19% premium increase sas given to worker's comp

oved unanimously a \$700 million rease in premiums for workers' mpensation insurance in Texas.

ffering repair The decision means Texas emoyers will see an average 19 per-ent increase in workers' compensa-

ion premiums when the new rates take effect Jan. 1.
Richard Geiger, a Dallas attorney representing the National Council of Compensation Insurance, described he raise in premiums as a "survival mrease."

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tter."

about it is it will allow the industry to lang on," Geiger said. The insurance council had recommended a 36.7 percent rate increase.

But a state consumer representational desired the increase probably will

ive said the increase probably will force some businesses to drop workrs' compensation.

"I don't know how Texas employs are going to be able to pay this dditional almost 20 percent in-bankrupt some insurers, while the

AUSTIN (AP) — The State Board crease," Kay Doughty, of the Office Insurance on Wednesday apoof Consumer Counsel, said.

A lot of employers are going to have to consider dropping their coverage entirely," she said. Workers' compensation premiums have increased 109 percent since Jan. 1,

Doughty's group had recommended a 10.2 percent increase. The insurance board staff suggested a 6.7 percent hike.

The three-member insurance board, Doughty and Geiger called on the Legislature to address problems in the system of compensating workers who are injured on the job.

A House-Senate committee studying the issue is scheduled Dec. 9 to send its final report to the Legislature, which convenes in January.

Board chairman Edwin J. Smith Jr. said workers' compensation insurance is in "a hell of a fix." He said proposals by the staff and

increase would ruin some busi-

Board member James L. Nelson said the board faced providing a sound workers' compensation market and preserving the economic well-being of businesses.

"We may be near the point where meeting both of these (objectives) is impossible," Nelson said.

Doughty said a 10.2 percent in-

crease would have given workers' compensation insurers a fair profit. She said internal expenses at the insurance companies are too high, and that by granting the 19 percent in-crease, "I wonder if we're not en-

couraging inefficient operation."

But Geiger said the insurers in Texas have lost hundreds of millions of dollars in the past few years.

"What needs to be done is to get control of the system," he said. Geiger blamed the courts for giving high awards to people injured on the job and thus driving up the cost of

laps Computer-equipped taxicabs ow cut down on 'customer theft'

DALLÁS (AP) — For the big-city raveler who phones for a yellow tax- ab but gets a blue one 10 minutes

And that, Kuhlman said, is where city who responds first by typing in an answer is assigned the customer. Kuhlman said all employees will te, and for the cab driver who ar-

"It will be terribly efficient compared to what we have now," he said of the \$2.5 million system to be installed at the first of the year.

What he has now, just before unch on a Wednesday, is four peotelephone, taking hand-written mesages with customer addresses, and sticking them on a conveyor belt which carries them to a lone distribution of the deleter of the deleters into a computer which carries them to a lone distribution of the deleters into a computer which carries them to a lone distribution of the deleters into a computer which carries them to a lone distribution of the deleters into a computer which carries the deleters into a computer which carries the deleters into a computer which carries the deleters into a computer, and the deleters into a computer which carries the deleters into a computer which carries them to a lone dispatcher at the end of the desk.

The dispatcher, whose work space ery much resembles a card table, out over the cab company's radio.

Anyone can own a scanner that ives promptly to find no traveler, will pick up our frequency," he said. there is hope in the form of a com"So when the customer is standing

He says it's stealing when other cabs listen in on his radio and pick wave of the future.

"It will be terribly efficient."

Kight now, most of our drivers are on paid mileage (the meter is running) about 49 percent of the time," Kuhlman said. up customers who called for a yellow cab, not a purple, black brown. cab, not a purple, black, brown, blue, red or checkered one.

> What Kuhlman's company will soon have is a system which will eliminate scanner eavesdropping.
>
> The system still relies on humans

to answer the phone and type the ble sitting at a desk answering the address into a computer, but the ma-

system automatically alerts cab drivers of the address through their own

Cab drivers are constantly scanpicks up the messages and calls them ning their portable units for the next call, and the one in the section of the now

be trained to use the system and anticipates no one will be replaced by

to carry passengers 75 percent to 80 percent of the time, once they begin using the more-efficient computer dispatches.

To R. Seriki, who drives a Yellow

Cab, that means more money.

"Oh, I tell you man, this is gonna be real good," said Seriki, who moved to the country from Nigeria seven years ago. "No more are they gonna be taking our calls. I'm excited. I've been doing this two years and it gets worse and worse.

