

GTE chooses Texas towns for move from Connecticut

DALLAS (AP) — GTE Corp. has chosen three towns outside of Connecticut for two of its telephone units and is searching for a headquarters for the third, fueling speculation that it will soon leave the state altogether.

Analysts said Tuesday that since the company selected Houston for one of its units and GTE's chairman is from Texas, GTE would be wise to move its entire operation there to save money.

"I can't see any advantages to staying on Connecticut," said Ken Leon, associate director of Bear Stearns in New York. "I think they should move the whole company to Dallas. . . . They could sell at a premium in Connecticut and buy cheap in Dallas."

Jack Grubman, telecommunications analyst with Paine Webber, said he believes Dallas will be selected as the site for the local telephone unit, the third to be moved.

He also predicts the entire corporation will leave Stamford and move to Dallas within the next few years.

"I would say Dallas has to be the optimum future for the third unit and maybe even its head-

quarters for the whole company," Grubman said. "Rocky (GTE Chairman James L. 'Rocky' Johnson) went to Texas Tech and he is still a Texan."

Stamford is located on Connecticut's "Gold Coast," so named for the wealthy communities along Long Island Sound. Housing prices in the Stamford area are among the highest in the country and the transportation system is choked daily.

"It's very expensive to get a secretarial pool (in Stamford). You can't even live 25 miles from Stamford," Leon said. "American Airlines and J.C. Penney have done it (moved to Texas) and corporate managers talk to one another."

American Airlines moved to Fort Worth in 1979 and J.C. Penney is moving to the Dallas suburb of Plano. Both formerly were located in New York City.

GTE began restructuring its telephone operations, its largest business, in March. Telephone operations account for \$12 billion of GTE's \$15 billion annual revenues, according to Jana Weatherbee, a GTE spokeswoman.

So far, the business has been restructured into three groups — the mobile communications unit, which will be located in Houston with 1,000 employees; the information services unit, which will be moved to Tampa, Fla., with its more than 5,800 employees; and the local telephone service unit.

The location for the local service unit hasn't been selected yet, Weatherbee said. She declined to comment on a report in the Dallas Morning News that GTE was searching for office space and building sites in Dallas this week.

"We've never issued a list of the cities we're looking at and we can't comment beyond that," she said.

The telephone operating group, which is composed of the three units, has a total of 91,600 domestic employees, Weatherbee said.

The company has 1,100 employees at its corporate headquarters in Stamford, 300 of which are in the telephone operating group.

Students may suffer due to education plan

EDINBURG (AP) — School districts with many migrant students and children with limited English would suffer from a plan to link education funding with test scores, a ribbon panel was told Tuesday.

Members of the Select Committee on Education, however, told educators in the Rio Grande Valley that it only plans to recommend incentives for improving scores.

Children of migrant farmworkers often spend only a short time in the school district during the year, said T. Carl McMillan, superintendent of the Harlingen Independent School District.

Those students, he said, could bring the district's average down if they are there during the period when the basic skills tests are given. Districts like Harlingen would suffer if migrants' scores were included with students attending year-round schools, McMillan said.

"Just judge those that we've got here and we've had a chance to teach a significant amount of time, and we feel we've got a teaching staff that can do a good job," McMillan said.

The 15-member select committee appointed by Gov. Bill Clements last year is examining the state's public school funding and evaluating the operation of the entire educational system. The committee is holding hearings to help prepare a report for the Legislature.

State District Judge Harley Clark of Austin last year ruled that Texas' public school finance system is unconstitutional because it does not ensure that each school district has the same ability to obtain money to educate students. The state and some school districts have appealed the decision, known as Edgewood v. Kirby, but the 3rd Court of Appeals has not issued an opinion.

Larry Jenkins, chairman of the committee, said Tuesday the committee probably will recommend financial incentives that will reward districts for improvement, not their performance compared to others. It would not affect basic funding, he said.

"We are looking at ways to improve rather than simply reward those that are doing quite well," said Jenkins, a vice president with the Lockheed Missiles and Space Co. in Austin.

Richard Cantu, a member of the board from state education District 10, which stretches from Laredo to Brownsville, said the level of English proficiency in the area also brings scores down.

Eighty-five percent of students in the Rio Grande Valley have Spanish surnames and many speak Spanish first, Cantu said.

"I don't think it's fair for us as educators to ask the public for more money without being willing to show some results," Cantu said.

