

Says nation lacks energy policy

## White criticizes U.S. government

Associated Press

MIAMI — Texas Gov. Mark White criticized the federal government Tuesday for what he said was a lack of a national energy policy, saying Washington alternately pursues policies of "panic and apathy."

"We're crazy not to have a coherent energy policy, especially now when we have a temporary oil surplus," White, a Democrat, told the Southern Governors' Association on its final day of meetings this year.

White said energy reserves are crucial to national security and said a coherent policy was important to the entire country, not just oil and gas interests in the South.

He wasn't alone with his criticisms.

"It doesn't matter how many Cabbage Patch dolls are imported," Mack Wallace, commissioner of the Texas Railroad Commission and a panelist at a discussion on energy issues, said. "However, it does matter how much oil is imported. We need to distinguish between strategic and non-strategic industries and protect those that are important."

The governors have repeatedly attacked the federal government on a variety of topics during the past two days, saying federal budget deficits, the trade imbalance and inconsistencies in energy policies all have hurt Southern states.

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— Mack Wallace, commissioner of the Texas Railroad Commission

"We don't have an oil surplus, I don't care what the experts tell us," Louisiana Gov. Edwin Edwards said. "We are losing our ability to produce oil. I think the Middle Eastern countries are setting us up for another 1973 gas shortage."

"Once we can't meet demand they will stick it to us again and we'll have to pay \$40 or \$60 a barrel," Edwards, a Democrat, said.

White agreed, saying the federal government acted in panic when oil shortages hit in the 1970s and now "show little interest in formulating a long term policy."

Edwards said the governors should push for opening more offshore drilling sites in California and Florida.

"I told (former California governor) Jerry Brown that if he'd leave the state for a month I'd have a Cajun build an oil pipeline from there to Louisiana and have

it covered up before he got back," Edwards said.

Florida Gov. Bob Graham spoke with caution about offshore oil.

"With our tourist industry, we have to weigh the environmental costs of drilling" near our beaches, he said.

Edwards countered, saying "tourists can't travel without gas, and unemployment can be a terrible form of pollution."

The governors passed several energy-related resolutions. They approved measures supporting a federal role in financing synthetic fuels technologies, called for tax incentives to encourage oil and gas exploration, and requested Congress not increase oil industry taxes that help support the Superfund toxic-waste cleanup program. The latter resolution did, however, call for a reauthorization of the Superfund program.

"We need to be on record as

demanding a national energy policy and this is a step in the right direction," Gov. Martha Layne Collins of Kentucky said.

Oklahoma's Gov. George Nigh agreed, saying, "after seven years of attending this conference I think we've finally achieved a pro-oil producing attitude here."

Oklahoma also has had several bank failures, Nigh noted, saying "we need to get back to a point where we are encouraging exploration and development, not just standing still."

In other developments, Graham said he supported a regional presidential primary in the South.

"It would increase the strength of the South politically and a direct vote serve to help us reach mainstream Democrats," Florida's Democratic governor said.

On Monday, the Southern Legislative Conference's executive committee appointed a task force to look at the possibility of holding a regional presidential primary in 1988.

Southern states participating in the governors' conference are: Alabama, Arkansas, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, Missouri, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia and West Virginia.

## Galveston campers encounter tornado

Associated Press

GALVESTON — A tornado that struck the Galveston Island State Park caused minor damage to the park facilities but turned over several camping trailers, officials said.

"Apparently it came in with a squall about 11 p.m. last night," park superintendent Jake Dameron said Tuesday. "It blew over two motor homes, turned them on their sides and rolled a camper trailer upside down."

The twister knocked out power to

several residences on the west end of the island, authorities said.

Ralph Lorenz, 56, of Longview, was taken to St. Mary's Hospital in Galveston and released Tuesday morning after being treated for multiple contusions, a hospital spokeswoman said.

Lorenz's wife, Sarah, 48, also was treated for multiple contusions. The couple was in the camper trailer that was turned upside-down, Dameron said.

## Houston senior citizen claims discrimination

Associated Press

HOUSTON — The former head of contract compliance for the city of Houston has filed a federal lawsuit claiming the city discriminates against older white males and that the Civil Service Commission's grievance procedure is unconstitutional.

J. Bryant Young, 56, was fired in March after working 10 years with the city.

Young is seeking re-instatement to his \$33,600-a-year job, back pay and unspecified damages.

He claims the city has a policy of "deliberately eliminating older white

male employees from the work force."

As a contract compliance officer, Young was responsible for seeing that private contractors paid their employees according to city wage regulations and that minority businesses participated in city projects.

The lawsuit also contends Young's right to privacy was violated by the open Civil Service Commission hearing on his case.

Young is one of four white males who have filed discrimination complaints with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission.

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