



Taking the stereo for a walk

staff photo by David Fisher

Moving stereo equipment can be a problem; these women came up with a novel solution. Here Lydia Yanez pulls a loaded baby stroller onto the sidewalk while her daughter Lucelia Yanez, left,

seems pleased with the result. A cousin, Mary Jane Yanez, looks on. Lucelia is a new transfer student; she will be a junior accounting major in the fall. All three are from Eagle Lake.

## Workers say nuclear plant plagued by incompetence

**United Press International**  
GLEN ROSE — Six former construction workers at the Comanche Peak Nuclear Power Plant claim incompetent supervisors, drug use by workers and harassment of quality-control inspectors plague the plant, which is beset by cost overruns and construction delays.

The allegations, in depositions to be filed with the U.S. Atomic Safety and Licensing Board, were made public last week by the Citizens' Association for Sound Energy which has opposed construction of the plant. The federal board will resume licensing hearings on the plant July 26 in Fort Worth.

John J. Gates of Azle said in a signed statement he quit his job as a carpenter at the plant because he could not cope with the

"stupidity" of his supervisors. He accused the supervisors of being incompetent and receiving their jobs through political means.

Another former worker, Robert L. Hamilton, said drugs and alcohol were in wide use at the site.

Texas Utilities Co. spokesman Dick Ramsey disputed all the statements.

## Farm leaders praise, attack Reagan's agriculture policy

**United Press International**  
AUSTIN — Leaders of two farm organizations Monday commended the Reagan administration for approving disaster aid to 60 Texas counties, but said the administration has done nothing to solve long-term farm problems.

Mike Moeller, president of the Texas Farmers Union, and Marilyn Ekberg, state coordinator of the American Agriculture Movement of Texas, said at a news conference that the disaster aid will help farmers in the 60 Panhandle and West Texas counties recover from severe weather losses this year.

But "it does not begin to address the serious plight of today's farming economy," Ekberg said.

"We must take a long hard look at adequate measures to relieve the disastrous situation of all farmers caused by low com-

modity prices. Disasters come in many forms, and we urge the leaders of our nation to begin to address the disaster caused by low farm prices."

Moeller said the two organiza-

tions are working to reverse a previous congressional vote that killed the Farm Crisis Act, and said the Reagan administration's failure to find solutions to low farm prices may help sway votes in favor of the bill.

## Senate to consider tax-increase package

**United Press International**  
WASHINGTON — This will be a taxing week for members of the Senate — one that may come back to haunt some of them this month when they seek re-election.

The chamber is to take up a \$8 billion three-year tax increase package that President Reagan embraces as "balanced," but that voters may find unpalatable.

A Senate Budget Committee memorandum shows the proposal is more than five times as large as the combined effect of the two previous tax increases in 1969 and 1976, when estimated in 1982 dollars.

Reagan opposed any suggestions for tax increases last year, but has endorsed the Senate package as necessary to bring climbing federal deficits under control.

About half of the tax revenue raised would come from stepped-up taxpayer compliance, and a 10 percent automatic withholding of interest and dividends for tax purposes.

It would also double the tax on cigarettes from the current 8 cents a pack to 16 cents. And

individuals would lose medical tax deductions for all but the most catastrophic illnesses as the deduction trigger would be increased from the current 3 percent to 10 percent of a taxpayer's adjusted gross income.

Many of the remaining items would affect businesses, including accelerated corporate tax payments and higher business contributions to fund unemployment compensation.

The legislation was to be presented to the Senate late Monday. Debate is scheduled to start today, and a vote is expected by the end of the week.

The Senate has agreed to limit itself to 20 hours of debate on the package that also includes \$17.4 billion in spending reductions through 1985, including cuts in Medicare, welfare and unemployment compensation.

In the House, the Ways and Means Committee plans to start work this week on its tax-increase package. But the Democratic-led panel is not likely to make any dramatic progress until after the Senate completes action.

Sen. Robert Dole, R-Kan., chairman of the Finance Committee, noted that the first

phase, raising \$21 billion, will not take effect until January 1983.

"We don't raise taxes in an election year," Dole said in a radio interview on UPI Audio's "Roundtable" program.

"We would enact the legislation in an election year and that indicates a lot of courage, if in fact we do that, on the part of members of Congress to do the right thing."

"Why do it? We do it for one reason — to bring down interest rates. We don't think we're going to bring down interest rates until we bring down deficits, and this could be helpful."

In a letter to Dole and Senate Republican leader Howard Baker during the weekend, Reagan endorsed the legislation as "a good and balanced bill."

Critics note the irony of the big tax increases following closely the \$750 billion income tax cut approved last year — the biggest tax cut in history. But Reagan's letter said, "In my opinion, adoption of this bill will lead us on a downward path of deficit reduction, improve the fairness of the tax system, and maintain the integrity of my economic recovery program."

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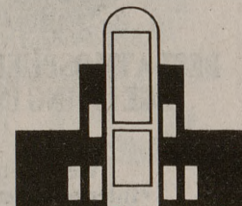
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