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## Nuclear power plant documents remain sealed Press access denied

United Press International

AUSTIN — The Texas Supreme Court refused to open sealed documents Wednesday in a lawsuit between Houston Lighting & Power Co. and Brown & Root Co., the former contractor at the South Texas Nuclear Project.

Without comment, the high court rejected motions from Austin City Council members, the Houston Chronicle and the Austin American-Statesman to open the documents, which were sealed at the request of HL&P on Dec. 29 by District Judge G.P. Hardy of Matagorda County.

Hardy's order sealed all depositions and answers to written questions filed in the case. HL&P, which is the managing partner of the nuclear project, also used the order as a reason not to provide certain information in its \$554 million rate request pending before the Public Utility Commission.

HL&P, which shares ownership of

the nuclear plant with San Antonio, Austin and the Central Power & Light Co. of Corpus Christi, filed suit in 1973 against Brown & Root and its parent company.

The suit alleged that mismanagement in the construction and design of the project had caused delays and large cost overruns.

Brown & Root was fired as design engineer of the project in 1981 and later resigned as construction manager and was replaced by Bechtel Energy Corp.

The Austin City Council recently gave up its attempt to find a buyer for the city's 16 percent share of the project and indicated it would also file a lawsuit against HL&P.

The estimated cost of the power plant under construction near Bay City was \$1 billion, but that figure has risen to \$5.5 billion. The expected completion date of the project also was pushed forward from 1982 to 1987.

In its request that the documents be opened to the public, the Houston Chronicle said information regarding delays and cost overruns could be found only in the court papers.

The newspaper also said the documents contain the "uncensored truth regarding the capacity and ability of the project to operate safely in avoidance of a nuclear catastrophe."

In a recent development, the Public Utility Commission received independent auditor's final report on the HL&P management. The report identified 16 areas in which the commission could save nearly \$1 million.

But the report from Arthur Young and Co. also praised the company, saying it "is beginning to achieve the benefits of a number of new and innovative programs."

## Study shows increased Hispanic voting power

United Press International

Hispanics — geographically concentrated in Texas and eight other strategic states — may have a significant impact on the 1984 presidential election, says a research study released Wednesday.

"The Hispanic Almanac," an analytical study by the Hispanic Policy Development Project, states that Hispanic voters have the capacity to influence the outcome of elections because they comprise a growing percentage of the politically active population.

The report states that 85 percent of all voting age Hispanics are concentrated in Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, California, Colorado, Florida, New Jersey, New York and Illinois.

Los Angeles, with more than 2 million Hispanics, tops the list of cities with the largest Hispanic population.

New York, with 1.4 million Hispanics, ranks second, followed by Miami with 580,000; Chicago with 509,000; San Antonio with 481,000; Houston with 425,000; and San Francisco with 351,000.

The Hispanic population of El Paso is 297,000.

"The Hispanic Almanac" said the nine states control 193 electoral votes in the 1984 presidential election, 71 percent of the 270 needed to win.

"In view of their increasing numbers, concentration in key states and growing political activism, Hispanics must be recognized by presidential

and other public office aspirants as a significant political force," said Siobhan Oppenheimer-Nicolau, president of the project.

The growth of the Hispanic population is the result of immigration and a comparatively high fertility rate, Oppenheimer-Nicolau said. The population has a median age of 22.1, she said.

The study also found that:

- In just 30 years, the number of Hispanics living in the United States tripled to nearly 15 million in 1980, outpacing every other ethnic or racial group in America.

- By the year 2000, if current growth rates continue, Hispanics will comprise the largest minority group in the country.

- Two-thirds of all U.S. Hispanics live in just four states: Texas, California, New York and Florida.

The report states the increase in the number of Hispanics elected to office has not corresponded with the population growth.

The study shows that nine members of Congress are Hispanic, and eight Hispanics are mayors of cities with populations of more than 30,000. Toney Anaya of New Mexico, a Mexican-American, is the only Hispanic governor, the study reported.

Texas election officials said the number of registered Hispanic voters in 1984 is about a million, or 13.3 percent of the electorate. Officials said Hispanics represented only 9.5 percent of the 1976 electorate in Texas.

## Citizens oppose TV show

United Press International

AUSTIN — A black citizens group has started a protest against a cable television program that is produced by a man associated with the Ku Klux Klan.

The six-part television series "Race," is produced by Tom Metzger, former grand dragon of the California KKK and founder of the White American Political Association. The program aired last week in Austin.

Members of the Black Citizens Task Force protested the series at a cable commission meeting Tuesday.

"It should be locally produced local Klansmen so they would be out of the closet," said Don Turner, task force president. "I know who I am when I am on TV. I should be able to see who they are."

Cable officials, however, said they were obligated by the First Amendment to show the series, but would consider moving it to a less prominent time slot.

Daniel Miller, a member of the National Association for the Advancement of White People in Austin, sponsored the program.

The "Race" series includes programs about a California cult that worships gods of Norse mythology, claims by a California group that a Nazi massacre of the Jews during World War II was overstated, and interviews with Klan leaders and white supremacists.

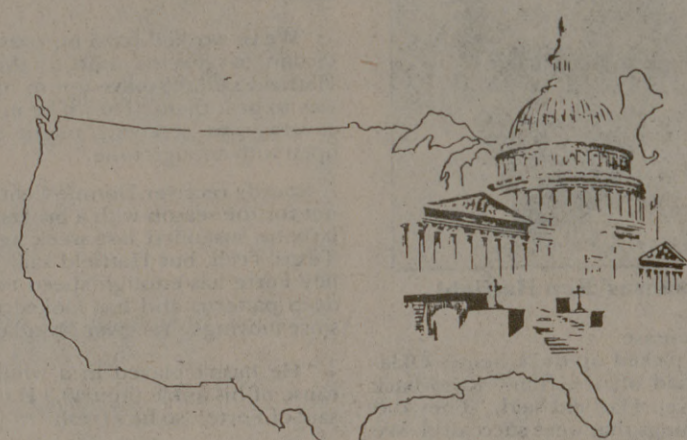
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<p><b>THURSDAY EVENING SPECIAL</b> Italian Candle Light Spaghetti Dinner SERVED WITH SPICED MEAT BALLS AND SAUCE Parmesan Cheese- Tossed Green Salad Choice of Salad Dressing—Hot Garlic Bread Tea or Coffee</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">FOR YOUR PROTECTION OUR PERSONNEL HAVE HEALTH CARDS</p>		
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We will be interviewing at  
Texas A & M on November 8, 1984

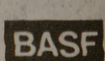
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