

Health plan will save less than expected, official says

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Clinton's health reform proposal will fall \$30 billion short of the budget savings predicted earlier, an administration official said Tuesday as the White House readied the plan for delivery to Congress.

The president and Hillary Rodham Clinton were due to bring the 1,600-page bill to Congress in person Wednesday in a

ceremony in Statuary Hall. Clinton has argued that without a sharp slowdown in health inflation, the federal deficit would spiral back up later in this decade. His economic advisers had vowed to sacrifice further deficit reduction before raising taxes any more for health reform. In the original draft, Clinton's health plan would have lowered the deficit by \$91 billion between now and the year 2000. Dr. Philip R. Lee, the assistant secretary

for health, told a medical educators' meeting the deficit reduction figure now is "around \$60 billion."

Other administration officials said the revised plan will offer discounted coverage to some small businesses with as many as 75 workers.

The cutoff had been 50 workers in the original plan.

And a government takeover of employers' costs of providing health benefits for

early retirees ages 55 to 64 will be phased in slowly between 1998 and 2001, said the officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

The White House has backed down from an ambitious goal to reserve half of all residencies for doctors training in primary care within five years.

Instead, it would set a goal of having 55 percent of the residents in primary care by the year 2002.

Seventy percent of the 625,000 U.S. doctors now are specialists.

Clinton said Tuesday he was not willing to water down his health reform plan in the face of criticism from the National Association of Manufacturers that he was promising Americans too much.

"Most manufacturers are going to save money on this. If they want to look a gift horse in the mouth, that can be their decision," the president said.

Building to be named after Koldus



James Lyle, from Photographic Services, takes some photos of the Student Services Building. The Student Services Building will be

named after Dr. John J. Koldus, former vice-president of student services, at 9 a.m. Saturday.

Tommy Huynh/THE BATTALION

Charges dropped against Hutchison

The Associated Press

AUSTIN — Indictments charging U.S. Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison with official misconduct were dismissed by a state judge Tuesday, but the senator remained under investigation.

The indictments were dropped after Hutchison's lawyers discovered that the grand jury which handed them up included a juror who was ineligible because of a charge pending against him since 1988 for a \$20 hot check.

A second grand jury has already resumed the investigation into Hutchison, prosecutors said. A former aide to Hutchison when she was state treasurer was subpoenaed Tuesday.

Hutchison, a Republican, was indicted Sept. 27 on charges of using her previous office as state treasurer for personal and political purposes and then destroying records as part of a coverup.

She has denied any wrongdoing and calls the charges a Democratic plot to discredit her.

Hutchison's attorneys filed motions to have the charges dismissed because of the improperly seated grand juror. Travis County District Attorney Ronnie Earle had agreed.

But on Monday, Hutchison's defense team surprised State District Judge Mike Lynch by asking that the charges stand so that Hutchison's trial could start as initially scheduled Nov. 29.

Instead of the grand jury charges, Hutchison's attorney Dick

DeGuerin said she could face charges, called an information, issued directly by the district attorney's office.

But Earle called the move a legal trick to make it appear Hutchison wanted a speedy resolution of the case, while her attorneys delayed proceedings with other motions challenging the way the grand jury gathered evidence.

On Tuesday, Lynch rejected Hutchison's proposal.

"The court understands and appreciates the defendant's request for a prompt trial, but this court is without power or authority to act," Lynch said in a one-page order. "A trial court in Texas has no authority to file an information, nor order the prosecuting attorney to file one."

David Beckwith, a spokesman for Hutchison, said Lynch's decision will "further add to the delay Mr. Earle has consistently sought."

Hutchison's attorneys have filed a motion to allow them to make a presentation to the grand jury, Beckwith said.

The Travis County District Attorney's office denied it was trying to delay the case.

David Halpern, spokesman for the office, said Lynch's decision was expected. "We'll continue to present the case to the grand jury that began hearing evidence yesterday," Halpern said.

The newly issued subpoena was for Leslie Rawl of Austin, who was a former administrative assistant to Hutchison when she was state treasurer.

