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Save energy — be a beer guzzler

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 cent increase in the liquor tax with 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 Tubbgutt, executive director of the National Six Pack As-

"The federal tax on liquor is \$10.50 a gallon; on beer, it is \$7 or \$9 a barrel, depending on the quan-Tubbgutt noted.

"We are recommending a five 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

#### 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

cents.

"We believe this stick-carrot tax approach will cause many barflies to in Europe. He said he was sure they would catch on in this country once would catch on in this country once Tubbgutt replied by calling attennomical 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.

certain snob appeal in America guzzling on the whole is of

prestigious form of inhibition "One of the glories of demo that the average American

afford to order large luxury
"That is true," Tubbgut ted, "but Carter needs a sy convince people the energys is real and earnest and that s must be made in the interes

"Unless barflies are willin energy now by guzzling bee

# Tass directs latest criticism at C

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.

THROUGH

The Soviets have been critical of

larly on the arms limitation talks, but carefully have avoided lashing out at Carter by name since his inaugura-

tion 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 unemploy-ment, which counted heavily toward Carter's winning of the black vote.

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are well-represented in his adminis- be. tration," it said.

Senior news analyst Georgi Ra-tiani 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 militaryindustrial complex.

In Washington, White House Press Secretary Jody Powell Thurs-day dismissed the Soviet charges, of the Negro votes and won the presidency, J. Carter has geared his ecosaying Carter welcomes the expres-

nomic strategy to meeting the interests of the biggest monopolies which

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-

greater profits.

The newspaper chargedt the way things are now in economy, the U.S.A. would self among the weak count for its great share in the

capitalist economy. It said Washington was pressure on Japan and We many to stimulate their econo help the United States in i tional 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 gas would be disastrous to Te the state.

Speaker Bill Clayton and Rep. Joe Wyatt, D-Victoria, chairman of the Ways and Means Committee, said yesterday the proposals would reyesterday the proposals would re-duce tax revenue in the future, having to face a tax bill." 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 in the next biennium if Co we continue to increase spending enacts the energy plan," W and we can't increase our tax base, then we have to drastically reduce

crease our tax base on natu that happens, we're in seriou

Clayton said Carter's prop regulate intrastate prices of other gas producing states. "It could change the out

Wyatt said the only im benefit to Texas would come ter's proposed excise tax on

cars prompted Texans to buyt cars before the tax went into But he said the long range was not good.

In addition to a potential

in state taxes, Texans also wi our spending or raise our taxes.

"I'm afraid that the President has probably capped our ability to instance taxes, Texans also will der the biggest portion of the tax burden included in Carter state officials said.

### Recent Starr County raid disrupt narcotics smuggli

McALLEN — The head of a task force trying to stop drug smuggling across the United States-Mexico border says the recent raids and ar- going to continue. rests of 44 persons has seriously hampered narcotics traffic into

Drug Enforcement Administra-tion 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 Mexican Federal Judici "Operation Wishbone" crackdown.

"In all candor, we're going to tinue the pressure. We're not going to back off. We've got some more to back off. fully will be able to arrest in the fu- jury in Brownsville, Tex.

sider this a major battle in a We've got to start somew we started it this way and

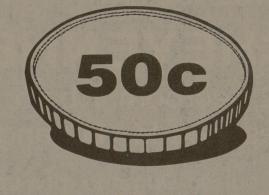
Smith said Peter Bensi tional administrator of the DI allocated additional manpo the border crackdown. The tion was being carried out in ation with a \$1 million Department of Public Safe force and a team of 20 me

The suspects — about half

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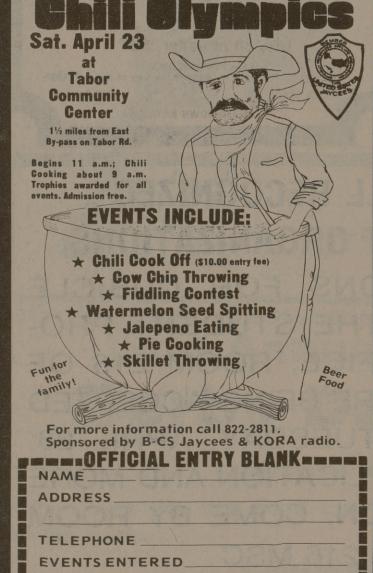
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