

# Charges made . . .

**United Press International**  
AUSTIN — A federal investigator yesterday confirmed recent charges of abuse and neglect in East Texas nursing homes and criticized two state agencies for not imposing sufficient penalties to prevent recurrence of abuses.

David Holton, chief investigator for the Select House Committee on Aging, said charges made by the Lufkin News involving abuse of nursing home patients substantially were accurate.

Holton said the committee is examining non-public State Department of Public Welfare (DPW) documents and information from other sources to make recommendations for improvement.

"What is most troubling is the constant recurrence of the same complaints of poor nursing care, starvation diets and improper handling of medication in the same homes," Holton said.

"The confidential DPW documents that were brought to light by the Lufkin News have been examined and confirmed as a continuing and pervasive problem with the quality of nursing homes in this part of East Texas," he said.

However, Holton said the News may have erred in its reports of one or two alleged instances of abuse.

The News, in its June 9, 1977 issue, said a DPW investigation shows four nurse's aides at a Lufkin nursing home beat a 76-year-old woman with belts, coathangers and shoes. The News said the four aides and two nurses who knew of the incident all were fired.

The newspaper said three of the six employees were hired by another area nursing home and one was re-

hired by the same facility from which he was fired.

The news said confidential DPW records revealed other abuses — patients tied in chairs overnight, left in bathtubs with the water running and the case of a double amputee who was found alone in the dark in a whirlpool bath.

Welfare commissioner Raymond Vowell, responding to the charges, asked the attorney general's office to help investigate the alleged mistreatments.

Vowell also indicated he will ask the Department of Public Safety, a state law enforcement agency, to join the investigation if necessary.

"DPW and the Texas Department of Health Resources (TDHR) have sought to correct individual cases of mistreatment and standard care brought to their attention," Holton said.

"Nevertheless, it is clear that penalties imposed on nursing homes by DPW and TDHR have not been sufficient to guarantee protection against recurrence of the abuses," Holton said.

"It is anticipated that the investigation will make findings and a series of recommendations for lasting improvements in nursing homes."

Vowell, citing the DPW's efforts to maintain Medicaid services in more than 950 facilities in the state, said he will await reports from the state investigation to determine which changes in procedures the agency should take.

"For the well-being of the aging citizens whose physicians and families have determined they need nursing home care, it is my belief the community where their nursing

## Investigation begins on nursing home abuse

home is has specific responsibilities," Vowell said.

"Certainly, the patient's physician, family and church and other volunteer groups can help raise and maintain standards of all nursing homes everywhere in Texas," he said.

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Academic Council, Rudder Tower 601, 2 p.m.  
Recreational Bridge, 226 MSC, 7 p.m.  
Microcomputer Club, Rudder Tower 32, 7 p.m.  
Free U Bartending, Rudder Tower 410, 7 p.m.  
TAMU International Folk Dance, 212 MSC, 7:30 p.m.  
Social Dance, 224 MSC, 7:30 p.m.  
Corp Traditions Programs, Rudder Theater, 8 p.m.  
Grove Movie, "The Fall of the Roman Empire," 8:30 p.m.
- Thursday**  
Affirmative Action Workshop, Rudder Tower 501, 8 a.m.  
Dinner Theater, Luv," 201 MSC, 6:45 p.m.  
Crafts, Basket Making, 140 MSC, 7 p.m.  
Student Life Programs, Rudder Theater, 7 p.m.  
Crafts, Water Color, 137 MSC, 7:30 p.m.  
Grove Movie, "On the Waterfront," 8:30 p.m.
- Friday**  
Affirmative Action Workshop, Rudder Tower 501, 8 a.m.  
Aggie Players, Luv," 201 MSC, 8 p.m.
- Grove Movie, Fahrenheit 451," 8:30 p.m.**
- Saturday**  
Veterinary Medicine Education Seminars, Veterinary Medicine Complex, 8 a.m.  
Family, Society and the Older Texan Workshop, Rudder Tower 3rd floor, 9:45 a.m.  
Honors Convocation Banquet, 224, 225, 226 MSC, 6:30 p.m.  
Dinner Theater, Luv," 201 MSC, 6:45 p.m.  
Aggie Allemanders, 224 MSC, 7:30 p.m.  
Grove Movie, "Once Upon a Time in the West," 8:30 p.m.
- Sunday**  
Veterinary Medicine Education Seminars, Veterinary Medicine Complex, 8 a.m.  
Gromets, 137 MSC, 12 noon.  
High School Journalism Workshop, Rudder Tower 2nd floor, 1 p.m.  
Chess Committee, 206 MSC, 6 p.m.  
Grove Movie, "Allie," 8:30 p.m.
- Monday**  
Jaycees' Blood Drive, Ramada Inn on Texas Avenue, 12 noon.
- Tuesday**  
Jaycees' Blood Drive, Ramada Inn on Texas Avenue, 12 noon.

