

Texas utility inquiry sought

United Press International
AUSTIN — The Public Utility Commission ordered an investigation and public hearings Thursday on a so-called "sweetheart" transaction between affiliated utility companies that provide electricity to more than 3 million Texans.

The 3-member commission ordered Texas Electric Service Co., Fort Worth a \$40 million increase in possible rebates dependent upon the results of the hearings.

Chairman George Cowden said the commission could not act on proposals for refunds estimated at \$1 million without investigating the reasonableness of transactions between TESCO, Texas Power and Light, Dallas Power and Light and their subsidiaries of their corporate parent, Texas Utilities Co.

tions involving lignite holdings and natural gas leases between affiliates investigated. He said the utility companies should be on notice that rate adjustments and refunds may be required.

He also said the commission wants to investigate each and every affiliate transaction made since the state agency assumed regulatory au-

thority over the electric utilities in 1976.

TESCO was seeking a \$109.9 million increase for customers in Fort Worth, Midland, Wichita Falls, Odessa, Grand Prairie and other North and West Texas communities. The Commission granted TESCO a \$44 million increase last year.

Camp David talks detailed for peace

United Press International

WASHINGTON — President Carter, formally opening Middle East peace talks called to end three decades of hostility between Israel and Egypt, urged other Arab nations Wednesday to join in the negotiations and produce a comprehensive settlement.

"This must be a first step toward a greater and even larger step toward peace between Israel and all her Middle East neighbors," Carter said in his opening remarks.

"For 2,000 years," the president said, "the people in the Middle East, the people have cried peace, peace and there was no peace."

"The burden of war has lain heavily on this ground."

The discussions will be led by Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan, Egyptian Defense Minister Ali Hassan and Secretary of State Cyrus Vance.

"It is our hope and belief that we have reached the stage where we can accomplish a peace treaty," Dayan said.

Both Dayan and Ali praised Carter for his efforts, with Ali calling the president "a full partner."

The alternative to the ministerial negotiations, Carter told the East Room full of dignitaries, "is drift, stalemate, continued enmity and perhaps another war."

Carter again invited Jordan and the Palestinians of the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip territories to "seize this opportunity" to join in the peace negotiations.

The talks are expected to produce a separate peace treaty between Israel and Egypt. Carter praised Egyptian President Anwar Sadat and Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin for their agreement on a "framework for peace" in the Middle East at the Camp David summit.

During the talks, Carter said, Egypt and Israel will "negotiate the terms" of the Camp David agreement "to define in a concrete way the terms of peace."

He said their purpose is "to make peace and dignity a reality for all the people of the Middle East."

"We have certainly not resolved all the issues, nor removed the risks," he said. "We have established, however, principles and procedures for resolving the negotiations ahead."

As Carter was speaking at the White House, the Palestine information office released a statement denouncing the talks.

"Peace in the Middle East cannot be imposed through American imperialist powers and through American-made Israeli weapons and armaments," said a spokesman for the office. "Israeli military superiority and the Zionist and racist laws and institutions that discriminate against Palestinians must end."

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Special mediator James Healy's settlement gave 500,000 postal workers unlimited cost of living increases matched to the rate of inflation, substantial job security and higher pay raises.

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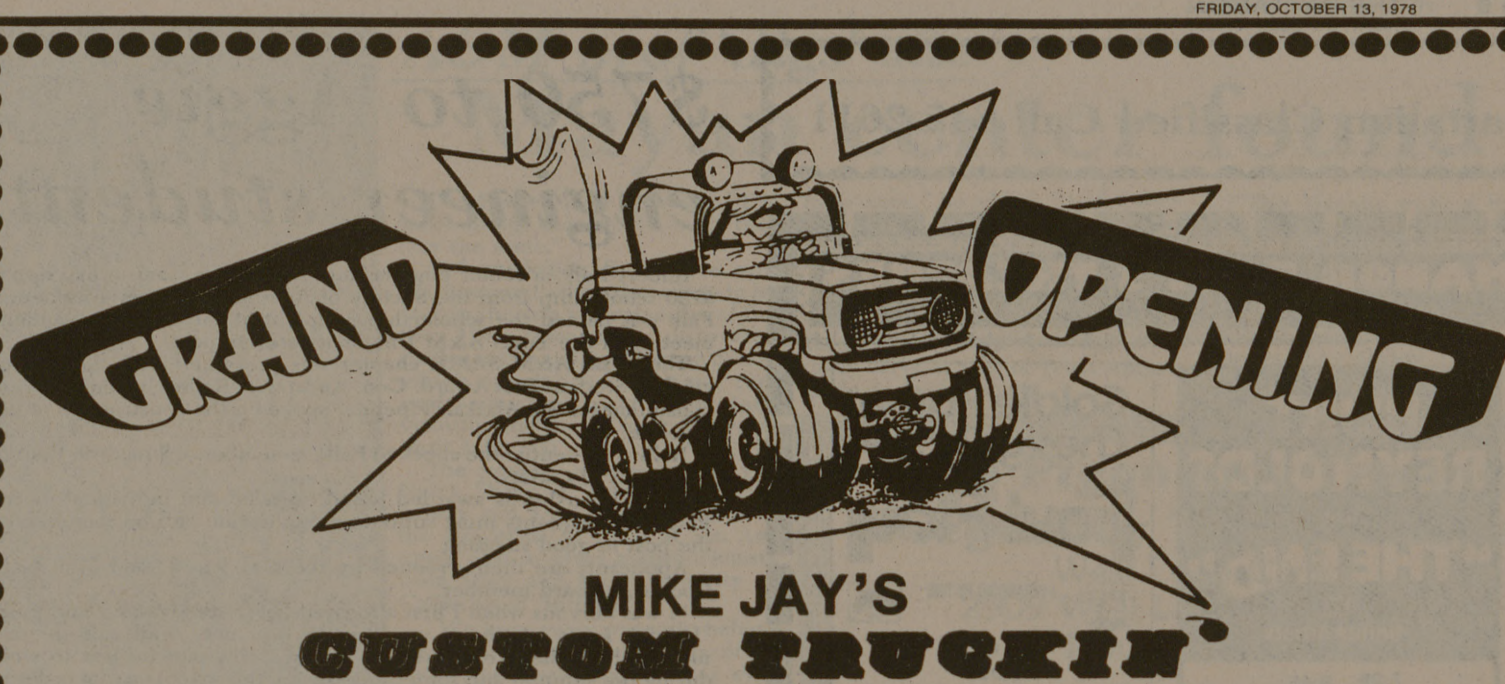
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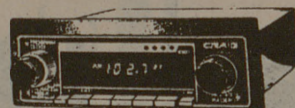
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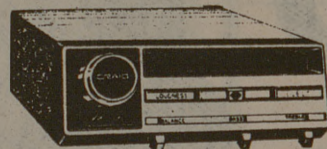
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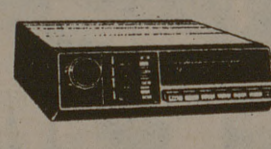


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