

# Senators stress border drug woes

WASHINGTON (AP) — Southwest senators want national drug czar William J. Bennett to declare the U.S.-Mexico border a "high-intensity drug trafficking area."

Three grisly, drug-related mass murders in the past month are a "brutal reminder that drug cartels have expanded and moved west," they said.

Such a designation would allow the temporary reassignment of federal personnel to the region and would funnel assistance to state and local agencies.

"Law enforcement officials in Arizona and Texas who have been in-

involved in the (murder) investigations say the situation is reminiscent of south Florida in the late '70s and early '80s," according to the letter Thursday from the border-state senators.

The letter is signed by Sens. Lloyd Bentsen, D-Texas, Phil Gramm, R-Texas, Pete Wilson, R-Calif., Alan Cranston, D-Calif., Dennis DeConcini, D-Ariz., John McCain, R-Ariz., Pete Domenici, R-N.M., and Jeff Bingaman, D-N.M.

The eight senators argue the 2,000-mile stretch of border qualifies as a center of illegal drug produc-

tion, manufacturing, importation and distribution, a prerequisite to receiving the emergency drug designation.

They point to the fact that Mexico is the primary producer of marijuana and heroin entering the United States, that California is one of the largest domestic producers of marijuana, and that California, New Mexico and Texas are three of the largest U.S. producers of methamphetamine.

The Border Patrol has seized more cocaine and marijuana in the first six months of fiscal 1989 than in all of fiscal 1988, and the Customs Service reports cocaine seizures are up 425 percent in the past three years, the senators said.

In Los Angeles alone, the Drug Enforcement Administration said 15 tons of cocaine were seized in 1988.

The senators also say Federal Reserve figures show Los Angeles as the new center for collection of drug

profits. The city's Federal Reserve Bank has a \$3.8 billion cash surplus — a 2,200 percent jump since 1985. During the same time, Miami's Federal Reserve cash surplus declined by \$1.2 billion.

Although state and local agencies have committed dramatically increased assets and personnel to drug enforcement, they are being overwhelmed by drug-related crime, said the senators from California, Arizona, New Mexico and Texas.

The senators also argue drug-related activity on the border is having a harmful impact on other parts of the country. They point to crack operations set up in 50 major cities around the country by two violent Los Angeles gangs, the Crips and the Bloods.

Texas, California and Arizona are three of the top five distribution centers of illegal drugs in the United States, they said.

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## World briefs

### Chinese students march for democracy

BEIJING (AP) — About 1,500 students braved a day-long downpour and marched for democracy in the Chinese capital Thursday, and authorities threatened harsh measures to crush four days of dissent.

About 1,000 students marched in the central Chinese city of Nanjing, and students in Tianjin, a port city east of Beijing, plastered posters on walls. Other marches were reported in Shanghai, Wuhan and Hefei, but details were sketchy.

Nationally televised news led with a stern warning that the protests, the biggest since the pro-democracy demonstrations of 1986-87, would no longer be tolerated.

"These activities have gone beyond the limits of the law and the taking of harsh measures to end the disturbances has become necessary," the announcer said, quoting from an editorial by the official Xinhua News Agency.

"These protesters do not really

care about the future or happiness of China, all they want to do is overthrow the Communist Party and the government," the editorial said.

The protests were prompted by the death Saturday of Hu Yaobang, an outspoken reformer who was ousted as Communist Party chief in 1987. Hu was accused of encouraging liberal ideas and failing to crack down on the 1986-87 student demonstrators.

The Beijing city government issued regulations that restricted commemoration activities for Hu to inside universities, businesses and factories.

The regulations also said "rioters and other lawbreakers would be dealt with severely, according to the law."

Early Thursday, thousands of security forces rushed into crowds of students as they protested near the headquarters of the ruling Communist Party.

## Texas Senate OKs nominees; Clements denies deal-cutting

AUSTIN (AP) — The Texas Senate confirmed Gov. Bill Clements' controversial Public Utility Commission nominees Thursday, and the governor firmly denied a key senator's assertion that approval came after political deal-cutting.

Sen. Chet Edwards, Senate Nominations Committee chairman, said, "I've never seen this kind of deal-making at this level in the nominations process before, I hope it doesn't set a precedent."

Clements said, "That chairman happens to be guilty of saying a lot of things that are not true . . . So that's just one of them."

Edwards said he did not want to "impugn" the decision of the Senate, which voted 25-6 for PUC Chairman Marta Greytok of Taylor Lake Village and 24-7 for William Cassin of Houston.

"I think generally the vast majority of senators voted their conscience and made a responsible effort to try to review these appointees," said Edwards, D-Duncanville.

But he added, "I'll be honest, I was disappointed that on this important of an issue that some votes may have been affected by trade-offs." Other senators also referred to deals being made.

