

the state

Funds depend on slower speeds

United Press International
AUSTIN — Texans don't want to drive a maximum of 55 mph, and persuading 40 percent of them to do so before a federal deadline will be almost impossible, experts say.

Joe E. Milner, chief of the Texas Department of Public Safety's traffic law enforcement division, told a National Highway Safety Advisory Committee Task Force Wednesday Texas barely met the September 1979 federal requirement that demanded 30 percent of the state's motorists not exceed 55 mph, and will have a hard time meeting

the September 1980 deadline for 40 percent compliance.

Texas stands to lose \$8 million in highway construction money if it does not comply.

"There is a lack of public support and respect for the law, and a lack of adequate numbers of highway patrol troopers to enforce it," Milner said. "We've got about 1,400 troopers. It would probably take double that to ensure 100 percent compliance with the 55 mph limit."

Texas A&M researcher Charles J. Keese, also a transportation professor at the Texas Transportation Insti-

tute, said, "There is little hope that the speed curve can be reversed and highway speeds reduced as rapidly as the federal government specifies.

"To do so will require both a massive enforcement effort requiring significant increases in enforcement personnel and equipment, along with a major change of attitude on the part of the motorists."

Milner and Keese questioned the fairness of federal threats to cut highway construction allocations to states that do not meet compliance deadline.

"The federal statute has no flexi-

bility in it," Milner said. "It doesn't allow for a tolerance. It's not practical to enforce speed limits without a tolerance."

Milner said because of possible errors in equipment readings and other human factors, the DPS tells patrolmen to stop motorists only in "clear cut and substantial" speeding cases.

"We don't want to arrest people for going 1 or 2 or 3 mph over the speed limit," he said.

Milner said the federal statute in-

correctly presumes all states started from the same point in their efforts to reduce highspeeding.

"That's just not true," Milner said. "We all started from a different place."

Keese questioned the wisdom of cutting federal grants for highway construction, saying it is the Department of Public Safety that has authority to do something about speeders, not the Highway Department.

Students surrender to police in Sherman shooting incident

United Press International
SHERMAN — Two 18-year-old Sherman High School seniors surrendered to police in connection with a shooting incident Tuesday at the home of assistant principal Charles Byler. Byler was not injured.

The students, identified as Billy Mack Wiew and Bobby Lynn Hardy, surrendered to police investigators Wednesday afternoon.

They told police the shooting was a prank. When they realized the seriousness of their actions, they said they decided to surrender. Both men were charged Thursday morn-

ing with criminal mischief, a Class A misdemeanor. They were released from the Grayson County jail on \$500 bond each.

A police department spokesman said Wylie and Hardy have clean police records both as adults and as juveniles.

Both men gave voluntary statements concerning their involvement in the shooting.

Police said Wylie shot the 12-gauge shotgun, which he had taken from his father without permission, while Hardy drove.

The shooting occurred shortly after 1 a.m. Tuesday morning.

School district investigation

3 given multiple indictments

United Press International
FORT WORTH — Two former Dallas Independent School District employees face federal criminal charges ranging from conspiracy and mail fraud to obstruction of justice in an investigation of the district's business practices.

The two were named in a 24-count, 30-page indictment Wednesday by a federal grand jury.

The indictment named former maintenance supervisor Richard A. Winger and former employee Aubrey Gene Hester and accused them of scheming to defraud the school district of almost \$58,000 in bogus bills submitted by Air and Energy Control Co., an Irving air conditioning firm.

The firm's owner, Leland Burnell Hall, was also indicted.

Winger headed the school district's heating venti-

lation and air conditioning maintenance section. He was named in 24 counts of the indictment, including one count of conspiracy, one count of obstruction of justice and 22 counts of mail fraud.

Hester, who testified Wednesday before the grand jury, was named in a single conspiracy count. Hall also was charged with a single count of conspiracy.

The indictment was returned in Fort Worth, sources said, because it was the only federal panel in north Texas that was in session at the time.

According to the indictment, the three formed the air conditioning firm specifically to defraud the school district, dividing the profits among them. It said Hall received more than \$24,000 from the operation, while Winger and Hester each got more than \$12,000.

'Timothy Christmas' may now be adopted

United Press International
LONGVIEW — A district court judge has ruled the mother of an infant found near a church nativity scene manger has no rights to the child and the boy, dubbed "Timothy Christmas," may be adopted.

Judge William Martin said a hearing completed Tuesday established the identity of the child's mother, but he refused to release the young woman's name and would not indicate why she abandoned the infant.

The newborn has been in custody of the state since he was found about a week ago in the Christmas display outside the First Baptist Church. He has discovered lying in a cardboard box on top of a note that said: "I'm Timothy — please take care of me."

He was believed to be about 2 days old when he was found.

The story of the child drew international attention and it was the media that dubbed the baby "Timothy Christmas."

Helicopter pilots seek statements

Court to question former shah

United Press International
FORT WORTH — A court reporter has an unusual assignment Saturday — take a deposition from the deposed shah of Iran, Mohammed Reza Pahlavi.

The shah, recuperating from cancer surgery and treatment at Lackland Air Force base in San Antonio is scheduled to be questioned by Clifford Jefferson, the court reporter in Judge Albert White Jr.'s 236th district court.

Lawyers for 69 pilots — fired by Bell Helicopter International in 1975 during a dispute over union organizing at Isfahan, Iran — requested the deposition from the shah.

The pilots' attorney, Jim Lane of Fort Worth, is seeking to ask the deposed monarch about his knowledge of the incident.

Asked whether the deposition would be taken from the shah, a base spokesman said, "The Air Force certainly will not interfere in any action nor will we have any role in such action. Our only role in the thing is to clear the person into the base and into the area. Then it's strictly between the parties."

The exiled monarch was subpoenaed last Friday, and Jefferson said Wednesday the subpoena had not been returned. A spokesman at Lackland initially refused to confirm whether the shah received the subpoena and did so only after San Antonio Sheriff Rudy Garza said the subpoena had been served.

Initial attempts were made to deliver it under the shah's full name, Garza said, but when a sheriff went to Wilford Hall Air Force Hospital on the base, he was told no one by the shah's full name was listed as staying there.

Garza said it was not until he received a call from Lane that anyone realized the subpoena was for the deposed shah of Iran. The subpoena was served Wednesday to an aide of the shah, Garza said.

Jefferson said the shah would respond only to "written interrogatories because he is not particularly strong following the chemotherapy treatment."

He said he considers himself "very

lucky" to be handling the deposition in the civil case.

The plaintiffs in the suit said they were among 141 pilots who contacted the professional helicopter pilots association after Bell allegedly violated the terms of their contract to train Iranian military recruits. Claiming training conditions were

unsafe, they staged a "sick-in" to press their demands. Bell fired them.

Joe McAnally, a spokesman for Lackland, said the Air Force would "obviously provide security" for the ailing former ruler during any deposition.

"The shah is a guest here at Lackland," he said.

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Stolen blender may have held carcinogen

United Press International
LUBBOCK — Police said Thursday they had recovered a household blender stolen in a Nov. 30 burglary that may have contained lethal amounts of a toxic and cancer-causing agent.

Authorities said the blender, taken from A&L Plains Laboratories two weeks ago, was recovered Wednesday from a suspect's residence.

Spokesman Bill Morgan said detectives were satisfied no one used the blender that may contain extremely concentrated amounts of aflatoxin, a waste by-product secreted by molds that grow on small feed grains. Laboratory owner Art Carrick, who said the substance is considered dangerous in quantities above 20 parts per billion, said the blender and tank might have contained as much as 1 million parts per billion.

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