

the state

Mexican flights tax airports

EL PASO — The recent restoring of El Paso as a commercial airline stepping stone to Mexico is putting a strain on the ability of U.S. Customs and Immigration officials to process passengers at the International Airport.

American Airlines discontinued its El Paso flights to Mexico 25 years ago and during that time El Paso residents wanting to travel to Mexico had to fly to other Texas cities to make connections, take charter flights or cross the border and board Mexican airline flights landing in neighboring Juarez.

But following bilateral agreements between the United States and Mexico, Frontier Airlines earlier this year reinstated flights to resorts on Mexico's east coast. During the first seven months of this

year about 1,500 Mexico-bound passengers departed from El Paso and another 3,000 returning passengers deplaned in El Paso, according to airport statistics.

Those figures are expected to increase even more as Frontier expands its service and Continental Airlines on Oct. 1 begins daily flights to tourist cities in western Mexico.

Frontier recently announced that El Paso, Albuquerque and Denver would be the first American cities linked by air to the new beach resort outside Vihutanejo, billed as the former bathing place of women of Aztec royalty. Frontier, which also flies to Mazatlan, Cancun and Guadalajara will begin the new flight Nov. 8.

Continental will provide service

to Acapulco, Puerto Vallarta, Manzanillo, La Paz and San Jose del Cabo, according to regional director Wayne Curbo.

"We hope for increased domestic service feeding those flights to Mexico," said Walter Jones, airport manager.

Robert Van Epps, manager for Frontier, predicted more charter flights also would stop in El Paso, the second largest city on the border and second busiest vehicular port of entry.

But officials said that already some charter flights to Mexico have been diverted to other airports because of the shortage of federal inspectors at the El Paso airport and they predicted that later this fall the personnel shortage will become even more crucial when some Con-

tinental and Frontier flights begin arriving about the same time five days a week.

Van Epps said that federal inspection facilities at the airport are designed for a capacity of about 150 passengers an hour, but that the combined capacity of Continental and Frontier airplanes is about 230 persons.

Jones and airport architect Robert Garland said they hope to have a new inspection facility completed by midsummer 1980, to alleviate the bottleneck.

The enlarged 14,700 square foot inspection station would contain enough space for processing about 450 passengers an hour, more than a 747 carries, Garland said.

Power exec got kickbacks, broker says

United Press International
HOUSTON — An oil broker has testified more than \$50,000 in kickbacks was paid to a former vice president of Florida Power Corp. for participating in a "daisy chain" scheme.

The broker, Raymond Granlund, 74, of Houston said in a deposition Monday he paid Richard Raymond, 64, of St. Petersburg \$57,000 in cash in 1973 for being allowed to operate as a consultant to Florida Power.

Granlund received \$1.9 million in commissions. He was convicted in July of masterminding a fuel oil price-

ing scheme that defrauded Florida Power of millions of dollars. He received a three-year sentence.

Raymond was acquitted of conspiracy, mail and wire fraud charges in March and testified he never received any money from Granlund. Raymond's attorney, Ron Cacciatore of Tampa, Monday said Raymond told the truth during Granlund's trial and has "done nothing wrong."

The deposition will be used in a civil case and any further criminal cases resulting from information gained from Granlund.

No 'nukes' — yes balanced budget

Gov. Brown campaigning in state

United Press International
DALLAS — Although he has yet to announce his candidacy for president, California Gov. Jerry Brown says he is the only one in the race who supports a balanced budget and opposes nuclear power.

Brown's nuclear statements Monday, which came shortly after a giant anti-nuke rally in New York and similar protests in other cities, were received warmly by his Southern Methodist University audience.

Terming nuclear energy "a dead end," the governor said he believed nuclear power plants were too expensive to build and maintain, and too dangerous.

"I'm the only candidate taking a strong stand against nuclear power," Brown reminded his listeners.

Brown also pushed for a constitutionally mandated balanced federal budget, a theme that dominated his Sunday appearances in Dallas, his first in-person effort to gain Texans

support for his bid to become the 1980 Democratic presidential nominee.


Brown said the government could cut costs across the board, and called for cooperation between government, labor and industry.

Brown said he believed tax incentives, not cuts, would spur increased productivity, and combined with lower annual increases in deficit spending, would improve the nation's economy.

"The dominance the United States once had on the world scene won't continue unless we increase productivity and invest in new technology," he said, while calling for a switch from consumption to investment.

Brown said he favored creation of a cabinet level post to promote export of American products.

"If we don't push (our exports) we will get pushed out of the way," he said.



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State briefs

Stabbing leads to 20-year sentence for two
United Press International
HOUSTON — Two 16-year-old boys have been sentenced to 20 years in prison for the April stabbing death of a 30-year-old man attacked outside a rock concert.

Robert Robles and Paul Ojeda were convicted in district court of the slaying of Bobby Lee Nentwig.

The attack occurred outside the Summit after a Rod Stewart performance.

Nov. 28 hearing set in gas rate increase request
AUSTIN — The Railroad Commission Tuesday set a hearing for Nov. 28 in a rate increase request Southern Union Gas Company is seeking to impose on customers in Port Arthur and four other Southeast Texas cities.

Southern had filed a rate increase request with the commission last February. But the cities — which also include Port Neches, Griffing Park, Groves and Nederland — did not act and the commission suspended consideration of the request.

In July and August the five cities approved identical rate increases for Southern. However, the increases were less than what Southern had requested and the company appealed to the commission.

The commission also announced that any person or entity — other than the parties already involved — must file a motion to intervene within 14 days in order to appear at the November hearing.



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Borman elected to directorship
United Press International
DALLAS — Frank Borman, a former astronaut and chairman and chief executive officer of Eastern Airlines, has become a director of Electronic Data Systems, Inc.


Borman, who commanded the Apollo 8 space flight, was elected a director at the firm's annual stockholders' meeting Monday night.

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