

Mattox to make court appearance

United Press International
AUSTIN — Texas Attorney General Jim Mattox makes his first court appearance today in the aftermath of a grand jury indictment charging him with commercial bribery.

that Mattox offered not to delay approval of several bond issuances being handled by a Houston law firm if the firm dropped attempts to question his sister in connection with a lawsuit involving Mobil Oil Corp.

primarily for the purpose of naming lawyers in the case. Mattox, 40, a Democrat elected last year, already has hired noted Austin attorney Roy Minton for his defense.

Approval or denial of public bond issues, he said, is one of the duties of the attorney general and does not fit into the statutory definition of a bribe.

filed until approximately 10 days before the next court hearing, which he predicted would be in November.

PUC shuts up former staffer

United Press International
AUSTIN — The Public Utility Commission Wednesday blocked the testimony of one of its former staff members who had been subpoenaed by Texas Electric Service Co. on behalf of its \$195 million rate case.

stormed out. He could not be reached for comment.

In an emotion-charged emergency hearing in which former PUC staff member Dr. Samuel C. Hadaway stormed out of the meeting, the commission voted 2-0 to void a subpoena for Hadaway.

During the hearing he said TESCO had not paid him for his appearance.

A PUC examiner last week issued the subpoena for Hadaway, who resigned as PUC economic research director a few weeks ago to join the faculty of Southwest Texas University.

The hearing Wednesday marked the latest in a series of bitter exchanges between the commission staff and TESCO. The conflict apparently began at the start of the rate hearings when the company was forced to turn over certain records.

Hadaway had prefiled written testimony for the TESCO rate hearing before he left the commission, but it was disavowed by the PUC after his resignation.

Erwin said he regretted that "bitterness and hostility had developed," and commissioner Peggy Rosson said she was sorry Hadaway had been "dragged into the middle of this mess."

While PUC chairman Alan Erwin was explaining the commission's ruling, Hadaway jerked open the door to the PUC hearing room and

While he was still on the PUC staff, Hadaway made recommendations on company equity and company accounting procedures and directed study on the relationship of company bond ratings to customer costs.

The subpoena was issued at TESCO's request.

In opposing Hadaway's testimony, PUC attorney Steve Porter said the law creating the commission barred former PUC employees from returning to the PUC to represent a utility.

District judge fines rest home \$5,000

United Press International
DALLAS — In what Attorney General Jim Mattox called a precedent-setting case, a state court judge Wednesday levied a \$5,000 civil fine against a Mesquite nursing home accused of subjecting its patients to dangerous conditions.

home reform in Texas," said Mattox. "And I intend to continue cracking down on consistently bad nursing homes by going to court to obtain civil penalties."

One case cited was a patient who died two hours after she was found standing on her head and returned to her bed without restraints.

Dallas County District Judge John M. Marshall also named a trustee for the Trailwood Manor Nursing Home, which lost its state certification and the right to receive state Medicaid payments last July 31.

A spokeswoman for the nursing home said officials there were unaware of the penalties and had no comment.

The inspectors also found several cases of improperly dressed bedsores, patients lying in their own excrement and patients with scabies, said Mattox.

"I view this case as setting a precedent in the area of nursing

During an inspection earlier this month, Texas Health Department inspectors said they found five instances of improper medical care at Trailwood Manor.

"I'm sending a message to shoddy nursing home operators with this judgment that I am not afraid to take them to court to obtain penalties and that I will be successful," said Mattox.

Judge relaxes ban on cameras

United Press International
GEORGETOWN, Texas — A state court judge Wednesday relaxed part of his earlier gag order that banned all cameras and tape recorders from the grounds of the Williamson County Courthouse.

house Monday. Lott issued the original gag order last week, but did not put it into writing until Monday.

In response to a complaint filed by KVUE-TV in Austin, District Judge William Lott agreed to allow cameras and tape recorders on the courthouse grounds but continued his ban on equipment inside the building.

The Texas Court of Criminal Appeals Tuesday rejected a motion by KVUE to halt the gag order until the issue is resolved. In the court gave Lott until Thursday to file a response to the television station's complaint.

Lott is presiding over the case of Victor and Modene Marek of Bartlett, who are charged with stealing and selling \$150,000 worth of grain from a warehouse they operated.

In an 11-page response filed late Wednesday, Lott said he had issued similar orders during his seven years on the bench after receiving complaints from jurors and witnesses and about television lights.

Williamson County deputies seized a video recorder from KVUE after a reporter took the equipment inside the court-

Lott said the courthouse in Georgetown is too small to accommodate television crews, adding KVUE had waged an anti-media campaign against the order.

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