

Bush names Sununu chief of staff

WASHINGTON (AP) — President-elect George Bush Thursday named New Hampshire Gov. John Sununu White House chief of staff and tapped wily campaign strategist Lee Atwater as chairman of the Republican National Committee.

Bush's selection of Sununu as his top White House adviser prompted the resignation, effective in January, of long-time aide Craig Fuller, who said he had told Bush he was eager for the job.

Bush said he would like Fuller, co-chairman of the transition team and his chief of staff since 1985, to consider a role in his administration but that he chose Sununu because he was the right man for the job.

Sununu, 49, an engineer by training and a former Tufts University professor, has no previous experience in Washington.

He has a reputation for being a quick study, highly intelligent and assertive.

Some also regard him as arrogant and abrasive, traits that could hurt him in working with Congress.

Sununu made light of that reputation Thursday.

"I'm a pussycat," Sununu said. "Let me tell you about Washington. Certainly I have a lot to learn in re-

gard to the details. I think I'm a quick learner."

"I consider a great number of congressmen to be close friends, both Democratic and Republican."

Jewish lobbyists have criticized the New Hampshire governor for being the only governor to refuse to endorse a proclamation attacking a 1975 U.N. resolution that equated Zionism with racism.

"I'm very sensitive to that issue," said Sununu, who is partly of Arab descent.

He acknowledged that he was a

considered a conservative Republican governor and had no intention of changing his political philosophy.

But he promised to be a "honest broker" and consider both sides of an issue.

Sununu is credited with helping revive Bush's candidacy with a victory in the New Hampshire primary last February after the vice president finished a poor third in Iowa's caucuses.

After her meeting with Bush, Thatcher described him as a leader

with a very, very wide knowledge who needs no introduction to foreign affairs. But she said she told him a fresh approach was needed in the Middle East.

Bush has already named two long-time friends, James A. Baker III and Nicholas F. Brady as the cornerstone members of his Cabinet, as secretary of state and treasury, respectively. Brady replaced Baker at Treasury after Baker quit in August to become Bush's campaign chairman.

Farmers wait for insurance checks to cover crops lost during drought

WASHINGTON (AP) — Thousands of farmers are waiting for government insurance checks to cover crops scorched by last summer's drought, as the agency that handles the program wrestles with its biggest caseload they've ever seen.

The government will end up making about \$1 billion in crop insurance payments for the 1988 season, an official said, but for a pair of South Texas farmers who have been waiting for their checks since summer, the delay has been tough on their cash flow.

"I'd be bankrupt if I didn't have a seed corn crop," said Edinburg farmer Gene Houts, who has been waiting since July for insurance payments on cotton and corn crops devastated by the drought. "It's the only thing that keeps me going."

Agriculture Committee, to investigate the situation. He said he knows of several other Valley farmers in similar circumstances.

John Marshall, chief executive officer of the Federal Crop Insurance Corp., said the U.S. Department of Agriculture agency has received more than 53,000 claims and has processed and paid about 44,000 of them.

But that leaves 9,000 other farmers waiting for

"There must be a tremendous backlog because we're not getting much satisfaction down here. I'm about ready to go to Washington on it."

— Tommy Funk, Harlingen cotton and grain farmer

"We've solved those problems and they are humming along now," Marshall said. In addition, overtime shifts were instituted to meet the crush of claims due to the drought.

The FCIC writes and pays directly on 20 percent of crop insurance claims, with the remaining 80 percent handled through private companies that are reinsured by the agency, Marshall said, meaning that thousands more claims have been filed.

But he said the private companies have on the whole been more efficient than the government in getting the checks out.

Marshall expects \$1.3 billion to \$1.4 billion in crop insurance payments will eventually be made for drought-devastated crops, with the government picking up about 90 percent of the total cost.

In an average year, he said, the entire system pays out \$1.40 for every \$1 in premiums taken in, but this year the ratio is more than \$3 for every \$1 in premiums.

A representative of two insurance companies that work through the office of FCIC said: "The horror stories are all over. I don't know if they're going to clean it up in 90 days. I think we've got a real horror story going. The poor farmer — the guy is getting short-shrifted and it's FCIC's fault."

their checks, and Marshall said a few thousand of them have had delays of over 60 days, while a few hundred have had to wait more than the 90 required days.

"This is the heaviest workload we've ever had," Marshall said. "The unprecedented volume led to some of the delays."

On top of that, the agency has been phasing in a new computer system and has had to work out the bugs.

Presidents-elect of U.S., Mexico plan Dec. 1 meeting in Houston

WASHINGTON (AP) — President-elect George Bush said Thursday he will hold a pre-inaugural visit with Mexico's incoming president and promised not to take unilateral actions on issues affecting that country's well-being.

Bush made the pledge in a letter he sent to the Bilateral Commission on the Future of United States-Mexican Relations, which issued a report containing a series of recommendations on solving cross-border problems.

Bush's deputy national security adviser, Col. Sam Watson, presented the letter to commission members on receiving a copy of the 238-page report. The commission, comprised of prominent Mexican and U.S. citizens, spent two years preparing the report.

Among other recommendations, the report said unilateral measures

must be avoided on issues affecting the two countries.

"I fully agree that two new administrations taking office at about the same time gives us tremendous opportunities to work together," Bush said in the letter.

At a news conference earlier, Bush appeared taken aback when asked about reports he will hold a get-acquainted meeting Tuesday in Houston with his Mexican counterpart, Carlos Salinas de Gortari, who will take office Dec. 1.

