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Refugee shelter closes; aliens face uncertain future

SAN BENITO (AP) - More than 500 Central American refugees were forced Thursday to leave a shelter that has housed thousands of refugees over the past four years and re-port to a nearby Immigration and Naturalization Service center and an uncertain fate.

The INS said a decision would be made individually on whether the refugees would be deported, placed in a detention center, or released un-

der their own recognizance. Since the Brownsville Catholic Di-ocese opened the shelter in Decem-ber 1982, it had housed, clothed and fed more than 10,000 people, most of them from El Salvador and Gua-temala. But Thursday morning, volunteers at the shelter swept the floors and cleaned breakfast tables for the last time.

"I have no idea what's going to happen to us now," Maria Benitez, 45, of El Salvador said as she, her 72year-old mother, and five children prepared to board a bus that would take them to the INS center in nearby Harlingen.

Three chartered Valley Transit Company buses began shuttling the residents to the Harlingen INS of-

Omer Sewell, INS district director in Harlingen, said he believes the closing of Casa Romero is a major step toward cutting an illegal alien pipeline from Central America to the U.S. border.

"Casa Romero is a name that passes from community to commu-nity in countries like El Salvador, Nicaragua and Guatemala," Sewell said. "People who cross the Rio Grande at Brownsville are asking di-

rections on how to get there." Inundated by complaints from irate neighbors who said that the shelter was overcrowded and that its residents were harassing passers-by in the residential area, city officials in August asked the church to relocate the shelter. But efforts to relocate were frustrated. Church officials announced Wednesday that the

Diocese officials said many people are concerned that the refugees will

Rosemary Smith, the Catholic lay nissionary who helped to open Casa Romero, said, "I just hope that the people of the Valley will open their hearts and their homes to these peo-

Officials tout Houston to attract Democrats

HOUSTON (AP) - Houston officials began putting the nation's fourth-largest city on display Thursday in hopes of attracting the 1988 Democratic National Convention.

The Site Selection Committee for the Democrats, which is in the Houston area through Sunday, must decide among six cities vying for the opportunity to host the convention that will choose the party's next presidential nominee.

A site decision is expected early A site decision is expected early next year from among Houston, New Orleans, Atlanta, Kansas City, New York and Washington. At stake is about \$67 million that local officials estimate the Democrats would pump into the edinas of de

would pump into the ailing oil-dependent Houston economy.

City officials are hoping to lure the Democrats in 1988 with cash and free services and are softening party officials with four days of virtually non-stop wining and dining.

"You can't imagine the details in-volved in moving 120 people

through your city for four days, says Clintine Cashion, Mayor Kathy Whitmire's top assistant. "You have to think of everything, from how to get their luggage to their hotel, how to move them from place to place, making sure they have enough time to change clothes for events, feeding them, coming up with menus. There are just a million details."

The Democrats could be \$250,000 richer after the first event Thursday night — a \$1,000-per-plate fund-raiser hosted by Gov. Mark White.

ter, which is still under construction. The center is not to be completed until next year — after the commit-

tee makes its decision. The committee's inability to view a finished con-

vention center is seen as a negative. "But we believe we're going to be able to show the work is on schedule and will be completed in plenty of time for the convention," Cashion

Mattox says settlemer will save \$1.5 million

> Attorney General Jim Mattox an-nounced Thursday a settlement agreement with General Motors Acceptance Corporation and GMAC Leasing Corporation that he says will

save Texas consumers more than \$1.5 million. The settlement stemmed from

Mattox spoke at a new nee at Easterwood Airpor Mattox said the GMA tions are going to \$250,000 in taxes tha been paid and notif sumers that they dor their 1986 taxes. He

those consumers will say "Twe also instructed m to collect \$10,000 in m costs and \$2,000 in and he said. "You ought not payers for these thingsi the other must say for the other guys pay for it."

In Advance

Club to show film on Caribbean area

The Caribbean Student Association will present a film about its part of the world, followed by short talks from three Texas A&M University System profes-sors from Trinidad and Jamaica, tonight at 7 p.m. in 601 Rudder Tower.

The speakers will be Dr. Victor 'The Caribbean: Every Stanley, coordinator of the ani-mal science department at Prairie der the Sun," was the Caribbean Tourist Board

GOP speakers to address Texas issue

Vice President George Bush, Sen. Phil Gramm, Republican gu-bernatorial candidate Bill Clemspeak about 10 min portant issues facing l election time. She said a speakers were asked b Forum — a nonpartisa zation — to address th ents and Rep. Joe Barton will join together at A&M Monday to address "A Panorama of Republican Perspectives on the State of Texnated topic and to dorsing any candidat as," a presentation sponsored by the Memorial Student Center's the upcoming election Political Forum committee.

p.m. in Rudder Auditorium Ann Levy, chairman of Political Forum, said each man will

The Memorial Student Center

Council has scheduled its regular

meeting at 6 p.m. Monday in MSC 216-T and has suspended all but one agenda item because a number of other council activities also are scheduled for that day.

Council will hear a report from

the program review committee and review the minutes from the

Programs approved at the meeting were Aggiecon XVIII, Novacon II and MSC Political Fo-

rum's, "An Evening With Dr.

The council will meet at 5:30 p.m. in MSC 216-T to organize ideas generated at its Oct. 19 Fall

committee's last meeting.

Ruth."

Retreat

MSC Council meeting set for Monday

Other council ac uled for Monday include A lecture sponsored Political Forum featuring publican perspective on T 2:45 p.m. in Rudder rium. Scheduled clude Vice Presid Bush, Sen. Phil Gram Gov. Bill Clements and

View A&M University a Pedro Oliver, professor of ematics at Prairie View. Bo

from Jamaica. Also spea be Dr. Gwyn Boodoo, an

professor of educat

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A Lagniappe Letter A Lagniappe Letter on the history of India sponsored by the Jordan for International Awar for Section 2010

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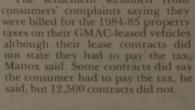
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A key event is a tour of the new George R. Brown Convention Cen-

