

Thousands of troops search Bills comb Mexico for fugitives

CULIACAN, Mexico (AP) — Thousands of law officers, backed by army troops and helicopters, searched the hills and flatlands of northwestern Sinaloa state Sunday for 56 escaped convicts, some of them armed with high-powered rifles.

An estimated 2,500 state and federal police, helped by highway patrolmen, checked vehicles at surprise roadblocks all day Sunday. But Federal Judiciary Police officials coordinating the manhunt said they had turned up nothing.

Another 500 army troops and about 10 navy helicopters also searched the hills for the convicts, a dozen of whom officials said were highly dangerous and were serving

time on drug-related convictions and bank robberies.

Sinaloa state has long been a center of Mexico's illicit drug trade, most of which is smuggled into the United States.

Francisco Labastida Ochoa, the new governor who took office Jan. 1, has ordered an investigation into Friday night's prison riot and mass breakout and has promised an overhaul and reform of the state's penitentiary system.

In a statement he issued Saturday night after an emergency meeting with top officials, Labastida Ochoa promised the number of guards on duty at the overcrowded penitentiary will be increased, along with other reforms.

The state and the federal attorneys general are conducting separate investigations of Friday's incidents in the prison, which houses inmates serving time for both federal and state crimes.

State district attorney Maria Barbara Campuzano Vega, one of the investigators, said that 61 prisoners broke out of the prison after starting a riot at around 7 p.m. Friday.

"One of the prisoners escaping, who we have identified, was shot dead by guards outside the prison doors and a second one, who we

have photographed but not fully identified yet was similarly killed further down the road," she said.

"Three of those who escaped have been recaptured, although there were reports saying there were more," Campuzano Vega said. "But now it is confirmed that three were recaptured. That leaves 56 still at large, it is correct. The second one was wounded, and died in hospital a while later."

She said the escaped prisoners took as a hostage the prison warden, but freed him a few hours later on a road about 17 miles southwest of the prison.

"It started at around 7 p.m. Friday, just as the guard was changing," she said. "A bunch of prisoners started gathering around the medical unit, ostensibly protesting bad living conditions. Then, as the guard changed, they started smashing things and causing damage in the infirmary, the consulting rooms, the pharmacy, and labs and locked up several guards in rooms nearby."

The prison, which houses about 1,000 inmates in facilities designed to house 700, was under control by Saturday morning, she said.

claims, and they look to judicial reform for relief, he says.

To help smooth the proposed plan over this urban/rural conflict, legislators proposed Thursday that each county be given the choice to adopt the commission system or stick with the old partisan elections.

But one thing many key players agree on is that judicial selection is no longer a strictly Democratic-versus-Republican issue today as it was when Democratic incumbents were losing elections.

In 1982, all 23 of the Republican judges Gov. Bill Clements appointed during his term of office lost to Democratic challengers.

Chief Justice Hill is a Democrat, but he denies that the merit selection plan is an attempt to keep Democratic judges on the bench.

"There have been many judicial leaders that have undertaken to bring this change about for many years — long before there were any Republican judges," Hill says.

In fact, legislation to eliminate partisan elections in Texas has been proposed since 1974, long before Republicans became serious challengers in judicial elections.

Hill adds, "It is true that the emphasis on straight-party lever pulling has been an added circumstance bringing about support for the bill, but it wasn't the reason for the bill."

Coming from Hill's lips, this statement has the ring of understatement. In 1984, the year Ronald Reagan won with a 64 percent majority in Texas, Hill eked out a victory over Republican challenger John Bates with a scant 54 percent majority.

Hill's fragile victory cost him over \$1.4 million, compared to the mere \$12,000 Bates spent in the election. What's more, Hill is a former attorney general and gubernatorial candidate, while Bates is little-known politically.

It's tempting to believe that Hill's expensive and slender victory over a Republican unknown moved him to spearhead the judicial reform effort. But Hill prefers to emphasize the legislation's other motives, such as the excessive costs associated with judicial elections in recent years.

"It's public awareness," he says. "The public recognizes that they have been overwhelmed by highly financed campaign tactics. The very excessive campaign contributions that are being made by special inter-

est groups that have legal interest with the court creates the impression of impropriety."

