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# House toughens smuggling stance

**United Press International**  
 WASHINGTON — A Texas congressman said Wednesday he was the only House member to vote against a bill to crack down on pilots involved in drug smuggling because "I think our drug laws are all wrong."

"The whole system isn't working," said Rep. Ron Paul, R-Texas. "The more laws that we pass, the more drug dealing that we get. I think our drug laws are all wrong and I intended this vote to be a protest of that."

The House, on a 393-1 vote Tuesday night, passed its version of legislation to toughen the penalties against pilots and owners of airplanes involved in drug-smuggling — much of it through remote airstrips in Texas and other parts of the Southwest.

The Senate last September passed a similar bill and technical differences in the two versions are expected to be worked out in a House-Senate negotiating committee.

The legislation adopted Tuesday would expand to five years the license revocation period for pilots involved in drug smuggling, but allow for a reduction to not less than a year at the discretion of the FAA administrator. It provides for a hearing process and judicial review of a revocation.

In addition, aircraft owners who let their planes be used for drug smuggling would lose their certificates for up to five years.

## Released documents discuss Vietnam

# U.S. considered Viet 'iron curtain'

**United Press International**  
 WASHINGTON — The United States in 1966 considered building an "iron curtain" across South Vietnam, infusing the soil with atomic dust and mustard gas to stop Viet Cong infiltration, declassified documents show.

Another previously top-secret report said the Air Force used C-130s to drop chemicals designed to "destabilize" the soil in areas of Laos across which the North Vietnamese moved supplies.

At least two tests of the so-called "Commando Lava" program were conducted before the unusual scheme was apparently abandoned.

The documents were released to CBS Inc. as it prepared to defend itself against charges brought in a \$120 million libel suit by retired

## SHOE

by Jeff MacNelly

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# Louisiana 'blue laws' nixed; judge says they're unfair

**United Press International**  
 NEW ORLEANS — U.S. District Judge Charles Schwartz Wednesday threw out Louisiana's so-called blue law, saying the statute prohibiting the sale of certain items on Sunday is unclear.

"We are very delighted with the judge's ruling," said Robert Barkley, who represented two chain stores in the suit against the state. "Now you will be able to shop on Sunday."

Attorneys for the state said they would fully review the ruling and their options before deciding whether to appeal.

Barkley said he thinks the decision sets a precedent for Sunday opening of retail outlets statewide.

"I believe stores in Louisiana can now open on Sunday," Barkley said. "The decision applies across the state. A statute can't be constitutional in one part of the state and unconstitutional in another part of the state."

But Caddo Parish District Attorney Paul Carmouche said Schwartz's ruling is not binding on the western

federal district of Louisiana, which includes Shreveport.

Schwartz, ruling on a challenge of the law filed by Home Depot and Gaylord's, said last month he would declare the statute unconstitutional unless the state could show a good reason why he should not.

"There is no new evidence to be introduced at this hearing," Schwartz said at Wednesday's hearing. "The court holds ... the statute is unconstitutionally vague."

Schwartz allowed Home Depot and Gaylord's to introduce two documents to show their gross sales, prompting assistant Attorney General Louis Jones to say, "There's no doubt if they are open (on Sunday), they are going to make money."

But Schwartz denied a request by Bowater Homecenter Inc. of Shreveport and Baton Rouge to join the suit and jump on the anti-blue law bandwagon.

Barkley said both Home Depot and Gaylord's have branches in Orleans and Jefferson parishes, and

Gaylord's has another outlet Houma.

"The issues we raised have been raised in any federal court time coming for Louisiana," he said. "The law is designed to provide a uniform day of rest, but 15 percent of the state's total work force reports to jobs Sunday," Barkley said. "Retailers are unfairly protected from working on the Sabbath."

"Why should a hardware store close when grocery stores are allowed to open?" he asked.

State District Judge Clarence McManus also struck down the law Monday, saying it was unconstitutional because it breeds unfair competition and is selectively enforced.

The blue laws made exceptions for grocery and drug stores, and some special areas such as World's Fair and the French Quarter. But the prior to Schwartz's ruling, businesses that may open Sunday would be prohibited from selling clothes, building materials, furniture or appliances.

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