

the state

Most Americans OK some abortions

RR commission bats 33.7E on last year's rate requests

HOUSTON — The Planned Parenthood Federation released Wednesday a poll showing 92 percent of Americans approve some abortions and announced it will become more aggressive in resisting anti-abortion attacks.

Follister Michael Rappoport said the federation-financed survey of 500 adults showed 92 percent "believe a woman should have the right to abort under at least some circumstances, whether or not her life is in danger."

Federation President Faye Waterson said the organization was pleased that public opinion supports the aims of our organization.

She said Planned Parenthood will step up its public education and legislative lobbying efforts.

"We are responding to attacks that have been made physically, verbally and politically," Wattleton said.

"We have seen a shift in the public environment relative to our issue and we are simply saying we will not sit by and see these issues eroded. We intend to preserve these rights for those people who come to our clinics for help."

Rappoport said that, speaking in simple yes-no terms, his 66-question telephone survey showed 60 percent of Americans generally approve abortion while 40 percent generally

oppose it, a division found by other recent polls.

However, he said his poll tried harder to probe specific circumstance responses, including allowing long explanations of answers, and found broader support for abortion.

He said percentage approval of abortion varied depending on the circumstance, but he said his "most important finding" was that most Americans refuse to see abortion as an either-or question and resist being pushed in that direction.

He said most Americans believe abortion is a personal decision, not one the government or anyone else — not even the father — can make

for a woman.

Further, Rappoport said his polling for three recent local elections showed anti-abortion and right-to-life political punch diminished as their attacks became more strident.

Rappoport did not release all findings of survey because the federation, which paid him \$36,500 to conduct the poll, owned them and did not want some of them disclosed.

However, Rappoport supplied specific percentages of responses to some queries.

For example, 74 percent said they "agree strongly" a woman should be allowed abortion in the instance of rape or incest, 54 percent if doctors

thought the baby would be deformed, 20 percent if the mother does not want the baby.

Forty-five percent "disagree strongly" that a woman should be allowed an abortion if she simply does not want her baby.

In response to a carefully worded question whether the government should pay either \$150 for a legal abortion or \$70,000 to raise a welfare child, Rappoport said 43 percent preferred abortion, 23 percent welfare.

He denied the question was unfair, arguing, "That's the truth. That's what it costs to raise a child."

AUSTIN — The Texas Railroad Commission granted gas utilities about 32.7 percent of the rate increases requested during the fiscal year ending Aug. 31.

Commission officials said Tuesday

utilities requested rate increases totaling \$11.2 million during the past fiscal year, and the commission granted increases totaling \$3,674,581.

There were 404 utilities which filed requests during the year for higher rates.

Thieves get \$100,000

Armored car stolen

AMARILLO — Thieves who stole an armored car company's van and an estimated \$100,000 before abandoning the vehicle northwest of the city, may have turned back toward Amarillo, a sheriff's investigator said Wednesday.

Capt. Curtis Crump, head of the criminal investigation division at the Potter County Sheriff's Department, said the suspects abandoned a silvergray Wynne Enterprises van in rugged terrain off FM 1061, about 26 miles northwest of Amarillo.

The van was stolen Tuesday from the Amarillo National Bank parking lot while the driver, Steve Martinez, 45, was inside the bank delivering mail. Martinez reportedly left the van's engine running, but locked the doors when he exited.

The van was recovered after an hour-long aerial search Wednesday in the countryside south of the Canadian River. None of the money was recovered.

There was no official word on the amount of the take, but it was believed to be around \$100,000.

Crump said had the suspects fled north on FM 1061, which dead ends into U.S. 385, they eventually would have encountered road blocks either north

of Vega or south of Channing. Because they did not, he said it is theorized the thieves turned back toward Amarillo.

Advertising executive Joe Batson, who volunteered his private helicopter and services as a pilot in the aerial search, said he first believed someone had taken the van on a joyride.

Batson said the van's motor was running and the vehicle was in gear when he and a Potter County investigator spotted it. He said the van had lodged in some brush and was headed downhill toward a small stock pond.

"It looked like they had apparently intended for it to run off in a lake," he said, adding that the theft appeared well planned.

"Seemed like they knew that area out there pretty good, too. You can get lost in a helicopter out there. There are hundreds of roads. It really was amazing to me that they had planned it so good."

Authorities said the theft occurred after a banking holiday in which receipts were allowed to collect.

Asked Wednesday if the investigation had produced any suspects, Crump said, "I'd rather not elaborate on that right now."

Probe of diesel fuel shortage in Texas due to open Nov. 28

AUSTIN — Texas legislators will investigate statewide diesel fuel shortages at a House Agriculture and Livestock subcommittee meeting Nov. 28, officials announced Wednesday.

"The subcommittee knows for certain that a great many farmers across the state are having difficulties buying diesel fuel, particularly just before harvest times, and we intend

to find out why," said Rep. Dan Kubiak, D-Rockdale, chairman of the subcommittee on energy and agriculture.

"We are not ruling out the possibility that fuel allocations are being manipulated by some individuals and organizations in order to drive up the price to farmers."

Kubiak said fuel shortages have curtailed harvests and delayed plantings in most areas.

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Dispute arises over Iranians

in Mexico

EL PASO — Twenty-five Iranians seeking enrollment in a Mexican university were blocked from reentering the United States Wednesday by the Immigration and Naturalization Service.

Charles Perez, district director for INS, said the Iranians had been scheduled on an immigration service ticket, but he could not say when their trials might be held.

"What happened, they came to the bridge seeking admission, and they were not admitted for one reason or another," Perez said.

He later declined comment on the situation and referred callers to the Justice Department in Washington where no one was available to speak about the situation.

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