Hill may very well have had Clinton Manges in mind when he said this. A south Texas rancher and oil man, Manges contributed \$200,000 toward the unsuccessful candidacy of a Supreme Court justice in 1982. Champagne's article notes. Manges also has made contributions totaling \$100,000 or more to several other judicial candidates, including one Supreme Court justice.

Supreme Court elections are naturally the costliest of all judicial elections. The three Supreme Court justices elected in 1984 collected campaign contributions averaging over \$860,000 per man, Champagne notes.

One of Hill's most outspoken opponents in the reform issue is one of his colleagues on the Supreme Court, Justice Franklin Spears, who argues that the Legislature should pass laws limiting campaign costs rather than throw out the whole election system.

Spears also says the appointive system would not bring an end to costly elections.

In California, which uses an appointive system and retention elections, a November election that unseated California Supreme Court Chief Justice Rose Bird and two other Supreme Court justices cost a total of \$13 million, Spears says.

Hill acknowledges that the cost of removing Bird was excessive, but he says a situation of this kind would be rare.

"It's true that the occasional situation could arise under merit selection in which excessive campaign funds would be used to unseat a judge," Hill says. "But that would be extremely rare, in my opinion."

Another common criticism of the appointive system is that retention elections are ineffective in removing judges. In Spear's words:

"When you get a bad judge under the patronage plan, you can't get rid of him. The retention elections are a joke. Basically, it's an appointment for life."

According to Champagne's article, of all states that employ retention elections, only 1.6 percent of the judges involved in such elections were turned out of office during the 1970s.

But Hill argues that the high retention rate is a testament to the success of the appointive system.

"You don't rate the quality of your judiciary by how many people you remove," Hill says. "I think it's a tribute to merit selection that it doesn't result in wholesale removal. If you select a judge carefully to begin with, you don't have much need for removal."

Helmet

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17 years old to successfully complete the program, sponsored by the Motorcycle Safety Foundation, in order to take the DPS examinations to be licensed for street operation of a motorcycle.

Tom Garney, a certified instructor at the local motorcycle rider course offered by the College Station Community Education program, said he recommends that everyone wear a helmet.

He said Texas should enforce the laws it has now strictly — make people get a license, make younger riders get the appropriate training they need, and make people under 18 years old wear a helmet.

Garney, also a member of the Cavaliers, said many problems result from people not being properly trained to operate certain motorcycles.

"When you turn 18, you can go buy yourself the biggest and baddest thing made," he said. "It shouldn't be that way. The higher powered bikes ought to be qualified by a little bit better licensing or training."

"I feel like there should be some licensing levels similar to what we have for driving four-wheel vehicles. For example, if you have a regular vehicle operators license, you cannot drive a big truck or a bus. So I feel like you should have regular motorcycle driving license for regular motorcycles."

To handle the exceptional speed of certain models of motorcycles, Perry said motorcycleists should be required to get a license requiring more training.

He said TMRA is in favor of a more stringent motorcycle driving test to increase the competency of motorcycle drivers before they get on the street. They believe reinforced safety will decrease the number of deaths and accidents.

Reforms

(Continued from page 1)

then face a popular election — called a retention election — after one year, in which the public would vote "yes" or "no."

A majority of no-votes would remove the judge from office. After this first election, the judge would face a retention election once every six years.

Each nominating commission would have 15 members:

- Four chosen by the governor.
- Three by the lieutenant governor.
- Three by the speaker of the house.
- Three by the president of the Texas State Bar Association.
- One by the Democratic Party chairman.
- One by the Republican Party chairman.

The amendment programs the selection process in such a way that each commission would seat nine lawyers and six laypersons. Each commission would seat a roughly equal number of Democrats and Republicans.

Each county would have the option of sticking with the old election system or adopting the new appointive system, says Sen. Kent Caperton, D-Bryan. This compromise is meant to appease rural areas of the state content with the status quo.

Safety

(Continued from page 1)

type of research NASA funds and how much it spends doing it.

