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The only justice who ran is both elections, after being a pointed to a partial term, Phillip accepted \$429,958 in PAC more

on lawyers be considered.

The study said that short public financing, some immediate changes could make the process

more open. The report recommended in quiring law firms that "bundle contributions to disclose the firm total donation; requiring lawye donors to reveal whether the have cases pending with the court; and disclosing the occupa tion and employer of all contribu

tice Tom Phillips agreed the change is needed. But he said to study "has an ax to grind" an that his record wasn't presented

The study said Phillips, a Republican who ran in 1988 and 1990, accepted the most mone from political action committee among successful Supreme Cour candidates during those can paigns. It said all those candidates accepted PAC money.

the study said.

Money speaks in court races Gov. Ann Richards' citizen advo-

Smith said a large amount of

campaign spending goes unnoticed. When a political action com-

mittee pays for ads to help a slate

of candidates, the individual can-

Self-imposed limits on individ-

ual contributions are deceiving,

Bragg said. He said the practice of

'bundling" allows many mem-

bers of a single large law firm to

give money separately to one can-

Bragg said he doesn't believe candidates should be blamed for

we would indict the system," he

said. "You cannot run a successful

campaign for the Supreme Court

without huge amounts of mon-

Smith advocated a ban on pri-

Karl Bayer of the Texas Con-

sumer Association, an unsuccess-

ful Supreme Court candidate in

1988, suggested that a special tax

"If we had the power to indict,

what he called a flawed system.

didates don't report that money.

cate on nursing homes.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

AUSTIN - Consumer groups, citing a new study they said shows special interests contributing millions to Texas Supreme Court candidates, called Tuesday for reform of judicial campaign fi-

'The overwhelming concern is money talks, and the amount of money that is being contributed is obscene," said Tom Smith of the group Public Citizen.

Austin consumer lawyer David Bragg, who financed the study with other trial lawyers, said more than 87 percent of the \$11 million spent on Supreme Court races in 1988 and 1990 came from special interests. Those included lawyers, doctors and business interests, he

For 1992 races so far, Bragg said, 79 percent of the \$3.26 million in contributions have come

from special interests. The Supreme Court conducts all of its deliberations in secret .. When secret deliberations and large contributions are combined, an appearance of impropriety is created," said Bragg, who was

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vate contributions, saying judicial elections should be financed by adding \$10 to the cost of filing a

Error in toxicology report

Lawyer argues for murder retrial

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LUBBOCK - An attorney for a convicted murderer says his client deserves a new trial because of discrepancies in a toxicology report, but indicted pathologist Ralph Erdmann has refused to take the

'Never have I falsified anything," Erdmann said Monday. "That I'm human and can do errors, yes. But intentionally? Never."

Erdmann testified Monday during the first day of a hearing to determine whether Richard Jaxson, convicted in the murder of Lubbock waitress Tammy A. Everett, is entitled to a new trial based on the dis-

The evidence from the courtroom testimony, which ended Tuesday, and depositions will be presented by state District Judge Cecil Puryear to an appeals court

Dan Hurley, an attorney for Jaxson, says his client's right to due process was violated by perjury from Erdmann and the withholding of a second toxicology report on Ms. Everett.

That report, requested by Peace Justice Melvin Powers, indicated that the victim had smoked mari-

juana and had a blood-alcohol content nearly three times the legal limit. An earlier report found no trace of alcoholor

drugs.
Erdmann said the toxicology reports were per-

formed by an employee.

He acknowledged during cross-examination by Assistant Criminal District Attorney Mike West.

however, that he had assumed responsibility for the reports when he signed them. Hurley also charged that Erdmann failed to testil

at Jaxson's trial because he knew the toxicology n port had been falsified. Erdmann, however, said couldn't appear at the trial because of obligations i the military reserves.

Erdmann has been indicted on charges of falsify ing autopsies in Dickens and Hockley counties. H has since been accused by colleagues and police losing body parts and faking autopsies for prosecu-

He was subpoenaed Monday for his records in the 1991 autopsy of 1-year-old Christopher Chapa, whose death was ruled as an accidental drowning.

Erdmann has repeatedly said he never intention ally did anything wrong.

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THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CHICAGO - The number of physician specialties has soared in the past five years, threatening to splinter medical care and boost already spiraling costs, says a report in The Journal of the American Medical Association.

Twenty-five physician specialties and 56 subspecialties now have accredited U.S. training programs, with 35 of the subspecialties recognized in just the past five years, the report

While internal medicine, plastic surgery and urology have been established for decades, new specialties include such offshoots as aerospace medicine, hand surgery and pediatric urology, said the report in Wednesday's journal. And more are on the way, said the report by Dr. Carlos J.M. Martini, vice president of medical education for the AMA, the nation's largest organization for doctors. In addition, 123 self-appointed medical boards certify physicians

in areas ranging from addiction treatment to circus medicine without having passed the muster of the American Board of Medical Specialties or the Accreditation Council on Graduate Medical Education, Martini said.

A spokesman for specialists called the report "sort of a hysterical response" to the trend.

"We can't hold medicine back. We can't use social needs to redirect advancements in medical science," said Dr. J. Lee Dockery, executive vice president of the American Board of Medical Specialties in suburban Evanston.

Dr. Marc L. Rivo, director of medicine for the Bureau of Health Professions in the Department of Health and Human Services, said the proliferation of specialists and subspecialists is a serious problem.

"Despite a doubling of the physician supply in the last 25 years, from 300,000 to 600,000, we still have large parts of the country that have no doctors," he said from Rockville, Md.

"In many parts of the country, including large cities, there are not enough generalist physician to provide basic access to care, he said.

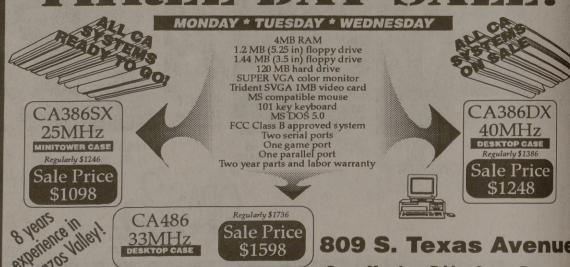
The rapid growth has prompted the curriculumaccrediting council to declare a moratorium until June on new subspecialty education programs, Martini said.

The federal government spends \$5 billion a year on physician training and i considering ways to increase the number of doctors in family practice or general internal medicine or pediatrics, Rivo said

Only about one-third of U.S. physicians are generalists compared with two-thirds in Britain and more than half in Canada and Australia, Rivo said.

U.S. generalists are paid less and work longer and more inconvenient hours than specialists, a fact not lost on medical students, said Dr. Robert H. Waldman, vice president for medical student and resident education at the Association of American Medical Colleges.





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