

No to no elections

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ernment could be concerned over a postponement of the elections, said yes.

She also said Americans believe in term limits.

US officials point out that in the 233-year history of their nation, elections have always pushed through as scheduled, even during times of war. Abraham Lincoln stood for election in the middle of the Civil War.

With the exception of Franklin Delano Roosevelt, who was elected four times, all US presidents have served no more than two terms, US officials also point out.

At the end of Roosevelt's fourth term at the White House, a two-term limit was imposed, which has been strictly followed by all presidents, US officials also said.

Earlier last July 1, Kenney was asked if President Arroyo would get to have a meeting with US President Barack Obama. The US envoy said it was possible, although she clarified last night that no specific meeting was being worked out by the two governments.

"That's a question I always get a lot. She was the first Southeast Asian leader President Obama spoke to after his election. She was the first one he spoke to after his inaugural," Kenney said.

In an interview with dzMM's *Dos Por Dos*, Kenney said Obama is not avoiding Mrs. Arroyo.

"I have to say that I would expect that before the end of the year, the two of them would have a meeting. You know it always happens in the first year of the US president."

"They always meet with the Philippine president. I don't have the date and time but I expect that to happen before the end of the year. It should put a smile on the faces of both Americans and Filipinos because again, regardless of popularity, you want our two presidents to be talking," she said.

The two presidents are likely to meet at the annual leaders' summit of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum. Both may also attend the annual gathering of the United Nations General Assembly in New York.

Asked if Mrs. Arroyo's unpopularity contributed to "little" US interest in the Philippines, Kenney said popularity is not the issue for Washington to deal with Manila.

"You know we, too, are a democracy and we, our president and members of Cabinet, deal

with our counterparts regardless (of whether) or not they are popular. We do it to people who are in various offices because they are important counterparts for us," Kenney said.

She noted that the continuing US interest in the Philippines is seen in Obama's call to President Arroyo, the meeting between US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and Foreign Affairs Secretary Alberto Romulo, and the visit of Gates and his meeting with his counterpart Defense Secretary Gilbert Teodoro.

"A number of the other Cabinet members in the United States have already exchanged letters and calls with their Philippine counterparts. That is the way our governments do business. Popularity is not the issue," Kenney stressed.

The envoy said RP-US relations date back many decades.

"We celebrate Philippine-American Friendship Day on July 4, the only country in the world (where) we do that—have a friendship day with them," she said.

Kenney said a meeting between then President-elect Obama and President Arroyo when she attended the UN meeting in New York in November last year could not have taken place because he was busy organizing his Cabinet at the time.

"Obama might not have had the chance to meet foreign leaders during the UN meeting because of his tight schedule in forming his Cabinet and the necessary preparations for his assumption of office on Jan. 20, 2009," Kenney said.

In June 2008, Mrs. Arroyo also failed to meet Obama during her visit to the US because of his tight campaign schedule.

Kenney said she had informed President Arroyo that the US was not accepting any requests from foreign leaders for meetings with Obama at the time.

Malacañang said the President would try to meet with Obama during the special session of the United Nations General Assembly on Nov. 12-13.

Kenney said there are no major changes expected in the US political structure under the Obama presidency.

She stressed that the new US president was taking office at a difficult time because of tough challenges that could not be solved overnight. ■

Jackson's hospital is known for 'raising the dead'

by MARILYNN MARCHIONE
AP Medical Writer

WHEN Michael Jackson went into cardiac arrest, rescuers took him to a place known for bringing the dead back to life. A world-renowned surgeon at the UCLA Medical Center has pioneered a way to revive people that most doctors would have long written off, including a woman whose heart had stopped for 2 1/2 hours.

Tested on a few dozen cardiac arrest patients, 80 percent survived. Usually, more than 80 percent perish.

"They took people who were basically dead, not all that different than Michael Jackson, and saved most of them," said Dr. Lance Becker, an emergency medicine specialist at the University of Pennsylvania and an American Heart Association spokesman.

Could Jackson, too, have been saved? It's impossible to know. Doctors at the hospital worked on him for an hour. The UCLA expert, cardiothoracic surgeon Dr. Gerald Buckberg, said he was not personally involved in Jackson's treatment, and that too little is known about what preceded it.

"We have no idea when he died versus when he was found," Buckberg said in a telephone interview.

However, the results in other patients show that "the window is wide open to new thinking" about how long people can be successfully resuscitated after their hearts quit beating, Buckberg said. "We can salvage them way beyond the current time frames that are used. We've changed the concept of when the heart is dead permanently."

They call it "the Lazarus syndrome" for the man the Bible says Jesus raised from the dead.

