

State

Panel approves report

United Press International
AUSTIN — The Senate Human Resources Committee Thursday approved recommendations to provide better services to the elderly and handicapped, which the panel's chairman said focused more on improvement of current programs than on creation of new ones.

Committee chairman Sen. Chet Brooks, D-Pasadena, said the comprehensive report to be issued to the 1981 Legislature recommends that state agencies take new directives to improve services.

He also said the committee had faced "political reality" by not recommending any great statutory changes that would involve large legislative appropriations. Brooks said the committee focused mostly on exploring how existing mechanisms could be modified or maximized to reach more people who need the services.

"It would be useless to recommend new programs," he said. "Most that we can hope for is that we can bring about better coordination and identification of resources to help the elderly and the handicapped."

Brooks said that elderly, disabled and handicapped persons who testified at committee public hearings across the state during the past year indicated they needed improved services — rather than new ones — to help them develop as much self-care as possible.

"We need to use the dollars that are already available to us to be able to do a more effective job of helping these people so that they can help themselves," Brooks said. "And that really is the bottom line. These people want to be able to help themselves."

The committee asked that the Texas Department of Human Resources make modifications in its in-home attendant care services program in regard to population priorities, level of funding and eligibility criteria. It also recommended that younger severely disabled adults have more access to attendant care services.

To facilitate services to the elderly, disabled and handicapped, the committee recommended that an already existing state agency be designated a coordination point.

The committee also recommended that the marriage license fee in Texas be increased from \$7.50 to \$12, and that \$4 of each fee be forwarded to the state treasury for deposit in a family violence fund. The legislature could then make appropriations to be administered by the Texas Department of Human Resources to reinforce the budgets of community based family violence centers.

The committee also recommended:
— New construction in all the state's 254 counties comply with standards and specifications regarding disabled and handicapped persons.

— The Legislature create an interagency council on human services transportation.

— The Sunset Advisory Commission consider handicapped employment procedures in its criteria review of the performance of state agencies under the Sunset Act.

— The Texas Department of Community Affairs address housing needs of disabled citizens by providing pertinent information and technical assistance to owners, developers and consumers.

Ford says Carter scared to debate

United Press International
HOUSTON — President Carter has "screwed up" the economy, defense and foreign policy and is too embarrassed to try to defend his record in a televised debate with both his major opponents, former President Gerald Ford said Thursday.

"Carter's economic policies are a disaster," Ford said in an appearance for local Republicans. "I say to you in good conscience, you can go out and talk to people and say that Carter's economic policies are a disaster, he's been a catastrophe, he's screwed it up and that a Republican president will do a far, far better job."

Ford said Carter was so determined to avoid emphasizing his performance that he disclosed development of a radar-defying aircraft in a misleading manner for political gain.

"There's no doubt in my mind that the release of the Stealth information was a political decision that unquestionably is harmful to our national security," Ford said, explaining the so-called invisible airplane program was begun during his administration and developed into one of the most important, although incomplete, strategic weapons programs this nation has.

"I was absolutely dumbfounded seeing that Secretary (of Defense Harold) Brown released the information as to the Stealth program," Ford said. "I was surprised that Secretary Brown said that the Stealth program,

as it is today, alters the balance between the Soviet Union and the United States. That's not an accurate statement."

Ford stressed the Stealth program remained in the design stages, but an Austin newspaper Thursday reported prototypes of the bomber have been undergoing secret flight testing at bases in Nevada and Alaska.

"There is no deployable hardware today and there won't be until the early 1980s," Ford said. "A design program doesn't do that. You have to have hardware. So there's no question in my mind that President Carter and his administration have told the American people of the Stealth program because they are embarrassed by their cutbacks and cancellations of the B1 Bomber, the slowdown in the MX missile systems and the 50 percent reduction in Navy shipbuilding below the program that we had undertaken."

Ford said Carter's performance was the basis for his refusal to join Ronald Reagan and John Anderson in a televised debate.

"The only reason that I can believe is that he's embarrassed and afraid to defend his record before 60 million people on national television," Ford said. "I'm not going to vote for John Anderson. He's a fine person, but I think the American people ought to have an opportunity to see John Anderson on the tube."

Picture sent to Albuquerque

Kidnapping, murder linked

United Press International
DALLAS — A photo was transmitted to Albuquerque, N.M. police Thursday to determine if the prime suspect in the kidnapping of 7-year-old Matthew Mueller in Dallas last week might be the same man who killed a policeman in the New Mexico city.

"There is a possibility that the man in the Albuquerque shooting could be the man we're looking for in the Mueller kidnapping," said Sgt. D.A. Green.

The boy was kidnapped last Friday and escaped unharmed from a parked van Saturday night near downtown Dallas while his abductor was trying to negotiate the \$20,000 ransom from the parents, Mr. and Mrs. John K. Smith.

David Lee Summerville, 23, has not been charged in the kidnapping of Mueller, but police Wednesday identified him as their prime suspect. He was already charged with attempted murder in the rape-stabbing of a nurse Aug. 30 in Dallas.

The suspect being sought for the Wednesday slaying of Albuquerque officer Phil Chacon, 36, was described as black, 6-foot tall, about 150 pounds, driving a 1975-to-1977 silver Buick Regal. This was very similar to Summerville's description issued by Dallas police.

Summerville was believed driving a silver 1977 Buick Regal stolen at knife point Sept. 2 from a female student on the parking lot of Norman High School in Norman, Okla.

"We are sending Albuquerque police a picture of him now," Green said. "It looks like the same man and it does fit the description."

Summerville, described by one officer as "super violent," was identified Tuesday from a photograph by the

Mueller boy. There was also a report that an anonymous tip had helped lead police to the man.

Summerville was arrested March 25 in Dallas for investigation of violating the controlled substance act, but formal charges were never filed. He was arrested April 12 for the unauthorized use of a motor vehicle, but a grand jury decided against indicting him.

A dog was used by the kidnapper to lure Mueller from his bicycle and into a car, and it was this animal, police said, that was a key to identification of the suspect. The Mueller boy told investigators his abductor called the dog, "Heidi," and "Snow," and police said Summerville owns a dog he calls by both names.

Law officers searched for Summerville in North Little Rock where his step-father, the Rev. Rochester Rogers Wednesday recalled him differently than police.

"He's a very good-hearted person," he said. "I guess when he got about 20, he just started getting off the track. He's never done anything violent, but he was involved in a few minor incidents here after he turned 20."

The Rev. Rogers, who has taken in wayward children in the area, said Summerville was made to go to church every Sunday when he was growing up. "It's just when he got on his own, he just kind of started going wrong," he said.

Summerville won acclaim at North Little Rock Old Main High School as a track star, recording a 9.8 time in the 100-yard dash and a 21.9 time in the 220-yard dash. In May, 1975, however, Summerville was expelled from school when he cursed and threw his starting blocks at a track meet official after being disqualified for false starts.

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\$650,000 black opal at Smithsonian

United Press International
DALLAS — The "Dark Jubilee," a black opal bigger than a credit card and valued at \$650,000, has been donated to the Smithsonian Institution's rare gem collection by the Zales Corporation.

The 318.44-carat opal, donated Wednesday, is described by gemologists as the most brilliant of its type in the world and the largest in the United States.

The stone measures 3.3 by 2.4 inches and is up to a half-inch thick, considerably larger than other famous stones from the Australian opal fields.

Zales purchased the opal in 1974 as an investment. Although the date it was found and the name of the person who found it are not known, the stone is believed to have come from the Lightning Ridge Opal Fields in New South Wales, Australia. It first appeared in the United States in New York in the early 1960s.

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