

State

Plant workers on strike

Bombs found at car plant

United Press International
TEXARKANA, Ark. — Federal agents have joined police officials in the investigation of two bombs found attached to utility poles at the North American Car Corp. plant, authorities said.

Both bombs failed to explode because the fuses failed, the police said.

The bombs and a bomb threat Tuesday marked the first day company officials began taking applications for positions held by the 229 union workers who are on strike at the plant. Plant manager Harry Mooneyham said company offices were flooded with appli-

cants Tuesday, despite the striking employees who walked picket lines outside the plant.

Police Sgt. James Cowart said detonation of the bombs would have knocked out electricity to the plant. The bombs may have failed to explode because fuses leading to the detonators were old, he said. Also, he said, early morning rains may have snuffed the fuses.

Cowart said the fuses, set to explode in five minutes, were commonly used in seismographic testing.

Agents from the Little Rock office of the federal Department of Tobacco, Alcohol and Firearms

joined the investigation and the two nitrate-based explosives were sent to the FBI lab in Washington, D.C., Cowart said.

"There's no doubt he knew what he was doing," Cowart said of the person who placed the bombs. "An explosion like that would have knocked out all the power to the plant."

The bombs could have threatened area residents if they had exploded, he said.

Authorities learned of the bombs through an anonymous

telephone call Tuesday morning. Police believe the same person called a bomb threat Tuesday afternoon, saying an explosive had been placed in the plant's paint department. No bomb was found.

Members of the local Brotherhood Railway Carmen of the United States went on strike at the plant April 21 citing unfair labor practices. The union and management have failed on four occasions to reach a contract agreement. More negotiations were scheduled Thursday.

Government leaves alien dispute to state

United Press International
WASHINGTON — The Justice Department has told the Supreme Court it will take no position on whether Texas is required to provide free education to illegal alien children.

The position, disclosed in legal papers filed last Friday with the Supreme Court, is a retreat from the government's earlier arguments during the Carter administration that the Texas law should be struck down as unconstitutional.

But now the government said it will allow the dispute to be argued out by those directly affected by the state law.

"Whether the state of Texas is constitutionally obligated to bear the expense of educating school-age children who entered the United States in violation of federal law and whether local school districts are constitutionally required to admit such children to their public schools are issues that affect the state of Texas and the school districts, not the United States," the government said in its legal papers made available Tuesday.

The dispute over tuition-free education for illegal alien children began in 1975 when the Texas legislature passed a law allowing school districts to charge tuition for children who

were not "legally admitted to this country."

Last year, a federal judge in Houston ruled that he violated the equal protection clause of the Constitution. The 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals upheld the ruling, but the case was appealed to the Supreme Court.

The Carter administration had intervened in the case on behalf of the plaintiffs, arguing that the law penalizes children for action beyond their control.

The Supreme Court agreed to consider the case and will hear arguments on the matter later this term.

LULAC denounces Clements lauds act

United Press International
AUSTIN, Texas — The president of the League of United Latin American Citizens has denounced the Reagan administration for the Justice Department's decision to withdraw from a lawsuit seeking free public education for alien children.

But Gov. Bill Clements lauded the department's decision as a "healthy sign" and hailed it as a victory for states' rights.

Bonilla Tuesday slammed Reagan's policies, saying they

"represent a callous disregard for the poor, the minorities and the uneducated in this country."

In addition, he said LULAC considers the Texas law denying free education to alien children a violation of the equal protection clause of the U.S. Constitution.

"It has always been our impression that the Justice Department is charged with the responsibility of seeing that constitution rights not be violated," the Corpus Christi attorney said.

"For them to withdraw from the case is, in effect, a dorsement of the constitutional violations against alien children," he said.

In contrast, Clements, a first Republican governor since Reconstruction, said he is "pleased to see the federal government getting out of state's business."

"It's a healthy sign and that confirms President Reagan's pre-election promise on all these matters of doing more responsibility in states."

\$2 billion nuclear plant too costly, opponents say

United Press International
HOUSTON — Opponents to the Allens Creek nuclear power plant want the project to be cancelled "in the name of common sense" because the estimated cost has already surpassed \$2 billion

and could go as high as \$6 billion.

Two anti-nuclear spokesmen, Bryan Baker and John F. Doherty, contended coal or lignite-fired plants would produce cheaper electricity.

"In the name of common sense

and in the interest of ratepayers and stockholders, the project should be cancelled," they said Tuesday.

But Houston Lighting & Power Co. officials said "whatever the Allens Creek costs, it will still be the cheapest electricity."

Don Beeth said there is a chance HL&P will cancel the project, planned for construction miles west of Houston.

Baker and Doherty at a press conference Tuesday said HL&P advised the Nuclear Regulatory Commission on Monday that the latest construction cost is \$2,090,394,000. But, because of inflation, delays, interest rate cost escalations, the opponents said the price tag could go as high as \$6 billion or more.

HL&P officials said the project depends largely on inflation and there is no way of predicting that now.

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