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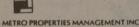
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Judge tell parents SHOE to testify — or else

United Press International

HOUSTON — A judge Tuesday warned parents of a 17-year-old accused killer they may face jail and a \$1,000 fine for refusing to obey an order to testify before a grand jury.

State District Judge William Hatten scheduled a June 27 hearing to determine if Bernard and Odette Port should be held in contempt of court for refusing to testify before a grand jury investigating their son,

David Port, 17, a high school junior, is charged with murder in the June 7 shooting death of mail carrier

Debora Sue Schatz, 23, of Houston. Hatten said the couple could face indefinite jail terms and a \$1,000 fine if found in contempt of court.

The Ports appeared before a grand jury on Monday after Hatten denied a defense motion to quash their grand jury subpoenas. A court reporter who recorded the grand jury proceedings testified the couple appeared before the panel for more than an hour, but refused to answer questions relating to the death of the postal worker.

In response to further questioning for their testimony. by the judge, the couple reasserted they would rather go to jail than testify against their son

Prosecutor Brad Beers said the son's activities.

grand jury investigating the younger Port would meet again Friday. preliminary hearing also was scheduled Friday to determine if prosecutors had enough evidence to refer the case to a grand jury.

Beers said the Ports' testimony is considered crucial to the grand jury investigation. 05006512

"If we didn't feel the testimony was necessary, we wouldn't be going through this process," Beers said

Police found bullet holes, blood SHOE stains and a package of undelivered mail while searching the Port home after Schatz disappeared. The Ports told police their son had been missing since June 7 — the day Schatz

Authorities have questioned why the Ports did not report the blood stains or that their son was missing until police discovered the evidence.

However, Beers emphasized: We've said all along Mr. and Mrs. Port had not been involved in any criminal conduct.' Hatten previously granted the

Beers said the prosecution wanted to question the Ports about their

ouple immunity from prosecution



by Jeff MacNell



Senate passes bill requiring safety seats

not in the governor's call for the spe-cial session, the Texas Senate Tues-and also predicted similar treatment day passed a bill that requires par- next week in the House. ents to utilize child safety seats when "I think it would be pretty tough transporting children 4 years and to get up and kill this bill with all the

The measure, which was the first adopted by either house in the spe cial session, could have been killed agenda for the 30-day special ses-

AUSTIN — Even though it was Parker, D-Port Arthur, headed off the session.

But the bill's sponsor, Sen. Carl floor debate until the waning days of three states that do not require require the use of auto safety restraints

public attention focused on it," Par-

by a single objection because it was the past four legislative sessions. The not included in Gov. Mark White's bill also was the first Senate measure he will sign the measure if it is apadopted last year, but it died in the proved by both houses. House because it was not set for

quire the use of auto safety restraints

Parker was incensed when the bill was killed and he threatened to filibuster other measures unless White allowed the proposal to be considered in the current special session.

Although White has not included the measure in his special session agenda, Parker said the governor Parker has tried to enact the bill in had no objection to the bill being considered. White also has indicated

There are hundreds of children being killed because of uncaring

Parker said.

parents who put adult convenience ahead of child safety," Parker said. Under Parker's bill, parents would be required to use child safety seats when transporting children 4

for small children. Texas also leads

the nation in the number of infant'

deaths caused by traffic accidents,

could be averted if a parent aq a safety seat within 10 days of the Critics of the bill have said

would place a financial burden poor families or parents with se children. However, Parker House sponsor Rep. Gonzalo rientos have argued that the sare available for free from m hospitals and civic groups.

The Texas Coalition for roved by both houses.

and younger. The proposal also sets Passenger Safety sa

Texas currently is one of only fines ranging from \$25 to \$50 for were killed last year Passenger Safety said 78 ch

Homosexuals gain civil service protection

Houston City Council approves amendment

HOUSTON — The City Council Tuesday narrowly approved an amendment extending civil service protection to homosexuals over the protests of opponents filling the hall outside the council chambers. Singing "Onward Christian Sol-

diers" and "The Battle Hymn of the Republic," religious groups and a sprinkling of Klansmen stood outside the chambers, which were also filled with sign-carrying protesters.

Additional policemen were sent to City Hall to control the crowd.

resolution that prohibits the city Kathy Whitmire, who made a tour of from discriminating against anyone gay bars last fall after her re-election

Protesters in the chamber carried signs asking the council not to turn Houston into the next Sodom and Gomorrah.

the basis of "sexual orientation."

It then voted 9-6 in favor of an ordinance that rewrites the city civil service statutes to prohibit discrimination against homosexuals.

The council voted 8-7 in favor of a for the impeachment of Mayor

in its affirmative action programs on to thank them for their support of Gomorrah. her campaign.

Anthony Hall, sponsor of the prothe position of recruiting homosexuals for jobs.

"It only prohibits us from denying After the vote, the crowd chanted the right of making a living for anyone based on what they do at home after they leave work," he said.

There was no public debate on the in every department in the city, would be supported by the coun

table a vote until Wednesday, when don't believe this legislation a 68 people have requested time to ad- plishes anything. Matters of disc dress the council on the issue.

signs asking the council not to turn downed version of affirmative Houston into the next Sodom and tion," she said.

tung, who voted against the propo- the Houston Chronicle Mol posals, said the city would not be in sals, said she did not believe anyone alerting the city to the upon in the gay community was being provote, said the council "had she tected by the measure, but added self) in the foot today by prohib that she had never heard of discrimi- public discussion on it nation against gays being a problem

ination should be determine Protesters in the chamber carried court of laws, not by a weak, w

Councilman John Goodner, Council member Christin Har- placed a full page advertisem

Goodner said he doubted a pr posal to put the issues on a refe "I know there are gays employed dum vote in the next city elect

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