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IN UNIVERSITY SQUARE

Save energy — be a beer guzzler

By DICK WEST
United Press International
WASHINGTON — One of the most controversial parts of President Carter's energy program is the proposed tax on big "gas guzzling" automobiles.
Some critics are taking the line that it is unfair to single out motorists for tax penalties. They point out that many other types of consumers also have choices between high energy and low energy products.
Barflies, for example.
According to the Center for Science in the Public Interest, it takes nearly three times more energy to

produce distilled spirits than it does to turn out brewery products.
Thus it can be argued that Carter's energy program should have included a tax break for beer guzzlers.
Among the advocates of that form of energy saving incentive is Herrmann Tubbutt, executive director of the National Six Pack Association.
"The federal tax on liquor is \$10.50 a gallon; on beer, it is \$7 or \$9 a barrel, depending on the quantity," Tubbutt noted.
"We are recommending a five cent increase in the liquor tax with additional annual boosts to as much as 57 cents if there is no cutback in

cocktail consumption. Meanwhile, the beer tax would be lowered to 57 cents."
"We believe this stick-carrot tax approach will cause many barflies to

The lighter side

switch from high energy highballs to low energy foaming beverages.
I said, "Maybe so, but American barflies traditionally have favored large double bourbons or spotty, souped-up martinis. It's going to be

pretty traumatic for them to switch to short beers."
Tubbutt replied by calling attention to the popularity of small beers in Europe. He said he was sure they would catch on in this country once American barflies realized how economical they were.
I reminded him there were many cultural and geographical differences between the United States and Europe.
"European countries are relatively compact and distance is less of a problem," I pointed out. "When a European barfly orders 'one for the road,' a short beer is appropriate because he doesn't have far to go.

"Then there is the matter of status. While imported beer certainly snob appeal in America, guzzling on the whole is one of the most prestigious forms of inhibition."
"One of the glories of democracy is that the average American barfly can afford to order large luxury drinks."
"That is true," Tubbutt retorted, "but Carter needs a symbol to convince people the energy program is real and earnest and that it must be made in the interests of conservation."
"Unless barflies are willing to give up energy now by guzzling beer, may some day be forced to give up wine."

Tass directs latest criticism at Carter

United Press International
MOSCOW — The Soviet Union has ended its policy of avoiding personal attack on President Carter with a sharp newspaper blast charging him with making false election promises to black voters.
The Soviets have been critical of

U.S. policy in many areas, particularly on the arms limitation talks, but carefully have avoided lashing out at Carter by name since his inauguration three months ago.
But the official Communist Party newspaper Pravda charged yesterday Carter has failed to keep his promises to stimulate the U.S. economy and eliminate unemployment, which counted heavily toward Carter's winning of the black vote.
"Having secured — thanks to his demagogic promises — 90 per cent of the Negro votes and won the presidency, J. Carter has geared his eco-

nomical strategy to meeting the interests of the biggest monopolies which are well-represented in his administration," it said.
Senior news analyst Georgi Ratiiani said Carter has sharply increased arms spending this year "which brings nothing good to the poor people and national minorities — but means big gains for the biggest trusts of the military-industrial complex."
In Washington, White House Press Secretary Jody Powell Thursday dismissed the Soviet charges, saying Carter welcomes the expres-

sion of opinions "no matter how misinformed or ridiculous they might be."
"We have long maintained that the government of the Soviet Union has the perfect right to say what it pleases," Powell said.
Pravda also faulted Carter for not checking the inflation rate.
"The President did not dare to infringe on the interests of big companies and check the price rise," it said. "On the contrary, having taken office he gave big multinational cor-

porations a chance to make greater profits."
The newspaper charged that the way things are now in the economy, the U.S.A. would be self among the weak countries for its great share in the capitalist economy.
It said Washington was putting pressure on Japan and West Germany to stimulate their economies to help the United States in international economic affairs.

Energy plan could force high taxes to avoid loss

United Press International
AUSTIN — President Carter's energy plan almost certainly will cost most Americans some money, but Texas leaders are even more concerned about how much it will cost the state.
Speaker Bill Clayton and Rep. Joe Wyatt, D-Victoria, chairman of the Ways and Means Committee, said yesterday the proposals would reduce tax revenue in the future, which could force the legislature to raise taxes to avoid deficits.
Wyatt said he was considering legislation to raise the minimum severance tax on natural gas in an effort to assure the state of some additional tax revenue before the federal energy taxes were enacted.
"Once we reach the ceiling price on natural gas, there will be no expansion in that tax base," he said. "If we continue to increase spending and we can't increase our tax base, then we have to drastically reduce our spending or raise our taxes."
"I'm afraid that the President has probably capped our ability to in-

crease our tax base on natural gas that happens, we're in serious trouble."
Clayton said Carter's proposals to regulate intrastate prices of natural gas would be disastrous to Texas, other gas producing states.
"It could change the outline of the projected income to the treasury," he said. "In fact, it would place Texas in the position of having to face a tax bill."
Wyatt said the only immediate benefit to Texas would come from Carter's proposed excise tax on cars prompted Texans to buy cars before the tax went into effect.
But he said the long range effect was not good.
"This is an early prediction of our revenue will very definitely drop in the next biennium if Congress enacts the energy plan," Wyatt said.
In addition to a potential loss in state taxes, Texans also will bear the biggest portion of the tax burden included in Carter's state officials said.

Recent Starr County raids disrupt narcotics smuggling

United Press International
McALLEN — The head of a task force trying to stop drug smuggling across the United States-Mexico border says the recent raids and arrests of 44 persons has seriously hampered narcotics traffic into Texas.
Drug Enforcement Administration official Don Smith said yesterday agents still were looking for 18 of 62 suspected narcotics gang leaders. He said they were being sought in both the U.S. and Mexico as part of the "Operation Wishbone" crackdown.
"In all candor, we're going to continue the pressure. We're not going to back off. We've got some more to do and some more people we hopefully will be able to arrest in the fu-

ture before we're satisfied. We consider this a major battle in a war. We've got to start somewhere. We started it this way and we're going to continue."
Smith said Peter Bensing, regional administrator of the DEA, allocated additional manpower to the border crackdown. The operation was carried out in cooperation with a \$1 million Department of Public Safety force and a team of 20 members of the Mexican Federal Judicial Police across the river.
The suspects — about half of them from Starr County — were charged with conspiracy in sealed indictments returned by the federal grand jury in Brownsville, Tex.

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