

dents will be forced to reduce water use by up to 45%. The county is the largest metropolitan contractor of Federal Bureau of Reclamation water in the state. Last year the district got 21% of its water from the federal government. The Santa Clara County water district, at that time, asked for a voluntary 15% water use reduction; it got a 3% cut in use. Officials are worried that with the federal cuts, more strain will be placed on underground water. From the 1920s to the mid-1960s, San Jose sank 13 feet as a result of overdrafting of underground water.

AIDS

South Bronx residents are 'high risk' group

At least 23% of emergency room patients at a South Bronx hospital were found to be infected with AIDS in July 188, according to a Feb. 15 report in the *New York Times*. In a study of 143 patients entering the emergency room at Bronx-Lebanon Medical Center, 33 tested positive for AIDS. This did not include those who were already known to have AIDS. An earlier study of patients in alcohol-detoxification revealed that 27% had AIDS antibodies.

This is the first emergency-room patient test conducted anywhere in the country since a Johns Hopkins study in Baltimore in 1987, where only 5.2% were found positive.

While attempting to minimize the significance of these statistics vis-à-vis the general population, city officials and even the *New York Times* admits precisely what *EIR* has been saying: "The virus is concentrating geographically, targeting and focusing on the poor."

Officials make clear that nothing will be done about it. Because of the confidentiality rules, patients will not even be told of the findings. Instead, the importance of "prevention" campaigns are underlined—school presentations and an information van in the neighborhood!

Federal health officials are now organizing the testing of patients at 40 hospitals across the nation, as part of an effort to determine the extent of spread of the disease. After all, even the Nazis had special ac-

countants keeping track of the number of gas chamber victims at the concentration camps.

Banking

Texas attorney general resists takeovers

The Attorney General of Texas, Jim Mattox, on Feb. 14 requested a conference with Gov. Bill Clements and legislative leaders to discuss placing new restrictions on takeovers of Texas banks by out-of-state banks, according to the Feb. 16 *Dallas Morning News*.

Mattox wrote a letter to state officials saying that Texas must respond to the takeover of so many banks, both for economic reasons and because state constitutional requirements for a "local" banking system.

"Texas will not regain its economic vitality until we restore our local banking system," read the letter.

"Our constitution provides for a local banking system, and we need to determine whether or not our Constitution has been de facto abrogated by the conduct of the FDIC, FSLIC, and out-of-state holding companies."

He called the state's banking crisis "of such great importance that we need a joint effort to formulate a cohesive state policy."

He warned that the federal government "will usurp state authority in this area if we do not formulate a policy and move forward."

According to the newspaper account, the attorney general's office has been asked to take legal action to restrain federal banking regulators and out-of-state companies "from operating in Texas in violation of our state Constitution and statutes," in the words of the letter.

Reggie Bashur, the governor's press secretary, said that Clements shares concerns about the banking community in Texas. . . . "We have had several big out-of-state companies that have come in to operate Texas banks, and in the process they have shifted the assets of those banks out of state," she said.

Briefly

● **UNION CARBIDE** has reached a settlement with the Indian government over the 1985 Bhopal disaster, in which toxic gases leaked from the chemical plant there killed thousands and injured thousands more. The company will pay \$470 million in damages.

● **IBERO-AMERICA** transferred \$29 billion to foreign creditors in 1988. The sum brings the total to \$180 billion transferred abroad in the seven years since the Ibero-American debt crisis exploded in 1982, according to a U.N. agency.

● **MEXICAN** companies will have their individual foreign debts refinanced to the tune of \$200 million from the International Finance Corporation, an affiliate of the World Bank, by the end of 1989.

● **U.S. OIL** imports in January 1989 surged to their highest since 1980 as domestic production fell and consumption rose, according to the American Petroleum Institute. U.S. crude oil output fell to 7.9 million barrels per day, a 3.4% drop over January 1988. Foreign supplies may soon control over 50% of U.S. oil supplies, said AIP.

● **MARTIN MARIETTA** will manufacture 72 additional nighttime navigation and targeting systems for the U.S. Army's Apache attack helicopter, under an \$87.9 million Army contract.

● **U.S. AUTO** sales fell 15% in early February compared to the same period a year ago. Analysts said the drop reflects rising interest rates and decline dealer incentives. Chrysler reported the biggest drop in sales, a 31% decline.

● **TELEPHONE** marketing fraud will be the target of a new group, the Alliance Against Fraud in Telemarketing. It will be made up of 50 trade associations, advocacy groups, corporations, and government agencies.