

the state

Bilingual program remarks criticized

Official asked to apologize

United Press International  
CORPUS CHRISTI — The national president of the League of United Latin American Citizens Tuesday called on Texas Education Commissioner Alton O. Bowen to apologize for remarks he made Monday about bilingual education.

Attorney Ruben Bonilla said Bowen ought to resign if he does not apologize to Hispanic students for saying language and cultural maintenance should be a function of the home, family and community and not the schools.

"I can understand if it (bilingual education) comes under attack from parents and novice community leaders," Bonilla said, "but for it to come under attack and criticism from the State Education Commissioner of Texas is a disgrace to the concept of equal educational opportunity in the State of Texas."

Bowen told 4,000 Texas school administrators at their San Antonio convention Monday that the state's bilingual education programs were "hastily" conceived and may not be working as well as professional educators contend.

The commissioner received only scattered applause during the speech in which he also said education is "too important to be left to professional educators" and that administrators should "start listening to the people of the state to hear what they want for their children."

Bowen said: "The jury is still out on bilingual education, and until we understand clearly what it does and does not do, we should not expand bilingual education until we know that it's good."

"I think it would be appropriate for us in the Hispanic community to demand that the commissioner, 1. apologize to the Hispanic children of Texas, or, 2. that he resign his position if he is unable to cope with the educational needs of the fastest growing minority group in the state," Bonilla said.

"The Spanish-speaking children are making up an increasingly larger percentage in our schools in the state of Texas. In spite of that impressive statistic, Spanish-speaking children still have the highest dropout rate and the lowest educational attainment of any other ethnic or racial group, largely due to the public schools' and legislature's incapacity to deal with our educational needs."

Bonilla charged that Bowen's comment "subjects Spanish-speaking children to contempt and

ridicule by their peers and classmates. It makes it more difficult for existing bilingual education programs to function smoothly and effectively."

He said LULAC would continue to back legislation expanding bilingual education from the third grade to the sixth grade, a bill which passed the state Senate last session but never reached the floor in the House of Representatives.

Davis: plan aimed to save his own life

United Press International  
FORT WORTH — T. Cullen Davis, accused of trying to arrange the murder of his divorcee judge, Tuesday testified he consented to recording conversations with David McCrory only because he thought he was helping thwart a plot to kill him.

Davis said he thought McCrory, who helped the FBI set up Davis' murder solicitation arrest, was acting as a go-between with hitmen hired by his estranged wife Priscilla. Davis said McCrory told him he'd "call off the contract on me," Davis said. "The second part was them (the non-existent hitmen) to come testify for me (in his divorce) if I would pay them more money."

Davis testified he was merely being careful because he was carrying \$25,000 that McCrory had won in Las Vegas. Prosecutors maintain the money was for paying a hitman the millionaire had hired to kill Judge Joe Eidsos. FBI pictures of the Davis-McCrory parking lot meeting showed Davis cautiously peering into a parked van, which contained FBI video taping equipment. Davis said he first thought the van belonged to a friend.

Water rules said to be too stringent

United Press International  
HOUSTON — Less stringent water pollution control standards would afford Americans a cost savings to help fight the energy crisis and inflation without impeding long-term goals for cleaning up the nation's waterways, the president of the Water Pollution Control Federation contends.

Martin Lang, former water and sewer commissioner of New York City, said Monday the Environmental Protection Agency's administration of the 1972 clean water act has been "simplistic."

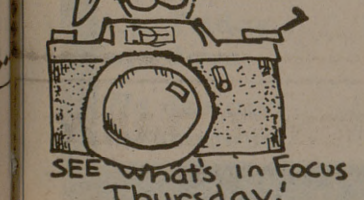
"This energy crisis should compel revision of EPA's administration of the clean water act, which has largely been a simplistic fiat for a uniformly high degree of treatment everywhere," Lang said.

Lang said federal officials have begun to recognize that some waste accumulations and some receiving rivers, lakes and oceans do not require high-energy, high-cost facilities for pre-disposal cleanup of wastewater.

"Restraint has been imposed on EPA to deter the proliferation of energy-intensive, expensive, advanced waste treatment facilities, selected apparently with no regard for the needs of the receiving stream," Lang said.

"I confidently believe a reasoned move toward cost-effective treatment austere tailored to the real needs of the receiving waters will literally save billions of dollars over the useful life of these facilities."

Lang said his organization always doubted the wisdom of Congress' declaration in 1972 that American waterways could be cleaned up completely by 1985. Lang said a more realistic goal remains the year 2000.



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