Houston director backs Clinton's Somalia plan

By Lisa Elliott

The Battalion

The former director of the Mosher Institute for International Studies at Texas A&M was back on campus Tuesday night to express his support for Clinton's new plan on the United States' involvement in Somalia in a presentation sponsored by the MSC L.T. Jordan Institute for International Awareness.

Dr. Ronald Hatchett, currently the director of the Center for International Studies at St. Thomas University in Houston, said Clinton made a mistake by trying to force Somalia to conform to American policy.

"Now his policy is right but it ought to have been the policy he stuck with from the start," he said.

He said the dilemma the United States faces is the decision of whether to lose credibility by giving up its efforts in Somalia or preserve our reputation as a world leader and stick with our plans.

Hatchett said the original plan of the United States was to provide food and aid with the help of the United Nations to the starving people of Somalia. The American government went too far when it attempted

See Somalia/Page 3

Bryan Main Street offers entertainment for all

By Geneen Pipher

The Battalion



New businesses on Bryan's Main Street are booming and bringing in thousands of dollars to the community each week.

Tommy Huynh/THE BATTALION

In the 1970s and '80s, Bryan's Main Street area stood virtually lifeless and abandoned, but with the help of the Main Street Project, the historic district that once seemed destined to collapse in ruins is prospering again.

Elizabeth Miller, manager of the Main Street Project, said that since January 1992, many new nightclubs and other businesses have opened in the Main Street area bringing in thousands of dollars each week.

"From January of 1992 to September of 1993, 14 new businesses have opened," she said. "The city has benefited from the \$2.9

million that has been put back into the community by those new businesses."

The Main Street Project is a state recognized program that helps cities restore prosperity to their downtown or main street areas, Miller said.

"The goal of the program is to see that the area is revitalized economically while preserving the historic flavor of the area," she said. "Now that the city is taking the lead in redevelopment, people are really starting to sit up and take notice."

Miller said shopping malls and strip centers lured away potential customers, making the

See Downtown/Page 6

Inside

CAMPUS

•Area officials warn against Halloween pranks **Page 2**

SPORTS

•McElroy and Mitchell excel at collegiate level **Page 7**

OPINION

•Magee: Money can't solve everything **Page 9**

WEATHER

•Wednesday: mostly cloudy with chance of rain, highs in 60s, lows in 40s

•Thursday: partly cloudy, high near 70, lows in 40s

•Weekend forecast: fair, highs in 60s, lows in 40s

Licensing limits professional entries for grads

By Jacqueline Mason

The Battalion

Upon graduation, many Aggies will be barred from entering more than 80 professions until they acquire an occupational license by the state of Texas.

Occupational licensing involves restricting people from entering a profession if they cannot demonstrate basic knowledge in that field through examination.

"The key is whether or not a person is competent to practice that profession," said Billy Rankin, associate dean for Student Affairs and Admission of the Texas A&M Medical School.

Licensing is the best way to assure professionals practice what they learned in school, he said.

But, Political Science Professor Dan Wood said, when professionals such as doctors,

lawyers and engineers use licensing to limit entry into their professions, they create a lack of competition in the market.

"Occupational licensing amounts to monopolization into entry into a profession by government and implicitly by the profession itself," he said.

The effect of this barrier to entry, he said, is higher salaries for professionals and higher prices charged to customers.

The primary defense of occupational licensing is that it preserves public health and safety.

"It's the best mechanism I know of for trying to protect the consumer," Rankin said.

Public safety is not limited to the medical profession.

Jed Sulak, president of the student chapter of the Texas Society of Professional Engineers, said it is necessary for civil engineers, for ex-

ample, to have a license because they deal with the public through the construction of such things as roads and waterlines.

Not all engineers must have a license, but those who do not have one are limited as to what they can do, he said.

Former deputy executive director for the State Board of Registration for Professional Engineers Fred Herber said he would like to see all engineers licensed.

"It would cause them to think higher of their profession," he said.

Most regulated professions award licenses via examination.

Medical students, for instance, take a standard, three-part test called the United States Medical Licensing Examination.

See Licensing/Page 5

Tomorrow in **Aggielife**

Features:
 "Just for Jason"
 Benefit Concert
 A&M's Singing Cadets

Reviews:
 'Star Trek Memories' by William Shatner
 Albums by Trisha Yearwood and Tanya Tucker