

Oil executive: U.S. energy policy 'not adequate'

HOUSTON (AP) — The United States needs an energy policy or Americans will be like Californians awaiting the big earthquake, a leading oil executive said Tuesday.

"I believe we are living along the fault lines of peril and the warning tremors are coming faster and with more force," said James L. Dunlap, president of Houston-based Texaco U.S.A., a subsidiary of the nation's third-largest oil company.

"Americans don't sense the full danger, and our policies are not adequate to withstand the forces of disorder that may come. The Middle East crisis is a warning of the conse-

quences of an ineffective energy policy."

Dunlap gave the keynote speech at the annual Arthur Andersen Oil and Gas Symposium, which attracts energy producers from around the nation.

He said the nation's oil demand is growing while domestic energy production declines. The number of U.S. refineries is declining and most are doing less work, Dunlap said.

"The petroleum industry's ability to respond to crisis has been compromised," he said. "The task is compounded because energy policies are focused on public energy

and environmental concerns, and not long-term energy and economic goals."

And consumers have become "fixated" on higher gasoline prices rather than on the problem of foreign energy dependence, he said.

"Until the American public believes we really need to be doing more than we're doing, nothing's going to happen," Dunlap said.

The Energy Department is expected to present President Bush with a series of energy policy goals later this month. DOE planners are paring down a list of 67 options, in-

cluding a 50-cents-a-gallon gas tax.

Bush is expected to present the goals to Congress early next year.

Energy Secretary James Watkins made the development of a national energy policy a priority when he took office in March 1989. The issue took new life after Iraq invaded Kuwait in August, drawing attention to the United States' reliance on foreign sources for half its energy supply.

"We as a nation have a hard time responding to changes except when they are radical and forced upon us," Dunlap said.

He hinted that \$4-per-gallon gas-

oline would not be all bad.

"I think the acceptable price for gasoline is one that is going to reduce in the short term and the long term our dependence on offshore crude oil, and that dependence is 50 percent right now," Dunlap said.

"All we have to do is look around the rest of the world and see what they're paying. And in most cases, that's \$4 per gallon. That does not seem to have inhibited their ability to compete on the world market."

"I'm not saying the price of gasoline in the United States tomorrow morning should be \$4. But I do

think we do have to march forward with regard to the price of gasoline."

Dunlap said he hoped the president would include a commitment to conservation, greater investment in production, the linkage of environmental and energy goals and reliance on free market forces to deliver energy.

Setting aside the free market, occurred the 1970s, caused lines at the gas pump, Dunlap said.

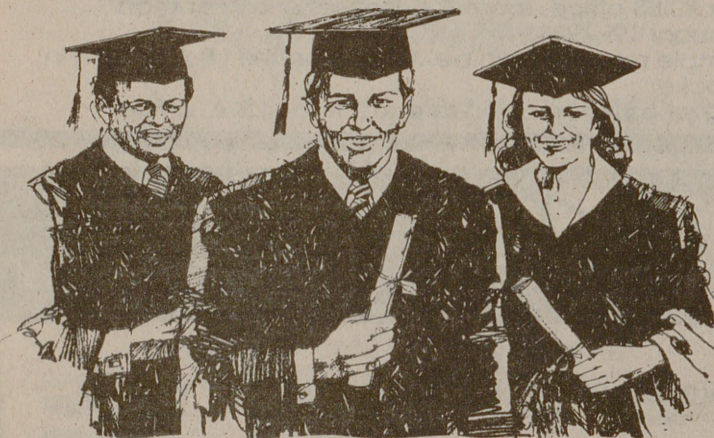
"I think we will absolutely see gas lines if governments both at state and federal levels ... let market forces work," he said. "The states get into the allocation of energy, there could well be chaos."

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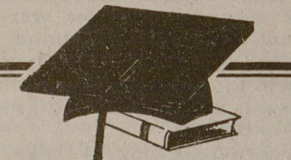
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Allegations continue in sexual abuse case at Lubbock school

AUSTIN (AP) — Alleged sexual abuse of mentally retarded residents at Lubbock State School goes beyond recently reported rapes and pregnancies to include about 30 other incidents, a newspaper reported.

Lubbock police have assigned three detectives to work on investigations of alleged sexual abuse at the school, The Austin American-Statesman reported Tuesday.

