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Farms

United Press International EL PASO — The market is the farmer who needs to power his irrigation pump, or charge his electric fence. The logical application is in the American Midwest, the plains of North Africa and the arid desert of northern Mexico. Libby-Owen-Ford Glass Co. realizes it's not the most

efficient way to make electricity, but it is the cheapest. And the French oil company Compagnie Francaise des Petroles has enough faith in it to join in the \$18 million venture

What the two companies are doing is building a plant to be know as Photon Power Co. which will produce cadmiumsulfide photovoltaic cells - cells they know will have very little appeal to residential America. "It would take a hell of a big roof to hold enough of our

units for a good residential application," said company spokesman Marty Wenzler. "But you take a farmer in central Texas who needs some irrigation pumps running, and he can use the product.

He said it would take three of the modules, designed to sell at around \$300, to power one television set. Wenzler says the 62,000square foot plant under con-struction at El Paso should be on line producing saleable

products by March 1981. "It's strictly a prototype plant, producing only one unit," he said. "If the concept is economically feasible in volume, we will put a plant in southern France to sell to North Africa, one in the southeastern U.S. and probably

one in Mexico.

The heart of Photon is a process in which a 2-foot square piece of glass is sprayed first with tin oxide, then cadmium sulfide, then sectioned by a laser and coated in a vacuum with copper, chromium and lead. It's boxed in wood, fitted with two electrical leads, and when exposed to sunlight it produces 10-16 watts of direct current.

"The Department of Energy believes that good photovoltaics only use silicone instead of cadmium sul-Wenzler said. "Ours takes four times the area as silicone to produce the same power, but we're a lot less expensive

Although Photon believes its immediate market will be largely in Mexico, where 80,000 villages have no power generation whatsoever, he says there are also ready markets in the U.S. for the cell

'On this side of the river, for example, there are a lot of cattle fences with energizers. They need something to charge the battery that sends out a pulse," Wenzler said. There are a lot of electrified fences in the southwest.

He said the Department of Energy is putting a lot of emphasis on residential applications for photovoltaic but for a lot of reasons the technology is not yet practical.

"Remote areas have much more potential for us." He said the amount of energy needed to produce the cell can be regained in less than a year of operation. Although the Photon plant cost \$3.5 million to construct, other expenses up the cost to \$18 million.

We're hoping to produce and sell \$5 million in products next year, and even more the following year. At that rate, we'll make back the \$18 million before 1985."

Has 'nothing to live for'

Gunman takes hostagegu

United Press International NEW ORLEANS — A former mental patient, toting pistol and saying "I don't have anything to live for," Tuesday took a Social Security employee and possibly one other person hostage at a federal office in the Bywater section of the city.

No injuries were reported, although police said several shots were fired. Dozens of people scrambled to safety from the office when the man left briefly — apparently to get his gun — after an initial scuffle

An FBI negotiator entered the office to talk with the suspect, identified as Emmett Gremillion, 35. Heavily armed police SWAT-team members, wearing flak jack-

ets, entered the building and cordoned off the area. "He is getting the grips of the last six years off his chest," police spokesman Don Joly said. "Gremillion seemed very calm, very rational.

Witnesses said the disturbance began about 11 a.m. when Gremillion tried to drag his wife out of the office. She escaped, but he went to his car to get a gun and returned to the office, witnesses said.

Patty Kelly, who was inside with her granddaughter when the melee began, said she hid beneath a desk. She said the gunman held her briefly by the arm and

threatened to keep her hostage even after rived

"I begged for my life," she said. "I said," please don't hurt me. I haven't done you anythin said, 'I'm going to let you go because you're ha agains aboard you're like my mother."" She said the gunman told police he had lost

and children and was unafraid. "He said 'I don't mind dying.' He said, 'Ida

charge anything to live for," Kelly said. The SWAT-team members lifted an air co out of a rear window of the building and climba ual. I' It w missile

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The Social Security employee being held how identified as Charles Jones, a claims taker at the

Joly said the man first demanded to spea governor, but later agreed to talk with an FBI Gremillion, who lived nearby, was identified

as a former mental patient who was on Social and disability. Witnesses said several of the Security workers at the office knew Gremilio

Police Superintendent James Parsons rushe scene to oversee the negotiations. FBI agents and dispatched because of the possibility federal might have jurisdiction.

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Compromise bill on Alaska environment passes Senate

United Press International WASHINGTON — The Senate has set the stage for final approval of a key environmental bill to protect more than 100 million acres of Alaskan wilderness. Senate approval was a virtual certainty following two

key votes taken Monday. First, the Senate easily cut off a filibuster by Sen. Mike Gravel, D-Alaska, on a 63-25 vote, limiting debate and guaranteeing swift final action on the bill.

A few hours later, the Senate handily passed a compromise amendment by Sen. Paul Tsongas, D-Mass., to preserve 104.2 million acres of Alaska's wilderness under various federal protection programs.

The Tsongas amendment, approved 72-16, would preserve more land than the original bill drafted by the Senate Energy Committee, but falls short of the 127.8 million acres included under a tougher House-passed

Under the Tsongas compromise, of Alaska's 375 million acres, 350 million acres would remain open for hunting, 300 million acres would be open for oil and gas easing and 250 million acres would be open to mining. Sen. Ted Stevens, R-Alaska, who voted against the compromise, said the bill takes too much land out of use for hunting and mining, but the compromise is better for Alaska than no bill at all.

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SALES - SERVICE

After Senate action, the bill goes to the Host decision whether it is tough enough.

