

Legislative committee not notified

# New pesticide laws proposed

United Press International

AUSTIN — A legislative committee Wednesday scolded the Texas Agriculture Department for writing a set of proposed pesticide regulations during "private work sessions" from which lawmakers were excluded.

Members of the House Agriculture and Livestock Committee complained that until a few weeks ago, they were not aware that the TDA planned to propose the comprehensive rules aimed at protecting farmers, workers and rural residents.

Ron White, assistant TDA commissioner, told the committee that the rules were developed after public meetings in Austin, Corpus Christi, Lubbock and the Rio Grande Valley. But he said he did not know if legislators were invited.

The proposed regulations were announced Oct. 19 by Agriculture Commissioner Jim Hightower, who said he hoped to have the regulations in operation by next summer.

White said TDA will accept recommendations when it conducts additional public hearings in Austin, Lubbock, San Juan and Corpus Christi during the 30-day comment period.

"We're open to suggestions," he said. "We're obviously concerned with publishing regulations that are workable."

Farm groups, most notably the Texas Farm Bureau, have claimed the regulations would "shut down agriculture" and prompt higher food costs.

White told the committee that TDA decided to develop the regulations because statistics show that the number of people in Texas hospitalized due to pesticide injuries is two to five times greater than the national average.

Among the proposed requirements are a 24-hour notice to anyone living within a one-mile radius before pesticides can be applied by air, the furnishing of safe clothing to workers and the posting of warning flags in fields if it will be more than seven days before re-entry is advised.

# OPEC members agree to cut oil production

United Press International

GENEVA, Switzerland — OPEC oil ministers formally agreed Wednesday to immediately slash the cartel's oil production by 1.5 million barrels a day in a bid to shore up its crumbling \$29 a barrel base price.

Saudi Oil Minister Sheik Ahmed Zaki Yamani told a news conference at the end of the 2 1/2-day emergency meeting that his kingdom will bear 45 percent of the production cut and that of the cartel's 13 members only Nigeria and Iraq were exempt.

"You might see an immediate reaction, a psychological one," Yamani said.

"But the real effect will start when the companies feel the flow of oil is restricted. I think this will probably be the second week of November. But I won't be surprised if it happens before that."

The ministers announced an official agreement on sharing the cut, which will reduce OPEC's official reduction ceiling of 17.5 million barrels a day by 9 percent to 16 million

beginning Thursday.

Saudi Arabia, OPEC's largest producer, was absorbing 43 percent of the overall reduction, cutting back by 647,000 barrels a day.

The United Arab Emirates, Kuwait, Venezuela, Indonesia and Libya were also taking a large part of the reductions, while Iraq and Nigeria were exempted.

The ministers reached the agreement after their respective governments approved a tentative agreement on production cuts arrived at Tuesday in Geneva.

"Our expectation is that with this 1.5 million barrels a day cut, prices will improve and at the end of 1984, spot prices will be equal to official (OPEC) prices," acting OPEC president Subroto of Indonesia told a concluding news conference.

"Some oil companies do not have enough stock and therefore they have to buy," Yamani said.

Yamani said Saudi Arabia is determined to defend prices.

# New strangulation scares El Pasoans

United Press International

EL PASO - Residents of a quiet neighborhood have a special fear of Halloween this year following the strangulation of an 88-year-old widow Saturday and the similar murders of two other elderly women earlier this month.

Effie Gregory, 75, who lives near the trailer where Jewel Haygood was murdered last weekend, said she dreads Halloween and will not open her door to trick-or-treaters Wednesday night.

"The killer may still be out there, and we don't know who's going to be next," she said. "We're dreading Halloween even more this year. We're living in a lot of fear."

Herman Haygood said he could not understand why anyone would want to kill his stepmother.

Haygood found her body while paying her a routine visit. Police said they think she was strangled by someone who tried to burglarize her trailer. Officers said bruises on the victim's body indicated there was a struggle.

Police said they are looking for a possible link between the good killing and the strangulation murder of two women Oct. 15 by an unknown assailant or assailants who apparently tried to set them afire.

Crime Stoppers, an El Paso association which provides reward money for useful information leading to arrests, offered \$1,000 cash reward for information leading to the arrest of whoever was responsible for the murders of the two women.

Officers said Julia Fleenor, 82, and her daughter, Iona Dye, were strangled to death by someone who broke into Fleenor's home, a few blocks from Haygood's home.

Detective Mickey Duntley said the person or persons who forced their way into Fleenor's home also set at least two fires. Two other women living in the house, Sara Cass, 62, and Cora Dockstader, 70, were injured in the fire and are recovering at a Thomason General Hospital.

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