'S Computer thieves average \$500,000

WEST LAFAYETTE, Ind.

erage of a half million dollars per me but there is no major effort to ighten security on the electronic andits, according to a husband-wife research team.

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Peter and Dorothy Denny of Pure University's Department of mputer Science are looking for ways to make computer security more reliable and less costly. So far, here has been no breakthroughs while sophisticated criminals coninue to tap into computer systems for cash, supplies and secret infor-

"Most systems were not designed ith security in mind," Mrs. Denny said. "And safeguards can't be acked on later. The system must be signed in.

The Dennys wants to strengthen e so-called weak links in current puter systems. Solutions may The Dennys say their goal is to ad a security system that is afford-

able and dependable. The Dennys say the potential take will rise as thieves learn to manipulate computers and as computers become more and more prev-

Most computers "can't distinguish friend from foe," Denny said. Computers blindly obey anyone who knows how to command them.

Computers are generally activated by code or card. But Dennys say a code or password is easy to steal and a card can be duplicated. More sophisticated systems us fingerprints or voices for identifica tion. The Japanese have developed a "kiss" command that responds to

But even persons with legitimate access to computers can obtain un-authorized, private information. In addition to obtaining cash through manipulation of financia

accounts handled by computers crooks also can use illegally obtained information for blackmail Crooks also have used computers t order shipments.

Privileged medical information can be used to identify people with alcohol or mental problems. Financial information could help a third determine the mostly likely victim who could afford to pay blackmailer.

Future generations of computer crooks "will make Al Capone look like a cheap pickpocket," Denny said. "Their take will be millions per

Transportation conference to study regulation controls

Proposed interstate controls of atural gas are bothering some Texns, but the problem of regulation is s old as transportation itself, says Charles J. Keese, transportation researcher at Texas A&M University. Keese, the MacDonald Professor of Transportation at Texas Transporion Institute, will discuss critical asportation issues here May 12 ring TTI's 18th Transportation

"Because of the critical need for natural gas this last winter, the pubeming the cause-and-effect rela-onship of government regulation of iterstate prices," Keese said.

During a period of steady econic growth, tariffs can be adjusted rough long governmental reguons without costs and rates getng too far apart, he said.

But during periods of inflationary spiral, he said, the lengthy processes of governmental regulation may not permit prices to adjust with appropriate free-market speed. Those who can may wish to operate their own transportation system and transport goods themselves.

"More efficient, less time-consuming tariff regulation would not completely resolve regulation ishe added.

The issue of "Regulatory Control of Transportation" will be discussed at the conference, and Texas energy experts are expected to attend. Jon Newton, member of the Texas Railroad Commission, will discuss problems related to regulation with the subject "Local, State and Federal Roles in Transportation" under the general issue of "Intergovernmental Responsibility for Transportation.

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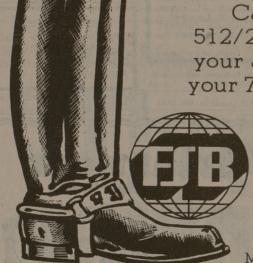
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