

Lopez Portillo viewed as champion of Chicanos

United Press International
SAN ANTONIO — Armed with a new cross-borders commission and the promise of independent relations with Mexico, U.S. Hispanic leaders are counting on Mexican President Jose Lopez Portillo to champion their causes to President Carter.

Ruben Bonilla, national president of the League of United Latin American Citizens, said the executive commission, established to link the Mexican government and Hispanics in the United States, was actually Lopez Portillo's idea, and that the Mexican president would be asked to carry the problems of the Mexican-American to President Carter and press for Hispanic demands during Lopez Portillo's visit to the United States.

Lopez Portillo arrived in New York late Wednesday and is scheduled to address the United

Nations today.

The Corpus Christi attorney said the Mexican government would insist upon tying discussions of U.S. purchase of Mexican petroleum with discussion of human rights for Hispanics and Mexican aliens in this country.

Hispanic organizations want Lopez Portillo to push for a program guaranteeing free education for children of undocumented Mexican workers, guarantees of human rights for Hispanics in the United States, an inquiry into conflicts between Hispanics and Indochinese refugees and scrapping of plans for a temporary worker program unless a "bill of rights" for the workers is included. Bonilla, LULAC counsel Ruben Sandoval and Dr. Salvador Herrera of the National Association of Farmworker Organizations, told a news conference.

Sandoval said the U.S. Hispanics

would be composed of a cross-section of nine persons representing Mexican, Cuban and Puerto Rican groups, while Lopez Portillo had assigned representatives of his cabinet to carry on the continuing talks.

Bonilla indicated Hispanics were upset with preferential treatment being afforded refugees from Southeast Asia, agreeing that the Indochinese were being given special considerations because of a "guilt" feeling in America due to the Vietnamese war.

But he added, "We've forgiven the Germans for World War I and World War II. We've forgiven the Japanese for Pearl Harbor. But we still haven't forgiven the Mexicans for the Alamo. We treated Mexico as a poor dormant, sleeping, slovenly neighbor until we discovered they had gas and oil."

Mayor's aide offered woman bed checks for bad checks

United Press International
HOUSTON — A 24-year-old woman has testified a fired suburban policeman, now a mayor's aide, offered to destroy bad checks she had written in exchange for having sex with him.

Bridget Morace, on eight years of probation for felony theft, testified Tuesday in district court that former South Houston police Sgt. Robert Corbin called her repeatedly at her home after showing her the checks she had written.

"He said he wanted to go to bed with me and he would return all my checks," she testified. "I kept stal-

ling because I didn't want to do it."

Morace said she called the FBI and was referred to the Harris County district attorney's office. Prosecutor Ted Wilson played tape recordings of conversations between Corbin and Morace.

In another conversation recorded in August, 1978, Morace agreed to have sex with Corbin and asked him not to tell anyone because "it would ruin my life."

"And my career, too," he replied.

Corbin was fired after his arrest. He now is an aide to the mayor of South Houston.

Arrests doubled, force halved?

County: troopers must go

United Press International
PLEASANTON — The Department of Public Safety has reacted with a yawn to an Atascosa County Commissioners Court threat to expel four highway patrolmen from county offices.

The commissioners said they would kick all four out of county office space unless two troopers were transferred immediately. The DPS responded, however, by saying the troopers would stay and could use their homes for offices if they had to.

The commissioners voted last week to remove the patrolmen unless troopers Earl Conaway and Albert Rodriguez were transferred out. Conaway and Rodriguez have doubled arrests of drunk drivers in Atascosa County, which joins Bexar County on the south.

The commissioners, however, maintain the crackdown on drunk drivers has nothing to do with their demands. They said they had received complaints about how Conaway and Rodriguez treated prisoners they arrested.

Highway Patrol Capt. Randol Gilmore of San Antonio said Wednesday he had received no complaints, oral or written, about the officers' conduct, and said the commissioners refused to give him details of the complaints they received. He said the officers would begin working out of their homes beginning Monday.

County Judge O.B. Bates refused to comment on the commissioners' action, saying Tuesday the entire incident was "blown out of proportion."

Rodriguez said the controversy involves more who had been arrested than how they had been treated. The trooper said several prominent citizens had been nailed on DWI charges.

"They've got my back up," Rodriguez said. "I don't plan to transfer under these conditions. If I do, they'll think they can run anybody off. This is important for the patrol. People expect us to stand up for what we are."

Rodriguez said drunk driving was rampant at Pleasanton, located 30 miles south of San Antonio on U.S. 281.

"One night I was driving along and this guy came tearing down the highway doing 100 and flashing his lights," Rodriguez said.

Extra generating capacity attacked

Company to sell surplus power

United Press International
DALLAS — Texas Utilities Co. is trying to sell a \$500 million lignite plant, surplus power and possibly additional shares of the controversial Comanche Peak nuclear power plant, its chairman reported.

T. Louis Austin Jr. said Tuesday the Dallas-based company was negotiating to sell the lignite plant, currently under construction, to Houston Lighting and Power Co., which will be pressed to meet city energy needs in the 1980s.

Austin also said the firm would try to sell surplus power to other state utilities during the next five years and would consider selling additional shares in the nuclear plant near Glen Rose, Texas.

Negotiations over the Forest Grove lignite plant, being built near


Athens, offer the state's two largest electric companies a way out of different problems.

Texas Utilities has too many power plants — it has at least twice as much surplus generating capacity than considered necessary to provide assurance against blackouts.

Even on the one summer afternoon when the firm produces more power than at any time during the year, 33 percent of its generating capacity is still not needed.

The excess capacity is being attacked by rate hike opponents, who contend customers are forced to pay for unneeded plants. Austin utility consultant Jack Hopper has estimated the excess capacity costs Texas Utilities customers \$60 million a year.

Austin said the sales would not hurt Texas Utilities customers because, if necessary, the company would have the option of interrupting surplus power sales and buying back the lignite plant.

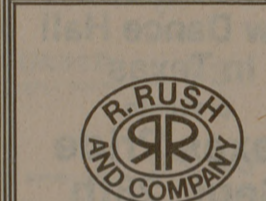
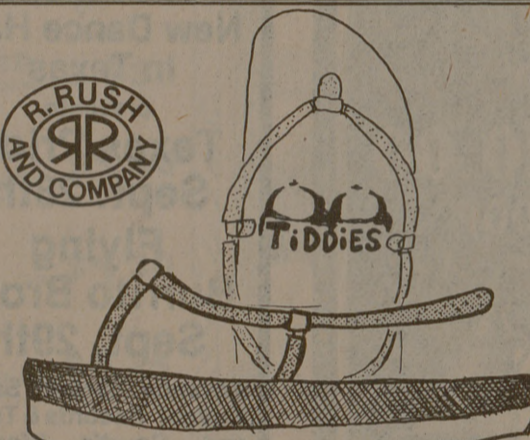


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