

Predator talk draws boos

United Press International
AUSTIN — Interior Secretary Cecil Andrus encountered opposition and a scattering of boos Tuesday from a crowd of ranchers, environmentalists and government agency representatives meeting to

discuss predator control programs. The "Predator Control Summit" was organized by Agriculture Commissioner Reagan Brown in an effort to ease differences between the various groups concerning control of predators, especially coyotes. Andrus was the keynote speaker for the meeting, and told the participants the federal government will use tax funds to control predators only in areas where there have been substantial livestock losses and will not attempt what he called a war to eradicate the entire species. Ray Richman, a Bell County

rancher who said he had been put out of the sheep and goat business because of coyotes, cupped his hands to his mouth and boomed loudly when Andrus finished his remarks. During a question and answer period, Richman asked how his area could qualify for federal help in controlling predators under Andrus' guidelines for providing assistance only where substantial livestock kills by predators are reported. "You talk about kills, they don't kill my sheep and goats because I don't have any sheep and goats. They put me out of business," Richman

said. "We're out of the business, and as long as the federal government stays in it we're going to stay out of business." He said Bell County had 100,000 sheep and goats 15 years ago, but now has only about 1,000 because of predator problems. Andrus defended his decision to end research on a controversial compound called "10-80," saying the public would never accept the compound for use in predator control and the government could better use its funds to develop a poison that would

kill only coyotes and not affect other species. He said the long range goal of his department is to phase out lethal preventative control measures and develop new nonlethal controls for coyotes. "I know the genuine emotions that have been displayed over the predator issue in the past, and they are not going to fade away," Andrus said. "But it's not going to do any of us any good to continue to sharpshoot at one another."

A&M experts say Texas farmers back grain embargo

United Press International
Based on a 1976 study of Texas farmers and ranchers, two Texas A&M University farm policy experts predict most state farmers will support the Carter administration's wheat and corn embargo to Russia, although the move could affect Carter's chances for re-election.

Doctors Ronald Knutson, an agricultural economist, and Merv Yetley, a professor of rural sociology, conducted the study after the grain embargoes imposed by the Nixon and Ford administrations in 1973-74. The study revealed most Texas farmers and ranchers polled — 77 percent — considered national security a legitimate reason for imposing food embargoes. Seventy-seven percent of the surveyed agreed the U.S. government should use food as a diplomatic tool if other countries use their resources — like oil — in the same way, Yetley said. Both researchers stressed the survey reflected the attitudes of state farmers as well as ranchers, not solely grain producers.

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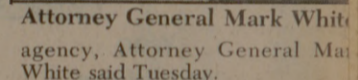
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White opinion again negates Clements veto

AUSTIN — The Department of Human Resources has the authority to spend up to \$117 million in earned federal funds for construction of new office building without the consent of any other state or federal



agency, Attorney General Mark White said Tuesday. White's legal opinion marked the second time he has upheld the DHR's authority to construct the new building, despite objection from Gov. Bill Clements, who tried unsuccessfully to veto the agency authority to build the proposed \$-million project.

After his veto was ruled invalid, Clements submitted a list of 31 questions to the attorney general questioning the agency's authority to spend the money. White, in an eight-page opinion, upheld the DHR on each of the points raised by the governor. The attorney general said the agency has about \$178 million in earned federal funds available, an only \$60.5 million of that amount earmarked for specific purposes. Any of the remaining balance may be used for the construction project.

25 new Texas wells flowing

United Press International
HOUSTON — Mitchell Energy Tuesday announced completion of 18 gas and seven oil-producing wells in Wise, Jack, Parker, Hood and Calhoun counties in North Texas. The company said gas flowed at rates up to 4.5 million cubic feet per well per day. The oil wells tested at rates of from 29 to 78 barrels per day. Combined tested oil production from all wells amounted to 438 barrels per day.

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