

Legislators return from S. Africa tour

Associated Press

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa — Two Texas legislators who opposed a divestment campaign aimed at South Africa's racial separation policies on Tuesday ended a tour sponsored by the South African government.

Democrat Gib Lewis, House of Representatives speaker from Fort Worth, and Charles Evans, chairman of the government organizations committee from Hurst, said they became better acquainted with conditions in South Africa. The Texans arrived June 28 and were scheduled to fly home Tuesday.

"I became more educated about the problems," Lewis said in an interview. "I don't agree with some of the racial laws they have in this country. Those laws are very foolish. But it is much more involved than racial laws."

Among those Lewis and Evans met were businessmen, legislators representing whites, Indians and people of mixed race, and Chief Gatsha Buthelezi, leader of 6 million Zulus.

Lewis said the South African Dept. of Foreign Affairs invited them and paid for their trip. He said he did not know the cost.

The Texans' wives accompanied them and Lewis said he and Evans paid the women's costs themselves.

Lewis said it "never crossed my mind" to question the propriety of making the South African-sponsored trip.

"There are very complex questions over here," he said. "It's not simple. People in the United States are not familiar with the problems."

Evans said they talked with people on the political right, left and center during their trip.

Lewis and Evans repeated their opposition to divestment, a process that normally involves selling off stock in U.S. companies that have subsidiaries in South Africa and have not guaranteed equal treatment for non-white employees.

"The people they are trying to help are the people who are going to be hurt," Lewis said, referring to blacks who could lose their jobs if American investment in South Africa ended.

SHOE



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Authorities say 2 police officers followed procedures in shooting

Associated Press

SAN ANTONIO — Two police officers who shot and killed a 24-year-old man after a vehicular chase followed proper procedures, authorities said Monday.

The police department investigation was launched after officers Alan Hernandez and Natline Gonzalez were put on administrative duty following the July 6 shooting death of Michael Ray Haskins.

City Manager Lou Fox, with Police Chief Charles Rodriguez at his side, told a news conference Monday that the investigation left several questions unanswered.

But he said the investigation showed Haskins was shot while he was inside his vehicle and while he was pulling a .38-caliber handgun

from the waistband of his trousers.

"We have verified that the gun was sold to Mr. Haskins by a co-worker," Fox said. "We have absolutely concrete evidence that was Haskins' gun."

The report also said Haskins had a blood alcohol level of .24 when he was shot. The level is well above the legally intoxicated level of .10.

Haskins was shot after he led officers on a chase in his battered car, then crashed through a fence and hit two parked cars, police said. The officers said they fired when they thought they saw Haskins reach for a gun.

Fox said the investigation did not determine how Haskins' car sustained such heavy damage. The rear

end of the vehicle was badly damaged during the chase.

The police report will be turned over to the district attorney's office and to the FBI, which is conducting a separate investigation.

Fox was asked to join the investigation by Mayor Henry Cisneros. Controversy over the shooting intensified after the San Antonio Police Officers Association accused Cisneros of turning the case into a political issue.

Harold Flammia, association president, said, "It's like us getting into politics and running the city."

Police have been involved in five separate shooting cases since March 23, which have resulted in three deaths and three people being wounded.

by Jeff MacNelly

by Tom Batiuk

Report: Texas gave \$4.6 billion in aid to schools last year

Associated Press

AUSTIN — State aid to local schools last year increased by \$1 billion, while local school trustees levied the largest school property tax hike in history, the Texas Research League reported Monday.

The privately funded research organization said trustees in the 1,068 local school districts levied a \$519 million property tax increase for a total tax bill of \$4.1 billion.

The statewide average increase was 14.3 percent, the league said.

School property taxes in 1984-85 averaged 62.2 cents per \$100 of market value, the researchers reported.

During a special legislative session in the summer of 1984, lawmakers enacted sweeping reforms for public schools in Texas — including higher teacher salaries and tougher standards for students and teachers.

To help fund those changes and highway improvements, the Legislature also enacted the largest tax increase in state history — a \$4.8 billion boost, primarily in the sales tax and motor fuel taxes.

The additional \$1 billion in state aid pushed the total state financial assistance to schools to \$4.6 billion, the research group said.

The research league, in its annual report on education in Texas, said school budgets adopted last year called for spending of \$3,103 per student for current operations.

Eighty percent of that money was spent for salaries, the league said. Statewide, payroll expense averaged \$2,487 per student.

According to the report, the average salary for classroom teachers among all school districts in Texas was \$20,117.

The report also said there was an average of one teacher for every 16.2 pupils statewide, although small classes at the high school level and abbreviated teaching schedules meant that many classes had more than the average number of students, the league said.

The new reform law calls for no more than 22 students in kindergarten, first- and second-grade classes next year.

In looking ahead, the research league said that compared to the \$1 billion increase in state aid last year, only \$129 million more in state funds will be distributed to schools next year.

"Only 492 districts will get more; the other 576 districts will receive less," the report said.

It said that strategy to equalize aid to the various districts "presupposes that local property taxes will remain about the same." However, it said, "the large property tax increase last year... substantially negated the equalization improvement that the Legislature tried to achieve."

Stockyard employees hold impromptu cattle roundup

Associated Press

SAN ANTONIO — Union Stockyard workers Monday returned to those thrilling days of yesteryear when they were forced into an impromptu cattle roundup in downtown San Antonio.

Three calves broke open a gate as they were being unloaded from a truck at the stockyards,

said Bill New, vice president of the stockyards.

One fled to the county courthouse at least a mile away, one went to Lanier High School and a third made it to the Terminal Market before all three were rounded up.

"It took us a couple of hours, but we rounded them up," New said.

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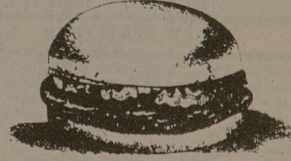
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