

State Jury nears indictment in shooting of Martin

United Press International
STIN — The grand jury in-
vestigation into the shooting of
Mike Martin, R-Longview, is
nearing completion soon, offi-
cials said, and an indictment could
be handed down against the fresh-
man legislator.
Authorities were not consider-
ing charges against Charles Goff,
Martin's cousin who has told
himself he and the freshman
legislator staged the shooting,
Lt. Pete Neal said Tuesday.
Neal said he thought a felony
charge would be handed
down by the panel and that
charges were not being consid-
ered against anyone other than
Goff.
Goff declined to say outright that
he would be indicted for the
shooting, but said he knew of
no possible felony charges.

Assistant Travis County Dis-
trict Attorney Allen Hill would not
confirm nor deny that Martin
would be indicted.
Hill said even if Martin re-
signed his legislative seat, the in-
vestigation would not be dropped,
and any indictments handed down
by the grand jury would be pur-
sued.
He said the four witnesses
Tuesday — including Martin's
brother and secretary — corrobo-
rated earlier testimony, but were
not involved in any crimes.
Hill also confirmed that no
charges would be filed against
Goff, and said any indictments
would be handed down today at
the earliest.
Goff, who said he fired the shot-
gun that wounded Martin, has
told officials he was promised a
high paying state job by Martin for
staging the shooting.
Neal said any felony charges
would result from statements
given to investigators during the
course of the investigation.
Martin originally told police
that he did not see his assailant
and knew of no motive for the
attack. Later, he said a satanic cult
that feared public exposure was
responsible. In his last account,
Martin blamed the shooting on
Gregg County politics.
Martin was slightly wounded in
the left elbow during the shooting,
but his late-model car was riddled
with OO buckshot, and Neal said
this contrast caused police to sus-
pect his story from the start.
"That was one of the things that
did not make sense," Neal said.

Nicaraguan children stranded on Texas bridge

United Press International
LAREDO — Three Nicaraguan
children remained stranded on
the Texas-Mexico International
bridge Wednesday, anxious
word on whether they would be
granted political asylum in the
United States.
The two boys, aged 15 and 12,
and their 12-year-old sister are
being reunited with their parents
in the United States and have
been awaiting a decision by
authorities since early Tues-
day.
The Laredo News said in a
story published Tuesday.
The children's mother, a school teacher,
said the newspaper she was forced
to leave Nicaragua last January
because she refused to teach Com-
munist doctrine in her classroom.
Her husband joined her later
that month, leaving the children
with relatives until money could
be raised to bring them by bus
across the bridge into the United
States, she said.
Authorities refused to release
the names of the children or their
parents.
The children, with the assist-
ance of representatives from the
State for the Independence of
Nicaragua and Lawyers of the United
States, a human rights organi-
zation, came across the bridge ab-
out 7:30 a.m. Tuesday and made
application for political asylum,
the newspaper reported.
"We didn't expect for this to be
such a hassle," said Dr. William R.
Pabst, the organization's execu-
tive director.
"We were told to return to Mex-
ico while the courts ruled on the
applications for asylum," he said.
"The children could not return be-
cause their visas have expired and
they would run the risk of deporta-
tion to Nicaragua."
He said a ruling was expected to
have been made by a federal court
in Houston Wednesday, "but if
not we're prepared to stay here
and live at the bridge until they're
granted admittance to the United
States."
Another official of the organiza-
tion, Diane Simons, told the
newspaper assistance was being
sought from Sens. Lloyd Bentsen,
D-Texas, and Henry Childs, D-
Florida.
"I hope they'll be able to pro-
vide us with some of the clout
necessary to get through this," she
said.
A local restaurant operator, Re-
nee Staley, brought food to the
children Tuesday and Father
Robert Bradley, pastor of Laredo's
St. Peter's Catholic Church, brought
bedding and clothing, the
newspaper said.
"I was forced to flee the Nazis
during World War II," said

Staley, "and I know what it's like
to be in a new country and without
friends. Those children will be fed
as long as I have anything to do
with it."
The children spent the night in
a hallway in the INS offices at the
base of the international bridge,
an area described by one INS
officer as "a sterile zone — not
really Mexico and not really the
United States."
Pabst said he was upset with
U.S. officials because "we wanted
to do this legally. This entire inci-
dent falls smack dab on top of the
discretionary powers of the im-
migration service."
"I even had one immigration
official sort of wink at me and tell
me there wouldn't be too many
people around at midnight — as if
I wanted to sneak them in. If I
wanted to do that I certainly
wouldn't have come across the
bridge. There are plenty of miles
of open river to cross."
Ernest M. Ekeroth, assistant
officer in charge of the Immigra-
tion and Naturalization Service in
Laredo, said, "The children have
made their application for asylum,
but we cannot admit them until
their applications have been acted
upon. No one from Mexico is
going to come across and drag
them back, but they just can't be
allowed into the states yet."

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