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**Dallas police chief lacks certification**

**Former Los Angeles officer works for Texas accreditation**

DALLAS (AP) — Even though he leads one of the nation's largest police departments, Dallas Police Chief Bill Rathburn still has not met the legal requirements necessary to be a Texas peace officer.

But he's working on it. Rathburn took over Dallas' 2,800-member force in March. But until he completes a 10-unit course, he will not be able to wear a police uniform or carry a gun.

"I have to go through what is kind of like a correspondence course," Rathburn said. The chief has to complete a course which covers areas such as the penal code and the code of criminal procedure.

The course is written by the

Texas Commission on Law Enforcement Officer Standards and Education.

A study guide is used to complete each unit.

But the answers must be handwritten to ensure authenticity, and there are several questions to answer.

"Just for the penal code as an example, I had to answer 162 questions," Rathburn said. "It took me 55 pages of legal tablet, handwritten."

But Rathburn's lack of technical certification has not kept him from placing his personal stamp on the police force he's headed for six months.

Since leaving the Los Angeles Police Department, where he worked for 27 years, Rathburn has made several revisions designed to save money or lower the city's crime rate.

He has expanded the homicide section from 22 to 36 detectives and started a pilot neighborhood-

oriented police patrol plan in southeast Dallas.

Some critics say Rathburn should have become more familiar with his department before making changes. But many city and police officials say they are impressed with the chief's initiative.

"He's doing a good job," said City Council member Al Lipscomb, a strong supporter of former Police Chief Mack Vines. "I'm saying that because the private sector, the neighborhood groups, the political groups and his troops are saying that."

Now all Rathburn has to do is prepare for his final exam. If he passes, he can carry a gun. Until then, the chief's primary weapons will remain his pencil and paper.

**Soviets plan loose confederation**

MOSCOW (AP) — More than 2,000 lawmakers met today in an extraordinary session of the Congress of People's Deputies and immediately began weighing a plan to radically transform the Soviet Union into a loose confederation.

President Nursultan Nazarbayev of Kazakhstan read a list of proposals for creating a new union that he said were worked out on Sunday between President Mikhail S. Gorbachev and leaders of 10 of the 15 republics.

The Congress — the country's supreme legislative body — then recessed for four hours to consider the plan.

The move was seen as a pre-emptive strike by Gorbachev and republic leaders against conservative forces.

Congress is still dominated by Communists, whose long-dominant party has been ejected from the national government and seen its assets seized in the aftermath of the failed August coup by party hard-liners.

The plan read by Nazarbayev urged the

signing of a treaty to form a union of sovereign states, with each republic free to define its own form of participation and all republics agreeing to join in economic union.

He said the plan seeks "to prevent the uncontrolled dissolution of the union."

Immediately after the Congress adjourned, hard-line lawmaker Col. Viktor Alksnis ran up to a microphone that was turned off. The colonel, head of the conservative Soyuz group of deputies, shouted for the deputies not to leave.

Another deputy grabbed the powerless microphone and said, "Why should 10 people decide for thousands?"

Nazarbayev said the plan was worked out between Gorbachev and the leaders of Russia, the Ukraine, Byelorussia, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Azerbaijan, Kirghizia, Tadzhikistan, Armenia and Turkmenia.

Georgia also participated in the discussion, he said.

Absent were Moldavia and the three Baltic

states. Gorbachev was scheduled to address the Congress later in the day with an appeal for preservation of the union, although apparently without the Baltics.

He has all but recognized the independence, saying Sunday that it "is the final wish and intention of the people" of Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia "then I think we must agree to it."

Speaking in an interview on Soviet television and the Cables News Network, he rebuffed any suggestion he might quit under the withering criticism expected at the Congress, which is dominated by Communist bureaucrats whose perks and powers appear to be nearing an end.

"I will not resign now. That would be immoral," he said. "Now, at this very difficult stage when decisions must be taken that will define whether to preserve the course which we started in 1985, I cannot allow myself...to leave."

**Faith healers supplement medicine**

CHINA, Texas (AP) — The trim and tiny white house in this southeast Texas farm town doesn't look much like a place for healing. But inside, Verlie and Wilma Bergeron are using faith healing as a supplement to modern medicine.

When ailing people cross the threshold at the Bergerons' home, the retired couple offers ancient prayers and soothing words of the "traiteurs," or Cajun faith healers.

The Bergerons and other Cajuns like them believe they are conduits between sufferers and God — or that through their prayers, those who believe can be healed.

Their musical accents hint at childhoods in the bayous of French-speaking Louisiana, whose border is about 45 miles from China. A 3-foot statue of the Virgin Mary in their living room bears testimony to their Catholic faith.

"When we were growing up there wasn't any such thing as going to a doctor when you were sick," Verlie Bergeron said. "If you got sick you went to somebody for a treatment."

But the Bergerons do consider modern medicine a God-given gift of the era.

"We always tell people to keep taking their medicine and do just what the doctor tells them to do," Wilma Bergeron said.

"You know a doctor can't do anything for shingles," she adds. "A treatment can take the pain right out of the shingles."

The couple has learned specific sets of prayers for shingles, blood and bleeding problems, general healing and relief of suffering.

**Plane makes emergency landing**

TYLER (AP) — An American Eagle commuter plane made an emergency landing Sunday after losing power to its right engine.

The twin-engine J-31 jet-stream, carrying 14 passengers and two crew members, landed without incident at Tyler Pounds Field Airport about 5:30 p.m. The plane had been en route from Longview to Dallas.

Neither pilot would comment about the unscheduled landing. But passengers said the engine failed within sight of the airport. "One of the pilots" just told us he had lost complete power to the right engine and calmly reassured us not to be afraid," said passenger Theodus Davis, 74.

The passengers were flown to Dallas on another plane about 45 minutes after the forced landing.

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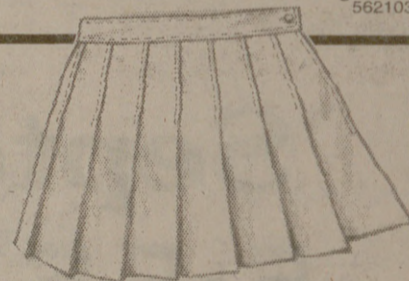
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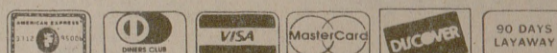
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