

# State

## Bill passes House to rid 'hodge podge' in schools

**United Press International**  
AUSTIN — The House passed and sent to the Senate Tuesday a bill repealing state laws requiring school districts to teach specific courses, and authorizing the State Board of Education to establish general required subjects. A drug paraphernalia bill also passed.

The bill passed 90-52 despite protests from opponents that some Texas and American history courses could be jeopardized in Texas' classrooms.

The bill by Rep. Bill Haley, D-Center, would require the State Board of Education to establish 11 general required subject areas. Local school districts, however, would still be able to decide what specific courses will be offered.

Rep. Dan Kubiak, D-Rockdale, tacked on an amendment requiring American and Texas history textbooks be used in conjunction with reading courses, nullifying an amendment passed Monday by Rep. Lanny Hall, D-Fort Worth, requiring the teaching of specific courses in American and Texas history and free enterprise.

Hall argued that the bill, as amended by Kubiak, would no longer be "back to basics" legislation.

But Rep. Wayne Peveto, D-Orange, argued that under the bill the Legislature would be able

to review curriculum every two years because the Board of Education — through the Texas Education Agency — would be required to submit curriculum reports to the Legislature before each session.

"That's something that the education agency is not mandated to do now," Peveto said.

Haley said the legislation would eliminate the "hodge podge" curriculum currently used in Texas schools. He said many unnecessary courses would be eliminated and "back to basics" courses would be reinstated.

The legislation was heavily backed by Gov. Bill Clements, whose interim committee on education recommended the curriculum change.

The House also gave final passage — 135-9 — to a bill by Rep. Charles Evans, D-Hurst, prohibiting the sale or possession of drug paraphernalia.

The bill, which is part of Clements' anti-crime legislative package, will effectively close "head shops" in the state.

The legislation was passed with no debate. However, the House spent two hours debating the measure on Monday when the bill was tentatively approved.

## CBS TV reporter defends journalists' use of deception

**United Press International**  
DALLAS — Television reporter Mike Wallace Tuesday defended journalists' use of deception to get a story in order to serve the public good, but warned against journalistic "terrorism" that would allow journalists to become a law unto themselves.

Wallace, co-editor of CBS television's "60 Minutes," made the statements during a speech on journalistic ethics to the National School Boards Association, meeting at a convention in Dallas.

He said there was a certain skepticism among the public regarding how the media operates, as well as debate among journalists themselves over techniques and ethics.

While acknowledging the dangers inherent in supporting deception, Wallace nonetheless made it clear the ends often justified such means.

"The point is, sometimes, a reporter does have to dissemble,

masquerade or role play to assemble information," he said. "You have to make up your mind what is reasonable."

"But there are times that a worthwhile end justifies a deceptive means to get the story."

Wallace gave as an example the assembling of information on a story describing "ghost surgery," a controversial practice in which an operation is handled by an intern or resident instead of the surgeon hired by the patient. The patient is unaware that the surgeon paid to do the operation actually will not be operating.

He said the story could not have been written had hospital officials known the reporting crew was interested in "ghost surgery." The hospital was told the crew was working on a story regarding the training of surgeons.

Similarly, he recalled a story in which a "60 Minutes" employee masqueraded as a sick man to get into a California health spa, whose

director was coming under question as a charlatan. The man has since been jailed on various charges.

Wallace said most editors polled on the use of such deception were in favor of it because the public was often well served.

However, he cautioned against acceptance of outright illegal acts and made it clear journalists should not be "judge and jury" law unto ourselves.

"Journalism is not a type of terrorism," he said. "We can't break the law any more than you can."

## Senate OKs prison overcrowding funds

**United Press International**  
AUSTIN — By an overwhelming margin of 291 the Senate approved an emergency appropriation of \$35 million to help alleviate overcrowded prison conditions.

Funds were appropriated for the construction of three prison units to provide beds for over 2,000 inmates now having to sleep on floors.

Senators had originally wanted up to \$250,000 of the money to be used for a work furlough program that would allow the inmates to work outside the prison.

"This is not to say we have backed off on that issue. We cannot afford to back off that issue," Sen. Kent Caperton, D-Bryan, said. Caperton said a separate bill will be introduced this week providing the funding for the work furlough program.

"The underlying issue is to get those people up off the floor hopefully by Dec. 1," Caperton said.

"This is a step in the right direction, but it's one of three steps set out by Jim Estelle to get people up off the floor."

Estelle, zone director of the prison system, has called for immediate construction of the barracks-type housing units at three existing prison sites, an expanded work furlough program, and construction of additional prison units — particularly one in Grimes County for which the state has acquired about 6,000 acres of land.

## Use of Texas land for missiles opposed

**United Press International**  
AUSTIN — The Defense Department should base the MX missile system on arid government land rather than basing it in the Texas Panhandle where it would force 143,000 acres of prime agricultural land out of production, a legislator said Tuesday.

Rep. J.W. Buchanan, D-Dumas, said residents of the eight affected Panhandle counties are willing to do their part for the na-

tion's defense, but are not eager to see 1,400 families displaced by the missile system if the Air Force chooses to use a split-basing system that would put a portion of the MX system in Texas and New Mexico.

"We feel like it's absolutely ridiculous to take 143,000 productive acres out of production when the federal government owns millions of acres of land," Buchanan said.

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