

state

Clements criticizes LEAA funding cuts

United Press International
AUSTIN — President Carter turned his back on the needs of local and state law enforcement by recommending a \$400-million reduction in funding for the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration, Gov. Bill Clements said Thursday.

Clements sent letters to police chiefs, sheriffs, prosecutors and other law enforcement officials throughout Texas pointing out Carter's recommendation that LEAA assistance to state and local governments be terminated, and called on the officials to try to persuade Congress to override Carter's recommendations.

Carter recommended \$177 million for the LEAA program but recommended deletion of \$400 million to be used to assist state and local programs.

"In doing so, he turned his back and shut his eyes to the critical needs of law enforcement with full knowledge of the crippling impact it would have," Clements said in the letter.

"His recommendation is tantamount to giving aid and comfort to the criminal who knows his chances of getting caught are even less."

Clements said the president's action makes it obvious that Carter does not recognize that higher inflation will result in higher crime rates.

"Everyone else seems to recognize these facts, and had he recognized them he could have struck a blow for law enforcement," Clements said. "Further, he ignores the fact that the people who will be most adversely affected by his actions are

the poor and elderly, the most preyed on victims of crime."

Clements noted Texas has 644 miles of coastline and a 900-mile border with Mexico and is a major area for drug shipments into the United States. He said Carter failed to realize Texas law enforcement efforts to control drug traffic also benefit the rest of the nation.

"Now that the president has declared himself and abandoned the federal government's commitment and responsibility to law enforcement, the ball is squarely in Congress' court to right this wrong," Clements said.

He called upon the local and state law enforcement officials to contact the state congressional delegation to encourage votes to restore the full LEAA funding.

Domestic areas hurt in budget

United Press International
AUSTIN — In its attempt to balance the budget, Congress is cutting the budgets for social programs and these cuts will be hurting women, children and other minorities, the leader of the Texas Women's Political Caucus said Thursday.

Evelyn Ireland said TWPC supports a balanced budget but called for Congress to be more equitable in its reduction of programs. She said the Defense Department is the most inflationary government branch but that it is not being asked to trim its budget.

"Fiscal responsibility demands a better balance between our current defense needs and our urgent needs for effective social legislation," she said at a Capitol news conference.

"One-sided slashes in domestic programs not only ignores social responsibility, it strangles our most vulnerable citizens — women, minorities, the elderly and children," Ireland said. She said that women earn only 59 percent of what men earn and comprise the majority of the poor.

Ireland said that on Wednesday

the Senate had reduced the federal food stamp program by \$1.6 billion. She said the reduction will affect 80 percent of food stamp recipients during fiscal 1981.

She also said federally supported health services, especially family planning, have been reduced by \$10 million in 1980 and President Carter has recommended an additional \$15 million reduction that will curtail services to 250,000 patients.

She also disputed assertions that a balanced budget is necessary to curb inflation because the maneuver would only reduce inflation by 0.3 percent.

Ireland also announced that TWPC had endorsed Jim Hightower in his Democratic primary race against Railroad Commissioner Jim Nugent.

"The issues that the Railroad Commission deals with on a daily basis are issues of concern to women in Texas," she said. "Endorsing Hightower for his commitment to Texas consumers helps the TWPC in its endeavor to improve the conditions of women in our state."

Ex-convict sentenced to death in stabbing

United Press International
GROVETON — An ex-convict, who reacted violently to the decision, has been sentenced to death for the rape and scissor-stabbing murder of a Livingston housewife last October.

Johnny Paul Penry, 23, of Livingston was sentenced to death Wednesday after being convicted of the Oct. 25 killing of Pamela Moseley Carpenter, sister of Washington Redskins placekicker

Mark Moseley. Three months before Carpenter was killed, Penry had been released from the Texas Department of Corrections on after serving 2½ years of a five-year rape sentence.

In one of his statements to police, Penry said he killed Mrs. Carpenter because he was afraid she would report him for the rape, during which she apparently grabbed scissors to defend herself.

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San Antonio College funds probe delayed

United Press International
AUSTIN — The House General Investigating Committee postponed until next week a decision on whether it will investigate allegations of misuse of public funds at San Antonio College.

Rep. Dick Slack, D-Pecos, chairman of the committee, said he was reluctant for the committee to decide on an investigation of San Antonio College until after Saturday's trustee election.

"At least we should wait until after

the election so under no circumstances could we be accused of political involvement," Slack said. "A committee such as this has to be extremely cautious. We can destroy innocent people unless we're extremely careful in what we do."

Rep. Ron Bird, D-San Antonio, appeared before the committee Thursday to ask the panel to investigate the allegations concerning San Antonio College and the San Antonio Independent School District.

"My concern in making this request to the House is so we can go

back and find out whether these allegations are valid, and if they are not it will give us the opportunity to clear the air," Bird said.

Bird said there has been some speculation that the allegations concerning SAC were motivated by a dispute between labor and the school administration, and said 31 employees have been fired.

Only three members of the committee attended Thursday's meeting, and Slack said he wants a decision on the investigation delayed until the full committee is present.

Jailer guilty of using clout to get sex

United Press International
LUBBOCK — An ex-county jailer was convicted Thursday of two counts of official oppression by a jury that decided he used his clout as a public servant to coerce a woman inmate into having sex with him.

Miguel Guerra, 32, was convicted of the misdemeanor by a four-woman, two-man jury that deliberated slightly more than two hours.

Guerra's punishment will be decided by Judge J.Q. Warnick, in whose county court the defendant was tried. Warnick scheduled an April 17 hearing to determine Guerra's punishment that could range up to a year in jail and a \$2,000 fine.

Guerra was accused of threatening the woman with solitary confinement unless she agreed to engage in oral sex and sexual intercourse. The state said the sex acts occurred despite bars that separated the pair.

The inmate, a convicted robber, has been in the county jail since last September. She said the sexual liaison occurred on Jan. 9, but was reported more than a month later when she learned she was pregnant.

Attorneys for Guerra contended during the trial the woman making the accusations stood to profit from her pregnancy, by possibly gaining a new trial or better conditions in prison.

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