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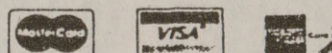
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Prop 6

Inmate exchange to start in a few months

Associated Press

HUNTSVILLE — Texas prison officials say it will take at least a few months before they can put into effect an inmate exchange program approved Tuesday by state voters.

The measure, known as Proposition 6 on the ballot, was approved by a 71 percent to 29 percent margin.

Phil Guthrie, spokesman for the Texas Department of Corrections, said Thursday that 31 states currently are participating in similar arrangements.

"We don't know exactly when we will start," he said. "We've got to negotiate with each state. Some states have a straight swap. Others have arrangements where you pay them and they pay you. It's not uniform. It

probably will take a couple of months."

Guthrie said officials anticipate between 50 to 100 inmates will be involved in the Texas program.

The California prison system, the nation's largest, has about 40 prisoners from other states and has 40 of its inmates elsewhere at any one time, he said. Texas, with about 37,000 inmates, is the country's second largest.

"There are three kinds of guys, basically," Guthrie said. "First, there's the troublemaker, the gang member or gang leader — the guy who has a certain reputation to maintain if he stays in Texas."

Sometimes such an inmate can be handled better if placed in a differ-

ent environment in another state, Guthrie said.

Other inmates eligible for the exchange program would be an informant who would be in jeopardy if he remained in Texas.

"In these first two categories, you're talking about fairly sensitive categories," Guthrie said. "We see this as a real plus."

A third category would be someone from another state who got into trouble in Texas "and we can work out a trade to do their time near their home and family," he said.

In any of the swaps, Texas can reject the inmate coming from another state. Likewise, another state could refuse any inmate Texas suggests for a trade, Guthrie said.

White supports quarantine as last resort against AIDS

Associated Press

AUSTIN — Gov. Mark White on Thursday endorsed a proposal by the state health commissioner to use quarantine as a weapon of last resort in the fight against AIDS.

"To the extent that any disease causes imminent threat to the spread of that disease to other persons, I think that quarantine would be appropriate," White told his weekly news conference.

However, the governor added, "I think each case has to stand alone on whether that (quarantine) would be an appropriate remedy or not."

Last month, Health Commissioner Robert Bernstein suggested that quarantine could be "something else in the arsenal" for fighting the

"To the extent that any disease causes imminent threat to the spread of that disease to other persons, I think that quarantine would be appropriate."

Gov. Mark White.

spread of the often-fatal disease.

Gay rights activists have opposed the quarantine proposal, saying it is unnecessary and inappropriate.

"No one knows better than they do (AIDS victims) how terrible this

disease is, and they wouldn't want to spread it," said Jeffrey Levi, a lobbyist for the National Gay Task Force in Washington.

Gara LaMarche, executive director of the Texas Civil Liberties Union, said it would be difficult to use quarantine power since AIDS isn't transmitted like other diseases.

"Those diseases for which quarantine was employed in the early part of this century... were easily communicable, like from being in a room with somebody," he said. "They also were communicable for a relatively short period of time."

"AIDS is a new kind of disease. Everything we know about it suggests it is communicable only through very intimate contact," LaMarche added.

Gay leader forced from city post

Associated Press

DALLAS — The president of the Dallas Gay Alliance said respect for civil rights, not disrespect for the law, is the reason he refused to swear an oath that he will abide by all Texas laws — including the anti-sodomy law.

Quoting Thoreau at a Wednesday meeting where city council members told Bill Nelson he would have to give up his post, Nelson said, "it is not desirable to cultivate a respect for the law, so much as for the right."

His refusal to uphold the anti-sodomy law resulted in his removal from his post as the city's Civil Service Adjunct Board, a civil appeals body.

Earlier this month, Nelson signed the oath but added a statement that he does not support the anti-sodomy law. He called the law "immoral" and asked the council Wednesday to force the state to remove him. Nelson also asked council members to allow a court suit on the requirement, but council members refused.

Nelson said he may take legal action over his removal from the post.

He called the anti-sodomy law an "invasion of the privacy of every Texan" denying homosexuals equal protection and making criminals out of innocent victims. Nelson said the American Civil Liberties Union is interested in legal action against Dallas.

A federal district judge ruled a Texas anti-sodomy law unconstitutional in 1982 and a panel of the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals upheld the ruling two years later. But last August, the full appeals court voted to uphold the law.

Education board hears protests on texts

Associated Press

AUSTIN — Textbook publishers protested Thursday an effort by some Texas scientists to delay publication of life science textbooks for junior high students until more details on evolution could be added.

The State Board of Education also heard complaints about a recommended U.S. history text which doesn't have a picture of George Washington "larger than that on a \$1 bill."

The board held a public hearing Thursday on nearly 200 textbooks recommended by the State Textbook Committee. The board, which will approve \$93.6 million in textbooks for the 1986-87 school year, will make its final vote on Saturday.

Michael Hudson, director of Austin's American Way, urged the board to delay approval of science texts for junior high students because the five books recommended by the Textbook Committee "do not treat evolution adequately and provide a superficial explanation of the scientific process."

Robert Kelley, representing Addison-Wesley Publishers, said four of the five texts recommended in Texas were entirely different from

those submitted in California.

Dr. Dan Frank, senior science editor for Holt, Rinehart and Winston, said the company's book contained a 22-page chapter on evolution and called it "a very solid book for seventh and eighth graders." He said the Texas version would be resubmitted in California.

A spokesman for Prentice-Hall said the company's book contained 40 pages on evolution.

Dr. Martin Meltz, a radiation biologist from San Antonio, said the fight against information on evolution in textbooks had been carried by followers of creationism, "which is a religious doctrine... scientific creationism is not a science. It is intellectual stultification."

Dr. Basset Maguire Jr., a University of Texas biologist, said the textbook committee should reject all the recommended science texts, and appoint a committee to evaluate any rewritten texts. He said the recommended books had a very superficial treatment of evolution, usually in a chapter near the end of the book.

Mel Gabler of Longview, Elizabeth M. Judge of Houston, and Billy C. Hutcheson of Fort Worth spoke against adoption of the U.S. history

books, particularly "Our Land, Our Time," by Coronado Publishing.

Hutcheson, who said she represented the Texas Society of the Daughters of the Republic, said the book had full page pictures of Indians in full costume but no such photographs of Washington.

"If you went through the history books looking only at pictures, how would you interpret our history," she asked.

Gabler said the Coronado book blamed President Reagan for the entire increase in the national debt since he took office. He said the book also blamed the United States for the Cold War, the Korean War and the Vietnam War.

Bob Blevins, president of Coronado, said Gabler was taking references to Reagan out of context. He said the book discussed the Reagan administration the same way it discussed the Jimmy Carter administration.

"We are not pro on any administration," he said. "We presented each crisis the way it happened."

Jack Strong, a board member from Longview, said he had read the book and said the writer did a "hatchet job on Reagan."

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