## Can't go to sister's wedding

## Workers rap forced overtime

ristmas Eve or suspended witht pay for refusing to work overtime led Monday to win the sympathy the Senate Economic Develop-

That committee ought to be remed the business protection mmittee," said Sen. Carl Parker, Port Arthur

The committee voted 4-2 to send subcommittee Parker's bill which uld prohibit employers from reiring employees to work longer n eight hours a day or 40 hours a eek except in cases of unavoidable unforseeable circumstances disting normal operations

"Employers are finding it is eaper in the long run in their oper-ions to work the employees they dismissal.

United Press International
AUSTIN — The plight of emoreous forced to work overtime on of employees," Parker said. "Some Kenneth J. Jester of Austin, another phone company worker, said he was threatened with disemployees do not want to work 50 to 60 hours a week. I don't think they ought to have to

Allen Ferrell of Dallas, personnel coordinator for Southwestern Bell Telephone Co., said the proposal would hamstring every business in the state of Texas

Ferrell said if employees could refuse overtime the phone company might be unable to repair line breaks and restore service to customers on weekends and holidays.

B.J. Benfer of Burleson testified that Southwestern Bell suspended his son for refusing to work past 7 p.m. on the Saturday of his sister's wedding. Benfer said employees who refuse overtime face possible missal when he said he could not take an overtime assignment because he needed to go to the drug store to pick up a prescription for his sick wife and

Jester said he also was forced to work until 8 p.m. on Christmas Eve.
"They consider any refusal to work mandatory overtime work.

Kenneth J. Jester of Austin, overtime as insubordinate and grounds for dismissal," Jester said.

Benfer said phone company supervisors have told workers, "There's no way they could make any plans for a ball game or anything with their family.

The Rev. Leroy Hubley of San Antonio told senators he is concerned about the harsh impact on families of



## Pat' Cottontail draws criticism

DENVER — Rep. Pat Schroeder, D-Colo., says it was intended as fun," but it ended up as the Great Bunny Rabbit Debate among some f her constituents and political opponents. Schroeder's portrayal in China of an Easter bunny has drawn sub-

stantial reaction — some good, some bad — at her offices in Washing-

Schroeder, who represents Colorado's 1st District, wore a white bunny suit and a papier-mache rabbit head April 15 and distributed Easter eggs and jelly beans to American tourists and Chinese at the "I don't know why she did it," said Jack Rigg Jr., Republican chairman in the 1st District, which consists mostly of Denver. "It

seemed kind of silly to me. People expect more than that kind of thing. "If nothing else, it's the kind of thing that could have an impact over ime, and it will be more negative than anything else. It detracts from er image as a representative of the city

Colorado Republican Chairman Phil Winn said Schroeder's beavior was "extraordinarily demeaning to America as a whole, and in extraordinary poor taste. Romaine Pacheco, manager of Schroeder's 1st District office, said

Friday that criticism of the congresswoman's behavior was an "over-'We've gotten reaction, yes," said Pacheco. "But people are losing ight of the real reason she went to China — to study Sino-Soviet elations. Two hours in a bunny suit and they forget why she went

Schroeder put the costume on in her room at the Peking Hotel, went into a dining room, then traveled by bus to the Great Wall, where she drew a crowd of Chinese. Later, she gave out eggs, candy and soap for blowing bubbles to children at the U.S. Embassy.

Schroeder was in China as a member of the visiting House Military

Schroeder said she brought the bunny suit "because I thought it would be fun and because when I was here in 1976 I visited kids at the embassy, and clearly it was a struggle to do anything American here. Schroeder's Washington office reported receiving a substantial number of telephone calls complaining about the episode, and Pacheco said her office also received phone calls about the incident. he said the office received both complaints and praise, but no tally vas kept of positive and negative reaction.

"We've received a variety of comment," said Pacheco. "Some say, 'I think it's great and only Pat Schroeder would do that.' Others say she demeaned the dignity of Congress."

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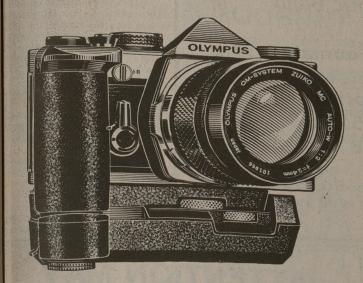
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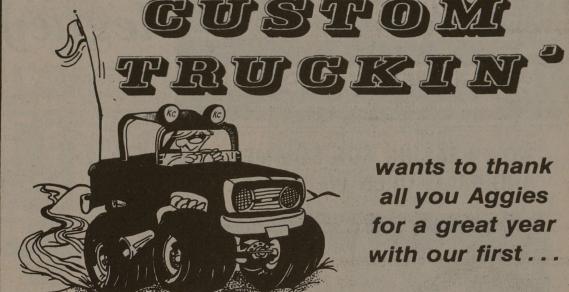
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