

Former legislator wants clear name

United Press International LONGVIEW — Former state Rep. Mike Martin has moved back to the city that elected him in an attempt to clear his name in a shooting episode that ended his political career.

Martin, 30, says he returned from Arkansas because he was no longer afraid and wanted to prove what really happened the night of July 31, 1981, when he was wounded in Austin.

His cousin, Charles Goff, told officials he shot Martin at Martin's request to get public

ity and further the legislator's career. Martin then entered a plea-bargain to a perjury charge. He agreed to resign from office and pleaded guilty to the misdemeanor charge.

After the shooting, he failed to appear at grand jury investigations and offered different theories on the case. He says that was the result of the trauma of being shot.

"People can't understand the fear involved in getting shot. It causes people to do stupid things, like running and hiding," he said.

Acting as his own lawyer, he

recently filed a federal lawsuit in Marshall, naming Gregg County Sheriff Bobby Weaver, District Attorney Rob Foster, two district attorney investigators and a sheriff's deputy. Foster says the suit is groundless.

Martin alleges they violated his civil rights when they arrested him Aug. 21, 1981, hiding in a speaker cabinet at his parents' home in adjacent Upshur County.

"The wrong people have won, and that's why I'm fighting back," he said. "I want the truth to come out."

White talks with Gay Caucus

United Press International HOUSTON — Governor-elect Mark White, who was endorsed by the Houston gay community, met in secret with members of the group to explain why the Attorney General's office has appealed a Dallas federal judge's ruling which gave homosexuals the same right to privacy as heterosexuals.

Mary Hardesty, a spokeswoman for White, said Wednesday that the meeting between White and members of the Houston Gay Political Caucus was a private meeting and would not elaborate on what was said.

White sought and received an endorsement from the group in his quest for the governor's

office. But it was disclosed that he filed notice of his intent to appeal the ruling of U.S. District Judge Jerry Buchmeyer before he was elected. However, Texas gays were not aware of White's

decision until after the endorsement was made.

Hardesty said Tuesday that White was required to appeal because his oath of office de-

mands that he defend state laws that are challenged. She said he filed notice even though an Amarillo-area district attorney already had begun an appeal.

Braniff still negotiating with Teamsters, pilots

United Press International DALLAS — Braniff Airways officials, with two unions agreed terms, continued to negotiate Wednesday with the Teamsters and a pilots' union to establish a joint operating agreement with Pacific Southwest Airlines.

Unions representing flight attendants and dispatchers have agreed to terms of the joint operation. However, representatives of the machinists' union, Colby said, who left the bargaining table late Monday, had not returned to the talks.

Howard Putnam, chairman of the board of the bankrupt air-

line, told a group of Houston aviation businessmen Wednesday that he was not going to let one union's failure to reach agreement with the company stand in the way of 1,500 employees returning to work.

He said he felt it was incredible that the machinists' union turned down the most recent offer, which Putnam said would have paid them \$10.50 an hour.

"They said they would not work for sweatshop wages. It is absolutely incredible to me that after five months on the street they would turn that down," Putnam said.

He said if the union does not agree on a contract by next week, "then we will ask the judge to throw out the contract."

He added: "If they refuse to negotiate, we'll set up our own package. (But) we have no intention of going non-union."

Putnam said not all employees will be called back to work when the planned joint venture with PSA is completed. For example, the flight attendants who posed nude or partially nude for a recent issue of Playboy magazine will not be rehired, but Putnam said it was only because they lacked seniority.

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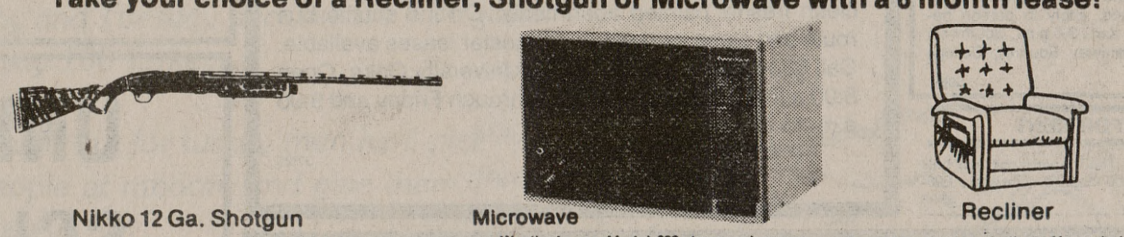
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