

100-millionth visitor sees Disney Kingdom

United Press International

LAKE BUENA VISTA, Fla. — Pigeons, balloons and fireworks swirled through the air to celebrate Kurt Miller's admission to Walt Disney World as its 100-millionth visitor, but all the fanfare did was scare the 8-year-old boy.

Kurt burst into tears in the raucous celebration that erupted Monday when he entered the amusement park. The band played loud music, hundreds of employees cheered and Mickey Mouse ran up to meet Kurt.

"Did I do something wrong?" Kurt asked his mother. Kurt was reassured by presentation of a lifetime pass to Disney World and a silver replica of Cinderella's Castle. He was all smiles by the time he climbed into an antique fire truck to join a parade down Main Street.

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'Inflation proof'

Texas dams may be next energy source

United Press International

If Texans could hook turbines and generators to all the existing dams in the state they could produce more than enough electricity to supply the needs of a city the size of San Antonio, according to a preliminary study by the Army Corps of Engineers.

And all at "inflation proof" prices. Nationwide, the figures are likely to be even more staggering when all the states report their unused potential for producing electricity as part of the three-year National Hydropower study now being conducted by the Corps of Engineers at the request of the Department of Energy.

Dams which have gone unnoticed for decades in Texas and elsewhere now are coming under close government scrutiny in the quest for clean dependable energy sources to displace costly and finite supplies of fossil fuels. In many cases turbines and generators could be added with little change in existing dams.

A preliminary estimate of power potential at 360 Texas sites shows they have a capacity to produce 2,248 megawatts of electricity, whereas San Antonio, the nation's 10th largest city, used 1,700 megawatts during its peak period in the heat of late July. The 360-site figure is a "stage two" estimate the Corps of Engineers says probably will be refined downward once environmental and economic factors are plugged into the formula.

Currently, Corps engineer Jana Loyd of Dallas said only 16 of Texas' scores of dams ranging from small to huge are equipped to produce electricity and they generate only 321 megawatts.

Some of the most notable electricity-producing dams in the state are Falcon Dam on the Rio Grande near Zapata, Denison Dam

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on Lake Texoma, Sam Rayburn Dam, Toledo Bend Dam and Whitney Dam, near Waco.

But soon to be added will be Amistad Dam at Del Rio, which was built with penstocks in 1969 to allow for addition of turbines and generators later.

L.E. Gross, manager of Medina Electric Cooperative which will share the Amistad dam electricity with South Texas Electric Cooperative of Victoria, estimates that the hydro-electricity will amount to about 10 percent of the total his utility supplies in 17 Southwest Texas Counties.

It also will cost about one-half of what it costs to generate electricity with natural gas, said Gross. The two utilities entered into a 50-year contract with the federal government for the Amistad project to pay for the electric generating units.

Central Power & Light Co., which serves most of the cities in South Texas and the Rio Grande Valley, for years has been buying electricity from Falcon Dam which is equipped to produce 119 megawatts for the United States, and a like amount in Mexico.

One day last week, CP&L spokesman Bob Noster said the utility received 41 megawatts of electricity from Falcon Dam, amounting to about one hour of electricity at the peak period for the entire system. "It certainly can make a contribution. In these times of energy shortage, we need to look at all alternatives," Noster said.

CP&L also purchases electricity from a series of six small hydro-dams operated by the Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority on the Guadalupe River below New Braunfels.

Surprisingly, the six smaller dams — using the same water over and

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over — produced a collective 9,775,000 kilowatt hours of electricity during August, and 76,875,000 kilowatt hours since last Dec. 1, according to LeRoy Goodson, director of planning for the authority in Seguin.

This cumulative 76,875,000 kilowatt hours compared favorably

with the 83,841,000 kilowatt hours generated at the huge Toledo Bend Dam operated jointly by Gulf States Utilities, Louisiana Power and Light and Central Louisiana Electric.

Federal dollars also are coming available to study and construct such projects, a government official said last week.