"Most programs within NASA have been cut back," Anderson said, "and most programs with which I deal have been either stretched out, reduced or somehow affected by the accident."

Anderson said A&M will not be hurt much by the agency's research cuts because the University's Space Research Center is relatively new.

"We expect to have our space program increasing at a fairly rapid rate over the next few years, even though a lot of larger programs are going to have to be trimmed back," he said.

Anderson said a good working relationship between the Johnson Space Center staff and A&M researchers has been an advantage.

"The JSC people go over projects with our people, and therefore our people get the encouragement ahead of time that they need to keep focused," he said.

Anderson believes that lack of focus is a problem plaguing NASA as a whole.

"The accident and the things leading up to the accident are symptoms of much deeper problems, rather than problems themselves," he said.

"The shuttle disaster has focused everyone's attention to developing modifications to the shuttle to make it better, and to designing new types of vehicles and systems for space," Anderson said.

A&M will be doing that research, he said.

"The people in engineering and at the Space Research Center lately have been focusing on new ideas and proposals they can make (to NASA)," Anderson said.

McDONALD'S

INTRAMURAL HIGHLIGHTS

DRIVE-THRU SERVICE

University Drive

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IM GAMEPLAN

Entries Open

Free Throw: ENTRIES OPEN: Mon., Feb. 9. ENTRIES CLOSE: Tues., Feb. 17. PLAY BEGINS: Wed., Feb. 18, 7pm-10pm. LOCATION: Main floor, G. Rolie White Coliseum. DIVISIONS: Men's, Women's and CoRec. Register in advance at the Intramural-Recreational Sports Office, Room 159 Read Building. Information is available in the Intramural Office. Sign ups at the contest will be on an available basis only. There will be no entry fee.

Horseshoe Doubles: ENTRIES OPEN: Mon., Feb. 9. ENTRIES CLOSE: Tues., Feb. 17. PLAY BEGINS: Wed., Feb. 24. TOURNAMENT: Classes A, B, and C are single elimination tournaments. Class D will be a round robin tournament. ELIGIBILITY: All TAMU students, faculty, staff and their spouses may participate if they meet the eligibility requirements in the Intramural Calendar. LOCATION: Horseshoe pits are located directly north of the Penberthy Intramural Complex. EQUIPMENT: Horseshoes are provided for the competition. SCHEDULES: Available in the Intramural-Recreational Sports Office, 159 Read Building after 3pm on Thursday, Feb. 19.

Penberthy Softball Tournament: ENTRIES OPEN: Friday, Feb. 13. Open to students, faculty and staff at Texas A&M. This double elimination tournament is scheduled for April 3-5. Stay tuned for more details. Thanks to McDonald's Legends and C.C. Creations for their sponsorship of this tournament.

Entries Close

Preseason Softball Tournament: ENTRIES CLOSE: Tues., Feb. 10. DIVISIONS: Men's, Women's and CoRec in classes A and B. ENTRY FEE: \$10.00 per team. RULES: This tournament will use all Intramural rules, policies, and procedures. SCHEDULES: Schedules be at the Intramural-Recreational Sports Office on Thurs., Feb. 12. All games will be played at the Penberthy Intramural Complex and new Intramural Sports Center on Feb. 13 & 14. In case of rain, the tournament will be held Feb. 20-22.

Slowpitch Softball: ENTRIES CLOSE: Tues., Feb. 10. DIVISIONS: Corps, Fish, Men's and Women's Dorm, Men's and Women's Independent, Faculty/Staff/Grad, and CoRec in classes A, B, C, and D. RULES: ASA with Intramural exceptions. COMPETITION: Round robin league play in classes A, B, C, and D. Single elimination playoffs in classes A, B, and C. No playoffs in class D. EQUIPMENT: Game ball, bases, and catcher's mask will all be furnished by the Intramural-Recreational sports Office. ENTRY FEE: \$30.00 per team. Schedules will be available at the team manager's meeting on Thurs., Feb. 12 at 5:00pm in Rm 601 Rudder Tower. Corps manager's meeting will be held Thursday, Feb. 12 at 7:30 pm in Rm 162 Read Building.

