

Gas town told gas not available

United Press International
DENVER CITY — This tiny West Texas city is one of several boomtowns which has been reborn since one of the richest oil and gas fields in the world was discovered below its surface. But residents face a winter without fuel to heat their homes because the federal government says there is just not enough natural gas for them.

Telling the people of Winkler County that they can't have gas because it's not available is like telling people along the Mississippi River in flood stage that they can't have any water," said Winkler County Judge E.C. Locklear.

The city, along with 17 other Texas and New Mexico towns, is under a federal curtailment plan imposed July 1 on El Paso Natural Gas Co., an interstate pipeline company regulated by the Federal Power Commission.

The city council last week asked the FPC for emergency relief from the curtailment order which was designed to conserve scarce gas supplies.

"We've got folks who want to fight about this," said Ralph Townes, the city's municipal secretary. "They work in the oil patch and they know it's all a

Krueger argues deregulation means cheaper energy costs

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AUSTIN — Deregulated natural gas would cost more than it now does, but it still would be the cheapest source of energy for the United States, according to Rep. Robert Krueger, D-Tex.

Krueger, a leading proponent of deregulation of oil and gas, Saturday debated James F. Flug, director of Energy Action Education Foundation which recently helped defeat deregulation proposals in Congress. The debate was conducted at a meeting of the Texas Consumer Association.

"Natural gas today at deregulated prices is cheaper than any other source of energy for this country," the second-term congressman said. "The other source is expensive foreign oil."

Krueger said current federal regulations unfairly force Texans to pay higher prices for natural gas than other states pay for Texas gas. He likened the situation to "colonialism" of the state's natural resources.

"We need to recognize that in Texas a vast amount of industry that came to the state came because of available energy supplies," Krueger said. "With price controls comes federal allocation authority."

The federal government will divert natural gas from Texas industry during harsh winters to help northern and eastern states, he said, which will cost the state jobs and revenue.

Alternatives to importing more foreign oil would be energy stamps,

direct federal energy subsidies or tax incentives to the oil industry, Krueger said.

Flug contended that deregulation is a "fraud" because natural gas prices will be regulated by someone — either the government through the Federal Power Commission or the oil companies.

"There's nothing new about this fight — it's been going on since the '40s and '50s," Flug said. "It's been proven time and time again that all we would get is higher energy prices and no more energy."

If Congress did approve a deregulation plan, the "oil companies wouldn't know what to do with all their profits," Flug said.

"Chances are, they would make so much money it would exceed their capacity to hide the profits," he said. "It would be so obvious that they had so much money they didn't know what to do with, they would have a real fear that they faced the breaking up of the oil companies, divestiture, or even nationalization."

Flug said the oil companies now are making so much profit they are investing in department stores, insurance companies and real estate.

Davis defense attempts to discredit Mrs. Davis

United Press International
AMARILLO — For five days the flashy blonde socialite sat in the witness stand, alternately tearful and tense as attorneys grilled her about her drug habit, her love life, her hazy memory.

She admitted she had taken up to 200 tablets a week of the pain-killing drug Percodan and probably was addicted.

She acknowledged that shortly before she filed for divorce from her husband she began a relationship with a boyfriend, and then later had a lover to move in with her.

She conceded her memory was poor concerning some of the events of the night her lover and daughter were shot to death in a sensational society murder in Fort Worth.

At week's end it almost appeared as though Priscilla Davis, rather than her estranged husband, T. Culbert Davis, was on trial.

She is the state's star witness in the murder trial of her millionaire husband — accused of shooting to death Mrs. Davis' daughter by a Marjorie Wilborn, 12-year-old stepdaughter. Davis also faces charges of murdering Mrs. Davis' lover, Stan Farr, and wounding both Mrs. Davis and a family friend.

Testimony enters its second week today.

Mrs. Davis — wearing a stylish assortment of frocks, gaucho pants and sweaters to the witness stand — has told the story of how she and Stan Farr returned to the mansion that night and Davis stepped from the shadows, shooting her in the chest.

She has told the jury he then killed her.

Because of her key testimony, defense attorney Richard "Racehorse" Haynes spent five days last week attempting to punch holes in her testimony.

Haynes led Mrs. Davis through a recounting of her 200-pill a week Percodan habit, and she admitted she probably was addicted at one time. He pressed her about her alleged use of cocaine and other drugs, but Judge George Dowlen finally limited further discussion of the subject.

He attempted to introduce evidence that W.T. Rufner, one of

Mrs. Davis' former boyfriends, had a violent temper and once threw a potted plant at her while she was bathing.

Rufner was the same man pictured in a poster-sized photo standing almost nude next to a scantily clad Mrs. Davis. Haynes had tried to introduce the photo as evidence a day earlier.

Dowlen ruled both the photo and the account of Mrs. Davis' love life with Rufner as inadmissible. Discussions about both were held while the jury was out of the courtroom.

During earlier testimony Saturday, Mrs. Davis said she was taking 50 tablets of the pain-killing drug Percodan every eight to 10 days in the months prior to the killings.

Haynes also produced documents showing she was buying up to 250 tablets of the drug each month during that period.

Asked if she had taken any Percodan the night of the shooting, she said, "I don't remember particularly taking any. I took a couple of Excedrin. I may have taken one. I don't recall."

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