

Texas judicial oaths irk O'Hair at trial

AUSTIN — Atheist Madalyn Murray O'Hair contended Tuesday a Texas court has no authority to try her on misdemeanor charges of disrupting a prayer at a City Council meeting, and threatened to sue the prosecutor, judge and court officials for damages if they proceed with the trial.

O'Hair contends the Texas judicial system is unconstitutional because it requires officers of the court, including all attorneys licensed in the state, to acknowledge the existence of a supreme being.

"I intend to sue every single clerk in this court, I intend to sue (prosecutor Joe) Turner and I intend to sue you personally for damages," she told Judge Brock Jones of County Court at Law No. 1.

O'Hair has asked Jones to remove himself from the case and asked for a court-appointed attorney to represent her in the case. She suggested Tuesday Jones designate University of Texas law professor Charles Alan Wright as her attorney, saying she believes he would determine the Texas judiciary is unconstitutionally biased against atheists.

Jones set a hearing for Aug. 11 on the motion to remove himself from the case, and told O'Hair he intends to have an attorney appointed to represent her before that date.

She filed half a dozen motions, including a request that her trial be moved to a federal court outside Texas, and that Jones request the opinion of a federal court on the constitutionality of Texas provisions she says require all members of the judiciary to acknowledge the existence of a God.

After the hearing, O'Hair told reporters, "I am right and I will prove it, I don't give a damn if it takes five years. Any attorney appointed to represent me must acknowledge the existence of a supreme being. Would I want some fruit like that representing me?"

O'Hair interrupted the prayer at a November 1977 meeting of the City Council, contending it violated the separation of church and state. She was charged with disrupting a public meeting, a misdemeanor.

Security beefed up at camp for refugees

FORT CHAFFEE, Ark. — Adequate security remains the biggest concern of Army and civilian officials at this huge Cuban processing and relocation center.

Three state troopers and 100 members of the Puerto Rico National Guard joined the security forces at Fort Chaffee Monday because of growing public concern for community safety.

Officials Tuesday revealed numerous minor criminal acts by a few of the 19,000 refugees at Fort Chaffee, but contended the Cubans did not represent a serious criminal problem at the base. They attributed many of the problems to a lack of understanding and restlessness.

Lt. Col. A. T. Brainerd said one of the mess halls was broken into Monday night and 64 pounds of sugar and four knives were stolen. He said he assumed refugees were responsible. He said all knives were removed from the cafeterias Tuesday because of the incident.

"There has been no indication of violence towards Americans by refugees," Brainerd said.

Bill McAda, a spokesman for the Federal Emergency Management Administration, said several minor incidents have convinced the public the refugees are hardened criminals being imprisoned at Chaffee.

"We are not running a prison," he said. "I don't think there should be any concern that these people will harm the local community."

U.S. Deputy Marshall Jim Smith confirmed 18 refugees were in the Sebastian County jail Tuesday, but said five would return to the base later in the day.

In response to a question of how many potential troublemakers or criminals are among the refugee population, Smith said, "It's a very small amount. Sometimes their patience runs a little short. They are very anxious to be processed and be united with their families in the U.S."

Smith said three refugees now in custody would be transferred to a federal penitentiary in Atlanta, Ga., at the request of the Immigration and Naturalization Service. Smith said the INS did not disclose the reasons, only that "they were not the kind of people we want in the camp."

Authorities confirmed Tuesday three incidents of refugees leaving the base without permission, but said all involved refugees looking for cigarettes. He said mobile dispensaries sold 272 cartons of cigarettes to refugees Monday, likely preventing similar incidents.

Tutored students have edge on SAT

BOSTON — The Scholastic Aptitude Test, used to screen millions of college applicants each year, is the least reliable of all standard measurements of a high school student's abilities, a new study says.

The report, appearing in the current issue of the Harvard Educational Review, also says students who are coached in "little-used vocabulary

and tricky math" do better on SATs than those who aren't, and says tutoring students may well get into schools that otherwise would have rejected them.

The tests thereby discriminate against students who can't afford to pay for additional instruction, the report charges.

Originators of the SATs, the Educational Testing Service of Prince-

ton, N.J., repeatedly have denied tutoring affects test results.

But Harvard Medical School professors Warner Slack and Douglas Porter said Thursday their study showed coaching increases average SAT scores — by more than the average difference between the scores of students accepted by colleges and the scores of those turned down.

"It's not really an aptitude test," Slack said. "It measures past accomplishments and emphasizes little-used vocabulary and tricky math."

"But if one puts his mind to it he can learn how to perform much better on the test."

"Evidence indicates that all kids can benefit from coaching," Slack said. "The poor kids who can't afford extracurricular coaching don't get into college or don't get into the col-

lege of their choice." Slack says even though vary extensively, high schools are the best way to predict performance.

"Standardized achievement are also better than the SAT — good as the high school record better than the SAT," he said.

Carte

WASHINGTON — With Democratic nomination all set up, President Carter has a campaign trail for the first time since Edward Kennedy and Ronald Reagan.

Carter came out of the White House Monday for his first appearance of 1980 — a meeting with the campaign



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