Under normal procedure, the bill would been House-Senate conference committee, which likely produce a bill closer to that desired by vironmentalists and the administration. But the raise anew the threat of a Gravel filibuster on the ence report, and given the lateness of the another filibuster could be fatal.

Ho As a result, there is speculation the House may the Senate version and avoid a conference a Interior Secretary Cecil Andrus said altho administration would like a tougher bill, the substitute "is a tremendous improvement over DU I've seen" in years of work on the Alaska land Charles Clusen, chairman of the Alaska Coa

environmentalists, also praised the Senate versi said he still hopes for a better bill.

ment out ize Jews symbolize Gravel said no bill was preferable to the leg before the Senate and argued it would jeopadar ka's mineral resources, timber industry and the s way of life.

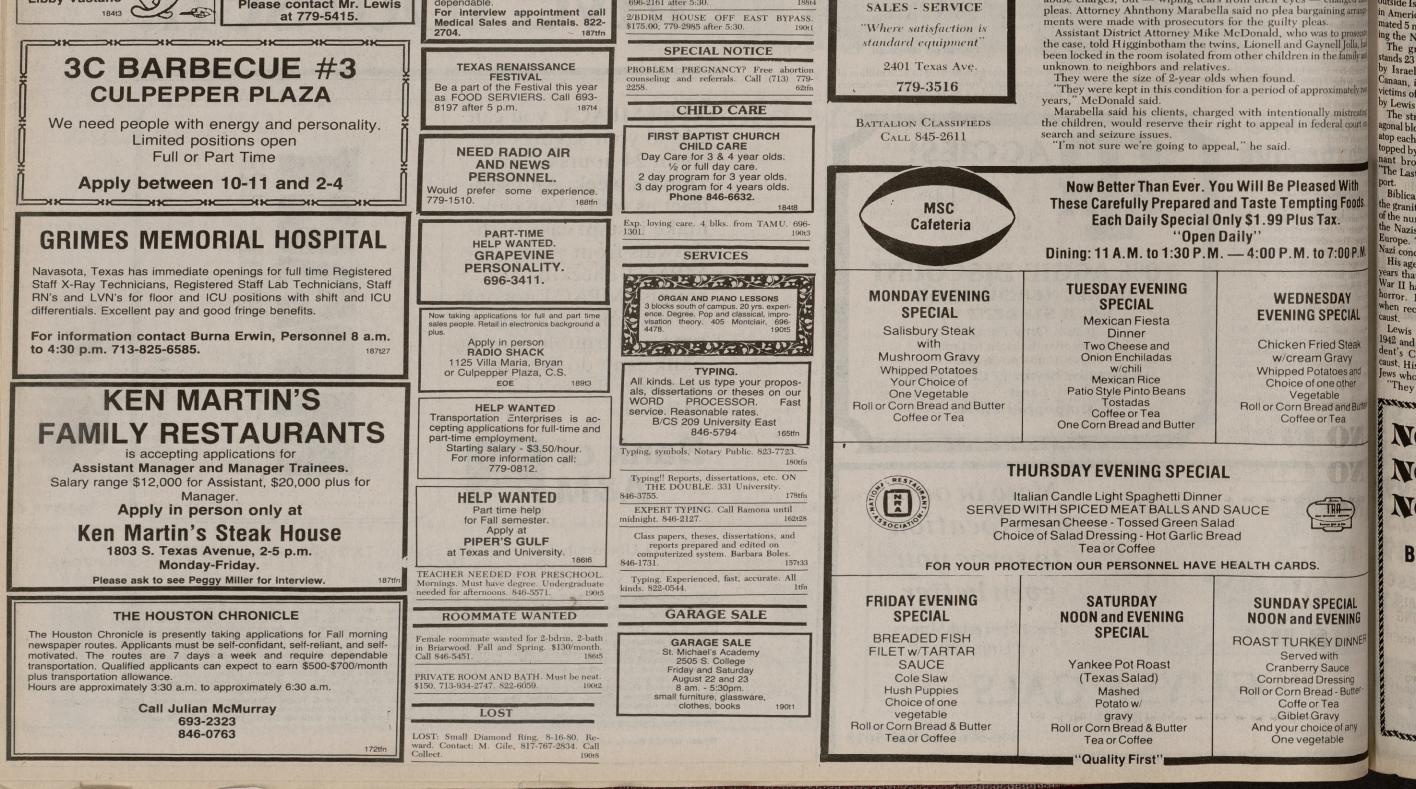
But Stevens said he was certain the admin project o tractor w would take an even tougher stand on Alaska's with if no bill is passed during this session of Congra purpose allowed t

Seven-year-old twins kept isolated in closet for 2 year

United Press International BATON ROUGE, La. — A husband and wife pleaded guilt hiding their 7-year-old twins in a filthy, isolated room for two years reserved the right to appeal their pending sentences in federal our The plea change halted the scheduled start of trials Monday for La and Annie Lee Jolla. State District Judge Leo Higginbotham Jr. sentencing — which could range up to 10 years in prison and \$1.00 fines on each count — for Oct. 22.

The malnourished and scantily clad children were discovered of in a room of their home in May 1979 by social welfare workers sheriff's deputies.

Jolla, 53, and his wife, 46, had been scheduled to go on trial on di Commun abuse charges, but — wiping tears from their eyes — changed the pleas. Attorney Ahnthony Marabella said no plea bargaining arrange in Ameri ments were made with prosecutors for the guilty pleas.



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