

the state

Decontrol may raise revenues

United Press International
AUSTIN — Decontrol of oil prices proposed by President Carter could mean up to \$404.1 million in additional revenue for the state of Texas in the next two years, the comptroller's office estimates.
A "Fiscal Notes" published by state comptroller Bob Bullock said the main benefit to Texas from decontrol would come through higher oil production tax revenues. But estimated the state could take in an additional \$344 million in tax revenues during the next two years if the president's decontrol plan was implemented — an increase in 1980 of about 33 percent over the 1979 oil production tax collections.

The tax is levied at a rate of 4.6 percent of the value of crude produced in the state, and the higher tax revenues would be a result of higher prices for Texas oil.

The comptroller also estimated the state would earn about \$59.6 million in additional oil royalties through the next biennium.

At present, oil production on state land totals about 6 million barrels a month, and the state receives about 700,000 barrels as royalty payments.

Income from the sale of the royalty oil is divided between the state's Permanent University Fund and Permanent School Fund.

County ousts DPS patrols

United Press International
JOURDANTON — The Department of Public Safety Monday moved out of its offices, locked the doors and discontinued regular highway patrols in Atascosa County because of a dispute with county officials over enforcement of drunk driving laws.

DPS officials said, however, the six troopers stationed in the county would continue to work out of their homes, patrolling highways in surrounding counties, while Atascosa residents debate the impasse which left them with unpatrolled highways and a closed driver license office.

The dispute — spiced by conflicting allegations of police abuse and racism — arose two weeks ago when County Judge O.B. Gates and the four commissioners voted to kick the highway patrol out of their county-owned headquarters, unless patrolmen Earl Conaway and Albert Rodriguez were transferred.

Gates charged that numerous citizens complained about being arrested for DWI by the two troopers, their hands cuffed behind their

backs and taken to jail. However, the county judge refused to elaborate or name names of persons complaining about alleged overexuberance by the two officers.

DPS Capt. Randall Gilmore of San Antonio countered that Conaway and Rodriguez, both bachelors, had been patrolling the roads diligently late at night, doubling DWI arrests and cutting the county's death rate. Gilmore said handcuffing drunk drivers was standard procedure and the commissioners were upset because several prominent county residents had been arrested, including the son of one of the commissioners and the son of the mayor of nearby Pleasanton.

"We've gone as far as we can go," Gilmore said. "We're simply not going to transfer the troopers."

Shortly after Sgt. Bobby Harpole locked the doors to the DPS offices Monday morning and hand delivered the keys to Gates' secretary at the courthouse across the street, Beverly Marssett of Pleasanton said she was considering circulating a petition demanding the highway pa-

trolmen be allowed to resume their patrols.

"We're backing those two officers because they are the only honest ones," Marssett said. "The prominent citizens want them out, but we want to keep them. If my son was drunk driving I'd want him arrested before he killed himself or somebody else. We've always said the black man was doing his job."

"If I was a patrolman, I'd do my duty regardless of money and positions," added Irma Fuentes, a store clerk who is married to a DPS officer who operated the driver license office until it was closed.

But other citizens complained that Konaway, who is black, and Rodriguez were too "gung ho" in, taking drivers to jail because they had consumed "a couple of beers."

"I don't like either one of those guys," said Jo Ann Barecky, shopping at a Pleasanton dry goods store. "They've been harassing the workers at the San Miguel plant when they're not even drunk. They've been mistreating people around here long enough."

Barecky said one man in county had gotten drunk every for 50 years and drove home on the side of the road without trouble with law enforcement officers, "but that nigger hadn't been town a week and had already been arrested."

Gary Klumb, mayor pro-tem Jourdanton, said most citizens are not taking one side or another in dispute because few facts had been presented by either side, but they were concerned removal of the troopers, "leaves us open to drug and speeders."

"I wish they'd resolve the lay the facts down and resolve everybody's satisfaction," Klumb said at his lumberyard. "Everybody would like to see this problem solved. It's no worse than a dispute between a company and a union. They can negotiate and settle."

Gates said he would call an emergency meeting of the commissioners court to determine what to do about the absence of state highway patrols and the loss of thousands of dollars in revenue from the citations they issued.

"We'll have to have a meeting to see what to do," the county judge said.

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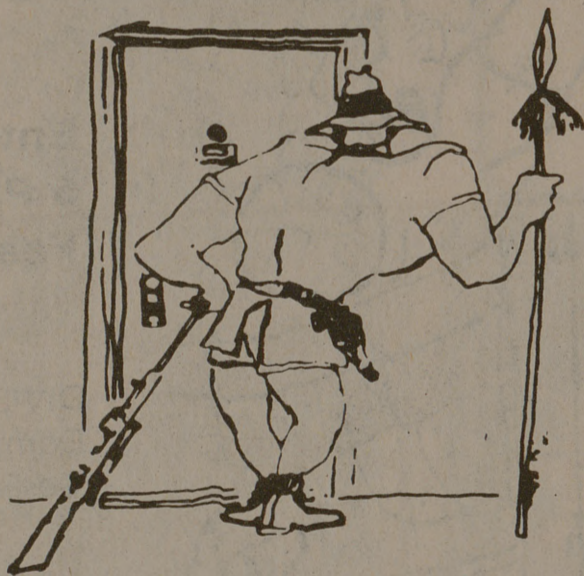
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