

# House leaders rate Carter

**United Press International**  
SAN ANTONIO — House major-  
leader Jim Wright, D-Tex., gave  
President Carter and Congress pass-  
ing grades for Carter's first six  
months in office, but minority  
leader John Rhodes, R-Ariz., had a  
much lower assessment of Carter's  
performance.  
Wright told the Southern Govern-  
ors' Conference Monday that Car-  
ter's first six months "deserve a  
plus," while scoring congressional  
performance "at about a B-minus."  
Rhodes countered that "on a scale of  
1 to 10, I'd give the Congress a 3  
and the administration a 2."  
Wright and Rhodes agreed on lit-  
tle about Carter's first six months in  
office, but both said the President is  
held in much higher public esteem  
than Congress.  
Rhodes said Carter's administra-  
tion threatened the nation's  
economy, and he also criticized Car-  
ter's handling of foreign affairs.  
Rhodes said the Democratic  
White House and Congress have  
taken a "slap-dash approach" to

energy problems, ignoring past Re-  
publican experience, and that there  
has been "a nosedive of 141 points  
since January by the stock market"  
under Carter.  
"In sum, the stock market seems  
to be saying that Carter and Con-  
gress may be dangerous to the na-  
tion's economic health," he said.  
Rhodes also said it is inconsistent  
for Carter to talk of human rights in  
communist nations while seeking to  
improve relations with Cuba.  
"The Carter foreign policy has re-  
flected more publicity than pro-  
gress, more show than substance,  
and has lessened our influence in  
world affairs," said Rhodes. "We  
could pay a heavy economic price in  
the future for the inexperience and  
naivete of this administration's  
foreign policy."  
Wright said Carter has kept many  
deliberately low-key campaign  
promises.  
"I think one key to the Presi-  
dent's program is that he has not  
promised the impossible," said  
Wright. "He hasn't sought to

achieve any but achievable goals."  
Wright said the gross national  
product is up under Carter, em-  
ployment has risen by two million,  
new construction is up 18 percent  
and unemployment has been cut by  
1 percent. He said continued em-  
ployment gains are the key to keep-  
ing Carter's promises of balancing  
the budget in his first term and bring-  
ing inflation down to 4 percent  
annually.

"Every time you let unemploy-  
ment rise by 1 percentage point, it  
automatically adds \$16-billion or

\$17-billion to the national debt,"  
said Wright. He said lost taxes ac-  
count for about \$12 billion of the  
loss, with another \$5 billion added  
in welfare benefits.

"When you come down to the  
bottom line, you must realize, I  
think, that the key to a balanced  
budget must be an ongoing, produc-  
tive economy that is employing  
American citizens," he said. "If un-  
employment were at a normal,  
healthy level of about 4.5 percent —  
if we accept that criteria — we'd be  
operating at a slight surplus, rather  
than a deficit."

## Liberty Bell back 'home'

Texas' replica of the Liberty Bell will be returned to its traditional  
resting spot in the Academic Building within the next two weeks, said  
Texas A&M University officials.  
The bell, a copy of the one that pealed American independence,  
will be suspended in the building's rotunda. Its previous location was  
a special platform on the rotunda floor.  
The bell was returned to Texas A&M in January and was stored  
after being on display in the state capitol at Austin as part of the  
country's bicentennial observance.  
In 1950, 50 such bells were cast for presentation to each state,  
Puerto Rico and District of Columbia. Gov. Allan Shivers presented  
the bell to Texas A&M on behalf of the Treasury Department in  
honor of the school's military contributions.

# Governors ask gas deregulation

**United Press International**  
SAN ANTONIO — Leaders from  
President Carter's native south yes-  
terday overwhelmingly approved a  
resolution in favor of deregulation of  
natural gas prices and called on Car-  
ter to arrange a series of televised  
national debates "before adopting a  
federal energy policy."  
The governors voted 10-2 for the  
deregulation resolution by host  
Gov. Dolph Briscoe, with Govern-  
ors James B. Hunt of North  
Carolina and Jay Rockefeller of  
West Virginia dissenting. Rockefeller  
had no comment, but Hunt  
warned deregulation "could be a  
disastrous mistake," leading to more  
inflation and a new recession.  
Gov. Edwin Edwards of oil-

producing Louisiana surprised the  
governors with an amendment to  
the energy policy "asking the Presi-  
dent of the United States and Con-  
gress to withhold final action on the  
proposed energy legislation until we  
can have a series of national televi-  
sion debates with all aspects of this  
controversy placed before the  
American people, so that we can get  
some sound thinking out of the  
American people."  
The resolution was adopted after  
a warning by Gov. David Boren of  
Oklahoma that the Carter energy  
policy might destroy the free  
enterprise system and could be a  
strategic move to discourage domes-  
tic production while draining re-  
sources.

# Want gun? Buy piano

**United Press International**  
ALEXANDRIA, La. — Kelly  
Ward says it may sound illogical,  
but one of the best ways he has  
found to sell pianos in Louisiana is  
to give away a new shotgun with  
every purchase.  
Saturday is the beginning of  
Louisiana's dove hunting season —  
the first of many hunting seasons  
through the fall and winter. And  
Ward, the largest piano retailer in  
this Central Louisiana city, seized  
the opportunity and advertised  
Monday he would give away free  
shotguns with each piano sold.  
Already, he's had one taker.  
"The first thing he said was,  
'What gun goes with this piano?'"  
Ward said.  
Ward said he had never tried the  
promotion before but said it's been  
done "with great success" by other  
piano dealers.  
"Here is my theory," he said.  
"Parents are essentially selfish.  
The average male, the average  
father, finds it hard to justify the  
expense of a piano because he  
doesn't think of it as something for  
himself."  
"I see fathers day by day who can  
justify a \$6,000 bass boat for them-  
selves when they're making \$12,000  
a year and living in an \$8,000 house,  
but they find it hard to justify a \$600  
or \$800 piano for their little girl be-  
cause there's nothing in it for  
them."  
Ward, who began his business in  
1959, said he has had little success  
in the past with advertising and  
promotion. Pianos are not impulse  
items and purchases are usually  
thought out in advance.  
With a used spinnet, Ward gives  
away a \$100 pump gun. With a new  
one, he gives away a \$170 shotgun.  
And with a console piano, he offers a  
\$190 shotgun.

The pianos are all sold at list  
price.  
The first gun he gave away was a  
.20-gauge shotgun with a console  
piano. In addition, Ward said he has  
received several phone calls from  
potential customers inquiring about  
the offer.  
Ward said if the deal proves as  
successful as the calls have indi-  
cated, he'll do it every year before  
the opening of hunting season.

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