

Texas in forefront of private aid provided for Nicaraguan rebels

DALLAS (AP) — Texans have been in the forefront of the effort to funnel private aid to the Nicaraguan Contras.

Austin businessman Bert Hurlbut, a key player in the private aid network, estimates that 50 percent of all private donations have come from Texas.

Through myriad organizations and relief efforts, Texans have donated \$5 million in aid to the insurgents over the last three years, he estimated.

The Contra supporters range from hard-core Republicans such as Kay Tinner of Dallas to well-known moguls such as Nelson Bunker Hunt.

Many involved in the movement have praised Lt. Col. Oliver L. North Jr., who was fired last month from his post as the National Security Council's deputy director after information surfaced about a U.S. sale of arms to Iran and subsequent diversion of profits to the Contras.

North has been identified by Attorney General Edwin Meese as having handled the diversion of funds from the arms sales to the Contras.

"I think the president was right when he called him a great American hero," said Perry, a conservative fund-raiser who has been briefed by North.

Perry has been to Contra camps in Honduras twice in the last six months. He estimates that he has donated \$100,000 in supplies, including medicine and an X-ray machine.

"We've got all these areas where we've got these commies in there," Perry said, citing Nicaragua as only one of his concerns. "We've got to do something. We ought to give them

Texas Contra-aid network reported to be 'drying up'

DALLAS (AP) — As the Iran-Contra affair unfolds in Washington, Texas who have been a part of the Contra aid movement report that their network appears to be drying up.

The Freedom's Friends organization, headed by evangelist William Murray, has gathered 10,000 Christmas presents at an Addison warehouse for Contra families, but he is having trouble getting them shipped.

The Texans for a Free Nicaragua organization has 30,000 pounds of medical supplies and clothing for the rebels stored in Grand Prairie and one of its leaders, Gary Bennett, said the group doesn't have the money to ship the supplies.

Officials of civilian rebel support groups say they've had difficulty raising contributions and have faced myriad financial woes since reports that up to \$30 million from the U.S.-Iran arms deal was diverted to Nicaraguan contras.

They say the controversy has damaged public confidence in the private organizations and created a climate of paranoia among government officials who once made themselves available to help civilian groups direct humanitarian aid to the rebels.

In the Dallas-Fort Worth region, traditionally a leading outpost for civilian aid to the anti-Sandinista forces, some rebel-assistance groups say contributions have plummeted, stalling shipments of food, clothing and medical supplies.

Previously, private Contra support groups were able to ship nonlethal supplies by including them in shipments transported through a special State Department Nicaraguan Office of Humanitarian Assistance, created when Congress approved \$27 million in humanitarian aid in 1985.

Now the Nicaraguan humanitarian assistance office is being phased out.

enough money to go in there and lick those guys."

Former Tennessee congressman Dan Kuykendall said, "I would bet you 500 Texans knew Ollie North personally."

Kuykendall directs the Washington-based Gulf and Caribbean Foundation, founded in 1983 by a group of prominent Texans who wanted to influence Central American policy.

The group, which included the late construction baron H.B. Zachry, has sponsored fact-finding missions

and speaking tours for scholars. Dallas lawyer David Witts is its treasurer and counsel, and Midland businessman William Blakemore serves as chairman.

North was born in San Antonio in 1943 when his father was stationed there in the Army. Although the family lived in Texas only until 1948, North calls the Lone Star State his home, friends and acquaintances said.

"North looked and acted like a Texan," said Kuykendall, himself a native of Texas. "I would love to see the guy come back to Texas and run for Congress. I've probably said that to him 50 times. I love the guy."

Perhaps North's closest link to Texas was Dallas billionaire H. Ross Perot, whom North secretly persuaded to put up \$2 million in ransom to win release of American hostages in Lebanon. The trade never occurred, but North spoke often with Perot by phone, according to a former NSC staff member.

Tom Shull, deputy executive secretary to the NSC from December 1983 to January 1985, recalls North trumpeting his Texas connections and his relationship with Perot.

Shull, a San Antonio native, said he was in the room on occasions when North spoke with Perot. He says the colonel spoke of getting Perot's assistance in the private effort to aid the Contras.

"I remember him saying on many occasions that Ross Perot was going to help anyway he can," Shull said.

Perot said, however, that he had "never put a penny into any kind of Contra effort, directly or indirectly. Ollie never asked me."

Auto salesman reaches out to help woman save ranch

GRAND PRAIRIE (AP) — An auto salesman was so moved by the plight of a 68-year-old woman about to lose her ranch to foreclosure that he has started a door-to-door fund drive to help her.

May Hess bought the ranch near the Northeast Texas community of Talco in the 1950s, but she could lose it unless she raises \$5,400 by Jan. 2 to pay a loan she took out to help a sick brother who has since died.

"This lady is as helpless as anybody can be," Bill Stewart says. "I was born and raised on a farm in Petersburg, Texas, and I've known hard times. But not near as hard as what she's gone through."

Hess, who is unable to walk without using an aluminum walker or wheelchair, has only her monthly Social Security check of more than \$400 and her 30 cows, which have been quarantined until May, she said.

"I'm just counting the days now until January. They aren't many," she said, adding that if she loses the ranch, "I don't care what happens to me."

Stewart said he got involved after reading of her plight and calling the Farm Crisis Hotline to see how much money she needed.

Then he went up and down Main Street in this Dallas suburb asking fellow business owners and friends for donations.

That effort brought in about \$2,800 in contributions ranging from \$1 to \$100.

The Omaha, Texas, bank that lent Hess \$25,500 to help her brother accepted the amount and gave her until Jan. 2 to come up with the additional \$5,400 due to date on the loan.

"Now I've been trying to collect the additional \$5,400, but I'm very

discouraged," said Stewart, who only raised another \$1,000. "She's a victim of circumstances. She's a very strong person considering what she's gone through. A lot of us were thrown our hands up and gave

Curriculum

(Continued from page 1)

additional teaching positions.
• Engineering — estimated to gain 4,870 credit hours, 10 additional teaching positions.

• Geosciences — estimated to gain 600 credit hours, two additional teaching positions.

• Business Administration — estimated to lose 2,250 credit hours and three teaching positions.

• Veterinary Medicine — a female estimated to lose about 1,500 credit hours and five teaching positions from a total of 18 filed against six

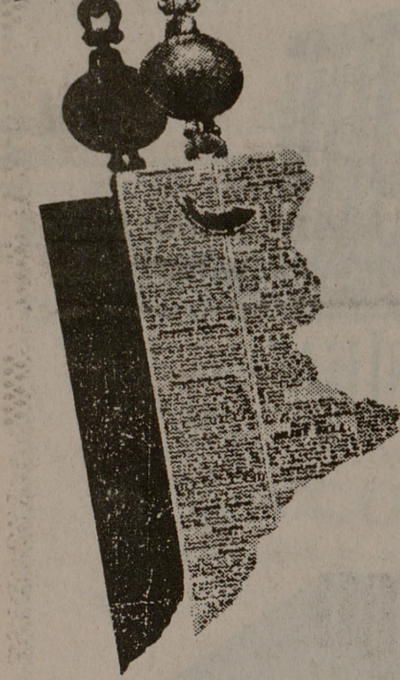
The remaining two other education and medicine programs neither gain nor lose any credit hours according to the department's estimates.

Cress said the deans of 18 colleges now must review the proposals and recommend them to the board.

The assaultive measure for final approval probably will call a meeting of deans in January, Cress said.

The maximum of 18 programs is a justice of the peace in post-pone

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