

More money granted for Eroy Brown trial

United Press International
HUNTSVILLE — Walker County, drained from the expense of two previous trials of former Texas prison inmate Eroy Brown, will use a \$45,000 state grant for Brown's third trial in the death of a prison farm manager.

the grant Tuesday for Brown's third trial, which is scheduled to begin in December in Edinburg. Brown will be tried on a charge of murder in the April 1981 shooting death of Ellis Unit farm manager Billy Max Moore. He was scheduled to be tried on capital murder charges, but

Walker County Prosecutor Frank Blazek said that reducing the charge to murder — which eliminates the death penalty — would cut the cost and the length of the trial.

"The fact issues of the case have not changed," Blazek said. Brown, 32, of Waco, also was charged with capital murder in the April 1981 shooting death of Ellis Unit Warden Wallace Pack at the unit near Huntsville. He said he killed Pack and Moore in self defense.

Brown's first trial for the death of Pack ended in a hung jury in Galveston in March 1982. He was acquitted of charges of Pack's drowning last November.

Brown is now in the Hidalgo County Jail awaiting trial. He had been serving a 12-year sentence for armed robbery but was placed on mandatory supervision, a type of parole, on Sept. 9.

R.I.



by Paul Dirmeyer

Discrimination charged

Is Ma Bell a sexist?

United Press International
AUSTIN — Insinuations that Southwestern Bell Telephone Co.'s contributions to charity discriminate on the basis of sex were raised Wednesday during a Public Utility Commission hearing.

At the hearing on the company's proposed \$1.7 billion rate increase, Carol Barger, director of Texas Consumers Union, said an analysis of the utility's donations to charity showed a "severe disparity" between the amount of money given to women's organizations and men's groups.

Barger cited figures that showed Bell in one year contributed \$33,545 to boys' organizations, while giving only \$2,000 to girls' organizations. Also, she said, Bell gave \$79,000 to Texas YMCAs and only \$3,800 to

YWCAs.

"I'm appalled and my clients are appalled at what we view as sexism in your giving," she told Bell Vice President Paul Roth, the company's first witness in the hearings that began Monday.

But Roth denied the company practiced any form of discrimination in its charitable contribution program.

"We don't have guidelines that say so many dollars ought to go to men and so many dollars ought to go to women," he said. "What we attempt to do is to respond to the needs of the community as it is presented to us."

Roth defended Bell's charitable donations in general, saying the company wants to help "worthwhile endeavors that we

feel we need to be part of, along with the rest of the business community."

He also said such donations are an appropriate business expense that should be passed along to consumers.

Barger and Roth disagreed on the total amount of charitable donations the company is seeking from ratepayers in its current case. Barger said the figure is \$2.3 million, but Roth said it is only \$900,000.

Barger also questioned Roth about contributions made to organizations in Austin and Laredo.

Despite Laredo's high unemployment rate, she said, Austin organizations received 17 times as much money from Bell as

Laredo groups, even though Austin is only five times larger than the border city.

Roth responded that the difference "may reflect greater activity on the part of organizations in Austin."

In earlier testimony Wednesday, Roth said Southwestern Bell is considering several business ventures unrelated to telephone business after a venture Jan. 1 from American Telephone & Telegraph.

But he said the companies concentrate initially on telephone service.

Some of the potential ventures Roth mentioned include vehicle fleet management, the sale of data processing training.

Cocaine worth \$2 million seized by El Paso officers

United Press International
EL PASO — Nine people suspected of running a coast-to-coast cocaine distribution network have been arrested, and cocaine valued at \$2 million has been seized, El Paso Police and Department of Public Safety officers said Wednesday.

The DPS charged the nine with aggravated possession of a controlled substance.

Persons arrested late Tuesday

are: Daniel Delgado, 27; Roberto Diaz; Rosa Diaz, 29, all of El Paso; Josefina Serra, 32, of Los Angeles, Calif.; and five Cuban citizens from Miami, Fla. — Ester Rivera Brito, 19, Alberto Maytin Rodas, 32, Luis Mora Sarmiento, 47, Raul Fernando Chang, 33, and Josefina Rodas Maytin, 26.

Federal drug agents said the arrests point to the increased use of El Paso and Interstate High-

way 10 as a major drug link between Florida and California, despite multi-agency crackdowns against Caribbean and South American drug smugglers.

The nine were arrested after more than a month of negotiations and meetings with undercover agents, police said. Cocaine bought and seized amounted to 7.5 pounds with a street value of \$2 million, officers said.

Capt. Guadalupe Domínguez of the Police Special Investigations Group said the drug action began Oct. 2 when undercover SIC detectives negotiated to buy cocaine from two of the suspects.

Each man is being held on \$500,000 bond, and a woman is being held for \$100,000 bond. A justice of the peace added \$50,000 to each bond.

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Officials seek stop to burning

United Press International
AUSTIN — Attorney General Jim Mattox and a state senator asked the two U.S. senators Wednesday help stop the burning of hazardous wastes off the Texas coast.

The Environmental Protection Agency has granted a tentative permit that will allow chemical Waste Management of Oak Brook, Ill., to use two incinerator ships in the Gulf of Mexico.

Public hearings on the matter are scheduled Nov. 10 in Brownsville and Nov. 11 in Mobile, Ala., the two cities which the ships would visit.

Mattox and Sen. Lloyd Bentsen, D-Brownsville, are urging Sens. Lloyd Bentsen and Tower to intervene with EPA.

In a letter to the two senators, the state officials said the questions remain concerning the dangers posed to the life in the Gulf and to humans along the Gulf.

Mattox said he is considering filing suit against the EPA if the proposed burning of hazardous wastes such as PCBs and dioxin.

Chemical Waste Management operates two incinerators which together can burn as much as 1.5 million gallons of toxic wastes per year. The burns in 1981 and 1982 that the two vessels could destroy 99.99 percent of the wastes pumped into the incinerators.

A final permit for the ships to operate in the Gulf of Mexico would not be issued until the actual burning would not begin until the permit is issued, EPA officials said.

Texas Gov. Mark White criticized the EPA action Wednesday, saying the granting of the approval before public hearings raised questions about the agency's credibility.

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