'I work 16 hours a day sometimes now," he said. "Two years ago, I worked 10. Things will be better

ALL MAJORS INVITED TO APPLY

The Battalion Staff positions

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Reporters Reviewers Feature writers Sports writers Columnists Copy editors Photographers Cartoonists Graphic artists Illustrators Clerks

Applications can be picked up in Rm. 216 Reed McDonald Due by 5 p.m. on Monday, Nov. 28

Continued from page 1)

allas-Fort Worth Airport, the inrim space facilities and the availbility of sufficient available and afordable housing," Foster said. The Las Colinas location was se-

ected over three other area sites. "When I see GTE, that means: Give Thanks Everybody,' " said Iring Mayor Bob Pierce, who was inrumental in landing the headquar-

GTE joins a string of companies that have relocated to Texas in the

AMR Corp., parent of American irlines, moved to nearby Fort Worth about five years ago, and J.C. Penney Co. Inc. is in the process of moving its headquarters to Plano, ust north of Dallas. Both companies previously were based in New York

The announcement also comes six days after the federal government picked a site about 30 miles south of Dallas to build the "super collider" project. The \$5.4 billion high-en-

ergy physics project also is expected to generate thousands of jobs. "We have worked hard to get this ents, who was in Seville, Spain, where he is promoting Texas business and tourism but neverthless learned of the GTE decision. "Eco-Texas, and particularly for the Met-

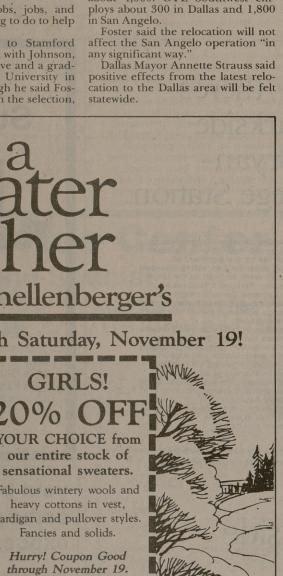
roplex area.
"It means jobs, jobs, jobs, and that's what we're trying to do to help our economy.

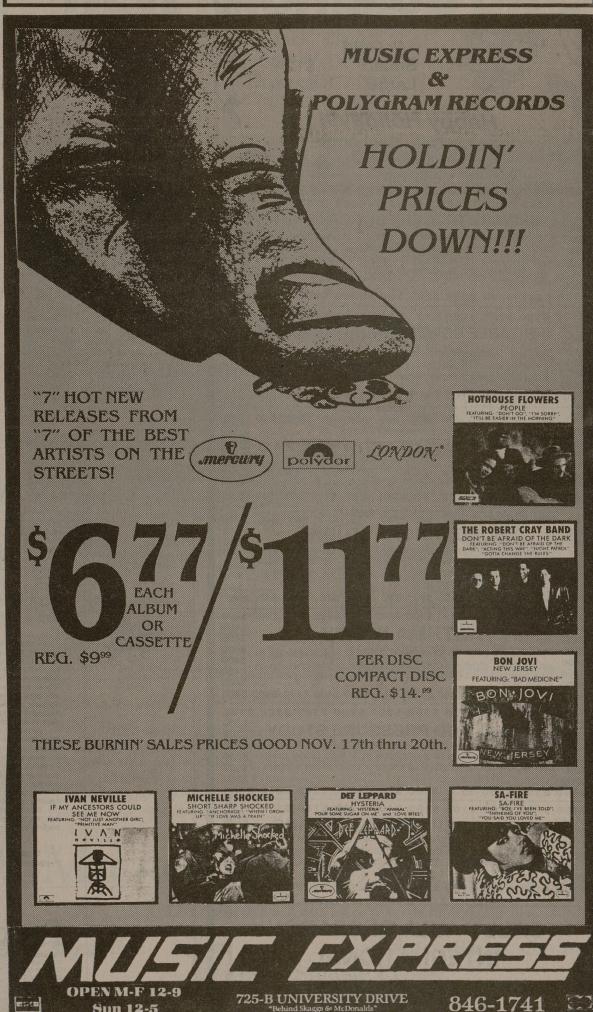
Clements traveled to Stamford twice this year to meet with Johnson, a Vernon, Texas, native and a grad-uate of Texas Tech University in Lubbock. And although he said Foster had the final say in the selection,

Johnson said he was naturally excited when he heard the decision.

"As a matter of fact, I nearly broke into a Texas two-step," Johnson said. "But in spite of my Texas upbringing, I've had no real part in this decision. Not many people believe that, and I can understand move to Texas," said Gov. Bill Clem- why. I've been accused for 25 years of trying to direct this company back

GTE already has a significant presence in Texas. In the Dallas-Fort Worth area, GTE Corp. and GTE Southwest together employ about 4,000. GTE Southwest em-





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