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NASA official who OK'd final Challenger launch resigns

WASHINGTON (AP) — Jesse W. Moore, who gave the final approval to the fatal launch of space shuttle Challenger, has resigned from the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, the agency announced Thursday.

Moore is the highest official to leave the agency in the shakeup that followed the Jan. 28, 1986 explosion that destroyed the shuttle and killed its crew of seven.

As the head of the space shuttle program, he was in the launch control room when Challenger lifted off and had the last word in the decision to launch.

Moore told the Rogers Commission, which investigated the accident, that he had not known about a history of problems with joint seals on the shuttle's solid rocket boosters. The commission found that a leak in the seal caused the explosion.

He also said that he had not known that special waivers had been issued to allow the use of the rockets on six consecutive flights preceding the Challenger launch or that engineers from tool builder Morton Thiokol Inc. had argued vehemently that the launch should be postponed.

Moore's testimony caused the commission to say in its report that "a well-structured and aged system emphasizing safety would have flagged the rising doubts about the solid rocket booster joint seal."

Moore will become director of program development of Ball Aerospace Systems in Boulder, Colo.

Abortions

(Continued from page 1)

permission of a court to have an abortion.

In this way teens could override parental refusal of permission, or in some circumstances avoid telling their parents altogether.

While admitting that this could lead to a situation of a 14-year-old taking her parents to court for permission to abort her baby, Elliot said that is not the point.

"The goal is to involve the parents in a very important decision," Elliot said. "It's amazing to me that abortion is the only surgical procedure a

minor can have without parental consent."

Vount says this could leave open the possibility of young girls seeking illegal abortions.

"If they do make it illegal, all I can say is that it will be a problem," Vount said. "Some teenagers are terrified of telling their parents and it seems likely that either way they would find someplace to get an abortion."

The Houston Women's Clinic gives abortions to minors as long as

they seem emotionally mature, and if it's in the first trimester.

After that point they require parental permission.

Sally Miller, clinic director of Planned Parenthood in College Station, said the organization encourages young women to discuss the problem with their parents before making a decision, but doesn't necessarily approve of making it illegal for them to have an abortion.

"I don't like removing any personal freedoms from someone," Miller said. "There are other ways to make people communicate with each other."

Teens

(Continued from page 1)

tors disagreeing with a bill designed to increase sex education, but the school always is looking for other possible solution.

May carefully distances the pregnancy bills from the abortion bills also before the House, and that abortion is not even mentioned in Guerrero's bills.

"I want to clearly understand we are not even suggesting the of abortion to these kids," she said.

The fact that the teen pregnancy bill and the abortion consent bill being sponsored at the same time is a coincidence, May said.

"It will be interesting to see kind of correlation developed," she said. "There is no information available to us about the numbers of pregnancies terminated by abortion. Doctors have only been required to list that information since September, so at the moment it's unclear exactly how many teenage girls in Texas are actually having abortions."

Hotline

(Continued from page 1)

bill's most controversial, employers are subject to fines of \$250 to \$10,000 for each illegal alien they hire and are responsible for checking birth certificates or passports of prospective employees.

The hotline is the result of the joint efforts of Gramm and Social Security Commissioner Dorcas Hardy.

Larry Neal, Gramm's press secretary, said Gramm was one of the strongest opponents of the immigration bill, but said when Gramm saw it was going to pass, he acknowledged the fact and now is committed to making the bill work.

Neal said the hotline takes care of two potential problems employers might have. One is what to do now that the employer is faced with possible criminal sanctions for hiring illegal aliens.

"He now is able to check directly with Social Security to ensure that the cards he is presented are legit and he will get a paper record from Social Security indicating that he

made that good faith effort," Neal said.

The hotline also will help alleviate the fears of many Hispanic leaders that the immigration bill would cause businessmen to be wary of hiring legal resident aliens and citizens of Hispanic descent.

"It allows anyone who is an American citizen or a resident legal alien to walk in with confidence and apply for a job and not be concerned that they may be turned away because of some suspicion that they may be illegal," he said.

There is high potential the program will be expanded nationwide if an analysis of the data shows it was useful, Neal said.

In a recent news release, Gramm said legislation for a nationwide system would include a computer system to monitor requests, duplications and multiple payments to an account number. The legislation also would impose penalties for possessing a falsified card, providing false information to obtain a card or counterfeiting a card.

"To make it illegal seems to ignore personal freedom."

A spokesman for Rep. Richard Smith, R-Bryan, said that since Smith has not seen this bill, he can't say whether or not he'll support it, but the spokesman said the ideas of prohibiting abortion in the third trimester and requiring parental consent are issues Smith supports.

Center

(Continued from page 1)

support from the Bryan Chamber of Commerce, Black said, as well as help from the city staff of College Station in understanding the regulations they have to comply with.

At this time, Sandstone has no concrete plans for mutual projects with Texas A&M University, but Black said he hopes they will reach a level of cooperation.

"We certainly hope to find avenues of mutual interest where we can share work on some pro-

jects," Black said. "We will have first-class facility and we will actively encourage the University whether it be the medical school or department of psychology to use our facility in any way that mutually possible."

Site preparation has begun and construction is expected to start soon, Black said. The hospital, which will be a single-story structure, will be located on Highway 190 near the intersection of Barron Road, and is part of a 440-acre tract known as Barron Park.

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