## TDC director Estelle's resignation confirmed

United Press International HOUSTON — Longtime Texas Department of Corrections Direstor W.J. Estelle is resigning the post he has held for the past 11 years, TDC Chairman Bob Gunn confirmed Thursday.

Gunn said Estelle informed the

TDC board of his decision Sunday

ment later today.

"We're naturally shocked," Gunn said. "We kept it in confi-dence until he had a chance to tell his wardens.

and get the second of equal size for only 20¢

"He's going to stay and help us

and agreed to remain in his post find a successor and make a until a successor is named. Estelle smooth transition. This is important in anything as volatile as a prison system. Gunn said he would not discuss Estelle's reasons for resigning.

That's his business," he said. Estelle has been at the center of controversy in recent years with the prison reforms ordered by U.S. District Judge William Wayne Justice of Tyler, and has been criticized. But he is widely

respected in corrections circles. Estelle, 52, has run the 21-unit Texas prison system through some of its most turbulent times. For a time this year, TDC was the nation's most populous prison system with more than 36,000 in-

director in 1972. Estelle had a reputation as a tough prison master but often expressed fatherly concern for his

He had not been in office long before in 1974 inmate Federico Gomez Carrasco, known as a South Texas drug kingpin, led other inmates in taking hostages in the Huntsville prison library and demanding an escort to freedom.

Four people, including Carras-co and a fellow inmate, died in TDC's aggressive breakup of that escape attempt.

More recently, Estelle, who as TDC director was named defendant in more than 10,000 lawsuits,

## Congressman against flood insurance hike

WASHINGTON — Rep. Lindy Boggs, D-La., said Thursday she fears the National Flood Insurance program serving 1.86 million Americans in floodprone communities will be undermined by continued rate

Boggs told a House subcomthat rate increases already have prompted some policyholders in 17,400 floodprone communities to let their insurance lapse, including several in her home state recently devastated by 100-year spring flooding.

"I question the wisdom of another substantial rate in-crease when three major premium increases have been implemented since January 1981,

said Boggs. "There had been no increases at all prior to that

"I question the rate increase not because I am opposed to the government saving money — but because I support the federal flood insurance program and I am deeply concerned about its ability to meet its objectives and remain viable if pre-mium rates are not kept afford-

An average \$18 rate increase is scheduled Oct. 1 in the 15-year-old National Flood Insurance Program, which allows residents in flood-prone areas to obtain insurance at a reduced rate if their community enacts adequate flood plain manage-

ment regulations That will put average preinsurance carrying a \$500 ductible, officials said, although the House has passed a bill by ring any rate increases unnext October. The Senate

not passed such restrictions
Also appearing before t
panel was Jeffrey Bragg, and nistrator of the program, said he is trying to make to program self-supporting 1988.

'Rates in the program never been raised prior to 1981," said Bragg, "and in lat in the early 1970s, rates were lowered to encourage partici

He said the rate increa scheduled Oct. 1 would gene ate \$27 million in extra incom for the program.

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## Waste of money called careless

United Press International WASHINGTON — The failure to exercise lease options in several states, including New Mexico, costing taxpayers more than \$30 million in higher rent, was due in part to human error and/or carelessness by the regional offices, the General Accounting Office

Taxpayers in the Southwest will pay \$40,000 in higher rent during a five-year renewal period be-cause the General Service Administration failed to exercise an option of a lease for a building in Cuba, N.M.

GSA officials told the GAO, Congress' investigative arm, the option was not exercised because transfer of personnel resulted in management oversight," a GAO report said Wednesday.
GSA officials in Fort Worth said

the Cuba oversight occurred in November 1981 on the lease option for 3,750 square feet to house offices for the Bureau of Land Management, Forest Service and Soil Conservation Service.

The New Mexico case was one of seven missed options nation-

wide that were cited in the report showing taxpayers could foot the bill for more than \$30 million in higher rent because of government mistakes during the past

However, the GAO said the Cuba, N.M. case was the only missed option by the GSA region However, the GAO said the ment had 635 learning in the ment had 635 learni

involving Arkansas, Louisia New Mexico, Oklahoma Texas. The GSA oversees recon supplies and space for government agencies in the region.

"The management of rer options has been a continuo for GSA officials," the report The GAO said it found ationwide occurred because

human error and/or carless erroneous data and a program ficiency in the informational tem the GSA uses to keep to leases and non-standard pr "GSA officials have made an

certed effort to minimize re ence of the problem," the m

A lease renewal option gives government the right to conto tenancy for a specified tem a rental at the expiration of the tial lease if the government vides written notice within a 'At the time of lease renew the market rental rate is of

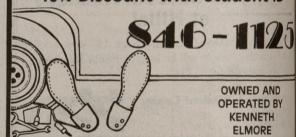
more costly than the option not the GAO said. "Therefore, it generally in the governments terest to exercise the lease of and obtain the lower ren when it has a continued nee the space As of March 1983, the gov

ment had 635 leases totaling million in the five-state &



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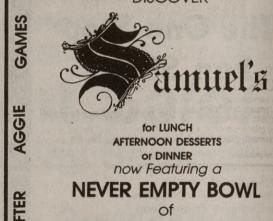
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