

Tuesday, June 6, 1989

# Expiration of subsidies endangers commuter flights to 3 Texas cities

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Senate is being asked to rescue three Texas airports with Essential Air Service subsidies due to run out soon, potentially leaving Brownwood, Paris and Temple without commuter flights this summer.

The Senate Appropriations Committee has voted to spend \$190,000 to keep shuttles running to the three Texas cities, as part of \$6.6 million set aside to maintain the government's Essential Air Service to 114 airports nationwide.

The funds are included in an urgent supplemental appropriations bill, which the Senate could consider for a vote as early as Tuesday night. The House's urgent appropriations bill, however, provides no extra funds for EAS, with the Appropriations Committee voting down the plan in May.

Department of Transportation spokesman Bill Mosley said air service to the 114 airports could be jeopardized by late July if Congress fails to provide the \$6.6 million to keep the program going through Oct. 1, the start of the next fiscal year.

According to a letter from Transportation Secretary Samuel K. Skinner to Senate Appropriations Chairman Robert C. Byrd, D-W.Va., a failure to maintain the program this summer could result in expensive start-up costs this fall if Congress decides to continue with EAS in fiscal 1990.

"Any attempt to re-establish the program following such a hiatus in service would be expensive and logistically difficult since carriers would have taken steps to redeploy employees, aircraft

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and other resources," Skinner said in the May 1 letter seeking a solution to the shortfall.

Without additional funding, Skinner said the DOT would have to begin notifying air carriers in early June that subsidy payments would be terminated in late July.

At the first of the year, DOT had proposed terminating service to between 33 and 53 of the 114 subsidized communities to stay within its \$25 million budget this year, allowing service to continue to the remaining airports. But the agency

abandoned those plans after members of Congress complained about the loss of EAS to their communities.

The Senate's proposal, however, would pare the list of cities receiving subsidies from more than 150 to 114, said Rep. Jim Chapman, a Sulphur Springs Democrat and member of the House Appropriations Committee. Eliminated are those communities receiving the greatest subsidies coupled with the smallest number of passengers. No Texas airport is on that list.

In Texas, Fort Worth-based Exec Express II provides subsidized shuttles between Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport and Brownwood, Paris and Temple.

Sen. Phil Gramm, a Texas Republican and member of the Senate Appropriations Committee, said he hopes the subsidies can eventually help the three cities become self-sustaining.

"This is an effort to help them develop this service," Gramm said. "The service was imperiled. I want to give it a chance to become established and self-sustaining."

"Air transportation is vitally important to the growth of medium-sized towns," Gramm said. "Regular, reliable air service to and from a major hub greatly enhances local economic development efforts."

# Sympathizers rally in Austin to support Chinese protesters

AUSTIN (AP) — Sympathizers shouting "Down with communism" and "Power to the people" rallied on the Capitol steps Monday to support Chinese demonstrators involved in a bloody fight for democracy.

"I think today the battle for democracy and freedom in China is not... a battle for democracy and freedom only for Chinese people," said Ping Chen, a research associate at the University of Texas at Austin and president of the Chinese Young Economist Society. "I think it is the battle of this century, and maybe for the 21st century."

The student-led effort to reform the Chinese government and to bring democracy to the country "is not a regional issue, it's a global issue... If the people win the battle, we can discourage all the dictators around the world," he told the crowd of about 200 who marched to

the Capitol from a rally at UT.

The crowd was comprised largely of UT students. Some carried a black banner with white characters that one supporter said signified a "funeral for all the martyrs, dead for democracy and freedom in China."

Some wore black armbands and white flowers as signs of mourning.

Hundreds of Chinese students were shot and killed by Chinese troops in Tiananmen Square in Beijing over the weekend, and many others were wounded following demonstrations for a freer society.

"My heart goes to my fellow Chinese citizens in China," said Ying Tang, who is from mainland China and attends the Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs at UT.

Among the signs in the crowd was one saying, "May the will of the Chinese people be stronger than the guns of their government."

# Three intramural sports offered during summer

By Richard Tijerina  
STAFF WRITER

Three sports — slowpitch softball, basketball triples and volleyball triples — are being offered by Texas A&M's Intramural Office for the first summer session.

Entries for all three sports opened June 5 and close June 9.

• Slowpitch softball requires a \$30 team entry fee. Play begins June 12 and playoffs begin June 25. Playoff schedules will be posted June 22 at 2 p.m.

• Basketball triples requires a \$20 team entry fee. Play begins

June 12 and playoffs begin June 21. Playoff schedules will be posted June 20 at 2 p.m.

• Volleyball triples requires a \$20 team entry fee. Play begins June 13 and playoffs begin June 22. Playoff schedules will be posted June 21 at 2 p.m.

The three sports are the same ones that were offered during the first summer session last year, a spokesman from the Intramural Office said Monday. She said the rules for the sports might have changed somewhat, and that complete rules are available along with registration materials in the Recreational Sports Office, 159 Read Building.

