

## Congress convenes today, election-year issues top list

United Press International

WASHINGTON — Congress returns from a two-month recess today to deal with election-year issues ranging from U.S. troops in Lebanon to the Equal Rights Amendment.

The second session of the 98th Congress convenes at noon with the Senate taking up a bill to block a \$2-a-month access charge for long distance phone users.

The House was to adjourn immediately for the day in respect for Rep. Clement Zablocki, D-Wis., who died during the recess.

President Reagan will give his State of the Union address Wednesday, and his fiscal 1985 budget will reach Capitol Hill on Jan. 31. A major Reagan request, the power to

veto individual items in spending bills, is expected to be turned down.

Generally, no minor legislation is scheduled before the lawmakers leave Feb. 10 for a 10-day recess usually filled with political speeches back home around the birthdays of George Washington and Abraham Lincoln.

The major House business in the first week is the Democratic Party's selection of 164 House members as delegates to the national party convention. A United Press International survey shows Walter Mondale holds an overwhelming lead, although technically, all delegates will be unpledged.

House Foreign Affairs Committee hearings — but not floor action — is scheduled Tuesday on aid for Central America, including the recommendation of the Kissinger Commission that aid be tied to progress on human rights.

An effort also is expected to be made to reduce the 18-month limit on the presence of U.S. Marines in Lebanon, granted by Congress last year before more than 240 Marines were killed in a truck bombing near the Beirut airport.

Action is expected later in the year on the ERA, which barely failed to gain the necessary two-thirds vote last year in the House.

Another sensitive social issue — immigration — is likely to be considered early in the year when the House takes up a bill to tighten restrictions on foreigners entering the United States illegally.

## Sea water may run electric car

United Press International

RICHARDSON (UPI) — As long as there is sea water, George Thiess figures his prototype electric car never will run out of fuel.

Thiess is so convinced about the success of his invention that he intensely dislikes the word petroleum.

"I don't think OPEC will even speak to me," the engineer from St. Louis said.

In a small laboratory in this upper middle class Dallas suburb, Thiess and Jack Hooker, his partner in the Electric Motor Cars venture, are working on their invention.

They say they are close to testing an electric car that will operate on magnesium made from processed sea water. The magnesium will charge a regular battery using a patented chemical solution called electrolene, Thiess says.

The magnesium-powered battery will eliminate the limited range problem plaguing the current line of electric cars, he says.

Today's batteries won't take a car more than 40 to 50 miles without a recharge. The charges last up to 10 hours.

"We have solved that through electrolene, and by replacing the battery's magnesium rod every 400 to 500 miles," Thiess says.

"The electrolene is pumped into the gasoline tank. Replacing the magnesium rod is as easy as filling your radiator or adding oil. No, don't talk of oil. There will be no motor oil of any kind in our car, perhaps some grease for the transmission," he said.

"You can convert any automobile plant into an electric car plant without much trouble," says Thiess, who is using a Mercedes-Benz for his project.

"You don't even have to make drastic changes in battery production. It will even cost less to operate an electric car because our electrolene uses ordinary chemicals I can't reveal what they are," Thiess said.

The project, which Thiess says takes advantage of the abundant supply of electricity, is under contract with the U.S. Department of Energy.

Thiess says his company has been asked by the department to collect data on the car and its feasibility for commercial production.

The inventors say a cubic mile of sea water converted into mag-

nesium will power every new car built in the country in 1982 for a full year. That translates into 72 billion miles of driving on "a drop of ocean," they say.

Magnesium is the seventh most abundant element on earth.

"If Henry Ford and other car pioneers could do it over again, and they had today's technology, they wouldn't use the combustion engine," says Hooker, a former Mercedes car dealer and banker. "We're on the edge of a real technological breakthrough."

"At the present time, something like 95 percent of all electricity generated in the United States is through non-petroleum sources whereas transportation is 65 percent petroleum-based," Thiess said. "The latter figure is climbing at a rapid rate."

"We are becoming more and more petroleum dependent for transportation and less and less petroleum dependent for elec-

tricity. So the key is making transportation electricity-dependent. The electric car is the car of the future. It is that simple."

Thiess, who said he invented the digital watch before going into car technology, says magnesium and zinc pack more energy per pound than any other metal.

"But magnesium is easier and cheaper to produce than aluminum or zinc or iron," Thiess said. "With constant improvements being made on batteries, the use of magnesium will become even more attractive."

Thiess thinks his electric car has the best potential for success in countries where gasoline is selling for \$4 to \$5 a gallon.

"We have received many inquiries. I have already had visits from parties in Singapore and India and some European countries."

## Protesters march, rally to fight nuclear arms

By HELEN DE LA ROSA  
Reporter

"Neither rain, nor sleet, nor cold, nor blisters...only nuclear bomb cold..." was the theme of those who braved the freezing weather Saturday to protest the nuclear arms race, said Kris Parsons, one of the protesters.

Parsons, an active member of the Brazos Valley Peace Action Committee, said the protest group, which called itself the January Twenty-First Coalition, was formed specifically for this demonstration.

The coalition is made up of the Brazos Valley Peace Action, Brazos Valley Sierra Club, Brazos County National Organization for Women, and Student Peace Action.

The group began the protest with a 10-mile "Walk to Stop the Missiles/Meet Human Needs" from Santa Teresa Church in Bryan to Westinghouse in College Station.

Parsons said the Westinghouse site was chosen because of the national Westinghouse company's involvement in the manufacture of components for nuclear weapons.

Following the walk, some 50 people participated in a rally in front of Westinghouse. Father Louis Pavlicek of St. Joseph's Catholic Church was featured speaker at the rally.

Pavlicek also spoke on the Catholic Bishops' pastoral letter on nuclear war, explaining that it was written as a teaching document "to bring into public debate the whole morality of the nuclear race."

The rally also included speakers from each organization in the coalition, group singing, and a "die-in" in which coalition members fell to the ground to the slow beating of a drum.

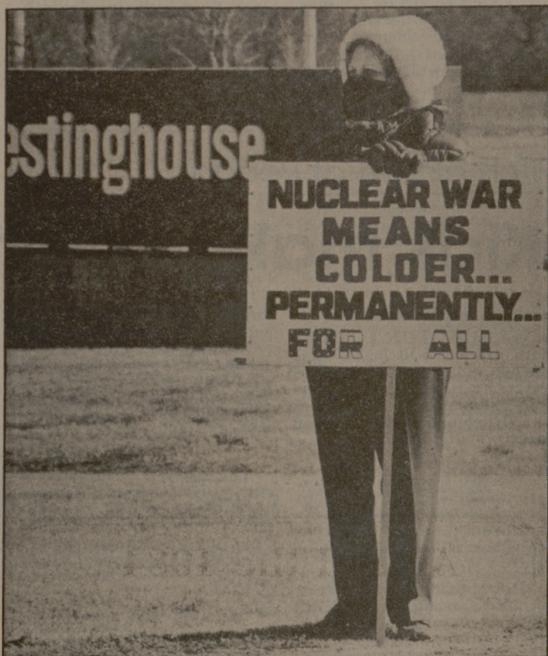


Photo by DEAN SAITO

Cathy Foley, of College Station, stands outside the Westinghouse plant in College Station to protest the companies involvement in the manufacture of components for nuclear weapons.

The "die-in" symbolized that war ends life, said Bobby Slovak, another coalition member.

Parsons said this was the second anti-nuclear demonstration held in front of Westinghouse by her organization. The group participated in a Hiroshima Day demonstration at the same site in August.

Westinghouse had not voiced an objection to their demonstrations, Parsons said.

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