

the state

Texas may sue to stop federal aid

United Press International
AUSTIN — Charging the White House is playing politics with money earmarked to help poor people pay utility bills, Texas authorities Monday announced plans to sue to block federal officials from dispensing \$6.5 million in emergency assistance funds.

A top official in the administration of Republican Gov. Bill Clements said he believes federal authorities' efforts to bypass the state in disbursing the money constitutes political retaliation against Texas for electing a GOP chief executive.

"This time, the Community Services Administration has gone too far and must be held accountable for its arrogant disregard of the law," said Omar Harvey, executive director of the Texas Department of Community Affairs and one of a handful of state agency heads appointed directly by Clements.

Harvey said a CSA regional official told TDCA the federal agency received orders from the White House

to reject Texas officials' proposal for administering distribution of the Energy Crisis Assistance Program money.

"I think they want to put the money where it will do them the most good politically," Harvey said. "It'll be spent in the areas of the state where they want it spent."

Harvey said the state will file suit in federal court within the week charging federal bureaucrats are disobeying federal laws and initiating an illegal distribution plan by contracting with local community action agencies to disburse the money.

TDCA's proposal called for the state to contract with the anti-poverty agencies or local councils of government to distribute the money.

"The Texas state plan was disapproved because we were unwilling to name in our application to CSA the agencies or organizations with whom we would contract to distribute the funds," Harvey said. "To do so would limit the state's bargaining power to get the best bang for the buck for recipients, and at the same

time give CSA the opportunity to take credit with those which we were forced to name in the application."

Harvey said the state distributed \$2.5 million under the program earlier this year to residents of North Texas areas hard hit by inclement weather last winter, and wanted to see where the worst weather would occur this year before deciding where to distribute the \$6.5 million.

"Do you think we need more money for cold weather in the Valley or in the Panhandle?" Harvey asked reporters.

Dayan wants U.S. troops in Mideast

United Press International
HOUSTON — Former Israeli defense minister Moshe Dayan Monday said the United States should consider permanently stationing a land army in the Middle East.

"I think just like you have some American forces in Europe, not to fight those countries, you should have some forces in the Middle East," Dayan told a news conference on arrival at Hobby Airport for an evening speech.

Dayan had said in Dallas Sunday that the United States could use Israel as a base for military operations.

Dayan said the mob takeover of the U.S. embassy in Tehran has not caused other nations to doubt U.S. military might, but he said the incident has caused some observers to question U.S. policy.

Low wages — less talent, he says Bullock calls state pay inadequate

United Press International
AUSTIN — Inadequate pay for state employees is penny wise and pound foolish, Comptroller Bob Bullock told a House subcommittee Monday.

A spokesman delivered Bullock's comments on the pay issue to a subcommittee of the House State Affairs Committee, which is studying state employee pay, benefits and production.

Bullock said low salaries ultimately will force the state to recruit less talented employees.

"It's like picking a bunch of grammar school kids to scrimmage against the Dallas Cowboys," he said.

The comptroller, who has advocated unionization of state workers to improve benefits and pay, said aggressive and talented professionals are being lured away from state government careers by better

paying jobs in private industry.

The turnover rate among auditors in his office is about 18 percent annually, Bullock said.

He said state employee wages in the past six years have increased 41 percent, while the cost of living in Texas has increased almost 70 percent in the same period.

Jury finds Pasadena doctor guilty of attempted murder

United Press International
BROWNSVILLE — A jury Monday convicted wealthy Pasadena, Texas, physician Dr. Archie Herman Burkhalter of attempted murder in the shooting of his ex-wife's husband, but acquitted Burkhalter's alleged accomplice, Scott David Minnick after 9½ hours of deliberation.

A jury in the same 197th District Court last July convicted Minnick's uncle, S.J. Wilburn, 56, as the hired

triggleman who shot John Hensley at South Padre Island last Feb. 15.

Hensley, 43, married to Burkhalter's ex-wife, Laurita, was shot by a sniper outside the couple's condominium as he awaited a chance to testify against Burkhalter in a kidnapping case.

Prosecutor Joe K. Hendley attempted to show that Burkhalter, 51, in a fit of jealousy, offered Wilburn and Minnick, 21, a new Cadillac and \$15,000 to shoot Hensley.



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