

the nation

Chrysler loan is proposed

United Press International
TULSA, Okla. — Texas Gov. Bill Clements says he is working to build the GOP so it can challenge President Carter's re-election bid, but he says he will not endorse a Republican candidate until after the primaries.

"I want to be sure Mr. Carter is not re-elected," Clements told reporters Wednesday following a speech to Tulsa County Republicans. "I want to retire him."

Referring to Republican candidates John Connally and George Bush, Clements said he would not endorse a Republican presidential contender before the primaries.

"I do not support anyone, but John Connally and George Bush are good friends," he said. "No way will I get between these two good friends and these two good Texans."

Clements said he does not think Sen. Edward Kennedy, D-Mass., would be a "bigger threat" than Carter to the Republicans' chances of electing a president.

"Mr. Carter will be a tougher opponent in Texas than Mr. Kennedy," he said. "In Texas, in my judgment and I can only speak for Texas and not the rest of the country, Mr. Carter will be the tougher opponent."

Clements also said he felt lawsuits against SEDCO, the drilling company he founded which does business with the Mexican oil monopoly PEMEX, were politically motivated.

Oil spills from PEMEX's Ixtoc I well in the Gulf of Mexico drifted onto Texas beaches during the summer causing several million dollars in damage.

"I really think it (damage claims) should be a matter between the Mexican government and the U.S. State Department," he said. Clements said he was not reluctant to talk about the SEDCO suits because his financial holdings, including SEDCO, have been placed in a blind trust.

Clements said he also favors a proposal that Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas and Louisiana hold a regional presidential primary on the same day.

"Our primaries come so late they don't have the political impact they should," he said.

Baker's in running; 9 GOP candidates

United Press International
WASHINGTON — Senate Republican leader Howard Baker claims he has the broadest base of support among all candidates and Thursday he announced he will seek the Republican presidential nomination.

Supporters packed the historic Senate Caucus and heard Baker call for a "new generation of confidence in the United States" and "guarantee" that he can beat either President Carter or Sen. Edward Kennedy in November 1980.

Baker's wife, son, stepmother and daughter-in-law were at his side and many of his Senate colleagues also attended. One of them, Sen. Paul Laxalt, R-Nev., is Ronald Reagan's national campaign chairman.

The 53-year-old Tennessee called Reagan "the clear frontrunner" for the nomination and added, "I am convinced I can overtake the frontrunner."

Baker said he would enter all the primaries and said he would have to start winning "by the middle primaries" if his campaign for the nomination is to succeed.

The Senate GOP leader said Carter is not a "pushover" and predicted a wholesale bloodletting on the Democratic side next year.

Baker's formal entry into the race after almost two years of campaigning brings the number of declared Republican candidates to nine.

Woman pleads guilty to statutory rape

United Press International
LOUISVILLE, Ky. — A woman has pleaded guilty to a charge of having sex with a 14-year-old boy and been placed on probation.

The judge in the case said he believed it was the first in Kentucky involving a woman being charged with sexual abuse of a male.

The woman, Vicki Lynn Tingle, 24, of Louisville, was sentenced to

one year in jail Tuesday, but Jefferson Circuit Judge George H. Kunzman suspended the sentence and placed her on probation because she had served 103 days in jail while awaiting sentencing.

She was arrested on a statutory rape charge for allegedly having sex with the boy in an automobile on the grounds of a public school on Oct. 10, 1977. The charge was later reduced to a count of sexual abuse.

Connally flaunts funds from Reagan's domain

United Press International
LOS ANGELES — Republican presidential contender John Connally boasts that he raised more than \$1 million in four days — in California, home of the GOP front runner, Ronald Reagan.

And if that doesn't impress Reagan, it should, the former Texas governor said Wednesday.

When reporters commented that Reagan's staff minimized the importance of Connally's fund-raising foray, Connally replied:

"I'd be impressed if he came into Texas and raised a million dollars right in my backyard. And, if he's not impressed, I don't know what it will take to impress him."

Connally wound up the tour, which began at a picnic in Fresno Sunday and included a dinner in San Francisco, with a \$1,000-a-plate fund raiser at the Century Plaza Hotel Wednesday night attended by more than 750 Republicans.

The dollar support he attracted should show that "I am not here for practice or a rehearsal," but to do serious battle with Reagan, Connally told the audience.

Reagan is far out in front of other candidates for the GOP presidential nomination, according to most political observers and polls.

The dinner crowd included Lt. Gov. Mike

Curb, a co-chairman of the Reagan campaign, also attended the fund raiser Tuesday night in San Francisco.

Curb said he attended in the spirit of party, and Reagan "would want to see his supporters do everything possible to see the party after the primary."

Connally defended his Middle East peace from increasing criticism by Jewish groups, reflected at a news conference Wednesday by protesters shouting, "Hitler, Connally — Again," and "Reagan for President."

Connally said his proposal, announced on is really a "pro-Israeli stand," despite the cism, especially his call for stationing a U.S. military force in the Middle East to forestall a military "intrusion."

"The greatest hope, the greatest security for the United States is for the United States to have a military presence in the Middle East. That is recommended that we have air components in air — fields in the Sinai and that we maintain a 5th Fleet in the Indian Ocean."

One of the most controversial proposals — Israel return conquered land to Arab countries has been a part of official U.S. policy for years, said.

Won't say until after primary

No endorsing by Clements

United Press International
WASHINGTON — The administration Thursday proposed up to \$1.5 billion in federal loan guarantees to keep the financially troubled Chrysler Corp. from going bankrupt.

Legislation to bail out the No. 3 automaker — which reported a third-quarter loss of \$460.6 billion — was sent to Congress, where its prospects are uncertain due to some lawmaker resistance to providing federal assistance.

Final details of the plan were worked out Wednesday night at a secret White House meeting attended by top administration officials, including Vice President Walter Mondale, Treasury Secretary G. William Miller and Labor Secretary Ray Marshall, as well as United

Auto Workers President Douglas Fraser.

The Treasury Department said the legislation "reflects the administration's decision to recommend financing assistance for Chrysler Corp. in order to avoid the adverse impact that a Chrysler failure would have" on its workers, suppliers, dealers and the local economy of Detroit.

"These federal guarantees will provide the cornerstone around which an overall financing plan can be developed," it said.

Announcement of the federal aid came two days after Chrysler reported the largest three-month loss in American business history.

During the first nine months of 1979, Chrysler has lost \$721.5 million. It has predicted that continuing

problems during the quarter will push the full year loss more than \$1 billion.

The Treasury Department has the authority to issue up to \$1 billion in loan guarantees "exercised only upon fulfillment of stated conditions."

The conditions, it said, require that existing creditors "maintain their claims" and that "Chrysler raise \$1 billion of new, unguaranteed capital" from sources other than government.

Chrysler, the department said, also will be required to present a "four-year operating plan" showing ability to operate as a going concern through Dec. 31, 1983.

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