# The Energy Crunch... Clements will support gasahol bill

JSTIN — Gov. Bill Clements ned Tuesday as 12 gallons of hol - a mixture of gasoline and hol — were pumped into his - were pumped into his

as use up

United Press International
WASHINGTON — Motorists ned 320.5 million gallons of oline per day last year, up 11 lion gallons or 3.6 percent m the previous year, the insportation Department re-

he 1978 gas consumption reets a 12.2 percent hike in daily umption over 1975, the ret indicated Monday

hree states and the District of umbia reported decreases in consumption — Alaska 5.9 cent; Delaware .2 percent; Iowa .3 percent.

executive limousine, then said he will approve legislation promoting the production of gasohol in Texas. Agriculture Commissioner Re-

agan Brown, who arranged for 5,000 gallons of gasohol to be made available free to state officials, pumped the fuel into the governor's car as most states, part of day-long activities promoting gasohol.

own in a few organizations had joined Brown and other state officials in the Capitol earlier in the day for a rally promot-ing passage of bills legalizing the production of alcohol for fuel in Texas and exempting the fuel mixture from taxes.

ficials to agree to test the fuel in their vehicles. Armstrong rode his motorcycle through the rain to the gas station for a fillup — one gallon - of gasohol.

Clements said he will sign the gasohol legislation if it reaches his desk, but cautioned the fuel distilled from agricultural products is not the only answer to the gasoline

shortage.
"None of us should get lost in the

idea gasohol is going to to solve all our energy problems in the short term, because it's not, but it can help," the governor said.
"It's a good thing. The more we

can address the problems in energy, in whatever form, the better off

Backers of the gasohol program quickly stuck a gasohol bumper sticker on Clements' limousine be-

The fuel mixture of 90 percent unleaded gasoline and 10 percent alcohol will be available to legislators and other state officials through Thursday, Brown said.

He said the alcohol can be made

from corn, grain, watermelons, sugar cane or other agricultural products, and Midwest Solvents Inc. is prepared to build a plant near Santa Rosa in the Rio Grande Valley to produce the fuel alcohol.

right now because of the liquor laws," Brown said. "It's ridiculous that millions of gallons of gasohol already have been sold in other states and we can't produce it in Texas. It's unfair to farmers.

He said the only opposition to the gasohol bills has been from the liquor industry, which is concerned about legalizing the distilling of al**LAKEVIEW CLUB** 

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# U.S. audits books Clements, Speaker Bill Clayton and Land Commissioner Bob Armstrong were among the first of-

United Press International
NEW YORK — The U.S. Department of Energy has launched a nationwide campaign against

Energy officials said Monday they would attack the gouging problem with a stepped-up effort to audit the

gasoline price-gouging.

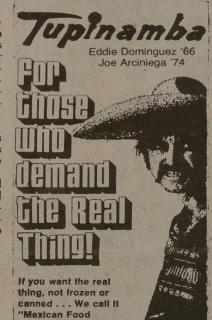
books of gas dealers, particularly in the New York City area where prices are among the highest in the

To herald the start of the campaign, Alan Moss, a lawyer for the department, held a news conference to issue summons to Joseph Per-coca, owner of a Mobil station at 62nd Street and First Avenue, where unleaded premium gas was going for 93.9 cents a gallon.

According to Moss, during a

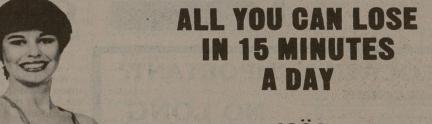
three-month investigation federal auditors had determined the Mobil station had overcharged customers by \$75,000 over the last five years.

Moss said that in addition to the New York area, the energy department had received numerous complaints of price-gouging from southern California and southern Florida.



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### strict of Columbia .7 percent;

est in the world not enough

## fore reactor checks needed

**United Press International** 

ASHINGTON — A Nuclear atory Commission consultant sday recommended installation improved instrument panels in mic power plant control rooms to prevent accidents like the one hree Mile Island. All of the instrumentation should

completely re-examined as to ether additional information can acquired," said Walter Lipinski, instrument expert at the Argonne ional Laboratory in Illinois. His testimony before the Advi-

Committee on Reactor guards — a scientific panel set o advise the regulators — was in with comments Monday from official of the company that built

plant. abcock and Wilcox official John eMillan testified the Three Mile nd operator had enough inforon at his disposal to control the of cooling water when the incibegan but did not realize it for

#### III United Airlines alts April flights ecause of strike

United Press International ASHINGTON — United Air-has canceled all flights through 30, because of the strike by anics and other ground-crew kers now in its third week. The incement was made Monday. The airline — the largest air carin the nation with 160,000 daily previously announced ould not take new reservations any flights departing before June

The airline and representatives of Mechanics and Aerospace rkers union broke off federal iation efforts to end the strike il 4, and no resumption has been

The safeguards committee was mendations to the NRC before actually meeting with the five commissioners later in the day.

Although Lipinski said the in-struments at Three Mile Island "the most up-to-date in the world," he had about a dozen proposals. They included installing:

—A device like an airline flight

recorder to record exactly what happens during an emergency. -A remote control pressure vent

on top of the reactor. —Better temperature indicators

But another NRC consultant, Carl Michelson, cautioned in an interview about the need to study the question in detail before starting to "clutter up the place and involve massive amounts of wiring.

Committee member Jeremiah working on a set of recom- Ray suggested requiring more sophisticated computer monitoring, as exists in electric power plants, to tell an operator when an emergency

Lipinski told reporters he attended a meeting in 1976 at which either the owners or manufacturers of Three Mile Island and a similar plant at North Anna, Va., complained about the cost of instruments to reflect safety status continuously. He said he did not remember details of the meeting.

—Better temperature indicators on the control panel and lights or alarms to indicate whether the safety systems are continuously working.

But another NBC consultant

MacMillan said Three Mile Island and eight other Babcock and Wilcox-built plants could be operated safely although design improvements will be made to help operators do their job.





