## Hurricane consequences

## Judges tough on looters

coast, imposing a 12-year sentence on one exconvict and vow-

my court concerning looting is going to be tried by a jury who went though the storm and wants to deal with looters on their own basis.

"We want to send out a strong message to everyone who even has an idea of preying on some-one else's misery," McSpadden

Visiting Judge George Taylor Monday imposed a 12year sentence on an ex-convict charged with looting during the Thursday storm which claimed

Insurance adjustor GAB Business Systems Inc. predicted insured damage claims would exceed \$1 billion and make Alicia easily the costliest storm in

United Press International
HOUSTON — Judges sent a
strong message to looters along
the hurricane-torn Texas Gulf

Though crime was reported down in Galveston, Police Capt.
Leon Lewis said National
Guardsmen will remain in the city until officials survey the situation and decide they are not

"There will be absolutely no plea-bargaining," state District Judge Michael McSpadden said Monday. "Every single course of the risk with all the police, guardsmen and Department of Public Safety of the police, guardsmen and Department of Public Safety of the police, guardsmen and Department of Public Safety of the public Safety of the police, guardsmen and Department of Public Safety of the public Safety many burglaries and even accidents are down. We've had less crime reported during this time than normal.'

Lewis said a blockade set up Friday at the Interstate 45 causeway — the main entrance leading onto Galveston Island — will remain as will an 8 p.m. to 6 a.m. curfew in the city until full electricity is restored.

Between 150,000 to 200,000

residents remained without electrical power Monday. Houston Lighting & Power Co. officials said portions of Galveston's West Beach tourist area may be without service until after the normally-profitable Labor Day weekend

factor in predictions of a three-week outage in the West Beach area, comprised mostly of second homes and rental prop-

"Portions of the beach area are flat — winds literally tore down all our equipment," said HL&P spokesman Ian Ramsay. "Some of the damage we

were able to get to right off the bat was the easy stuff. What we get to now is the hard damage to

Out-of-town help arrived Monday to help HL&P crews get service restored.

Though much of the historic and tourist sections were spared heavy damage by the storm, officials said it could be several weeks before the area returns to normal.

Operations along the 50-mile long Houston Ship Channel were still suspended because channel-marking buoys and lights were lost in the storm, the Coast Guard said.

"The channel is opened only to limited extent during the day. The larger vessels are not com-Hurricane winds removed all ing in and it is up to the pilots whether to allow the smaller ves-

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sels," said Coast Guard spokes-man Matt Walter.

Downtown Houston was reopened for business, but a spokeswoman for Mayor Kathy Whitmire said power outages in residential sections of the city made life difficult because of heat and humidity across the

City Councilman Ben Reyes, however, questioned what he called unplanned, uncoordin-ated cleanup efforts. He cited many workers were using axes rather than chain saws to cut up the hundreds of trees strewn

across city streets.
Five Red Cross disaster centers were opened Monday to provide food, shelter and medical attention to some of the 12,000 families displaced by storm, Red Cross spokeswoman Susan Clowe said.

Telephone service had been restored to all but 50,000 resi-dents in the storm area, said Southwestern Bell spokesman Ken Brasel. At the peak of the storm, more than 300,000 people were without phones.

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Duplexes

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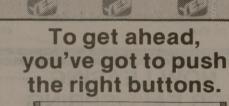




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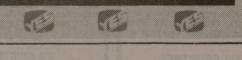
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