Military image changes from traditional viewpoint

FORT HOOD (AP) — The platoon sergeant tells the enlisted soldiers that their lieutenant has ordered them to complete an assignment. A private clears his throat to ask a simple question.

"Why?"

The private is not condemned to spend the rest of the day cleaning the grounds. Instead, the sergeant either explains the purpose of the exercise or the lieutenant will volunteer an answer.

This scenario may not fit the military image where subordinates have traditionally been told when, and what, to think. But many of the 2.1 million active duty personnel in today's armed forces believe the new military, while still rich in tradition, is a far cry from some of its predecessors.

During the 1970s, the military went through a period generally referred to as the "Hollow Army." The unpopularity of the Vietnam War, rampant drug abuse and unchecked insubordination created a service that was out of control.

"It's no secret we had cases of damn near open rebellion within units," said Army Col. Bob Fiero, 49,

corps operations officer at Fort Hood.

Fiero, who has served in the Army for nearly 28 years, recalled how drug abuse and undisciplined soldiers created havoc for the officers trying to train them.

"We had cases where officers and NCO's (non-commissioned officers) were afraid to go into the barracks at night. They were literally afraid to," Fiero said. "We had cases in Germany where they were actually walking with armed guards around."

An evolution apparently began to take place with a changing of the guard when the nation went from a drafted military to an all-volunteer force. Today, officers boast of having one of the best-trained, well-disciplined and best-educated soldiers ever.

From 1968 to 1978, recruiters had little success increasing the ranks of high school graduates. The percentage of recruits with diplomas rose only 3 percent — from 74 percent to 77 percent.

As of June 10, 92 percent of the

military's new recruits were high school graduates.

"The real target now is all high school grads," said Command Sgt. Maj. Sammy Wise, commandant of the III Corps NCO Academy.

In addition to the high percentage of high school graduates, Defense Department records indicate many of them are pursuing a continuing education, either through local junior colleges or correspondence courses.

"Soldiers are a lot smarter today. By virtue of that, they don't wait around to be told," said Command Sgt. Maj. Robert R. Poole. "They want to lead from the front."

Poole, 47, and Wise, 45, have attained the second highest rank of any non-commissioned Army officer. Only the sergeant major of the Army ranks higher.

"There was an old saying: 'If you couldn't make it at anything else in this world, we'd put you in the infantry or make a cook out of you,'" Wise said.

Cholesterol drugs may not be researched, doctor says

DALLAS (AP) — A doctor who specializes in cholesterol-lowering drugs believes physicians may be too quick to use a powerful new medication whose long-term health effects are unknown when more proven drugs or diet and exercise changes might do as well.

Physicians who through screening exams identify patients with high disease risk should give them four to six months to make changes with diet and an exercise program, said Dr. Wayne Peters.

If the regimen doesn't work, Peters has a wide range of medications to recommend, from proven drugs like bile acid resins and niacin to newcomers Gemfibrozil and Lovastatin.

Researchers have experimentally shown that Lovastatin fights low-density lipoproteins (LDLs), the type of cholesterol which can damage artery linings. But Peters stresses the drug's long-term effectiveness has not been proven.

Peters, an assistant professor of medicine and preventative medicine and biometrics at the University of Colorado School of Medicine, said his concern is educating doctors to prescribe more proven cholesterol-

fighting drugs before trying experimental ones.

"Lovastatin, like Gemfibrozil, inhibits the liver's ability to manufacture cholesterol," Peters in a recent Dallas interview. "The concern about the Lovastatin drugs is because they are so easy to take, so impressive in their effects on lowering cholesterol, that many physicians start out with them, which is not an NIH recommendation."

The National Institutes of Health has designated bile acid sequestrant resins and nicotinic acid, or niacin,

as drugs of first choice.

"On Lovastatin, the long-term safety concerns we just don't know," said Peters.

"Practicing physicians are over-prescribing that medicine without giving patients an informed choice. The informed choice should be, 'Do you want a little inconvenience but we know it's safe, or would you rather choose convenience and a question mark as far as Lovastatin safety?' In the short term, there appears to be no problem with it."

A systemic drug, Lovastatin was approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration in 1987, based on about five years' use in humans.

"It is very effective in lowering the LDL component," said Peters. "It is quite well tolerated, a pill like Gemfibrozil. But the longest it was used in humans is five years. We have really no idea what the long-term safety record will be."

Peters, who addresses doctors' groups and consumers on cholesterol-lowering drugs, said treatment options have changed radically over the past five years and physicians must keep up with them in their clinical practices.

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