

State

Health officials plan recruitment

DALLAS — With demands for services in Texas hospitals burgeoning and enrollments in health care schools declining, the Texas Hospital Association plans to revive a high school recruitment program to attract Texas youth into health care fields.

O. Ray Hurst of Austin, president of THA which is conducting its annual convention this week, said manpower shortages in health care have reached crisis proportion in Texas.

"Nearly 10,000 nursing jobs will be available in Texas hospitals next year," Hurst said Monday. "Other fields—laboratory technicians, physical therapists, pharmacists, nurses aids—are in demand as well.

"Over the next five years THA will make

a concentrated effort to recruit junior and senior high students into health care schools and ultimately health care careers," he said.

Enrollments in nursing schools in the state have declined 18.5 percent in the past three years, he said.

Stanley Nelson of Detroit, president of the American Hospital Association, said hospitals in the Northeast and Midwest are faced with shrinking demands for services while in Texas and the sunbelt states, hospitals are facing an increasing demand.

"The flow of business and workers is to the south and these people must be cared for," he said.

Hurst said \$1.5 million has been budgeted over the next five years to recruit young people for health careers in a revival

of the organization's Texas Health Careers Program. The program was halted five years ago when health care schools were becoming overcrowded.

However, Billie Rogers, a nursing administrator for Houston's Park Plaza hospital, said hospitals are also going to have to work hard if they expect to keep nurses on their payroll.

"It's really a futile effort to continue to recruit unless you do something to contain," she said. "Getting the nurses is part of the problem, keeping them is the eventual goal."

Rogers believes a big step towards retaining nurses is involving them in the management process and consulting them about problems.

"Nurses want to be treated as adults, as

professionals," she said. "I think one of the most intimidating things for management, physicians and other power groups is the fear of losing control. The fact is, if they were ever in control, they wouldn't have the problems they have today."

In looking at the prognosis for the industry's financial stability, Hurst said his organization had joined the AHA in endorsing President Reagan's economic programs.

"Despite our lack of knowledge about the specifics (of budget cuts in health-related areas), we are going to cooperate," Hurst said. "But we are leaving our options open for advising them on how to (administer) it."

Administrators foresee the budget cutbacks putting more of the burden of health care costs on the private sector.

Board to close abortion clinic

HOUSTON — The Harris County Hospital Board has decided to close an abortion clinic "under protest" in order to get its 1981-82 budget approved by county commissioners.

The board voted Monday to reallocate a \$127,000 portion of the \$129.4 million budget that would have gone to operate the abortion clinic at Jefferson Davis Hospital.

"We are deleting this funding under protest," Mack Shapiro, the board's fiscal officer, said.

The \$127,000 will now go to labor and delivery room service "to cover a small portion of the expense arising out of additional births," the board said.

The proposed funding for the clinic first came under fire when county commissioners rejected the budget in May because of the allocation for the abortion clinic.

Texas Briefs

Alamo City jails filled

SAN ANTONIO — Federal authorities said Tuesday they will not be able to accept any more federal prisoners because area jails are filled to capacity and Bexar County authorities have told them federal prisoners lodged in the county facility must be removed before the end of the month.

The problem has been made worse because of an increase in the influx of illegal aliens, particularly from civil war-torn El Salvador, federal officials said.

The search was continuing Tuesday to find alternate accommodation for the federal prisoners now housed in the county jail, U.S. Marshal Rudy Garza said.

The deadline will fall a day before the county is to go to trial in a federal suit charging overcrowding and other problems at the facility.

County officials, led by Judge Albert Bustamante, have denied that the ban on federal prisoners has anything to do with the lawsuit.

Dump to be challenged

LIBERTY — Liberty County commissioners say they will fight a move by Rollins Environmental Services, Inc. to locate a toxic waste dump in the county.

In a unanimous resolution passed Monday, the commissioners said they will "refuse to grant a permit of any type that will tend to open the door to make Liberty County a dumping ground for unwanted toxic industrial waste."

Rollins recently purchased 1,000 acres in Liberty County, and company spokesman J.T. Turcott said it will apply to the Texas Department of Water Resources for a permit to open a toxic waste dump. County Judge Dempsey Henley said he believes the county has the authority to require waste disposal companies to apply for permits, and he said he will investigate whether state statutes allow counties to regulate such dumps.

'Dallas' car loses plate

PLANO — Someone made off with the license plate taped to a 1981 Porsche 911 used in the filming of the popular television series "Dallas," police in this upper-middle class suburb said Tuesday.

"Lorimar Productions was filming at the Country Kitchen restaurant yesterday (Monday) morning when the prop man noticed the license plate taped to the car missing. The license tag said 'Ewing 6' and I suspect it was being used as a prop," said Jim Clayton, spokesman for the Plano Police Department.

Authorities believe the car was being driven by actress Victoria Principal, who plays the role of Pam Ewing in the TV series. The theft is being blamed on an over zealous souvenir hunter who remained at large.

Under state laws, the offense is a Class C misdemeanor and the maximum penalty for an offender is a \$200 fine.

Police said there was no damage to the car.

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1000	100	8000	1000	1000
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