

Hertz estimates car costs average 30.1 cents a mile

United Press International
DETROIT — The average owner of a typical 1977-model car spent 7 percent more — or at least \$3,007 — to keep the car on the road for one year, according to Hertz Corp.'s annual auto expense survey.
The estimate by the nation-wide rental agency is based on what Hertz called the typical American car — a normally equipped, mid-sized, two-door sedan driven 10,000 miles a year and kept for three years.
The firm said 1977 costs averaged 30.1 cents a mile, compared with 28.5 cents a mile — or \$2,810 — per year in 1976. Car expenses have risen nearly 50 percent since the oil embargo in 1973 when car costs averaged \$2,020 a year, Hertz said.
Expenses in the Hertz estimate include gasoline, oil, parts, service, repairs, licenses, fees, insurance, interest and depreciation — the dif-

ference between purchase price and resale value. Parking and tolls were not included, but could add from 2 cents to 18 cents a mile in major cities, Hertz said.
For the second year in a row, insurance premiums were the fastest rising expense of keeping a car on the road, showing a 12-month increase of more than 25 percent to \$560 annually, Hertz said. Since 1975, insurance premiums have climbed 64 percent.
"For the average American driver, insurance now costs as much as gas and oil," Hertz Vice President J.E. Menendez said. The average new car price exceeded the \$5,000 mark for the first time, totaling \$5,211, he continued.
Actual expenses may vary according to car size, number of miles driven, and length of time the car is owned, Hertz said. Smaller and more fuel efficient subcompacts can cost up to \$700 less and larger gas-

guzzling cars can cost up to \$340 more a year.
Driving more than 10,000 miles a year will lower the per-mile costs, Hertz said, because it spreads out the expense over more miles. The same is true if a car is kept for longer than the average three years.

"But, of course, in these cases overall annual dollar expenses rise," Menendez said.
The fuel efficiency estimates were based on typically equipped cars, including air conditioning, automatic transmission, power steering and power brakes.

'Untruths' aired

United Press International
AMARILLO — The woman who provided an alibi for capital murder defendant T. Cullen Davis testified Monday contradictions in her story could have resulted from misunderstandings or an inaccurate grand jury transcript.

After Karen Master, 28, testified she told the truth to both the grand jury in August 1976, and to the jury hearing charges Davis shot and killed his 12-year-old step-daughter, prosecutors pointed out crucial discrepancies.

Master, with whom Davis was living, testified she awakened briefly at 12:40 a.m. on Aug. 3, 1976, and saw Davis asleep in bed with her. She said she went back to sleep until about 4 a.m., when a telephone call awakened them.

But prosecutors read from grand jury testimony given nine days after the murder in which Master said she took three sleeping pills about 9:30 p.m. on Aug. 2, 1976 and said they "put me out." And the next thing she remembered was the telephone call.

Master made no mention to grand jurors of seeing Davis in bed asleep at a time prosecutors theorize the assailant was escaping from the

mansion where Andrea Wilborn was shot and killed.

"The question, as I understood it, was what was the first thing I remembered hearing," Master said in explanation.

"But the word 'hearing' does not appear in the grand jury transcript does it?" prosecutor Joe Shannon Jr. asked.

"I'm saying I don't know if the word 'hearing' was in the question or not but it is a possibility that it was," Master said.

"Are you saying the court reporter did not take this down accurately?" Shannon asked.

Master replied the word could have been omitted inadvertently from the transcript.

She said that apart from what she told the grand jury she told two friends Davis had been home asleep at 12:40.

"But you didn't tell the grand jury?" Shannon asked.

"The grand jury didn't ask me that," Master replied.

Shannon then read more grand jury testimony in which Master was asked if she had any other information that might help determine the guilt or innocence of Davis, and her response was that she did not.

British pound gains; U.S. dollar drops

United Press International
LONDON — Britain freed the pound Monday to seek its own level and it immediately rose nearly 7 cents against the U.S. dollar before falling slightly to a 3 percent upward revaluation. The move dragged down the dollar on most European money markets.

By mid-afternoon the pound was trading at \$1.8310 after reaching its highest level in a year and a half. It had closed Friday at \$1.7772.

Currency dealings were hectic — "Not many of us will get lunch hours today," one dealer said, but amounts actually traded were relatively small.

Britain took the step to curb a flood of money dealers call "hot money" — money flowing into the country in search of high interest rates and in anticipation of just such an exchange rate change. The inflow was indirectly helping keep British inflation high and swelling the money supply.

Experts were uncertain over the effects on international trade of the revaluation — a tiny move compared with the 45 percent devaluation of the Israeli pound announced about the same time. But it was expected to slow inflation slightly. Exports from Britain will cost

foreigners more with the pound floated to its new level but it was too early to determine the overall effect. Imports which Britain buys abroad will cost less.

On the personal level, foreigners coming to Britain will find their pounds costing 3 percent more. But Britons will have slightly cheaper vacations overseas.

With the pound rising, gold dropped in London from \$161.3750 per ounce to \$161.000, and in Zurich, from \$161.3750.

\$13,500 given for engineering

Phillips Petroleum has presented \$13,500 to Texas A&M University for fellowships and petroleum engineering program support.

Virginia Ann Clark of Houston, a Ph.D. student in geophysics, is recipient of a research and development fellowship supported by \$5,500 of the award.

Another \$4,500 is for a petroleum engineering fellowship, and \$3,500 for unrestricted use.

Archeological sites to be probed

Texas A&M University archeologists have been awarded \$21,233 by Shell Oil Co. to continue support of a survey of sites in Milam County near Rockdale where the firm is recommending strip mining for lignite.

The grant will be used to test for possible archeological sites. Action will be recommended on whether, and to what extent, work should be carried out to re-

cover possible artifacts and other resources from the sites that would be disturbed by mining.

Union Carbide gives \$8,000

Union Carbide Corp. has presented \$8,000 to the field of engineering at Texas A&M University.

The unrestricted funds were delivered in two checks, \$4,000 to the College of Engineering and \$4,000 to the Chemical Engineering Department.

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