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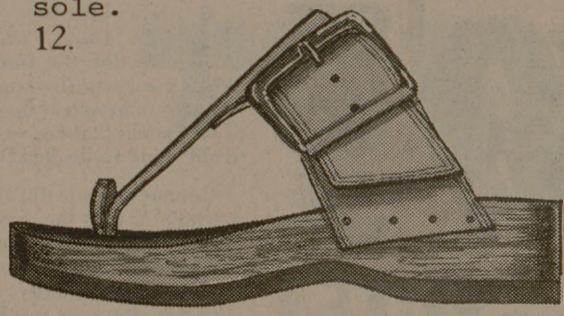
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# Senators approve utility regulation

AUSTIN (AP) — Senators voted Monday to set up Texas' first state agency to regulate the utility business. There were no promises, however, that it would mean lower rates.

House members tentatively agreed, 66-61, to outlaw the sale of "Saturday night specials" — cheap, poorly made handguns that some blame for the increase in violent crimes.

The utility bill was sent to the House on a voice vote, and the sponsor, Sen. W. T. Moore, D-Bryan, predicted a House-

Senate conference committee would write the final version.

Moore admitted that he opposes the state regulation of utilities, which raises questions about the worth of the bill.

But Sen. Ron Clower, D-Garland, who favored a stronger measure, said Moore's proposal was "good for consumers, good for the companies and good for the state of Texas."

It creates a three-member commission appointed by the governor to regulate intrastate telephone rates and service and also electric, water and sewer utilities in unin-

corporated areas.

City councils would retain jurisdiction over electric, water and sewer rates and service within the city, but they could turn that job over to the state commission after two years.

The councils would keep control of natural gas rates within the city, and the Railroad Commission would continue to regulate natural or synthetic natural gas outside the city limits.

Senators rejected, 19-11, an amendment to extend the commission's authority to natural gas.

The bill requires public hearings before rate increases could go into effect, and commission staffers would be available free-of-charge to the councils for consultation on proposed rate increases.

In addition, the Senate voted to require the utility companies to pay the cost of hiring experts for the city during rate negotiations.

Senators defeated, 17-12, however, a Clower amendment to base rates on the original cost of company facilities rather than what the companies consider a fair replacement value. The bill establishes a "fair value rate base" that will not be weighted less than 40 per cent or more than 60 per cent to either original cost or replacement cost.

They also rejected, 21-8, Clower's amendment to make the commission a three-member elective body "to alleviate the fears that appointed commissioners will be dominated by the industry."

Sen. Oscar Mauzy's proposal to create a nine-member commission elected from single-member districts failed, 21-9.

The Senate adopted amendments to make it a third-degree felony for a commissioner to have a business interest in a utility and to prohibit a utility from including lobbying expenses in calculating rate proposals.

House members looked over a table full of handguns before voting on Houston Rep. Ben Reyes' bill to outlaw the sale of any handgun that would melt at temperatures below 1,000 degrees Fahrenheit. He said this would eliminate the "junk" guns made mostly of die cast zinc alloys.

Before the vote, Rep. Bill Heatly, D-Paducah, who was acting as speaker, made certain that the sergeant-at-arms checked the weapons furnished by Reyes to be sure they were not loaded.

## Jaskilka to give 130 commissions

Marine Corps Lt. Gen. Samuel Jaskilka will be leading commissioning Saturday of 130 cadets.

Held in conjunction with spring commencement, the ceremony is planned for 1:30 p.m. in G. Rollie White Coliseum.

Gen. Jaskilka, deputy chief of staff for manpower at USMC headquarters in Washington, will present commissions to 70 Air Force, 47 Army and nine Marine second lieutenants and four Navy ensigns.

The three-star officer will address the newly-commissioned officers, Corps of Cadets and visitors. Gen. Jaskilka also will take Corps salutes at Final Review. The latter starts at 3:30 p.m., on the Memorial Student Center drill field.

A 32-year military veteran, the flag officer was commissioned in the Marine Corps after graduation from the University of Connecticut in 1942.

Gen. Jaskilka commanded the Second Marine Division before assignment in Washington in January, 1974. Much decorated, he wears the Distinguished Service Medal for Vietnam service with the First Marine Division, as Task Force Yankee commander and with the Military Assistance Command.

A close acquaintance here is retired USMC Lt. Gen. Ormond R. Simpson, assistant vice president for student services. Before his retirement, Gen. Simpson was deputy chief of staff for manpower.

The distinguished military guest served aboard the USS Princeton during World War II. He participated in the Tarawa Island raid and the Gilbert and Marshall Islands operations. He was on Palau, Yap, Ulithi and Wolei raids and the Marianas, Western Carolina and Leyte operations.

Combat heroism in Korea earned Gen. Jaskilka, then a captain, two silver Star Medals and the Bronze Star with combat "V". The former Ansonia, Conn., resident also wears the Legion of Merit for service at Marine Corps headquarters.

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**FINALS - MONDAY, TUESDAY, THURSDAY, FRIDAY MAY 12, 13, 15, 16 2-5 P.M.**

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