

State

Cubans to be paid for work

GREENVILLE—A patio furniture manufacturer who had not been paying Cuban refugees under his sponsorship said Tuesday he had agreed to pay them minimum wage and arrange for back pay.

The U.S. Department of Labor Monday began investigating Stromberg's Patio Furniture after Cuban refugees said they had not been paid for working at the plant. The Stromberg family said when they agreed to sponsor the Cubans from Fort Chaffee, Ark., they were told they did not have to be paid for six months.

services violate the federal wage and hour act.

"We've put them on minimum wage (\$3.35 per hour) and everything's straightened out," said Pat Stromberg. "According to the law, you've got to pay somebody you hire."

Stromberg said the two Cubans still at his plant, as well as others who quit with complaints of not being paid, would receive back pay, minus what they were given in room, board and other expenses.

Labor Department spokesman Bill Belt said no official agreement

had been reached and the investigation would continue. But the Strombergs had been cooperative and no problems were foreseen, another spokesman said.

Refugees Antonio Taylor, 22, and Lorenzo Guerrero, 25, said at a news conference Monday they had been treated like family by the Strombergs and given room, board and medical care. The men acknowledged they worked for free, but said officials at Fort Chaffee told them they would receive no pay for the first six months.

"We were anxious to get out of Fort Chaffee," Taylor said. "Fort

Chaffee was like a prison."

Guerrero said they also received about \$30 per month in spending money for working 36 to 48 hours per week.

Five other refugees working for the Strombergs fled to Dallas last month, saying they were overworked and not paid. Taylor and Guerrero claim the others left because they were offered high-paying jobs in Chicago.

"We want to be here, and they want to be there," said Taylor, an amateur boxer in Cuba. "We all have our choices. This is a free country."

Senate committee approves bill limiting injury claims

AUSTIN — A Senate committee has approved a bill which would prevent a lawsuit by a person who loses a hand working on a defective machine that is more than six years old.

The bill by Sen. Bill Meier, D-Eules, would impose a statute of limitations of six years from the time the product is manufactured, five years from the time it is purchased and two years from the time it causes injury.

With one dissenting vote, the committee recommended the bill Monday.

Opponents argued that the statute of limitations would protect manufacturers of defective automobiles, manufacturers of cancer-causing drugs and producers of any other products that

cause injury more than five or six years after they are manufactured.

"If a man buys a new house and owns it six years and it burns down because of faulty wiring and destroys everything he has, maybe some members of his family, can he sue under Meier's bill?" asked Sen. Bill Sarpaluis, D-Hereford.

"He has no cause of action," answered Mike Gallagher, legislative chairman of the Texas Trial Lawyers Association.

The bill would also eliminate punitive damages, except in cases where death has resulted. The Texas Constitution does not permit the Legislature to rule out punitive damages if a death has occurred.

Clayton says he'll give up legislature

AUSTIN — Speaker Bill Clayton, whose election Jan. 13 to a fourth term as the House's presiding officer established a new record for tenure in that office, is giving up his position in the Legislature when his term runs out in 1982.

Clayton said Monday he will surrender the legislative seat he has held for 18 years, and will either retire from politics and return to his Texas Panhandle farm, or make a race for a statewide office.

Most of Clayton's friends believe a statewide campaign is the most likely choice, despite his trial and acquittal last year on bribery charges stemming from the FBI's Brilab investigation.

Clayton had said in 1979 he would retire or run for another office at the end of this term, but hinted at the opening of the legislative session that he was considering campaigning for a fifth term as speaker.

Monday, he again disclosed his plans to retire or seek another office.

He first gave the message to a lobby group, then to reporters.

"I guess I had better go ahead and say it publicly, I will not be seeking another term in the Legislature," Clayton said.

"After this term, I will have concluded 20 years in the Legislature, and I believe it is time to move on and let someone else represent that district."

He said he will decide near the end of the legislative session, or perhaps after it ends, whether he will seek another office or return to his farm in Springlake.

Clayton, 52, has been mentioned as a potential candidate for governor, lieutenant governor or land commissioner in 1982.

Gov. Bill Clements has not said whether he will seek re-election, but Lt. Gov. Bill Hobby already has announced for re-election in two years.

Land Commissioner Bob Armstrong has said he will retire from his office at the end of his present term, leaving that office perhaps the easiest target for Clayton. At least 10 other Democrats have expressed interest in Armstrong's job.

Police say fake money isn't funny

ALLEN TOWN — The student who printed phony dollars on his high school printing press to decorate a Christmas present for an aunt and uncle had no idea he was triggering a counterfeit crime wave.

Fellow students at Allen High School thought the money looked so authentic, they have since turned out an estimated \$3,000 in bogus bills on the press. Police say the money looks phony at close range, but has been fooling cashiers and change machines.

The money was passed off primarily in pizza parlors and doughnut shops.

One teen-ager was arrested and six others were sought on charges of forgery and theft of services. The students were not identified because of their age.

Lt. Ronald Neimeyer, chief of the Allentown police juvenile division, set a deadline of 4 p.m. today for the return of all the bogus bills before police begin making more arrests.



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Variety of Package Sizes!

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Orange Juice	6 Oz. Can	37¢
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Fried Chicken	2 Lb. Box	\$2.59
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2.7 Oz. Tube

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Intensive Care, Reg., 10 Oz. 1.29
Herbal or Ex. Strength, 8 Oz. Btl.

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16 Oz. Btl.

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SPECIAL! Natural, Super or Unscented, SAVE 30%

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