

Women voters support garnishment proposal

United Press International
AUSTIN — A controversial proposal that would allow garnishment of wages to help enforce court-ordered child support payments will be backed by the Texas League of Women Voters.

The league announced Thursday that it supports five of the 11 proposed constitutional amendments that will be on the November ballot. However, the league opposes a proposal allow-

ing the governor to suspend constitutional law during enemy attack.

The league said garnishment — which could occur only if a parent is late by at least three payments — is "a fair and efficient way to provide regular, timely child support payments."

Texas' constitution prohibits wage garnishment for any reason.

The league also is in favor of

taking away the governor's veto power over parole decisions made by the Board of Pardons and Parole.

In addition, the organization endorses using the Permanent School Fund to guarantee school district bonds, allowing small counties to have fewer than four constables and four justices of the peace, and authorizing probate-court judges to hear cases in counties other than their own.

R.I.



by Paul Dirme

HEAR NORA LAM



With only three minutes to live, Nora stood, blindfolded, before a firing squad of eight men. She heard the death countdown begin. Looking up to Jesus she prayed, and waited for the bullets to hit. But none did! God sent a blinding light about her, and those who intended to destroy her stood back in fright.

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Nora will also pray for those with physical and spiritual needs.

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Suit filed over vitamin B-6 advice

United Press International
DALLAS — A businesswoman who claimed massive doses of vitamin B-6 damaged her nervous system and left her unable to even hold a fork filed an \$11.5 million suit Thursday against several health food manufacturers and distributors.

The suit, filed by Diane Caldwell in Dallas County district court, seeks \$500,000 in lost wages, \$1 million for pain and suffering, and \$10 million in punitive damages.

The suit charges the manufacturers and distributors violated the Texas Medical Practices Act by representing large doses of the vitamin as a cure for

excess fluids in the body.

The suit names as defendants William T. Thompson Co. of Carson, Calif.; Nature Plus Health Foods Ltd. of Farmingdale, N.Y.; Natural Organics Inc. also of Farmingdale; Roy's Nutrition Centers Inc. of Dallas; Abundant Life Health Food Stores of Lewisville; Tom Thumb Stores Inc. of Dallas, and Gides Nu-Life Inc. of Anaheim, Calif.

"Mrs. Caldwell originally went into Roy's Nutrition and complained of swelling of the ankles because of an excess of fluid," her attorney Dr. Melvin Morgan said. "They represented to her that vitamin B-6 would be curative of her swelling problem."

Morgan said the state law says that someone is considered to be practicing medicine if that person treats or offers to treat any disease or disorder and charge for it.

"They're representing that various preparations they sell are medicinal and safe, both of which are incorrect."

"That's exactly what these health stores are doing," he said. "They're representing that various preparations they sell are

medicinal and safe, both of which are incorrect."

Morgan said the misrepresentation constitutes a misdemeanor under Texas law.

"When you break the law, you're automatically negligent," he said.

Some medical experts claim the body needs only 1 or 2 milligrams of B-6 daily. Recent research has connected B-6 doses of several thousand times the minimum requirement to the loss of sensory response.

Caldwell, 33, said she began taking B-6 tablets last spring. She said she took 15 of the 1-gram tablets daily as a diuretic and began to lose feeling in her feet. A gram is 1,000 milligrams. She said that as her condition

worsened, she increased dosages of vitamin B-6, but it might help her. In June she stopped taking the vitamin, was improving when learned Dr. Herbert S. Berg of the Einstein School of Medicine in New York reported that loss of feeling caused by megadoses of B-6

Caldwell said her boss told her to lose her business and

"If I got \$5 billion I would go through what I've gone through," Caldwell said. "I think I can compensate for what I've lost."

Morgan predicted the suit would lead to health stores moving B-6 tablets in doses from their shelves

House committee warned

Many Americans hungry

United Press International
WASHINGTON — More low-income Americans are seeking food assistance, despite the economic recovery, and there is evidence of increased health problems related to hunger, Congress was told Thursday.

The House agriculture subcommittee met Thursday in the latest in a series of congressional hearings on hunger in America.

J. Larry Brown of Harvard University's school of public health told the subcommittee the Salvation Army in Boston reports an alarming 200 percent increase in the number of people in need of food this year.

He said the number of children in soup lines in Massachusetts has increased in the past six months. Soup kitchens that keep age data report that children make up 15 percent of the people they feed.

Brown estimated that the 364,000 Massachusetts residents dropped from federal nutrition programs because budget cuts have lost 132.9 million pounds of food per year. Yet, he said, food banks expect to distribute just 3 million pounds of food this year — about 2 percent of the loss — to soup kitchens and food pantries.

"Emergency food providers in our state are unable to make an appreciable dent in this loss of food," Brown said.

So teachers report an increase in hungry students, and physicians report concern about

Teachers report an increase in hungry students, and physicians report concern about health of families with too little to eat.

health of families with too little to eat, he said.

Eighteen months ago Boston pediatricians affiliated with

Harvard teaching hospital reported an increase in the number of children treated for nutrition and related problems, he said.

This spring a survey of children 5 years old and under found 14.4 percent of them in the lowest growth range, nearly three times as many as physicians normally expect.

The studies "may well have sent early clinical warnings of possible damage to health," he said, so lawmakers have a choice of responding to the problem now or waiting for further evidence.

Americans hope the economy will improve, but children and elderly people are hungry now, he said.

Brown complained the federal agency has not been directed to assess what happens to Americans affected by the withdrawal of federal assistance. Dr. Victor Sidel of the Harvard Medical School, principal investigator of the joint private and public Hunger Watch in New Haven, said a sample of more than 100 people who get food assistance found a large percentage of people at emergency feeding centers are children and young adults, class people slipping into poverty.

Rep. Mickey Leland of Texas, said at least 2,000 people seek food at food pantries each month in Houston — nearly as many as the number in 1982 and four times as many in the first six months of this year.

In Cincinnati, Mayor Mas Brush told the subcommittee, food pantries and soup kitchens served 20,286 clients in 1982 — nearly twice as many as the year before — and expect to serve more this year.

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