

Waldo

by Kevin Thomas



Health care

Sen. Gramm's budget reduction proposals attacked by supporters of aid for the poor

Associated Press

AUSTIN — Texas organizations spending federal funds for health care said Tuesday that budget cuts pushed by U.S. Sen. Phil Gramm would undo the Texas Legislature's recent move to improve health care for the poor.

"Sen. Gramm's hastily concocted scheme would effectively gut improved health programs enacted by the Legislature last session," said Michael Hudson, director of the Children's Defense Fund.

A Gramm spokesman in Washington said Hudson and those who joined him at a news conference "lack even a rudimentary understanding of the legislation."

"It's clear from their comments

that Mr. Hudson and others present would prefer to go on mortgaging the future of every child in Texas in order to lay their hands on some more of the taxpayers' money today," said Larry Neal, Gramm's press secretary.

Jose Camacho, director of the Texas Association of Community Health Centers, said the Gramm proposal is "cost-shifting to the states."

"We either enact new state taxes to replace these federal funds or leave thousands of uninsured Texas mothers and babies without critical health care," Camacho said.

The Gramm-Rudman Amendment, under debate in the U.S. Senate, would require Congress and the

White House to abolish the \$180 billion deficit by 1990. Across-the-board spending cuts would be imposed automatically if the president and Congress failed to meet annual budget targets.

Hudson said under the Gramm amendment, Texas would lose \$1.3 million the first year in funds for prenatal care and post-natal services. He said funds for prevention and treatment of venereal diseases, including AIDS, would be "significantly reduced."

Comacho said the 27 Texas community health centers would lose \$2 million the first year, eliminating services to almost 31,000 people.

Neal said "those figures are very obviously pulled out of thin air."

Consultant claims she saw nurse falsifying Autumn Hills records

Associated Press

SAN ANTONIO — A licensed vocational nurse falsified records at an Autumn Hills nursing home in Texas City in 1978, a nursing consultant testified Tuesday in the trial of a corporation and five people charged with murder by neglect.

Pauline Kaper said she found patient charting at the nursing home was inadequate.

"Did you notice any outright falsification of records?" Galveston County District Attorney Mike Guarino asked.

Kaper testified: "I noted one. On a resident's record there were some holes and gaps in charting and (a licensed vocational nurse) was filling in those holes. It was not even for a day she had worked."

Kaper's testimony came in the trial of Autumn Hills Convalescent

Centers Inc. and five of its current and former employees. The defendants are accused in the Nov. 20, 1978, death of Elnora Breed, 87, who died 47 days after she entered the Texas City home.

The state has claimed the nursing home was guilty of wholesale neglect of its patients and of falsification of records. The defense claims Breed died of cancer.

Kaper testified she was called in for a week in 1978 to act as a consultant at the nursing home after a state health department inspection turned up several deficiencies.

She said she told nursing home administrator Virginia Wilson that she saw a licensed vocational nurse falsifying records, but Wilson had no response.

Wilson is one of the five individual defendants in the case. The others are Autumn Hills president Rob-

ert Gay; vice president Ron Pohlmeier; nursing consultant Mattie Locke; and former director of nursing services Cassandra Canlas.

Kaper said that after she inspected the nursing home and its records, she was particularly concerned about Breed. She testified there was a strong urine odor to Breed and throughout the nursing home.

"I'm not saying you won't have an odor at a nursing home from time to time," she said. "But if it's there all the time, then you have a problem."

Kaper said she found catheters on a number of patients were not being changed often enough.

Kaper said she also noted the patients were not being given enough water, were not being monitored on their food intake, were not being kept clean and were not being turned regularly.

Egyptian troops to receive anti-terrorist training

Associated Press

WESLACO — A team of Egyptian security troops, trained to protect American dignitaries and to combat terrorists such as those who hijacked a luxury cruise ship, are in the Rio Grande Valley for a specialized training course.

The 23 Egyptians will be trained for three weeks by Pat Dalager, a former director of the criminal justice training program at Texas A&M University.

Dalager, a retired Army lieutenant colonel in the military police, was selected by the U.S. State Department to instruct the course.

Dalager said some of the Egyptian troops in Texas could have become involved in the current crisis in the Middle East, in which several Palestinian terrorists hijacked the Italian cruise ship Achille Lauro.

The ship docked briefly in Egypt, but now is off the coast of Lebanon.

The hijackers are asking Israeli officials to release 50 of their comrades held in their jails and reportedly have killed at least two Americans on the ship.

"They would be (getting involved) if they were there, if it was in their jurisdiction," said Dalager, the coordinator of the Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council's Police Academy.

But Dalager said most of the specialized training

would be for the security forces that guard the U.S. Embassy in Cairo and protect dignitaries. The 150-hour, three-week course will include classroom, specialized and practical field exercises.

Joining in the course, which began Monday, will be seven other police officers from South Texas, Dalager said.

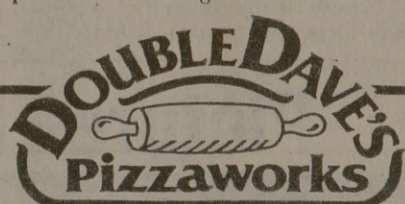
The training will include physical fitness exercises, weaponless defense tactics, entering and exiting vehicles, instinct shooting techniques with AR-15s and 12-gauge shotguns, advanced driving techniques, bomb search techniques and cardiopulmonary resuscitation.

There are about 14 different agencies across the country that train troops to guard dignitaries abroad, but Dalager is the only one certified to do so in Texas.

"I think it's a feather in our cap, a testimonial to the capability of Mr. Dalager," said Bob Chandler, executive director of the Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council.

Dalager said the profits from teaching the course will go into providing reference and education materials for the police academy.

"It's very possible that with the situation as it is in Central and South America there could be more of these done in the Valley," Chandler said.



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