

# Probation plan offered

**United Press International**  
**HARTFORD, Conn.** — A strict probation program to free nonviolent criminals from overcrowded prisons but monitor their lives closely was proposed Thursday by the Citizen's Crime Commission.

In a report to the state, the commission said intensive probation programs in six states have cut costs by providing an alternative to incarceration and successfully deterred future crimes.

"This is an important, positive first step toward making probation truly effective, and relieving prison overcrowding," said Richard Blumenthal, the commission's chairman.

The commission, a private non-profit organization, has been studying improvements to the state's criminal justice system.

The report said probation programs have become swollen with a tremendous number of criminals and contributed to a reliance on incarceration by courts. "Regular probation is overwhelmed by huge case-loads, and no longer entails any real supervision or sanction," Blumenthal said.

In the proposed program, 30 criminals would report to one probation officer, considerably less than the 260 prisoners now reporting to one officer. It will require hiring more probation officers, but the commission said money will be saved on incarceration costs.

The state would pay only \$2,000 per criminal for probation, compared with \$13,000 for incarceration.

The intensive probation program targeted at New Haven, Bridgeport, and Hartford would be open to an elite group

of 300 low-risk, nonviolent offenders serving sentences under three years, the commission said.

Only 13 percent of the current population would be eligible for the \$600,000 program, now used in Georgia, New York, New Jersey, Texas, Washington and Wisconsin.

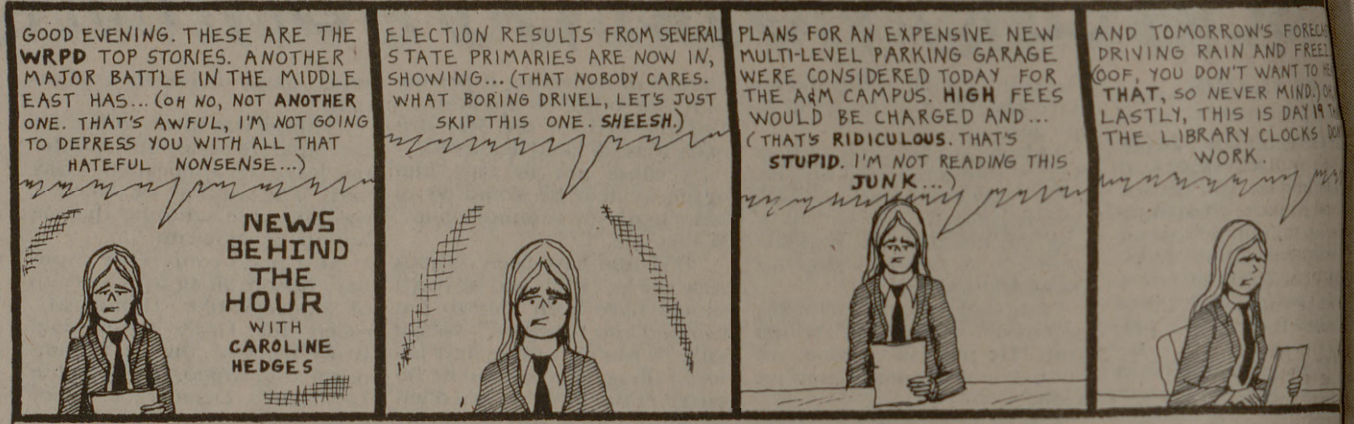
The commission also suggested the state use a panel of judges to decide eligibility on a case-by-case basis, rather than using existing probation laws.

Once enrolled in the probation program, the offender would be under the constant watch of the state. The probation officer would keep track of the offender's job, living condition and use of drugs or alcohol.

The state could even mandate curfews for a participant or prohibit his "association with certain individuals," the report said.

## Warped

by Scott McCull



Gov. Mark White publicly announced his support for Democrat Neeley Lewis, candidate for the Texas House, Thursday.

## White endorses Lewis for House

By KAREN WALLACE  
 Staff Writer

Democratic leadership has brought Texas to the forefront of the nation, Gov. Mark White said Thursday during a press conference at Easterwood Airport. White announced his endorsement of Democratic candidate Neeley Lewis in the District 14 state representative's race.

White was responding to a comment made last week by Sen. Kent Caperton who said a Democratic legislator wouldn't

have any trouble getting in to see the governor.

That's not saying a Republican would have a hard time getting in, White said.

"If they cooperate, they (Republicans) can get in," White

said. "But we have seen resistance."

The main issue through the District 14 state representative's race has been party affiliation. Lewis maintains the majority of leaders in his district are Democrats. By electing a Republican, Brazos County would risk losing the leadership position they hold, Lewis said.

Lewis' major opponent, Republican Richard Smith, said a legislator's effectiveness is guaranteed by his predecessor.

Although White agrees with Lewis, he said party affiliation should not be an issue of campaign. White said he is endorsing Lewis because he provides great leadership.

"Neeley Lewis is a capable leader and the kind of individual I look forward to working with," White said.

## Mauro criticizes Republican record

By KARI WEEKS  
 Reporter

Texas Land Commissioner Garry Mauro spent 15 minutes at Easterwood Airport Thursday, criticizing Republicans and endorsing Democratic state representative candidate Neeley Lewis.

Lewis is running against Republican Richard Smith and Democrat John Seaman for the District 14 state House seat being vacated by Bill Presnal. The election is March 10.

Mauro, Texas A&M class of '69, said that Republicans in Texas are out of step with the rest of the state.

For example, when a proposal to provide state-supported, low-interest housing loans to veterans passed the Texas House in 1983, 11 of the 12 nay votes came from Republicans.

"They didn't support veterans groups, and I think that shows in a very small way how

the Republican Party is out of step," he said.

Few Republicans have been elected to statewide office in Texas history Mauro said. "here is a reason for that."

"The Democrats in Texas have a record; we're proud of it. A Democrat just has a bad time of getting along in Austin. That doesn't mean there aren't effective Republicans. They have to work a lot harder."

Mauro said he has known Lewis for a long time. "I think (Lewis) would be our best bet in Austin to represent Brazos County," Mauro said.

"The fact is, what happens in Austin is important to Texas. A&M and Brazos County. I tell you, as someone who sits on the Permanent University Board and most education boards for leases, that Neeley Lewis in the state House of Representatives would be an asset to Brazos County."

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**Woman gets settlement after disabling flu shot**

**United Press International**  
**SAN ANTONIO** — A woman who developed a paralyzing disease after receiving a swine flu vaccination in 1976 was awarded \$246,000 by a federal judge, court officials said Thursday.

Chief U.S. District Judge William Sessions ordered the award Wednesday for Jo Ann Dubie, 33, after a two-day trial.

Dubie filed suit against the government following her participation in the 1976 Swine Flu Immunization Program, receiving her shots at the Stephens County Health Unit in Texas, Ga., testimony showed.

Dubie's attorneys argued she developed Guillain Barre Syndrome, which affects the peripheral nerves and causes partial paralysis and respiratory failure, after she took the vaccination.

The woman sought \$1 million for pain, suffering, loss of past and future wages.

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