

Reagan's problems may cause tax hike

United Press International
HOUSTON — If the Reagan administration refuses to cut defense spending and the Congress refuses to allow more cut-backs in social programs, major tax increases are likely, the Chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee warns.

Rep. Dan Rostenkowski, D-Ill., on Tuesday told delegates to the 1982 American Petroleum Institute's annual meeting in Houston a major tax aimed at the energy industry is a strong possibility if the president fails to reduce defense spending.

"The real choice facing the Reagan White House is between big defense cuts and big tax increases. If he refuses to slow

military budgeting, then he's got to find a way to pay for it," Rostenkowski said.

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Rep. Dan Rostenkowski, D-Ill., chairman of the house ways and means committee.

He said voters, by maintain-

ing a Republican Senate and a Democratic House in the Nov. 2 general elections, have told Congress they want a reasonable bipartisan approach to the budget and a "balance between the competing forces of Social Security, defense, taxes and deficits."

Rostenkowski said an energy tax would be a prime option for Reagan because Congress will never allow the current administration to pay for defense projects with Social Security funds.

However, he said he is not convinced an energy tax is the best way to approach the country's economic problems.

He called on oil executives to encourage their lawmakers to approve such a balanced economic plan for the United States.



Can you find happiness in a box? Staff photo by Irene Mees

Texas A&M Recreation and Parks have declared Float to Relax an official relaxation sport. Margaret Hansen, assistant manager at Float to

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Defense lawyer praised

Brown discusses verdict

United Press International
GALVESTON — In a jail interview, Texas prison inmate Eroy Brown says he considers his acquittal in the drowning of a prison warden simple justice and not a personal victory.

"I feel like the truth was brought out," Brown said. "I don't consider it a personal victory. I didn't win or lose. I consider it justice being done."

Brown, found innocent Tuesday in his retrial in the April 1981 death of Texas Department of Corrections Ellis Unit Warden Wallace Pack, said he wept at the verdict because of mixed feelings.

"I'm happy and I thank the jury for being fair, but perhaps I'll have to go through this again," Brown told the Houston Chronicle.

Brown said he was reluctant to comment extensively because of the possibility he might be tried in the shooting of Ellis Unit Farm Manager Billy Max Moore in the same incident in which Pack died.

"I realize the public has a right to know how I feel, but I have to be careful because my case is still under litigation," Brown said.

Brown praised defense lawyer Craig Washington, who

was treated at a hospital emergency room last week for fatigue and tension. Washington had to lie down on the parking lot outside the courtroom Tuesday because he was hyperventilating.

"That man has given so much of himself. He's the only person I'm really worried about right

now," Brown said.

Brown claimed self-defense in the drowning of Pack, 54, in an April 4, 1981, confrontation on the Ellis Unit near Huntsville. He said Pack and Moore, 48, attacked him for complaining about not getting a furlough he wanted.

Dallas wants 'pot citations'

United Press International
DALLAS — The police chief and city council no longer want the arrest of people caught with small amounts of marijuana, preferring instead to give them a citation much like a traffic ticket.

The proposal, included in the Dallas City Council's legislative package for consideration by the Texas Legislature, was approved by the council with virtually no opposition.

"It's an effort on our part to handle it in a more efficient manner," said Police Chief Billy Prince. "What we're trying to do is keep as many officers on the street as we can."

Prince said the proposal reflects changing social values and conceded such an idea would not have been considered in Dallas a few years ago. Police officers support the idea, he said.

Prince also said changing the

current state marijuana law would help reduce the city's overcrowded jail population.

Currently, people caught with marijuana must be arrested. Police say, however, the practice ties up valuable police resources that could better be used fighting more serious problems.

Under the proposal, for which the city will lobby in Austin, people with less than 4 ounces of marijuana would be issued a citation, much like a traffic ticket, requiring an appearance in court on a specific date.

The city does not seek to change penalties for possession of marijuana. Possession of two to four ounces is a Class A misdemeanor punishable by a year in jail and a \$2,000 fine. In reality, however, most cases are disposed of in court by fines and probated sentences.

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