AUSTIN — Gov. Bill Clements applauded Ronald Reagan's vow Thursday to "get the government out of the energy business," and said he will end his neutrality in the GOP

Reagan and George Bush. Clements, who has been mentioned as a potential running mate should Reagan win the Republican nomination, escorted the former California governor through the Texas Capitol, shared a private hamburger lunch with him, and stood at Reagan's side during a news conference in the Senate chamber.

'I have been saying for a year I am

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said in response to a question about why he did not endorse Reagan. "I suspect I will make an

announcement on May 4 as to who

presidential campaign the day after the May 3 Texas showdown between The governor indicated he will back the winner of the Texas primary. Reagan, who swept all of Texas' delegates to the 1976 GOP convention, is a solid favorite to win a majority of the delegates over Texan Bush.

Reagan danced around questions about whether he is considering Clements as a vice presidential choice, saying he has not had time to consid-

"I have the greatest admiration for

size of government," Reagan said.

election in Texas are going to be.

Clements stood silently by Reagan's side during most of the news conference, but muttered, "Amen" and applauded when Reagan suggested that government should end its regulation of the oil and gas industry and encourge exploration for more petroleum re-

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neutral in the election process until Governor Clements and what he is after our May 3 primary," Clements doing in this state is what I felt myself in regard to getting government out of people's lives and reducing the

> He said he had not discussed vice presidential politics with Clements, and told a reporter who asked what they would discuss in their private luncheon, "If I've got any smarts at all, I'm probably going to ask the governor what the problems of the Republican candidate in the general

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Bullet train is big issue in Railroad Commission race

United Press International
AUSTIN — A proposed "bullet train" linking Houston, San Antonio and Dallas-Fort Worth has become the primary issue in a Democratic primary race for a place on the Texas Railroad Commission, which reg-ulates the state's oil and gas indus-tries and determines what many Texans pay for fuel.

Commissioner John Poerner, who is seeking election to a full six-year term on the three-member commission, says the so-called "bullet train," similar to ones operating in Japan, is the answer to the state's growing energy problem.

Poerner has promoted the concept in campaign speeches throughout the state, in talks with the state's congressional delegation in Washington and in meetings with

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is just crazy," Temple said.
When the bullet train issue is put aside, the differences between Temple and Poerner diminish. Each has accused the other of con-

flicts of interest, with Poerner saying the Temple family's vast holdings in East Texas would subject Temple to repeated conflicts of interest in regulating the oil, trucking and rail in

use interstate highway rights of way,

would cost about \$6 billion and could

'That's about the craziest thing I

would cost \$20 billion and would be

the most useless project and biggest

waste of money in the history of this

"It's just a political gimmick,

something that sounds romantic but

products for transportation.

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my Memorial Library

eventually produce profits of \$1.5 billion annually, while sharply reducing Texas' reliance on petroleum Both have been sharply critical of Washington's handling of the energy shortage, and both advocate allowing ever heard of," says his opponent, former Rep. Buddy Temple of Diboll, who believes Poerner's plan the oil industry to operate without federal controls as a key step toward

meeting the nation's energy needs.

Poerner served six years in the state House of Representatives, was an administrative assistant to former Gov. Dolph Briscoe and then was appointed by Briscoe to the commission. In 1978, he won an election to serve out the remainder of an unexpired term and now faces Temple in

tion to a full six-year term.

Temple has served four terms the House and is the son of Arthr Temple Jr., the vice chairman of the board of Time, Inc. He attempted unsuccessfully to run for speaker of the House, then decided to quit the Legislature to campaign for the Rail road Commission.

The winner of the Temple Poerner race will face a Republica opponent in November.

Former GOP candidate for governor, Henry Grover of Houston, the favorite for the Republica nomination, although he is opposin the primarily by John Thom Henderson of Austin and E. Kidd, a Weatherford car dealer.

Shareholders OK Shell split

United Press International TULSA, Okla. — Shell Oil Co. stockholders, responding to the company's previously announced 67 percent earnings increase, overwhelmingly approved a two-for-one stock split Thursday at their annual

Shell officials announced earlier this week the company's first quarter profits soared 67 percent to \$373 mil-

During the meeting, Shell President J.F. Bookout told stockholders, this is by far our best first quarter. Bookout said first quarter profits improved because of the deregulation of oil prices and because Shell has been able to replace its reserve. 'Our highest priority continue

be finding and producing oil and gas in this country," Bookout said, adding that the recent acquisiton of Belridge Oil Co. in California by Shell subsidiary would expan Shell's "domestic energy resource

added to Shell subsidiary, Kernridg Oil Co., Kernridge will have prove reserves of 598 million barrels of crude oil and natural gas liquids and 364 billion cubic feet of gas, Bookoul

New credit insurance rules to be reviewed by June 15 that month to implement the regula

United Press International
AUSTIN The State Board of
Insurance staff said Thursday a final draft of new rules to regulate credit insurance will be ready for consider-ation by June 15.

The board is expected to act later

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tions reducing the amount of conmission insurance companies of pay auto dealers, retailers or other who act as agents in selling credit insurance. Consumers buy credit insurance

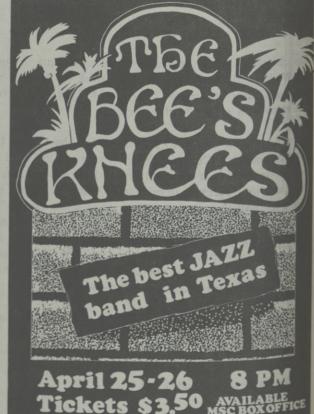
to guarantee payment of debts in installment purchases. Texans paid more than \$107 ml

lion for such insurance in 1978. The three-man insurance boa appointed an industry advisory to mittee to help work out final la guage for the regulations following March 13 hearing.

Woody Pogue, board spokesman said the committee spent two days of intensive review with the staff.

"The committee will meet again in May," Pogue said. "And the boar should have a document to act on by the middle of June."





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