Bell cites high legal expenses Burnett honored to justify proposed rate hike by San Antonians

AUSTIN — Southwestern Bell Telephone Co. wants customers to pay its \$350,000 legal expense for court battles concerning a 1977 rate increase, officials indicated Tues-

Critics questioned Bell's chief acountant, G.W. Swenson of Dallas, bout including costs of hiring outside attorneys for the continuing ourt fight in company expenses ted as justification for a proposed \$214 million rate increase.

Swenson said the company exense reports include \$349,668 for syments to outside attorneys chalnging the Public Utility Commison's decision which trimmed an earlier request for a \$298 million inrease to \$58 million.

The accountant said outlays of 3777,000 in legal expenses for dense of the phone company against ultimillion dollar lawsuits brought by James Ashley and T.O. Gravitt

Swenson said the phone company

a non-recurring expense, but ex- sion. pects continuing costs from court appeals of the regulatory board's de-

The \$349,668 figure, in fact, does not cover costs of appealing the rate case to the State Supreme Court since it includes only expenses through Sept. 30, 1977, when the controversy was in the Court of Civil Appeals.

tion by the three-man utility com-

"I still think the revenue defi-ciency is \$220 million," the account-

George Cowden, utility commisphone company to revise its rate

raise request upward Monday.
"They're limited to \$214 million," Cowden said. He said the phone free capital for us to invest. So it's of company cannot change its rate direct benefit to the customer," he proposal without starting a new case

Swenson said the \$214 million figure was \$6 million short because an error in calculating interest deductions on federal income tax.

The interest deductions drew criticism from an attorney for the Texas Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now, Carol Barger of Longview.

Ms. Barger said Bell only paid Swenson said the phone company needs more than the \$214 million taxes during the year ending Sept. rate increase now under considera- 30, 1977, but wants to collect \$354 million in taxes from customers.

> They receive an investment tax credit of \$121.2 million and they defer payment of \$169.2 million in taxes," she said.

Swenson said the tax credits and sion chairman, refused to allow the deferrals provide money for the phone company's capital outlays. 'We're taking advantage of the

tax law there. It's providing interest

SAN ANTONIO - Carol Burnett ing the entertainer an honorary cupped her hands to her mouth and mayor of San Antonio. gave out her famous Tarzan yell Tuesday in front of the Alamo while like to proclaim a school holiday, an estimated 1,000 admirers Burnett said as hundreds of children

Burnett smiled, pulled her ear,

who graduated from David Crockett tary school in San Antonio. Elementary School before moving to California.

read a proclamation declaring Tues- school.

day, "Carol Burnett Day" and mak-

'Now that I'm mayor for a day I'd

applauded.
Dr. William Elizondo, superinpanned for cameras and waved at tendent of the San Antonio Indethe throng which sweltered in hot pendent School District, added to and humid weather waiting for a her stack of honors by presenting glimpse of one of the city's most fa-mous natives.

Burnett a picture of her childhood home on West Commerce St., now The crowd rivaled in size some of located in one of the city's poorest those which have gathered in front sections; a picture of Crockett of the shrine to hear speeches from Elementary; a plaque for participatsome of the nation's most well ing in the district's honors day at known politicians.

Alamo Stadium (where she did a Tarzan yell for 9,600 school chil-I've ever had. It's been an absolute dren), and a transcript showing she thrill," said the smiling redhead, made A's while attending elemen-

'As mayor I protest," she said in o California.

Mock disapproval as the transcript
Her eyes glistened with moisture was read showing she was bright briefly while Mayor Lila Cockrell enough to skip two grades at the

Americans smoke more

WASHINGTON- Americans are less tar and nicotine in the process, the Federal Trade Commission

An FTC report says the nation's cigarette manufacturers sold 603.2

crease of 9 billion over 1974. But a separate report said cigasmoking more cigarettes but getting rettes now contain less tar and nicotine, substances which experts feel are harmful to health.

The 3-vear-old cigarette production figure actually translated into a slight decrease in average consumption among adults.



laws 2': no whopper this time

By JEFF GILLEY The setting was the Medallion theater in Dallas, May 12. Housewives, businessmen, and children clutching old shark dolls grabbed up tickets to the sneak preview a full seven hours before show time. Finally, at precisely 8 p.m., the lights dimmed and the packed house applauded eagerly as the first public resentation "Jaws 2" began.

Review

efore it opens nationally — in other words, to find out if the producers have a bomb or a gold mine waiting in the vaults. After this preview, the udience trudged out of the theater with expressions remindful of pick-led herring. "Jaws 2," it seems, may well turn on its side and sink at the

box office when it opens June 16. Like most sequels, "Jaws 2" tries o duplicate, but just can't live up to, the original film. Once again, a nonster shark decides to terrorize he resort island of Amity, a believable premise once, but not twice.

Its target, among other things, is largely teenage cast easily acted by the mechanical shark. Their insipid performances can be forgiven; the real culprit is director eannot Szwarc, who cast them as

school beauty queen, the chubby class clown, and the bespectacled

The main problem with "Jaws 2," The main problem with "Jaws 2," into a good movie by its release however, is that it plods around on dry land most of the time, laboring and David Brown, are fiover Sheriff Brody (Roy Scheider), his family, the mayor, the teenagers, and others. It's with deadening infrequency that the new Great
White Shark shows up at all, baring
that got away. The purpose of a sneak preview is to gauge audience reaction to a film this fangs only occasionally to gobble a passing waterskier or helicopter, (that's right, a helicopter.)

> But even the shark attacks are pretty pedestrian, lacking the frightening violence (and gore) Steven Spielberg assaulted us with skillfuly in "Jaws." Admittedly, there are a few suspenseful scenes, and one terrific sequence to match the "bobbing head" scare scene in the original "Jaws;" but, compared to the original, the sequel usually comes across as limp as a dead

Disappointment marked the faces of many after the Dallas preview. 'Make it scarier next time," one man scowled at an usher as he left. 'What did you think of it?" an autograph hound timidly asked Lorraine Gary, one of the stars attending the preview. A noncommittal groan and a quick signature were the only replies. "Movies, like sharks, must keep moving con-stantly or they die," I wrote on one

laughable stereotypes: the high of the evaluation forms handed out to the audience after the film.

Unfortunately, it would seem almost impossible to doctor "Jaws 2" nancial fishermen trying for that second whopper with this sequel. Only time will tell, but they may have to write off "Jaws 2" as the one

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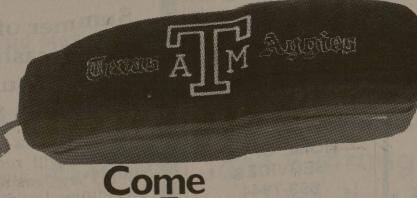
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