## Hill to fight decision by water rights board

**United Press International**  
AUSTIN — Attorney General John Hill said he will appeal a decision by the Texas Water Rights Commission to allow the Lower Colorado River Authority (LCRA) to sell water for a nuclear power project to Houston Lighting & Power Co.

The commission approved the permit Monday despite the objections of Hill, who frequently raised his voice to complain about the permit.

"Today you have disregarded the interests of these South Texas citizens and approved a contract which allows LCRA to sell the state's water and which will result in higher utility bills for a significant portion of our state's consumers," Hill said.

Hill said he would appeal the decision to Travis County district court.

Commission members Joe D. Carter, chairman, and Joe R. Carroll approved the permit and commissioner Dorsey B. Hardeman

voted to reject the permit. Hardeman called the commission's order "pure-D blackmail" and a "ripoff."

Hill said the order was a "sham and a subterfuge to cover up what's really happening." He accused the three-man commission of making Texans pay tribute to the LCRA for \$50 million, the projected cost of the water.

The commission last year refused to grant HL&P a \$5,000 permit to use the Colorado River water for its proposed nuclear plant in Bay City. HL&P then entered into a contract with LCRA, agreeing to pay \$10 per acre foot for up to \$10,000 acre feet of water per year.

The attorney general said neither the LCRA, nor any other river authorities in the state, legally can sell running river waters.

"LCRA, as a matter of practice, sells water in the Colorado River below Austin — water belonging to the state or the holders of permits below Austin," Hill said. "Apparently, other river authorities follow this same practice. And, apparently, the commission condones it."

Hill accused the commission of abdicating its statutory duties by allowing river authorities to sell water other than that behind their dams.

"It is the Texas Water Rights Commission's duty to make available at low cost the unappropriated water of the state, not to cooperate with river authorities in selling this unappropriated water at a higher price," he said.

Jim Nance, attorney for HL&P, said Hill did not attend any of the 14 commission hearings concerning the water permit. He said if the project is shut off for two or three days the whole area, beginning with residences and then industry will suffer.

"This South Texas nuclear project will serve 5.2 million people. One of the best things this state has going for it is this project," Nance said.

## Ample housing available

(Continued from page 1)

and Taos, said neither complex would install individual meters for the next few years. This is because the change would be a major construction job, she explained.

Many students had to pay a fuel adjustment cost last year even though their utilities were "paid," Switzer said. Up to a base amount, the apartment would pay the utilities, she explained. Above that amount, they had to pay the fuel adjustment charge, she said.

In some apartments last year all of that adjustment was passed on to the student, Switzer said. Only four or five complexes did this, she added, but they were some of the biggest complexes.

Shaw said she charged the fuel adjustment last year because the

city charged her a fuel adjustment per square foot of space. She will not charge the adjustment this year, she said.

Students looking for off-campus housing other than in apartments might find it more scarce, Switzer indicated. The student affairs office keeps listings and telephone numbers of duplexes, houses, rooms and mobile home parks. They do not keep up with their availability, however, because they are understaffed, she said.

Ninety per cent of returning students who talk to her ask for duplexes, Switzer said. She suggested that those people look in newspaper advertisements and check on leads through the builders of the duplexes.

Switzer has compiled figures on duplex construction in Bryan and

College Station as of April 1977. Since September 1976, 32 duplexes have received building permits in Bryan and 96 duplexes have received building permits in College Station. Switzer said that it might be from one to three years after the permits are granted before the construction is completed.

Students looking for houses or rooms to rent this fall should check the newspaper for ads, Switzer said. They should also be certain that they will be happy in the frequently isolated lifestyle, she said.

Mobile home parks are almost full, Switzer said.

Roommate-finding services for men and women, subletting services, apartment information, and duplex listings are available in Room 106 YMCA from 8-12, 1-5.

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