In Washington, Department of Energy spokesman Fred Appel said DOE is operating a \$10 million fund to finance feasibility studies by local governments into whether their unused dams are suitable for producing electricity.

Appel said President Jimmy Carter last May also issued a "memorandum of understanding" to the heads of several agencies making available \$300 million in government financing for loans or grants to construct hydropower facilities.

"His (Carter's) objective was 100 new hydro projects under construction by the end of 1981 and as many as 300 by 1985 which could yield up to 1,500 megawatts, which is a lot of power," Appel said. "It was just announced this spring so the proposals are just coming in now."

"One of the major initiatives is to exploit this potential because hydropower is inflation proof and it's environmentally benign. The main problem with hydro is not enough people know about it and when they find out about it they want to know whether their dam is suitable or not."

Appel said projects such as the one due for construction at Amistad by early next year, "will be the

biggest energy bargain in the country. Whenever you get a dam, it's the greatest thing you've often got an old dam that was used 30, 40, 50 years ago for something else.

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Gross said the new hydro-dam power fit in nicely in the search for more sources for cities such as San Antonio.

"We're going to have to look at more and more sources and more and more ways whether the environmental impact or not, just to take care of domestic water supply," the official said.

Gross said the electric and South Texas Electric Cooperative will begin receiving Amistad Dam in about 1982. It is estimated to be enough to fill a city of about 200,000 people.

"All we have to worry about is long drought," he said. "If a drought would have minimum water but a longterm drought would have a drastic effect because the level would affect the level of the river and the river flows."

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Begin, parliament battle over policy, resignations

United Press International

JERUSALEM — Opposition Labor Party leader Shimon Peres demanded Tuesday the government step down and call new elections in a parliament debate that saw Prime Minister Menachem Begin's administration battling against five no-confidence motions.

The debate began after Moshe Dayan formally quit a government weakened by his resignation, struggling with a setback to its policy of Jewish settlement and confronted with challenges from the right and left to bring it down.

"This government has only one path to take — to go and to go immediately," Peres urged from the

rostrum of parliament at the start of an expected hours-long session. Peres called for new elections.

Labor and other minority parties brought five no-confidence motions against Begin's besieged government. They attacked on several

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fronts, from the 100 percent inflation rate to a settlement policy condemned by both left and right.

Israel Radio said Agriculture Minister Ariel Sharon told Begin he would resign if the government

obeys a supreme court order to dismantle the settlement in the occupied West Bank.

Sharon's spokesman denied the radio report, but said the minister and Begin exchanged heated words on the subject of Elon Moreh, a settlement in the Golan Heights.

Dayan entered the Knesset (parliament) chamber and immediately to Begin and hands. He bent to whisper into Begin's ear and Begin then walked away from the chamber bench where he sat and resignation and took a new

the rear.

Venezuela not in hurry

Price hike can wait

United Press International

CARACAS, Venezuela — Venezuelan Energy and Mines Minister Humberto Calderon, whose country is a major U.S. foreign oil supplier, said Tuesday he sees no need to hold an extraordinary OPEC meeting to revise oil prices.

"It would be better to wait until December," when the oil ministers will hold their ordinary ministerial conference, said Calderon.

The Venezuelan minister made the remark in a brief conversation with reporters who asked him to comment on a reported request from Iran to hold an emergency meeting to review world oil prices.

The December meeting of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries is scheduled to be held in Caracas, Venezuela, the world's largest oil exporter and a founding member of the nation cartel.

Calderon told reporters that at present a process of consultation is taking place among OPEC oil ministers "to establish what is a majority opinion on an extraordinary meeting."

He said, however, that if a majority of OPEC members agree on the need for an emergency meeting, Venezuela will not object to such a get-together.

But he insisted that it is important for OPEC members to reach the decisions of the last meeting, held in Geneva, where it was established that no further price amendments should come before an ordinary ministerial conference, scheduled for Dec. 17 in Caracas.

OPEC, which controls approximately 80 percent of world oil production, holds two regular meetings each year.

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