

# Bandits hit Dallas police

DALLAS (AP) — Ski-masked bandits who robbed the police property room here of several thousand dollars also may have endangered the prosecution of some criminal cases, an assistant district attorney said Tuesday.

"There is the possibility that some cases might be affected and the recovery of that money could be vital, especially in certain cases where it was the evidence," said Lem Brotherton.

The property room's records were under audit Tuesday to determine how much cash was taken by the two ski-masked, western-clad bandits who robbed the room's vault after a pseudo-cop dispatched one of two night attendants on a phony call Monday night.

The loss reportedly was more than \$21,000.

Capt. Jack Davis of the Crimes Against Persons Division said officials are investigating the robbery "as if it could be an inside deal, as well as all other angles. This is just one of the possibilities."

Several persons already have taken polygraph tests, Davis said, but he declined to identify them.

Brotherton and police attorney Rae Fichtner said the most endangered cases involve narcotics in which the money had been used by officers to purchase drugs during undercover investigations.

Brotherton said prosecutors are awaiting a police report indicating

the amount of money and its value as evidence in pending criminal cases.

The robbery occurred about 7:15 p.m. Monday when a woman identifying herself as an officer told a supervisor she needed a property van to pick up a stereo and components she had confiscated in a case on which she was working.

Shortly after the supervisor left, police officials said, two men wearing ski masks, cowboy hats, jeans, boots and tan jackets burst through an unlocked rear door with guns

drawn. Charles Levy, the only attendant left in the property room, said the two men threatened to kill him and ordered him to direct them to a vault where police kept the cash.

Unlocking a padlock on the closet door in which the vault was contained, Levy said he led the men into an unlocked vault. The men grabbed a cardboard box and filled it with envelopes containing money, Levy said.

The men left after locking him in the closet, Levy said.

# Tower speaks up

## Rationing hurts

There's a great deal to say about gasoline rationing and none of it is good, said Senator John Tower of Texas in a recent press release.

Tower credits the consideration of a gas rationing system in America to liberal members of Congress who are "unwilling to support the President's energy program and are unable to come up with one of their own."

A rationing system that could cut foreign oil consumption by one million barrels per day would also reduce the gross national product by

nearly \$13 billion and would put several hundred thousand Americans on the unemployment rolls, Tower said.

"Almost every conceivable rationing scheme would hurt the poor more than the well-to-do," Tower said.

With all the disadvantage of rationing, which would cost the federal government \$2 billion to administer, total petroleum consumption would be reduced only 40 per cent, Tower said.

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## Researchers eliminate oil guesswork

A research team at A&M has good news for petroleum consumers.

The team, headed by Dr. Kenneth Hall, has found a way to measure petroleum products that eliminates an error of tens of millions of dollars yearly.

Inaccuracy in measuring the products for sale is directly related to the energy crisis. The uncertainty is passed to the consumer as increased retail prices.

"Exact knowledge of the densities is important because this is one of the ways of measuring the products for sale," said Dr. Hall.

The process developed by Dr. Hall's team allows them to accurately predict the densities of several petroleum distillates.

"Hydrocarbons, or rather fossil fuels, are so valuable to us as chemical building blocks it is literally insane to waste them the way we do," he concluded.

## EPA claims nuclear plant disturbs gators

HOUSTON (AP) — The Environmental Protection Agency says the proposed site for a nuclear power plant near Bay City poses a threat to alligators.

The EPA suggests further study be given to alternate sites for the plant Houston Power & Light Co., Central Power & Light Co., and the cities of San Antonio and Austin propose to build on the west bank of the Colorado River 15 miles southwest of Bay City.

"We have serious environmental reservations about the acceptability of the chosen site," the EPA report states.

The EPA views were outlined in comments made on an environmental draft prepared by the Atomic Energy Commission. The AEC concluded the benefits of the plant would outweigh numerous adverse environmental impacts.

The EPA said the 12,352-acre project would remove about 27 per cent of the Little Robins Slough watershed and cause a reduced desirability of the habitat as a nursery for organisms.

"Destruction of this habitat will result in diminished animal and plant populations and a shift in biota to a brackish water community, thus affecting animals such as the American alligator, an endangered species," the EPA said.

"Numerous wading birds, waterfowl and other wetland inhabitants will be adversely affected."

The EPA said about seven miles of the slough, described as a "sluggish creek," run through the planned site.

"The proposed project will result in a significant impact upon Little Robins Slough and tidal marshlands within the site boundary," the EPA said.

The EPA said the AEC draft statement included only brief discussion of features of several alternative sites.

"Although we believe location at an alternative site may well prove necessary for this plant, it is important that the final environmental statement address mitigative measures that could be adopted if the plant were to be sited as proposed," the EPA said.

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