

# Senate divided on how to select PUC members

**United Press International**  
AUSTIN — A state senate committee has approved the first major change in the Public Utility Commission in nearly 10 years, but the move increased chances of a confrontation with the governor who wants more reforms.

The compromise bill approved by the Senate State Affairs Committee Monday on a 13-0 vote provides sweeping re-

forms in the nearly 10-year-old PUC, but the committee and the Senate are sharply divided on how commission members should be selected.

Commissioners on the three member panel currently are appointed, but Gov. Mark White has said he considers the election of commissioners a crucial element of any PUC reform bill.

When informed that the Senate committee had rejected the

election of commissioners, White again hinted that he might call a special legislative session to achieve his goal.

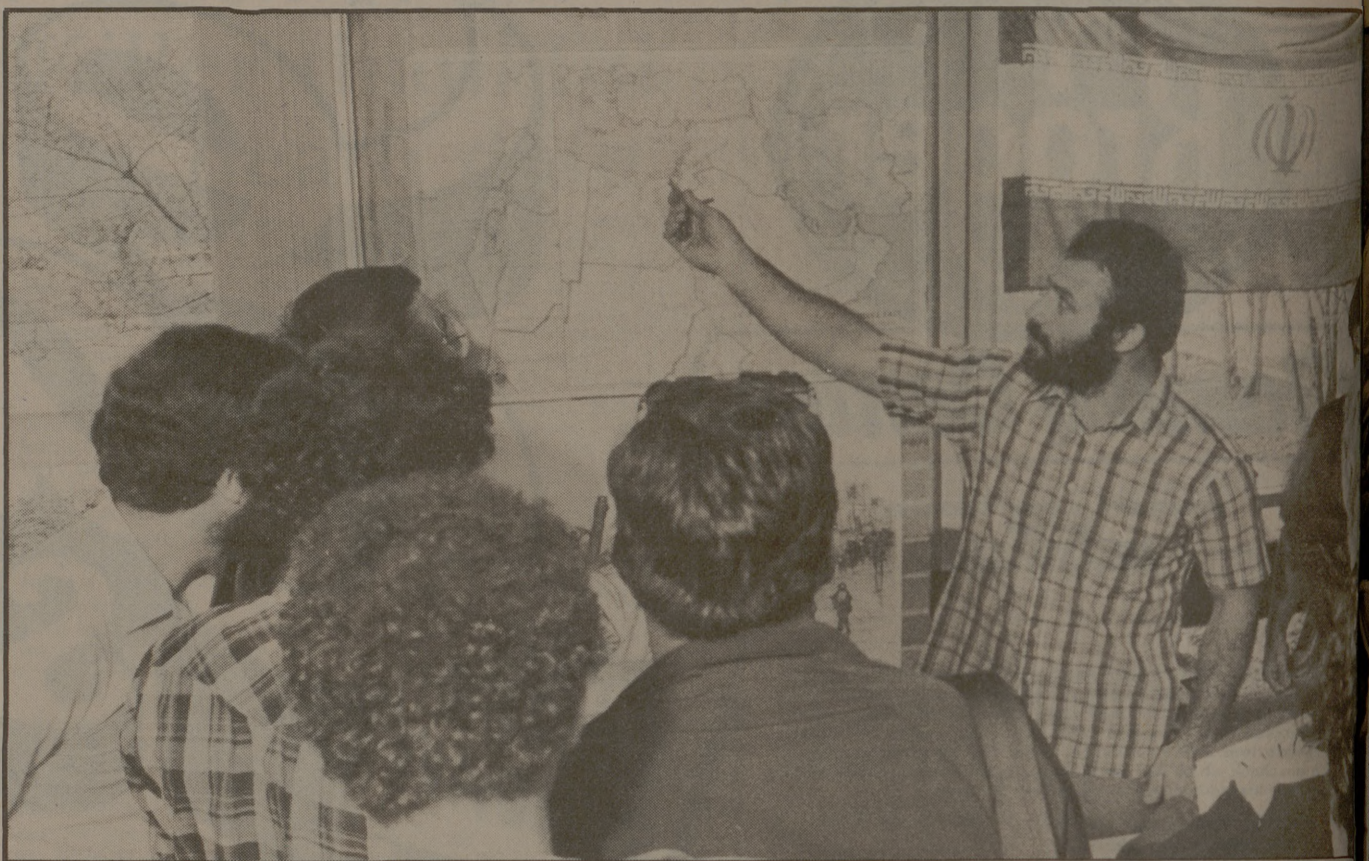
"I hope they have plenty of time to think about that between now and the end of the session, whenever that might be," White said.

Sen. Lloyd Doggett, D-Austin, however, said that at present, a majority of the 31-member Senate opposed White's proposal.

"I think it is pretty obvious that the Senate is not ready to vote for the election of PUC commissioners," he said. "It will take an extraordinary effort on Governor White's part to win them over."

Doggett, Sen. Kent Caperton, D-Bryan and Sen. Hugh Farmer, D-Fort Worth all offered amendments calling for some form of popular vote as the means of selecting PUC commissioners. Each amendment failed by a wide margin.

The committee, however, agreed on several issues that toughen the way electric and telephone utilities are regulated in Texas.



staff photo by Bill Sch...

## Moslems and the Middle East

Fazlollah Emadian, from Tehran, Iran, discusses unity between Moslems and political situations that cause friction within the religion. Emadian was

speaking in the Memorial Student Center as part of International Week. A food fair is scheduled for 6 tonight on the second floor of the MSC.

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**Blue law supporters argue on small shopowners behalf**

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United Press International  
AUSTIN — Supporters of Texas' 22-year-old blue law say it ensures workers are not forced to labor on Sunday and that it should be retained on behalf of independent shopkeepers.

Among the groups represented before a state House committee Monday were the Texas Retailers Association and the Texas Automobile Dealers Association. Speakers for the blue law would increase the head, but not sales.

"It's not the greatest law in the world, but it's the one our economic survival at this time," testified Howard Thorton, an automobile dealer and spokesman for the Texas Automobile Dealers Association.

The 1961 law, which prohibits the sale of 42 classes of goods on consecutive Saturdays and Sundays, repeatedly survived court challenges after repeal of the Massachusetts blue law went into effect.

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