State

Former official pleads guilty for failure to report felonies

United Press International
TYLER — Former Bowie County Commissioner
arlos Eugene Tidwell, charged with accepting oes and submitting phony invoices to the county vernment, pleaded guilty Wednesday to failing to ort a felony offense on three different occasions in

U.S. District Judge William M. Steger ordered thorities to submit an investigation report on Tid-Il before sentencing him on Sept. 14 in Texarkana.

The federal charges accused Tidwell, who had en county commissioner for 24 years, of accepting ibes on three different occasions and then approvinvoices for payment for road and bridge mates which were never ordered nor delivered to

wie County. The charges against Tidwell, other northeast xas county commissioners and salesmen for road d building materials and equipment, resulted n a lengthy investigation authorized by U.S. Attorney John H. Hannah of Tyler and conducted by

the FBI in Tyler.
Others accused in the case are schedueld to go on

trial in Judge Steger's court in September. Wednesday's guilty plea by Tidwell was on a government information report which was offered in place of the indictments under a plea bargain arrangement between Tidwell's attorney, Charles Hall of Texarkana, and Assistant U.S. Atttorney Chris Harrison.

The information charged that on June 30, 1978 Tidwell accepted a \$436 bribe from road and bridge materials salesman Dallas Thompson and then approved a phony invoice from Thompson in the amount of \$872.80.

In the next three months, the information charged, Tidwell accepted two more bribes in the amounts of \$543 and \$454 and approved invoices of \$1,087.68 and \$908.88.

As part of the plea bargain, Tidwell issued a check for \$6,000 Wednesday to Hannah as restitution. The money will be returned to the county, Hannáh said.

NOW leader says tornado support needed for ERA

United Press International

DALLAS — The president of the world's largest inist organization is reminding President Reagan will be in power at the time the Equal Rights endment is ratified or killed.

"I want him to concentrate real heavy on these 11 norths," said Eleanor Cutri Smeal, head of the Naal Organization for Women.

"He is standing in the doorway and blocking quality for half the population of which he is presi-ent. We will not let the Republican Party forget it in ovember 1982 or 1984," she said Tuesday night. With just 11 months left to get three more states to y the Equal Rights Amendment by June 30, 2, for it to be part of the Constitution, Smeal said

ornado-like support was necessary. "Political leaders are always testing the political inds," she told about 500 people attending a ERA untdown Campaign meeting.

I want them to think there is a tornado — I am in nado country aren't I — and that they dare not ad in the way of women's equality," she said. Although the NOW leader blasted President gan throughout her hour-long speech, she just as ickly warned Democrats to "not be so smug" bese they are in control of many of the legislatures in

15 states yet to ratify the amendment.
"The ERA clock is ticking, ticking, ticking away eal said. "We have 11 months to change the legal ituation and status of wommen in our country.

The feminist said she is amazed that almost 60

2 men rob

Ft. Worth

city official

FORT WORTH — Two men

earing ski masks entered the

ome of former mayor pro tem

er husband up, and took about 00,000 in valuables from the re-

Rimmer and her husband, Dr.

watching television late Monday when the bandits broke in through

in unlocked window and pointed

"They told us to lie down and

be quiet or they'd shoot us," Rimmer said. "We did as we were told

because you never know what

heir victims' hands with neckties ind covered Mrs. Rimmer' head

with a blanket and her husband's with a coat. Most of the valuables

aken in the robbery were

amond jewelry and the couple's

The two struggled free after the

bbers left and called police. Au-

horities have no suspects so far.

Margaret Rimmer, tied her and ler husband up, and took about

didence, police said.

pistols at the couple.

people might do.

first introduced, "millions of people do not know the text of the amendment.

She pointed to the banner behind her which quoted the first section of the amendment: "Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of sex.

Smeal accused the Reagan administration of rolling back gains made by women during the past 15 years and also blasted Reagan's proposed cuts to the Social Security system.

Social Security is the major reason I am fighting so hard for ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment," Smeal said.

She described the system as "sex discriminatory" because it does not provide equal benefits for men and women. She vowed the minute ERA passes, "we will go to court and challenge the existing Social

Smeal, a fulltime homemaker until her election as NOW president, said if the Reagan adminstration remains in office much longer "homemakers are an endangered species.

Sixty percent of women on Social Security have that as their only income, she said.

"It is the lifeblood of our mothers and grand-mothers," Smeal said. "It is a very cold cruel world if you are over 65 years of age and taking home \$3,700 a

NOW is trying to raise \$15 million to campaign for years after the idea of equal rights for women was ratification of the ERA, she said.

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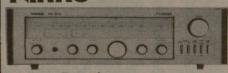
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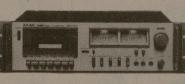
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