## World & Nation The Battalion

# Senate panel postpones hearings of CIA nominee

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Senate Intelligence Committee on Tuesday put off for two months confirmation hearings for Robert Gates, President Bush's nominee to head the CIA, while it seeks further answers to questions about what Gates knew of the Iran-Contra affair.

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The panel, with the concur-rence of the White House, voted unanimously to begin the hearings Sept. 16.

The committee also voted to grant limited immunity from further prosecution to Alan Fiers, a

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secret network to supply guns to Nicaraguan rebels.

Fiers has pleaded guilty to two counts of withholding information from Congress in the scandal in a plea bargain with prosecutors.

Committee Chairman David Boren said the decision to delay the hearings came after consultations with Gates and senior White House officials, who had concluded that delaying the start

Bush himself had delivered an emotional defense of Gates just four days earlier, calling for immediate hearings and accusing the Senate panel of panicking and running "like a covey of quail" under public pressure to scrutinze Gates further.

a start-and-stop process that could drag on for months.

Bush himself had delivered an emotional defense of Gates just ail" under public pressure to former CIA official who has told of hearings would be better than four days earlier, calling for im- scrutinize Gates further.

mediate hearings and accusing the Senate panel of panicking and running "like a covey of qu-

Bush changed his mind because of the legal and procedural problems the committee faces, said Boren, an Oklahoma Demo-

Boren and senior committee Republican Frank Murkowski, R-Alaska, said they may also iscy's Latin American division.

1987.

Gruner still works for the agency as a station chief in a European capital. His name had not been made public until Bo-ren did so Tuesday.

North's calendars show that he was in contact with Gruner during 1986 when Gruner was chief of the CIA's Latin American division. Gruner was Fiers'

crat.

sue subpoenas later - but without any guarantees of immunity — for Clair George, CIA director of operations during the Iran-Contra period, and for Jerry Gruner, then chief of the agen-

George retired from the CIA in

immediate superior. Fiers has told prosecutors that he told George of the diversion of arms sale proceeds to the rebels late in the summer of 1986, but that George already knew about it when Fiers told him.

niles prot issu MT issu **Soviets offered relief** flict que men mall Summit leaders grant Gorbachev economic aid sopl as d

LONDON (AP) — Western talks between Israel and her leave here empty handed," pleads his case to all Group of leaders hailed Mikhail S. Gorba- Arab neighbors, Baker told re-chev's efforts toward "an open porters. But he cautioned that and democratic Soviet Union" there remain "plenty of hurdles. on Tuesday and searched for We're not there by a long shot." As Gorbachev arrived for a porter to translate. In a political communique that

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gathered for a royal banquet at critical shortages of food and

All seven nations agree that The most likely outcome was there should at least be some that the Soviets would be technical assistance and asso- granted associate IMF status and ciate memberships for Moscow limited associate IMF status and in the International Monetary port, but nothing close to the \$25 Fund. In London, Bush was asked Soviet supporters had hoped to whether Gorbachev would leave get.

Still, the possibility of lastminute surprises existed, given a Baker said Bush and Gorba- strong push by Germany, France

who meet for lunch on and Italy for a more concrete re-

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## Gramm attacks EPA's emissions testing plan

up over a government proposal to centralize vehicle emissions testing in El Paso and Houston, which they claim would strip

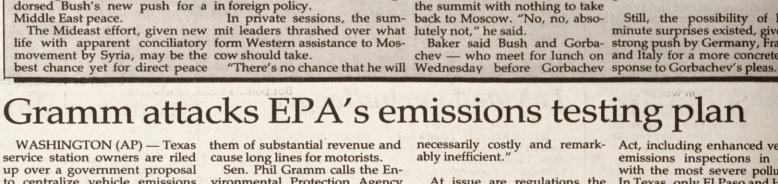
THE AGGIE PLAYERS PRESENT **KONTEDS** 

vironmental Protection Agency proposal a "bureaucratic night-

necessarily costly and remark- Act, including enhanced vehicle ably inefficient."

At issue are regulations the In Texas, only El Paso and Hous-EPA must write to enforce last ton would have to provide the mare" and says it is "rigid, un- year's revisions to the Clean Air enhanced inspections

emissions inspections in cities with the most severe pollution. New Orleans disputes census,



