Itility companies ligging into mines, onsumers' pockets

United Press International IBBOCK — Utility combuying coal mines for sources of raw energy are ing revenues each month charges passed on to the mer under the fuel adjustclause, a researcher con-

though buying coal mines selling unregulated coal to selves makes good econosense for utilities, the prac-provides room for abuses gh this automatic adjustclause, said Texas Tech niversity economics professor nes E. Jonish.

Itilities in many cases have rchased mines with good innzymein tions - finding a good, conous supply of energy," Jon-said. "This motive has been irable. But there is also the many agument that this allows com-and admies to avoid constraints on the body e rate utilities can claim.'

Orug Ad With the fuel adjustment approved use in place and the fact that general ore utilities own their own un-one by gulated raw fuel supplies, Jon-oices of a said some utilities are cirederal gramventing the electric rate reg-n another ations imposed by state utility

er 18 m "If one regulated sector of the secure onomy merges with an unreg-the com ated sector, we need a single se and by le so profits will not be trans-survival red to the unregulated sec-of looking at invoices and mak-

tors," he said. "In most states right now, there is a policy vacuum on this issue.

Fuel adjustment clauses became common soon after the 1973 Arab oil embargo, which changed the world's energy pricing structure. The clause permits electric companies to pass on the cost of raw fuel directly to the consumer.

After the Arab embargo, about three-fourths of the nation's 50 state utility commissions fuel adjustment adopted

In his study, Jonish sent inquiries to utility commissions in all 50 states. Of the 40 states that responded, only eight had provisions regarding fuel cost adjustments for any utility that

owned raw energy supplies.
Jonish said a possible solution
to abuses of the fuel adjustment
clause would be to require that the market price be used for raw fuel sold within the corporate

"Otherwise, a company has no proper incentive to improve operation efficiency because the cost of inefficiencies can be passed on the the consumer,"

Under such a rule, utility commissions would require that companies buy coal from themselves at market prices.

"Enforcing this is just a matter

Clements' task force report asks for increased tuition Texas A&M and University of

United Press International AUSTIN — Gov. Bill Clements Thursday received the final report of his task force on education, but reserved comment on the controversial recommendations that tuition at colleges and universities, including Texas A&M University, be doubled and eventually quadrupled, and that colleges and universities outside the

Texas systems be realigned on a geographical basis.

The 30-member task force said tuition rates for Texas residents in public colleges and universities are among the lowest in the nation and cover only 4 percent of the educational cost for a full-time stu-

mended the Legislature double the tuition rate when it meets in 1983, then provide for an annual increase until tuition has quadrupled over the current rate of \$4 a semes-

ter hour. The task force also said that by placing the schools into four regional districts, a substantial number of governing

boards could be reduced as well as duplication in course offerings.

UT and Texas A&M would retain a statewide focus under the recommendation.

The report also calls for an increase in teacher's salaries to keep them ahead of inflation and near or above the national average for educators.

dent of Others sighted

ch briefly touched down ursday in a rural area slightly y press fursday in a rural area slightly at all for amaged two homes, but resints in Dayton feared more O'Hair samage would come from two ill have ther tornados they saw lurking

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ing adjustments for BTU (British Thermal Unit) content and

differences," Jonish said. "The rule would be easy to administer

and would eliminate many pos-

sible abuses of the fuel adjust-

Energy predicts that 36 percent

of the utilities' raw energy needs

will be provided by utility-

By 1985, the Department of

transportation

ment clause.

owned coal mines.

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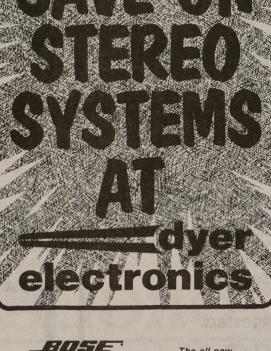
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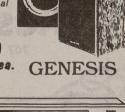
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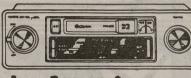
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