# EPA agrees to abandon plan for burning hazardous wastes at site off Texas Coast

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Environmental Protection Agency has agreed to abandon a site off the Texas Gulf Coast designated as the country's only location for ocean incineration of hazardous wastes.

Steps to begin the "de-designation" of the site 220 miles east of Brownsville hinge on resolution of a federal lawsuit in the District of Columbia. The case challenges the EPA's decision not to issue a permit for industrial waste incineration at sea as long as the agency has no regulations over ocean burning.

The EPA also argued in court that the 1988 Ocean Dumping Ban Act would prohibit SeaBurn Inc. of Connecticut from obtaining a permit to

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burn industrial wastes off the Texas coast.

Although the court in April sided with EPA's position, time has not run out for SeaBurn Inc. to appeal

the decision, said Tudor Davies, director of the EPA's office of Marine and Estuarine Protection.

Once the court case is resolved, the EPA will officially propose the site be de-designated and then take public comment on the plan, Davies said.

"EPA will begin proceedings to de-designate the site and the conclusion of the judicial process in that case if the courts ultimately uphold the agency's view of the law," said a May 24 letter to Sen. Phil Gramm, R-Texas, signed by William A. Whittington, acting deputy assistant administrator of the EPA office on water.

Gramm, a Texas Republican, asked EPA Administrator William

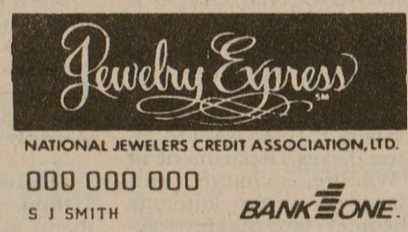
"It's good news for South Texans and all the Texas Gulf Coast," Gramm said Monday. "It removes a cloud of doubt and concern hovering over the Texas Gulf Coast for a decade."

"It has been a concern in terms of economic development, in terms of the fishing industry and tourism, so (the decision) eliminates a cloud of uncertainty hanging over the fishing industry, the shipping industry, and the tourism industry."

The EPA decided in 1977 to formally designate the Gulf of Mexico site, 160 miles south of Galveston, in the event regulations were eventually formulated on ocean incineration.

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1.80	7,750	12,950	.52	1,095	2,195	.99	2,950	\$5,495	1.67	5,875	12,200
1.61	5,475	8,450	.52	895	1,750	.81	2,385	4,395	1.35	3,100	5,800
1.51	4,225	7,950	.51	1,095	2,195	.73	1,975	3,750	1.23	3,350	6,395
1.44	1,875	3,950	.51	795	1,450	.62	1,475	2,495	1.10	3,650	6,650
1.43	5,550	8,950	.50	795	1,450	.52	1,325	2,450	1.04	2,850	5,200
1.20	9,240	14,500	.50	795	1,395	.47	695	1,195	.98	2,475	4,395
1.18	2,675	4,550	.49	550	995	.33	395	750	.79	2,095	3,875
1.17	2,950	3,950	.47	750	1,295				.72	2,325	3,895
1.11	2,650	3,850	.46	695	1,150				.71	2,195	4,095
1.09	3,075	5,500	.46	495	895				.71	2,050	3,995
1.06	2,450	3,995	.44	595	1,095				.70	2,390	4,250
1.03	3,850	6,950	.43	395	695				.70	1,995	3,450
1.03	2,550	4,995	.42	595	995				.68	1,890	3,650
1.03	2,325	4,495	.39	475	995				.64	1,385	3,495
1.03	2,950	5,500	.38	295	650				.62	695	1,195
1.01	2,375	4,295	.32	350	695				.55	985	1,895
1.00	2,150	3,995	.30	335	650				.54	1,490	2,795
.95	1,875	3,650							.52	1,050	2,295
.93	1,595	2,950							.50	1,275	2,295
.91	3,595	7,150							.48	1,225	2,250
.91	3,150	6,395							.46	1,160	2,195
.89	1,795	3,195							.39	875	1,595
.85	1,975	3,750							.35	595	995
.84	2,550	5,675									
.83	1,595	2,750									
.81	2,250	3,875									
.76	1,360	2,495									
.73	1,675	2,850									
.72	1,595	2,795									
.72	1,375	2,450									
.71	1,175	1,995									
.70	1,390	2,495									
.70	1,350	2,350									
.69	995	1,150									
.65	595	995									
.64	1,450	2,495									
.64	895	1,595									
.58	575	995									
.55	695	1,195									

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Carat	Our Price	Compare at
.75	\$1,785	\$3,395
.58	1,375	2,495
.51	1,395	2,495

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1.82	5,095	9,350
1.75	5,775	9,925
1.43	3,780	7,250
1.24	3,925	7,400
1.21	3,750	7,100
1.01	2,675	4,995
.72	1,985	3,850
.71	1,965	3,800
.64	1,295	2,395
.64	875	1,495
.62	1,485	2,395
.60	1,250	2,295
.58	995	1,795
.52	665	1,195
.51	1,240	2,350
.48	1,160	2,150

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.08	\$48	
.10	\$63	
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