

## State, firm sign contracts for prisons

AUSTIN (AP) — Contracts for 500-bed private prisons in Kyle and Bridgeport were signed Wednesday by the state and the company partnership that will build and operate the facilities.

"This represents part of the largest private venture into prison construction, operation and management ever initiated by any state," Gov. Bill Clements told a news conference at the signing.

The Kyle site, in Hays County in Central Texas, has been the subject of controversy between residents who believe the prison will help the economy and those who fear it will harm their way of life.

Bridgeport is in Wise County, northwest of Fort Worth.

The facilities are designed to ease the transition into society for inmates leaving prison. They are to be built and operated by a partnership between Becon Construction Co. of Houston and Wackenhut Services Inc. of Florida.

A separate agreement with Corrections Corp. of America of Tennessee for two more 500-bed pre-release prisons is forthcoming, officials said.

"We will hopefully complete negotiations (with CCA) in the very near future. We're down to the final details," said Charles Terrell of Dallas, chairman of the State Board of Corrections.

The other private prisons are to be in Venus, south of the Dallas-Fort Worth metropolis in Johnson County; and Cleveland, north of Houston in Liberty County.

The State Bond Review Board on Tuesday approved the issuance of up to \$50 million in bonds to build the four prisons.

A non-profit corporation has been set up as a financing vehicle for the lease-revenue bonds, said Jim Lynaugh, director of the Texas Department of Corrections.

# Convicted killer insists he wants to die despite chance for appeal

HUNTSVILLE (AP) — A convicted killer who insists he wants to be put to death next month said Wednesday he has sent legal briefs to courts involved in his case, asking that no third party intervene to put off his execution.

"Any party wishing to intercede for the purpose of continued litigation would in fact be an intruder or meddler seeking to style himself as a next friend," James Smith wrote in motions sent to his trial court in Houston, the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals in Austin and the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals.

Smith, 37, has a May 11 execution date for the March 1983 shooting death of Larry Rohus, an insurance company manager, during a robbery in Houston.

"I waive all rights to federal court appeals afforded by the Constitution of the United States of America," Smith wrote. "I do know, realize and understand that my decision to waive federal appeal will result in my

death by lethal injection."

Smith, in a death row interview Wednesday, said he was unaware of any moves being made to spare him although he has been urged to change his mind by attorneys and some fellow inmates, and has been receiving letters from death penalty opponents.

"My concern is to anticipate any delays," he said. "What I see is a false concern. They are not so much concerned for the individual but for the overall point that they adhere to. Their concern is misplaced."

Smith contends that if death penalty foes were so interested in his plight, they should have come to his aid during his trial.

"What they do is utilize those (inmates) on death row for their own means," he said.

"I want to make sure my point of view is well understood," he said. "I don't want anyone to say, 'Well, he didn't understand.'"

The inmate said he worked in

New Orleans as a tarot card reader and was a Houston taxi driver at the time of his arrest.

He said at least two lawyers tried to visit him to convince him to seek a stay.

"I've blown them off," he said. "All my life, I've been a loner. I'm very good at doing that. Life is a temporary situation. The spirit moves on."

Smith, who believes in voodoo, also said letters from religious groups trying to sway him will do no good.

"In my opinion, anyone who adheres to Christian doctrine ought to be shot," he said.

He denied that his execution will make a statement on behalf of others on death row.

"I don't care anymore," he said. "My only concern now is for my personal and individual destiny."

Smith almost certainly could get a stay if he sought legal assistance. All executions in Texas have been

halted, pending outcome of a Supreme Court review of a capital murder case that challenges the state's death penalty.

Of the 27 inmates put to death in Texas since executions resumed in 1982, six have been volunteers.

Other inmates say they have mixed feelings about Smith's insistence he be killed.

"From a selfish standpoint, for those of us who fight the system 24 hours a day, it's a slap in the face," death row resident Lester Bower said. "I respect his right, but I do not agree. It's like jumping off of a ship into shark-infested waters when a rescue boat is on the horizon."

Inmate James Beathard said, "People need to remember that stopping the death penalty is most important. His selfishness shouldn't outweigh his obligation to others."

But Jim Vanderbilt, another convict, said if Smith wants to die, "he ought to — without interference."

## Regulators announce S&L cleanup program

DALLAS (AP) — Federal regulators plan to announce late this month the first consolidations in their so-called Southwest Plan for Texas savings and loans, representing about half of the thrift industry's problem institutions nationwide, an official said Wednesday.

The plan to clean up the region's S&Ls has been repeatedly delayed by legal and administrative problems. The Federal Home Loan Bank in Dallas, which announced the program in February, requested proposals from interested parties by March 31.

"We have received about 150 proposals from parties interested in participating in the Southwest Plan," said David Colgren, FHLB spokesman in Dallas. "This is an overwhelming response of parties interested in the plan."

Of 279 Texas thrifts, 104 were insolvent as of Sept. 30, 1987. M. Danny Wall, FHLB chairman, said. Those endangered institutions will be consolidated, closed or sold, Colgren said.

Wall had said that roughly half the problems of the nation's thrift industry are in Texas, hard hit by an energy and real estate slump.

Investors would provide up to \$1 billion in capital for the plan. Much of the expense will be paid by the Federal Savings and Loan Insurance Corp., which is expected to provide \$7 billion at first and up to \$2 billion annually.

"We believe, overall, we need a fair and equitable analysis for each proposal," Colgren said. "That analysis must balance the interests of FSLIC and private investors. We anticipate the first consolidations to be available in late April."

Colgren would not say how many S&Ls would be involved in the first announcement but added that "a geometric progression of consolidations" would be made thereafter.

Industry officials had said earlier that the state's thrift crisis increases with every delay, along with the cost of remedies.

On Monday, FHLB officials reported that the

FSLIC's fund shortfall almost doubled in 1987 to an estimated \$11.6 billion.

"We anticipate the Southwest Plan to cost FSLIC somewhere between \$6 and 7 billion," Colgren said. "Through FSLIC recapitalization signed by the president in August of last year, we will raise \$10.8 billion over the next three years through the recapitalization plan."

Insolvent Texas thrifts will have lost at least \$895 million in operating expenses in the first four months of this year, according to one analysis.

"The Southwest Plan is a proposal dealing with the consolidation of the industry we feel must take place in Texas," Colgren said.

"We believe through consolidation of the industry through the Southwest Plan, interest from private investors, reducing the cost of funds that Texas institutions must pay to attract deposits — the 'Texas premium' — and using FSLIC sources, we can solve the problems in Texas," he said.

# May 10, 1988 Corregidor, Novels unearthed Aggie history.



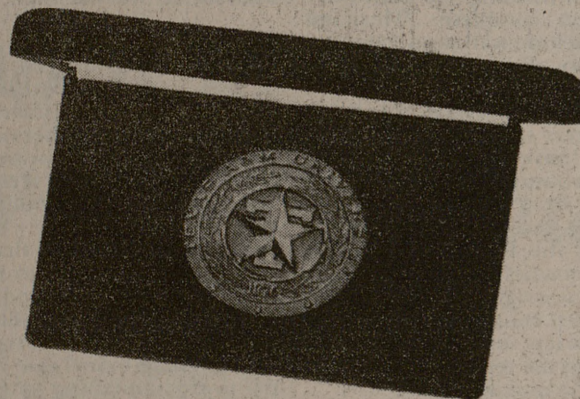
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