

State

Clements seeks to resolve tensions along Texas coast

United Press International
AUSTIN — Gov. Bill Clements' top assistant said Tuesday the problems between Texas coastal fishermen and Vietnamese immigrants have been spelled out and a plan has been formulated to resolve the tensions between the two groups.

Allen Clark met with almost a score of fishermen for two hours.

He then told reporters that the fishermen have agreed to allow the governor's staff to try and resolve the problem.

"We have cleared the air on many different issues. We now know that there is some information to pursue. We have reached agreements on five areas that we hope will help lower the tension," Clark said.

He said the governor's staff would examine the legality of limiting new boats into the coastal area and have the U.S. Coast Guard and Texas Department of Parks and Wildlife enforce the documentation regulations on boats.

Clark also said he and other members of the governor's staff would visit coastal communities

and work with elected officials in those areas to try and ease the tensions.

Clark said studies will be made to see if the Vietnamese fishermen are able to seek other job opportunities in the state away from the coast. He also said a "forum will be pursued" for fishermen to have an input on their problems.

Gene Fisher of Seabrook,

spokesman for the group that met with Clark, said the fishermen were willing to give Clements time to resolve the controversy.

"They've given us some good promises. We'll just wait and see what happens. We're giving the governor a chance to work out the problems," he said.

Fisher said Vietnamese fishermen are operating about 350 boats

along the Texas coast, with the majority being in Seadrift where a Vietnamese killed another fisherman in a dispute two years ago. The defendant maintained he was only defending himself and was acquitted of the murder charges.

Fisher also said he "expected" Clark to make several visits to the coast to study the problems.

"I'm going to back him all the

way until he gives me a reason not to."

Clark said there was not a deadline for trying to carry out the five agreements he made with the fishermen.

"Only have a personal deadline and that's as soon as possible," Clark said.

Gas prices may not hit \$2 in 1981

United Press International
HOUSTON — Executives of Gulf Oil Co. predicted Tuesday the price of gasoline will stay under \$2 a gallon this year but prices will climb while the industry recoups its losses from early 1981 OPEC increases and stabilizes after the decontrol of crude oil.

However, Gulf's 12-cents a gallon increase so far in 1981 have not been related to decontrol, said Robert W. Baldwin, president of Gulf Refining and Marketing Co., but are associated to OPEC increases in December and January.

"The effect of decontrol has yet to be felt," said Baldwin. "Prices are bound to continue to go up because of cost pressures throughout the industry."

Although the Reagan administration said the effect of decontrol of crude oil prices would be an increase of about 3 to 5 cents at the pump, Baldwin said it will be closer to 20 cents a gallon.

Gulf Oil Co. senior vice president Charles H. Bowman said in 1980 the demand for gasoline had decreased by 15 percent, hurting the refineries which are already operating at 80 percent capacity.

"If refinery utilization limps along at 80 percent, the small inefficient refineries will die or be subsidized by the government," he said.

But Baldwin said he sees gas stations, which admittedly were overbuilt in the 1960's, will return to the traditional service stations as a way to secure customers.

"To be successful, dealers will have to shift into providing something the public wants, a pattern different than from the last five years, Baldwin said.

And, he said, the self-service gas stations probably are a thing of the past.

"A two-cents a gallon savings means more when gas is 30 cents a gallon than when it's \$1.50 a gallon," Baldwin said.

Baldwin said he does not see gas lines again "at least for 60 days," but said the lines are "totally a function of political action and the relationship between the United States and Saudi Arabia."

In the next few weeks, Baldwin said the Saudis will begin restricting production of crude oil to avoid a glut in the market. Saudi Arabia presently produces 10 million barrels of crude a day, and will probably cut back to 8 million barrels a day, which is necessary for that country's programs.

Iran and Iraq, which export about 1 million barrels a day, probably will not boost their production as long as their war continues.

Gramm says spending cut a must

United Press International
DALLAS — Controlling federal spending is the greatest peacetime challenge in our history, says a congressman and former economics instructor at Texas A&M University.

Failure to check federal spending "would make it impossible to revitalize the economy and worsen inflation and unemployment," Rep. Phil Gramm, D-Texas, told constituents Monday.

Gramm said if Congress adopts no new programs, the built-in growth in federal spending — commitments to expand programs and services — is sufficient to rule out a balanced budget in the 1980s and make tax reduction impossible.

"There was a time when we could have turned the economy around by just holding the line but that time has passed," Gramm said at a meeting at Red Bird Recreation Center.

"The consequences of doing nothing, of accepting a 'business-as-usual' attitude toward federal spending, will be tragic, catastrophic," he said.

He said Congress must trim dozens of spending categories, terminate some programs, cut others substantially and tighten eligibility for some.

"I'm talking about reductions in federal spending which will affect, directly or indirectly, every family in America," Gramm said. "Gaining control of federal spending will mean sacrifices by Americans."

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