Slam Dunk Contest: ENTRIES CLOSE: Tues., Feb. 10. PRELIMINARIES: Wed., Feb. 11 at 7:30 pm on the main floor of G. Rolie White. ELIGIBILITY: All TAMU students, faculty, and staff may participate if they meet the requirements in the Intramural calendar. Entry information is available in the Intramural-Recreational Sports Office on room 159 Read Building.

Wallyball: ENTRIES CLOSE: Tues., Feb. 10. Men's, Women's and CoRec in classes A, B and C. ELIGIBILITY: No more than one TAMU volleyball club member former Varsity letter winner per team. That team must participate in class A competition. TEAMS: Consist of 3 players. CoRec teams consist of 2 males and 1 female or vice versa.



Slam n' Jam against last years Slam Dunk Champion, John Vandermeer

T-Shirt Design Contest

A contest will be held for t-shirt designs for the 1987-88 Intramural All-University Champion T-shirts. Entries open Monday, January 26 and close Tuesday, March 3 at 6 pm. All entries may be turned in to P.J. Nadeau, 159 Read Building. The Intramural-Recreational Sports Department is looking for a design that best depicts the All-University Champion. A \$50 prize will be awarded to the winner. The contest is open to all eligible intramural participants including faculty and staff. The winner will be notified by Monday, March 30. Rules are available in the Intramural-Recreational Sports Department. For more information contact P.J. Nadeau at 845-7826.

Strom Memorial Wrestling Tournament

The Texas A&M University is announcing the First Annual John Strom Memorial Wrestling Tournament. John Strom, a member of the Wrestling Club last year, was killed in an automobile accident in the Spring of 1986. Strom, wrestling for the A&M Club, was the State Champion in 1986. He was a freshman, member of the Corps and an outstanding wrestler for the team. According to Robert Simpton, president of the Wrestling Club, Strom was a positive driving force in the club.

The Tournament, to be held Feb. 14 in 351 G. Rolie White starting at 10am, is open to any wrestler 18 years and older. Spectators are also welcome. Anyone interested in wrestling in the tournament should contact Robert Simpton at 846-2852.

The club hopes to keep the positive force of John Strom a part of the club by having a tournament to encourage new members. Strom's love of the sport and his positive attitude in his time with the club were great recruiting tools for the club. It is hoped that this spirit will live on through this tournament.

All students are invited to attend the Wrestling Club's practices if they are interested in the sport. The club practices from 7-9 pm, Mon and Wed. and 5-7 pm, Tue. and Thurs. in 260 G. Rolie White. For more information, call Robert Simpton, 846-2852.

Footnotes

- Soccer finals will be held Wed., Feb. 11 at Penberthy fields from 5-8 pm, barring rain
- Outdoor Recreation Club Meeting will be Tue., Feb. 10, 7 pm in 205 MSC. Any interested students may attend.
- Softball Team Captains Meeting is scheduled for Thurs., Feb. 12 at 5 pm in 601 Rudder for Dorm and Independent captains and 7:30 pm in 162 Read for Athletic Corporals.
- Wallyball Team Captains Meeting is scheduled for Thurs., Feb. 12, 6 pm in 167 Read.
- Basketball Playoffs will be posted Tue., Feb. 17 on the bulletin boards across from racketball courts 2 and 3. Playoffs begin Feb. 19.

Thanks to General Motors

A special thanks goes to General Motors for sponsoring CoRec Basketball and CoRec Softball. Winners of CoRec tournaments in classes A, B, and C will receive long sleeved General Motors t-shirts.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

McDonald's Intramural Highlights is sponsored in the Battalion by your local McDonald's Restaurants at University Drive, Manor East Mall on Hwy 21 and on Texas Avenue. Stories are written by Genni Miller, graphics are by Mike Cantrell and photos are by Tom McDonnell and Brian Crosby.

Pedernales Falls State Park

Feb. 20-22. Join us in hiking through the Texas Hill Country! The \$35 fee includes camping equipment, backpacks, food, permits, transportation costs, and experienced guides. Sign up in the Intramural-Recreational Sports Office in 159 Read until Feb. 16. For more information please call Patsy at 845-7826.