendant, also is charged in the slaying of Rhonda Renee Johnson, 14, of Webster. He is to be tried on that charge at a later date.

He was accused of picking up the two girls, killing them and throwing their bodies into the ditch.

All bats have voracious appetites. The big brown bat can devour as many as 1,000 insects in an hour, National Geographic says.