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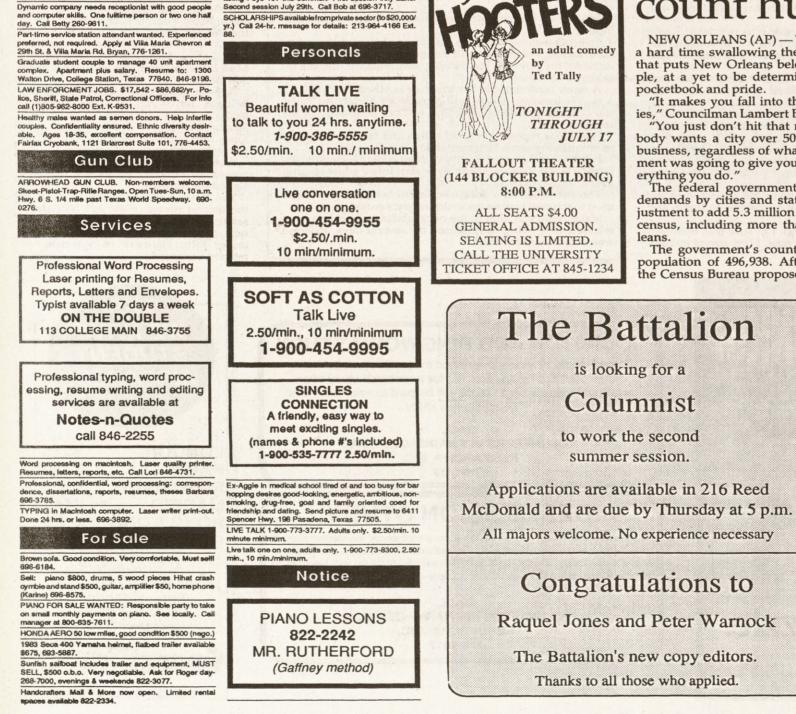
agreement on how to translate In a political communique that subdued welcome at Heathrow In his bid for aid, Gorbachev their good wishes into specific highlighted the second day of Airport outside London, the depicted a Soviet Union on the economic help. the annual gathering, the leaders summit leaders and their wives edge of economic collapse, citing On the eve of the Soviet presi- of the United States, Britain, Ja- gathered for a royal banquet at critical shortages of food and dent's precedent-setting appear- pan, Germany, France, Italy and Buckingham Palace, finishing off medicine. He said a worsening ance at a free-world economic Canada said their support for the middle of their three-day of the situation could threaten summit, President Bush and Sec- political and economic reforms meeting with a reception by the democratic reform effort.

promised Gorbachev would not as "strong as ever." leave London "empty handed." "The scale of thi

maining U.N. sanctions and en- Gorbachev with "new thinking" dorsed Bush's new push for a inforeign policy.

retary of State James A. Baker III undertaken by Gorbachev was Queen Elizabeth II. "The scale of this undertaking The seven largest industrial is enormous: an open and demodemocracies also endorsed a uni- cratic Soviet Union able to play

versal register for arms transfers, its full part in building stability in the vowed to leave all sanctions on and trust in the world," the joint Fund. Iraq until it complies with re- statement said. It also credited In I



### count hurts federal funding

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — The Big Easy is having a hard time swallowing the federal census count that puts New Orleans below a half-million peo-ple, at a yet to be determined cost to the city's pocketbook and pride.

"It makes you fall into the Little League of cities," Councilman Lambert Bossiere said

"You just don't hit that magic number. Everybody wants a city over 500,000. It hurts you in business, regardless of what handout the government was going to give you. ... It hurts you in ev-

erything you do." The federal government on Monday rejected demands by cities and states for a statistical adjustment to add 5.3 million Americans to the 1990 census, including more than 18,000 in New Orleans.

The government's count gave New Orleans a population of 496,938. After extensive analysis, the Census Bureau proposed adjusting the count

by 3.5 percent to 515,000. New Orleans was among 32 cities, states, organizations and individuals who asked a federal court to order the census corrected. The court instead ordered Commerce Secretary Robert Mos-

bacher to decide.

Mosbacher's decision to stick with the actual count will send the plaintiffs back to court next week, a spokesman for New York state Attorney General Robert Abrams said.

New Orleans officials predicted the city would lose at least \$1,000 in federal aid during the 1990s for every uncounted resident, for a total of \$18,062,000. "This is just another nail in the coffin of what's

happening to local governments, especially in older cities like New Orleans," said Leonard Simmons, the city's chief administrative officer.

#### Inspection team hunts for nuclear arms in Iraqi desert

BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP) — The tory as a global water job description is less than nuclear development. inspiring: 14-hour days spent in desert dust up to the kneecaps, 130-degree heat laced at times with radioactivity, the occasional gunshot.

But for the team of nuclear inspectors from 22 countries, many of them scholarly types better suited to laboratories than deserts, the opportunity to seek out and destroy Iraq's nuclear

capability is not to be missed. "I feel like I'm part of history. We're doing something the agency's never done before," said Richard Hooper, 49, a Seattle resident who has been a statistician for the International Atomic Energy Agency for 21/2 years.

Under the cease-fire terms imposed on Iraq by the United Nations after the Persian Gulf War, the Vienna-based IAEA has been conducting surprise checks on the Iraqis with an aggressiveness unprecedented in its 35-year his-

tory as a global watchdog over

With just 200 full-time field inspectors operating worldwide, the agency normally makes only limited inspections of uranium stocks at a country's invitation. And it doesn't oversee destruction of facilities, as it is now assigned to do.

What inspectors have found by trekking through scorching desert wilderness and once-se-cret army bases has confirmed U.N. suspicions that Iraq had developed an elaborate clandestine program to manufacture weapons-grade uranium.

Still, members of the 28-person team now in Baghdad say they don't reflect much on the publicity suddenly surrounding them as the most unlikely frontline troops in the allied campaign to neutralize Saddam Hussein

There's not much time to reflect.