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"Actually, he'd be pretty good if he had something to say."

Needy senior citizens subject of controversy

By KARLA K. MARTIN
 Staff Writer

It's a complex issue — senior citizens' discounts vs. senior citizens' needs.

Dr. John C. Compton, associate professor of the Texas A&M Parks and Recreation department, was heavily criticized Friday for his views on this issue, which he published in the 1980 edition of the Journal of Parks and Recreation Administration.

But Compton says the criticism comes from a misinterpretation of a Houston Chronicle article written about Compton's article in the parks and recreation journal.

"I think Roy Bragg (a reporter with the Houston Chronicle) did a good job," Compton said. "I just think other people misinterpreted it."

The words that were quoted in the Chronicle and spurred the most criticism were: "Senior citizens, as a group, are not all poor.... Our perceptions of the elderly are about 15 years old."

The main criticism came from O.P. Bobbitt, the executive director of the Texas Department of Aging.

Bobbitt was quoted in a UPI wire service report as saying that Compton's comments "are as insulting to this significant group of citizens as a bad Aggie joke."

Compton says that he doesn't propose eliminating all senior citizen discounts; he proposes to issue dis-

counts to all poor people, not only the elderly.

"What we're looking for is positive discrimination on the basis of need," Compton said. "With senior citizens, the positive discrimination is on the basis of age. The two are not synonymous."

Compton said he feels that the main barriers to his theory are disbelief.

"It's time for us to explore how we can achieve this positive discrimination," he said, "and not just throw our hands and say it can't be done. Another criticism came from an example used to explain (Compton's) proposed discount cuts — reducing senior citizen discounts to national parks."

"Who goes to national parks? Compton said. "Studies indicate poor people don't. It costs too much money for them to get there. The point is if they don't go, there's no need to give discounts."

Compton proposes to cut the discounts to senior citizens who are poor and use that money for other needy programs to benefit the economy.

"Let's look at the logic of the counts," Compton said. "Local counts are subsidized primarily by property and sales tax. Both of these taxes are generally regressive — which hurt poor people the most."

Florida's citrus harvest stopped, sunshine state's shipping banned

United Press International
 WINTER HAVEN, Fla. — Florida, already under a federal ban against shipping citrus out of the state, ordered severe restrictions on the movement of fruit within the state Monday in the hope of stopping the spread of citrus canker.

Agriculture Commissioner Doyle Conner also halted the harvest of all citrus Monday and said the fruit al-

ready harvested — mostly limes — could be sent only to packing houses and processing plants.

Violation of the shipping ban is a first-degree misdemeanor punishable by up to six months in jail and a \$1,000 fine.

"Federal regulations prohibit movement of fresh citrus fruit to citrus producing states," Conner said at a news conference. "Florida, being

a citrus producing state, shall prohibit movement of citrus intrastate, except to packing houses and processing plants. Florida fruit will be treated the same as fruit embargoed under the USDA regulation."

The federal embargo was ordered Sept. 14 when citrus canker was first found in a Florida nursery.

The disease is a highly contagious bacteria which kills citrus trees and

threatens the future of the state's billion-dollar industry. The bacteria is not harmful to humans.

Processed products such as frozen concentrate and single strength juice are not affected because shipments of those items involve inventories from last year's operations.

There is no known cure for citrus canker, and the only way to eradicate it is to burn infected trees.

Compromise immigration bill talks resume; House and Senate try to remove roadblocks

United Press International
 WASHINGTON — House and Senate negotiators drafting a compromise immigration reform bill resumed talks Monday seeking to remove a major roadblock to congressional passage this session.

A House-approved provision to protect aliens against job discrimination, authored by Rep. Barney Frank, D-Mass., has become a significant legislative hurdle in the biparti-

san bill that would grant U.S. residence to illegal aliens who entered prior to 1981.

Sen. Alan Simpson, R-Wyo., the chief Senate negotiator and sponsor, opposed the Frank proposal in earlier negotiations because it would prohibit employers from giving preference to American citizens over aliens in hiring.

But Simpson and House members

including Rep. Romano Mazzoli, D-Ky., the key House sponsor — had worked out most major differences over six days of talks.

The number of undocumented aliens who would qualify for permanent or temporary residence under the bill is unknown, but the Immigration and Naturalization Service has estimated the number at between 1 million and 1.5 million. Estimates of the number of illegal aliens in the United States range from 1 million to 12 million or more.

The compromise would grant permanent residence to other law-abiding aliens who entered the country illegally prior to 1977 and temporary status to those coming after 1977, but prior to 1981. Those granted temporary residence could seek permanent status after two years.

Auto workers return while contract pending

United Press International
 DETROIT — United Auto Workers members returned to their jobs Monday at all but one of 17 General Motors Corp. sites pending ratification of a new contract that GM's chairman said will benefit the entire auto industry.

About 4,300 workers at GM's assembly plant in Van Nuys, Calif., stayed on the picket line over local contract issues in defiance of orders from national UAW leaders.

Workers in Linden, N.J., had threatened to stay on strike over local issues, but returned after shop chairman Guy Messina warned a wildcat strike would result in firings.

The UAW struck 16 assembly plants plus the GM Technical Center after its contract with the automaker

expired Sept. 14. A new agreement including the union's chief goals of pay hikes and job security was reached early Friday, but production at most plants was not scheduled for the weekend.

The UAW's 300-member GM Council, made up of local presidents and plant representatives, meets Wednesday in St. Louis to consider the new pact. Approval by the Council clears the way for ratification by 350,000 GM workers nationwide.

A spokesman for Ford Motor Co. said Ford and the UAW have decided to hold off discussions until after the Council meets. Spokesman Tony Fredo said talks likely would resume in about a week at the No. 2 automaker.

Although some analysts say Ford

cannot afford to match the new contract, GM Chairman Roger Smith told reporters prior to a meeting of the Economic Club of Detroit he thinks Ford and other automakers should welcome the settlement.

"I feel that what we put in there is good not only for us but for the rest of the industry in what it does for people and their jobs," said Smith. "We've had a tough negotiation but arrived at an agreement that is equitable on both sides."

Smith would not comment on estimates that the strike cost GM \$175 million, saying the firm will not know the total cost until it can see how much of its lost production it can make up.


"The best thing to do is to put behind you and go to work," he said.

Under the pact, workers will receive raises in the first year of 3.5 percent, depending on their classification. The average worker, who now makes \$9.63 an hour, will receive a 2.25 percent raise. There will be lump sum increases in the next two years.

Each worker will receive a \$10 bonus upon ratification that will be an advance on this year's profit sharing payment, which are expected to be about \$1,000.

GM will set up a 6-year job security program protecting workers with at least one year seniority.

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