He stopped short of confirming the encounter would take place but

said that any such meeting would symbolize the importance he places on relations with "our front yard... neighbors."

But Bush then quickly launched into an explanation of what he hopes to accomplish from such an early get-together.

"When and if such a meeting is announced, I will address myself to the question," Bush told reporters. "But, if I were to have a meeting with the incoming president of Mexico before he is sworn in on Dec. 1 while I am still in transition, it would

be to symbolize the importance I place on the relationship with Mexico."

The vice president's office late Thursday night confirmed that Bush and Salinas would meet and have lunch at the Johnson Space Center in Houston next week.

"Their meeting symbolizes the close relationship of our two countries and the vice president's high respect for Mexico," Bush spokesman Steve Hart said. "It is intended to further develop a close consultative relationship and a bilateral approach to problem solving."

Obscure sites to appear in McNally atlas

CHICAGO (AP) — There's nobody home in Yturria, Texas, except maybe a few prairie dogs and armadillos.

But it's on the map, along with 51 other obscure sites that have made the big time for the first time in the 1989 Rand McNally Road Atlas, due to appear this week in stores nationwide.

Michael Dobson, director of cartographic services at Skokie-based Rand McNally, said late Wednesday most of the towns were put on the map because travelers wrote to suggest they be added.

"In most cases they had pointed out a town that had some value to the traveling public and there was no reason it shouldn't be on," Dobson said.

Yturria, about 50 miles north of Brownsville, has no human residents.

But it was added this year because it is the site of the Yturria Ranch, recognized as a historic site by the state of Texas.

"Yturria on there more as a point of interest than as a populated place," Dobson said. "Do they have a travel-consumer related value? In some cases they might be the only point of significance in the area."

Dobson said he receives thousands of letters each year from travelers who suggest changes. Those have led to 18,116 new or different items in the 1989 atlas, which covers the United States, Canada and Mexico.

Vermillion, Kan., was added after Dobson received a letter from a man who said the 167 mostly elderly residents of Vermillion enjoyed looking at the atlas and planning trips, both real and imaginary.

Rohwer, Ark., was added after someone wrote to note that it was the site of an internment camp for Japanese-Americans during World War II, Dobson said.

"We felt there was a historical significance to that," he said.

Kentucky has highest rate of smoking

ATLANTA (AP) — On the day of the Great American Smokeout, a government report released Thursday shows Kentucky with the nation's highest smoking-related death rate. Utah has the lowest.

Kentucky reported 176 smoking-related deaths for every 100,000 residents in 1985, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control reported. Utah reported just 45 smoking-related deaths for every 100,000 people over the course of the year.

Nationwide, smoking killed 314,574 Americans that year.

The worst states, after Kentucky, were West Virginia, with 172 smoking-related deaths per 100,000 people in 1985; Arkansas, 164; Rhode Island, 164; and Florida, 161.

of the state ACB rules and the Texas Clean Air Act.

Kevin Hamby, assistant director of public information for the TWC, said its investigation uncovered three violations:

- Dissolved-phase hydrocarbon contamination.
- Xylene releases in product storage tanks.
- Solid waste sludge contamination from the facility's waste-water treatment plant.

The violations were discovered during a TWC investigation after Rexene, then El Paso Products Corp., reported free-floating hydrocarbons in shallow groundwater Dec. 15, 1986, and Feb. 23, 1987.

The TWC said it will continue to monitor the situation to make sure no further soil contamination occurs.

"It appears that the contamination is all trapped within the property, but obviously we are concerned for the nearby aquifers that provide drinking water," Hamby told the Odessa American.

Terry James, TWC District 10 bi-

ologist in Odessa, said Rexene is believed to have stored sludge in unlined holes in the ground. The contaminants seeped through the soil into nearby groundwater.

James said a plume of contaminants lies underneath the Rexene facility.

"It has been estimated there is in excess of 500,000 gallons of this stuff sitting on top of the groundwater zone," James said. "It has also been detected in the drinking-water aquifer."

The extent of the contamination in the aquifer has not been determined, he said.

James said the TWC also is investigating possible petro-chemical pollution in Monahans Draw, a stream that runs through Odessa and nearby Midland.

In the first penalty, the ACB tented that Rexene was in violation of a permit condition for failing to operate and maintain a vapor-condensation control device, which is used to steam-clean tanks and railcars.

Chemical company gets fine for contaminating Texas soil

Silver Bullet

Friday Dec 2 8:00 P.M.
Rudder Auditorium

tickets on sale at
MSC Box Office
for \$2.50

COMEDY COMMANDOS

LIVE STAND-UP COMEDY

Welcome

COORS LIGHT & STAR 92

OWN & HALL

Brought Back By Popular Demand
For More Information Call 845-1234

CLASSIFIED ADS For 1001 things

Battalion Classifieds
Call 845-2611

These are moments you'll never forget!

Capture your memories with portraits from

quick as a flash

\$10⁹⁵ Sitting for 2 people, proofs & negative ready in 2 hours

\$19⁹⁵ 2-8x10's
4-5x7's
20 wallets
1-2 day service

Manor East Mall 779-0402
110 Dominik 764-0601

Store hours: Mon-Sat 10-2pm & 3-7pm
Dominik location only: Sun 12:30-5:30pm

No Appointment Necessary!

BONFIRE SPECIAL

We know what it's like to be on a budget! Come in and we'll show you a great haircut at even a better price!

Bring this coupon in for a haircut, shampoo, & blow-dry for only

\$9⁰⁰ Reg. \$12⁰⁰

pro-cut's

696-2017
1800 Texas Ave., College Station

Expires 11-30-88