

Mayor opposes GTE rate increase request

United Press International
AUSTIN — The mayor of Webster said service provided by General Telephone Co. of the Southwest isn't up to acceptable standards and the company should not get a \$110 million rate increase.

Mayor Beverly Heinrich was the first witness called in a Public Utility Commission hearing Thursday on General Telephone's request for a rate increase.

Heinrich said General Telephone's service in her city has improved during the past year, but said it still is not up to acceptable standards.

She said General Telephone's rates are higher than those charged by Southwestern Bell or Continental telephone companies, which operate in the

same vicinity.

E.L. Langley, president of General Telephone's Texas operation, testified for most of the day on the company's need for increased revenue.

The Public Utility Commission staff has recommended the

company be granted a rate increase of \$48.7 million rather than the \$110 million requested.

The Texas Municipal League, which opposes the increase, said General Telephone is entitled to only \$24 million rate hike.

'Heroes' surprise robbery suspect

United Press International
HOUSTON — Five construction workers surprised, tackled and captured a teenager who was calmly walking out of a savings and loan office, which he

had just robbed at gunpoint.

The workers, who have been acclaimed as heroes by the customers in the bank, did not know at the time of the capture Wednesday that the would-be robber, 17, held only a toy pistol.

"I don't know what possessed any of us to tackle him, except we knew we had to do something," construction worker superintendent Barry Smith, 25, said.

Police said a customer entered the San Jacinto Savings and Loan in downtown Houston Wednesday morning in time to see an armed man forcing customers and employees behind a counter.

The man turned from the bank and told a nearby construction crew the bank was being robbed. The workers gathered near the bank entrance, and jumped the suspect as he emerged wearing a nylon stocking over his face.

"We work hard for our money," said C.J. Crowe, 35, who explained that the construction workers were simply tired of crime.

Workers Jerry Harrell, 30, Bill McDonald, 31 and Leonard Hodge, 35, helped jump on the suspect, who had taken \$2,000 from the bank.



The agony of defeat

With the winding down of the semester comes the impact of grades. Ocean engineering sophomore Dave McDonald makes evident his disappointment

in the grade he received on a graphics test. Olga Reagan, a freshman majoring in chemical engineering from Pittsburgh, Pa.

staff photo by Ellen

Arkansas calls it unfair

Power switch protested

United Press International
LITTLE ROCK, Ark. — Arkansas officials believe a new government formula doling out hydroelectricity in a six-state area is unfair and could even

destroy the state's economy by driving the Reynolds Metals Co. out of business.

Gov. Frank White says he is petitioning the Southwestern Power Administration to reconsider the allocation of electricity — a move that may not sit well with the other states involved.

"We're going to look at the demise of the Reynolds operation in the state of Arkansas" unless the company can continue to operate with inexpensive hydroelectricity, White said at a news conference.

Reynolds employs about 2,400 people in central Arkansas — another 1,200 have been laid off — and White said the loss of Reynolds would have a drastic economic impact on the state.

The SPA, a division of the federal Energy Department based in Tulsa, determines how much electricity generated at federal dams will be given to Arkansas, Missouri, Louisiana, Texas, Oklahoma and Kansas.

In 1979, the SPA opened hearings to decide how to distribute more than 2,108 megawatts of hydropower — valuable because it is cheaper than electricity from any other source. But Arkansas officials say they never

destroy the state's economy by driving the Reynolds Metals Co. out of business.

As it turned out, Arkansas' allocation was cut from 521 megawatts to 376 megawatts or 18 percent of the available power. White said the cut is especially

The SPA, a division of the federal Energy Department based in Tulsa, determines how much electricity generated at federal dams will be given to Arkansas, Missouri, Louisiana, Texas, Oklahoma and Kansas.

ly unfair because 53 percent of the hydroelectricity is generated at dams in Arkansas.

"The critical issue is that no state was hurt as severely as the state of Arkansas," White said.

Missouri was the only other state to lose electricity — 35 megawatts — under the new formula. It would still get the lion's share of the available power,

however, at 676 megawatts or 32 percent.

Oklahoma will get 19 percent of the available power, Texas 14 percent — for both, Kansas and Louisiana which do not generate any hydroelectricity, will get 10 percent.

The 145 megawatts lopped off Arkansas were exactly the amount used by Reynolds for its iron plant at Arkadelphia. White's petition, which was signed by all of Arkansas' congressional delegations, the SPA to reopen the hearings on the allocation formula. Several arguments:

— Arkansas government officials apparently were notified that the allocation formula was to be recomputed by Reynolds Metals and Arkansas Power and Light several months privately, but the state did not.

— The manufacture of iron is important to national defense.

— The SPA should have considered the South Central Electric Cooperative, which Reynolds, a "preference customer" and included in the formula.

— The loss of Reynolds would be a hardship to Arkansas development — one of the original goals of the SPA.

— The allocation formula is unfair.

The 376 megawatts will continue to receive divided by the Arkansas Electric Cooperative Corp. and municipalities — Augusta, Clarksville, Jonesboro, Paris, Piggott and Paragould.

They were left in the lurch because they are considered "preference" customers. Jeff Levin of the state Office.

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