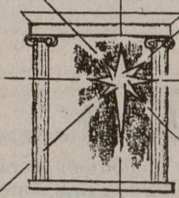


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## State / National

# Hospitals accumulating nuke waste

United Press International  
AUSTIN — Texas hospitals faced with a possible shutdown of the state's only remaining storage site for low level radioactive waste are accumulating drums of the waste in their hallways, Health Commissioner Dr. Robert Bernstein said Thursday.

Bernstein, in a report to the Texas Energy and Natural Resources Advisory Council, said Nuclear Sciences and Services Inc. of Houston, the only firm in Texas still accepting radioactive waste for storage and ultimate disposal, plans to quit business April 1.

"Unless there are some changes in the situation, after April 1 we will not have a single company accepting waste," he said. "Many of our hospitals and medical facilities have waste drums accumulating in their hallways."

Bernstein had indicated earlier that Texas medical facilities might have to curtail the use of radioactive materials in diagnosis and treatment, but told the council Thursday: "Things don't look

quite as dismal as they did a week ago."

He said radioactive waste disposal firms in Nevada and North Carolina have indicated they may be willing to send trucks into Texas to collect medical wastes until a state disposal firm is licensed under a law nearing final passage in the Legislature.

A coalition of anti-nuclear groups called a news conference Thursday to contend the medical waste issue is being raised to frighten the public and the Legislature into permitting permanent radioactive waste sites in Texas.

"The point is not whether we really need storage sites for medical waste, but whether industrial users of radioactive substances and utilities that generate nuclear power will have dumps for their far larger amounts of radioactive garbage," Bill Simmons of the Lone Star Alliance said.

"There is not a medical crisis in Texas," Simmons said. "The nuclear industry is stampeding the Texas Legislature, and we are advising caution. If business goes

on as usual, the rich will get richer, the public will get radiated, and all radiation can cause cancer."

Land Commissioner Bob Armstrong suggested possible use of state owned lands in low populated areas of West Texas for temporary radioactive waste storage sites, but Bernstein said that would not avoid opposition from citizens.

"I'm convinced that no matter where you put it, you will have opposition," Bernstein said. "If you put it way out west where there are no people, the jackrabbits will organize in opposition."

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# Atlanta murders may be spurred by investigation

United Press International  
ATLANTA — The mass murderer stalking Atlanta's children may not have killed his first victim until at least a month after the city formed a special police task force to investigate child slayings, reports indicated Thursday.

Fulton County District Attorney Lewis R. Slaton, in a copyrighted interview in the Atlanta Constitution, said police are working on the theory there may be as many as 10 different killers, only one or two of whom committed more than one of the city's 20 black child murders in the past 19 months.

Slaton said police believe only the last six or seven killings—with the possible exception of three much earlier ones—are related. This coincides with reports FBI agents are working on the theory it was not until the murder of Clifford Jones, 13, whose body was

found the day after he disappeared on Aug. 30, that a mass killer entered the picture.

It was on July 17, after prodding by parents of some of the victims, the city established a special police task force to handle the cases.

Some authorities have speculated the killer has recently been responding to publicity—the last body was found within a mile of a church whose pastor has taken out advertisements urging the killer to surrender—and the frequency of the killings has gradually increased since the task force was established.

Slaton said only two or three of the earlier murders may have been connected, and there was no indication those had any connection with the more recent killings.

The theory of unrelated murders also was supported recently by a medical examiner who said the city normally has as many as 15 murders a year among black children under the age of 17.

Slaton said the last six or seven killings are connected by the cause of death. Each was strangled or suffocated. The FBI reportedly feels there is even more evidence, such as the arrangement of the bodies in some cases, to support a link, and has generated a psychological profile of the killer.

Adding to the confusion, however, is the matter of fibrous evidence medical examiners found on some of the bodies. The evidence, they said, appeared to link four cases with three others.

Slaton also said the cases of Milton Harvey, Christopher Richardson and Earl Terrell appeared to be connected to each other, but not necessarily to any of the other 17 killings. Harvey disappeared Sept. 4, 1979. His body was found two months later, and no cause of death has been determined. Richardson disappeared June 3, 1980, and Terrell July 30, 1980. Their skeletons were found last January a few yards apart, and less than a mile from where Harvey's body was found. Slaton said the proximity of the bodies made the connection in the three cases.

He told the Constitution "it is surprising that they haven't solved even one" of the slayings if there are as many as 10 unconnected killers.

Police maintained—and strengthened—a stony silence on the cases.

Public Safety Commissioner Lee P. Brown told reporters Wednesday: "We do not intend to compromise our investigation for any purposes. Any time anyone talks about information relating to our investigation, it does hurt us."

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