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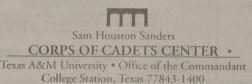
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INTERNATIONAL

Friday • September

Parliament committee question royal family's spending at pal

Family faces scrutiny from press, public

LONDON (AP) — If it's not

This time around, a parliamentary committee wants closer scrutiny of the 20 million pounds — the equivalent of \$31 million — it costs British taxpayers last year to keep five royal palaces going.

Newspapers carried outraged headlines Thursday and splashed sections of the commite report across their pages, including the news that Queen Elizabeth II ran up a phone bill of nearly \$1.2 million last year. "A Right Royal Ripoff" blared

the newspaper Today Angry aides at Buckingham Palace accused newspapers, the bane of the royals' troubled lives, of distorting the report issued by the all-party Committee of Public Accounts.

For starters, said a palace spokesman, only about onefourth of the phone bill was actual talking time. The rest went to pay 11 operators to take calls from the public at the palaces, and for rents for special lines and maintenance. And members of the family and royal household paid back \$31,000 for their said in a BBC inter-

Michael Shersby, a member of the governing Conservative Party, described the report as "straightforward" and simply seeking more "public visibility"

on the way the money is spent. But the committee's leading member from the main opposi-tion Labor Party, Alan Williams, got most of the air time, grumbling about the queen's "pam-pered court" and suggesting it was time she got by with just one palace

The report covered expenditure on Buckingham Palace, Windsor Castle, the queen's weekend retreat west of London; St. James's Palace, where Prince Charles lives; Kensington Palace, where Princess Diana and a clutch of other royals live in separate, lavish apartments; and Clarence House, home of the queen's 94-year-old mother, Elizabeth, the Queen Mother.

The queen also has a Scottish castle, Balmoral, and Sandringham House estate in eastern England. But she maintains those as her personal property.

"We now have a situation where the royal family, which are billionaires and have two palaces of their own require another five palaces at our expense," Williams

the president ha House, you have B Palace ... tell us in ly why all the ext dation is needed." The legislators

half the nearly \$7.8 by throwing oper Palace to visitors ward the restorati damaged Windsor Ca Royal aides accu pers of making it so

queen or her staff rest of the money said was spent on sales of souvenirs publicly accounted for "They are sugges

money has been n ed," said a royals speaking on anonymity in ke palace practice. mplying we hav 600,000 people wh

paid to visit the pal The report said to of the 280 apartment riage houses tied are occupied by n queen's family. Mos are "grace and favor" allocated at low renta old royal retainers

Population conference negotiators try to reach agreement on abortion

CAIRO, Egypt (AP) — With night: "We're very close to getanger growing over the Vatiting finished. ... I expect we will can's hard-line stance on abor tion, negotiators at the U.N. population conference Thursday hammered out what they called a last-chance compromise on the explosive issue

A special committee assigned to write the provision on unsafe mise text Thursday night. The main negotiating committee was expected to consider the new language on Friday.
Even if the compromise suc-

ceeds, the controversy at the conference won't end because negotiators still face other contentious provisions of the meet ing's 20-year action plan.

The main committee is expected to consider sections on reproductive and sexual health on Friday that refer to "fertility regulation" and adolescent sexuality.

To address the concerns of some nations on Thursday, the World Health Organization's definition of unsafe abortion was added to the section on abortion as a health issue. That definition says abortion is unsafe if carried out by unqualified people in inappropriate settings

To show how minutely the wording has been worked over, a new draft of the proposed com-promise changes "legal" abortion to abortion that "is not against the law.

Earlier Thursday, Nicolaas Biegman, vice-chairman of the overall negotiations, said he was confident the special committee on unsafe abortion would "very, very quickly" arrive at a final compromise text.

As far as I am concerned, (this) will be the end of the discussion in the committee because anything which could possibly be accommodated has been accommodated," he said.

Timothy Wirth, the U.S. undersecretary of state for global affairs, told reporters Thursday get through the abortion issue tomorrow morning and it will be downhill from there

The Vatican delegation said it was pondering how to react to the compromise, but suggested it may have a problem with the phrase "safe abortion" because abortion is "unsafe" for

The compromise drafted on Thursday is a revision of the version put forward earlier this week by the European Union and backed by the United States, Nordic nations and several Muslim countries including Iran and Pakistan.

That text places priority on making family planning available to reduce the need for abortions. It says abortion should not be encouraged as a method of family planning and its legali-ty should be left to individual countries. It also says women with unwanted pregnancies must be treated compassionate-

ly, not punitively.
Both Biegman and Dr. Nafis Sadik, the conference secretarygeneral, said they do not expect the Vatican to sign on to the 20year blueprint to slow the world's population boom

"I don't think it will mean anything because they did not sign the 1974 or 1984 programs action," Dr. Sadik said. They debated greatly throughout the discussion but in the end did not join the consensus. Basically, they are against contraceptive technology.

Nabarro told a news conference about 10 countries are "totally opposed" to the paragraph on unsafe abortion and about 10 others have "some real difficul-ties" about the language.

Despite the furious debate, it is up to every country to decide whether to implement recommendations being fashioned at the meeting of 182 delegations.

FBI investigate Napoleon's de

CHICAGO (AP) Napoleon murdered More than 170 years Using a few str hair, the feds are t

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al meeting in Chica The history Napoleon died cancer. Some say murdered the dep emperor; others French royalists di And some histor Napoleon's love

At last year's N Society meeting, standing on the shouting at each death theories, La Napoleon was

land of St. Helena of High near ern Africa in 1 health began to fa he died in 1821 at During his e British feared might make an

back, as he had Mediterranean islan earlier in 1815. French royal wanted to get Napoleon, regardim a threat to Louis hold on the throne. Two books, "M Napoleon" by Dr. Be

and David Hapgo soon-to-be published sin de Napoleon' l professor Rene Ma port homicide, La V If Napoleon's hai

arsenic, it won't indicate foul play Vean, who m Napoleonic studie State University.

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