Let's be clear: No one is saying that people long dead without medical attention can be revived. The lucky ones in Buckberg's study received quick help, and the reason they suffered cardiac arrest was known and could be fixed: blocked arteries causing a heart attack, in most cases.

Buckberg's method requires: Prompt CPR—rhythmic chest compressions—to maintain blood pressure until the patient gets to a hospital.

Use of a heart-lung machine to keep blood and oxygen moving through the body while doctors remedy what caused the heart to quiver or stop in the first place, such as a drug overdose or a clogged artery.

Special procedures and medicines to gradually restore blood and oxygen flow, so a sudden gush does not cause fresh damage.

Without all three elements, patients might suffer brain damage if they survive at all.

"You can save the heart and lose the brain," Buckberg explained.

UCLA and hospitals in Birmingham, Ala.; Ann Arbor, Mich.; and in

Germany tested Buckberg's method on 34 patients who had been in cardiac arrest for an average of 72 minutes. All had failed resuscitation methods with standard CPR and defibrillation to try to shock their hearts back to beating.

Only seven died. Only two survivors were left with permanent neurological damage. Results were published in 2006 in the journal *Resuscitation*.

Dr. Constantine Athanasuleas (pronounced uh-than-uh-SOO'-lee-us), a surgeon at the University of Alabama at Birmingham, treated one man in the study who had been in cardiac arrest for about an hour and a half. The man's wife, a nurse, did CPR until a helicopter brought him to the hospital.

"He was flatlined," with a heart "as still as your dining room table," Athanasuleas said.

Doctors put him on a heart-lung machine, whisked him to the catheterization lab to see if he had artery blockages, then did bypass surgery to detour around them.

"The guy went home and was neurologically perfect" at least two years later, the doctor said.

Buckberg treated a woman who had been in cardiac arrest for 2 1/2 hours.

He would not send her to the operating room until her CPR and blood pressure could be maintained so further treatment could be attempted, he said.

Sadly, the woman survived all this but died several weeks later from an infection.

Buckberg has taken his work further in experiments with pigs in cardiac arrest. He deliberately deprived their brains of blood flow for half an hour, then used his resuscitation techniques to bring them back, with normal or near-normal function. Results presented at a heart association conference last fall stunned many, including Dr. Myron Weisfeldt, a cardiologist and chairman of medicine at Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine.

"He's doing extraordinary things. You almost don't believe the results that he got," Weisfeldt said of Buckberg. "Most of us carry around in our head that if somebody's brain is deprived of blood flow for 10 to 15 minutes that we're just not going to get them back to any useful function. His data suggest it's possible."

Doctors in Japan, Taiwan and elsewhere in Asia have tried approaches similar to Buckberg's with excellent results, said Becker, who is about to try it in Philadelphia.

"It takes training. It takes rethinking" to get doctors to adopt something this new, and funding for bigger studies to prove it works, Buckberg said. ■

States without budgets as key deadline passes

by JUDY LIN
AP Writer

SACRAMENTO—The finances of several states around the nation are sinking deeper into chaos as lawmakers struggle to work out budget differences amid a recession that has wiped out tax revenue and set the stage for dramatic cuts in service and pay for government workers.

The start of the new fiscal year arrived Wednesday with states from California to Connecticut still without spending plans in place.

Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger declared a fiscal emergency and ordered state offices closed three days a month to save money as

state officials plan to pay bills with IOUs starting Thursday, July 2.

Deep budget cuts have already forced California school districts to cancel summer school programs, moves that have affected—among others—elementary and middle school students in Los Angeles, which has the country's second largest district.

School officials in North Carolina, Oregon, Florida and other states have also cut or limited summer classes.

Cutbacks to other programs—and possibly government-wide shutdowns—loomed with cash quickly running out.

But the pain extends far beyond the West Coast. The governor of Pennsylvania is proposing a 16 percent tax increase. A budget veto by the Illinois governor left the state with no spending plan at all. Indiana barely avoided a shutdown.

In most states, the debate centers on whether states should be raising taxes to bridge the budget gaps. Schwarzenegger said he wouldn't sign anything that raised taxes or fees beyond what he has already proposed.

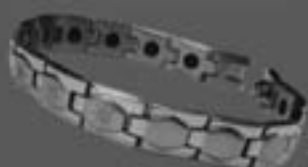
"I'm proud of California, even though we have our crisis," the governor said. "No one can point

fingers, because as you can see, there are 30 states right now that have their fiscal year starting today that also don't have a budget, so I mean let's not get carried away and just look at California as we are the only state that cannot manage the budget."

The recession has taken a devastating toll on tax revenues and state finances. States had a cumulative \$121 billion budget gap in crafting this year's budgets—and the gap would be even bigger without federal stimulus money, said Todd Haggerty, a research analyst at the National Conference of State Legislatures. ■



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