After they were confirmed, Greytok and Cassin hugged, then gave the Senate a thumbs-up sign from their seats in the gallery. Both said they looked forward to continuing their work on the commission, which regulates telephone and electric rates.

The Republican governor's nominees to the three-member PUC have been under fire for a number of actions. State leaders have criticized a rate cut and customer refund ordered for GTE Southwest Inc. that the company said would result in layoffs, while consumer representatives said the GTE order did not go far enough.

Edwards voted against both nominees, saying, "Some of us have felt that the public interest is not being adequately protected by this commission."

While some were critical, others praised the nominees' qualifications, experience and integrity.

"Both are honest and hard-working," said Sen. John Whitmire, D-Houston.

Another Houston Democrat, Sen. Craig Washington, voted for confirmation after making what he said would be his last Senate statement touting the importance of affirmative action.

"We need black, brown and white

people because they're all capable of making contributions," Washington said. He said it is the responsibility of every senator to ensure no one is being excluded from the process.

Two Clements staff members were talking to senators until shortly before the votes but said they were not making deals.

"In the legislative process, you're always willing to listen, and we appreciate the help of the senators today, and if we can return a favor down the way, I'll be happy to sit down and talk," said George Bayoud, Clements' chief of staff.

But Bayoud — who was in the Senate chamber with James Huffines, Clements' appointments director — emphasized there were "no deals made" on such items as future appointments by the governor.

## Cabbie sparks protest after toppling toilet

DALLAS (AP) — A cab driver arrested for knocking over a portable toilet sparked a five-hour sympathy protest from about 150 drivers at Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport.

"That is our bathroom," said Abraham Jooshani, pointing to the toilet he knocked over Wednesday in protest of working conditions for taxi drivers. "We sit out here for hours under the hot sun, and there is no shade. We are not allowed to get out of our cab while we wait on the terminal ramps. We are not allowed to use the airport bathrooms or eat in the restaurants. We are treated like animals. We are humans, not animals."

Jooshani was arrested in a lot where the drivers await dispatch to airport terminals. He was released from jail about 4 p.m. But fellow drivers who shared his frustrations about drivers' working conditions quit taking fares while Jooshani was incarcerated.

Airport spokesman Joe Dealey said the airport "discourages the providers of ground transportation from using the (terminal) restroom facilities." Restrooms are provided for taxi drivers at the central queue, where drivers are dispatched.

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### Wright accuses committee of dragging feet

WASHINGTON (AP) — House Speaker Jim Wright accused the ethics committee of dragging its feet on the allegations against him Thursday, while the Republican leader who brought the charges in the first place suggested Democrats will try to nudge Wright aside before his case can reach the full House.

"I would be very surprised if the senior members of the Democratic leadership don't try to talk the speaker into stepping down before going through the agony of a public defense, public cross examination," said Rep. Newt Gingrich of Georgia, the GOP whip.

Gingrich said he still believes that Rep. Thomas Foley of Washington, now the majority leader, will be speaker before the end of June.

Meanwhile, published reports

indicated that a Texas oil deal which brought a huge profit to Wright last year involved businessmen with an interest in a \$3 billion Air Force jet trainer program now being studied by Congress.

On Capitol Hill, Wright said "we've met all the requirements" to move to the next phase of the case, in which the Texas Democrat wants to confront his accusers personally and try to knock down the 69 formal allegations issued by the ethics committee on Monday.

The speaker particularly blamed special outside counsel Richard J. Phelan for what he termed the delay.

"I'm puzzled as to why he is dragging his feet," Wright told a reporter. "We're very anxious to have the matter resolved as soon as possible."

### Papers: Hunts almost cornered silver market

WASHINGTON (AP) — A silver-buying binge by Nelson Bunker and William Herbert Hunt came within weeks of cornering the world's silver bullion market in 1980, the U.S. government says in previously secret documents.

But attorneys for the Hunts say the silver shopping spree was nothing out of the ordinary for the sons of legendary Texas oilman H.L. Hunt.

"H.L. Hunt was a wildcatter" who "raised his sons with a wildcatter's philosophy, which involved risk-taking and rapid decision-making," according to the now unsealed documents filed by the brothers' attorneys.

In 1987 filings with the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, the attorneys said the

brothers' investment stemmed from their preference for investing in hard assets as a hedge against inflation and monetary uncertainty. And, they said it was natural for the Hunts to invest "on a relatively large scale in light of their substantial wealth."

In a previously sealed submission by the CFTC to an administrative law judge, the agency contends that had the scheme by the Hunts and others not collapsed, "by the end of May 1980, they could have owned virtually the entire available world supply of deliverable .999 silver bullion."

The filings in the quasi-judicial proceeding were released by the agency this week in response to a Freedom of Information Act request by the Associated Press.

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