"There was just so much coming in," Detective Billy Hudgens said. "It's just grown more than one person (can) check."

State officials say Lubbock State School is properly investigating all sexual abuse allegations.

In the past month, police have received three reports of alleged sexual abuse at the institution, including two allegations made since Thursday, city records show.

Officials said one of the cases involves a Lubbock State School worker who was fired in November after the institution confirmed that she had been masturbating a 25-year-old male resident, the American-Statesman reported.

Abuse and neglect reports compiled by the institution since 1983 show that half of the 29 cases of alleged sexual abuse involve cuts, bruises, swelling or rupture to male genitalia, the newspaper reported.

The 29 reports do not include information on the two cases reported since Thursday to Lubbock police or the recent pregnancies of at least three retarded women.

The reports show that a 22-year-old retarded resident who gave birth last year had complained of sexual abuse four times since 1983, but abuse never was confirmed by the school.

Once, after she reported being raped, the investigation concluded that she had fantasies, records show. Another of her abuse complaints was dismissed because there were no witnesses, records show.

"The more we learn, the worse it gets," said attorney David Ferleger of Philadelphia, who represents retarded plaintiffs in a class-action lawsuit alleging unconstitutional conditions in state schools.

Ferleger examined the abuse reports last week and released a summary of their contents.

Ferleger gained access to the reports as part of a court-ordered investigation of the abuse of a profoundly retarded resident of Lubbock State School who was raped last spring and now is eight months pregnant. She was transferred to Lubbock hospital after suffering seizures in late October.

Jaylon Fincannon, deputy commissioner of the Texas Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation, said the Lubbock institution has properly investigated all abuse allegations.

"It's my belief that Lubbock State School has been diligent in investigating all client abuse and neglect allegations," Fincannon said. "If there is information to the contrary, I'd be happy to look at that and take whatever action is necessary."

He said he would review the abuse reports.

In all but six of the 29 cases, abuse allegations were dismissed by the institution as being unsubstantiated records show. In four cases of one confirmed abuse, workers were fired and no perpetrator was identified in the other two cases, the records show.

Judge orders jurors to decide in S&L case

DALLAS (AP) — A federal judge has ordered jurors in the six-week-long fraud trial of former Vernon Savings Association owner Don R. Dixon to try to reach a verdict in the case.

The eight-woman, four-man jury was to begin its fifth day of deliberations at noon today, a spokeswoman for Judge A. Joe Fish said.

Although jurors sent a note to Fish that they were deadlocked on some of the 38 charges against Dixon, the judge replied they had not deliberated long enough, the court spokeswoman said.

Jurors took the case late Wednesday after hearing more than five weeks of testimony, and jury selection took almost a week. During the trial, prosecutors called more than two dozen witnesses.

Dixon and a handful of others testified in his defense. He is accused of misusing thousands of dollars from the failed thrift for a California beach home, prostitutes and political contributions.

Jurors gave no indication of which charges they had stumbled on. Dixon, if convicted on all counts against him, could be sentenced up to 190 years in prison and fined \$9.5 million.

Highway accident kills 15 in Tennessee

CALHOUN, Tenn. (AP) — Two chain reaction crashes on a highway in southeastern Tennessee killed 15 people Tuesday, injured more than 50 and left the roadway looking like a war zone.

A dense morning fog covered Interstate 75 over the Hiwassee River, about 40 miles north of Chattanooga, when the 75-vehicle pileup began about 9:30 a.m., said Cecil Whaley, director of the Tennessee Emergency Management Agency.

People involved in the accident, which covered more than a mile of the interstate, described hearing booms in the fog as dozens of tractor-trailers collided with cars and each other.

Whaley confirmed 15 dead, but said the number could rise as crews searched the burned shells of vehicles. In some cases, only nameplates distinguished the wreckage of a car smashed into the side of a truck.

"This is one of the worst accidents that anyone can remember happening in Tennessee in terms of the number of vehicles and fatalities involved," said Whaley, who followed rescue efforts from his Nashville office.

Names of the victims would not be

immediately released because some of the bodies were burned beyond recognition, Whaley said.

Authorities believe an initial accident occurred in the southbound lane, and cars jumping the median or people rubbernecking to see the southbound crash may have caused the second pileup in the northbound lane.

Russell Newman, eastern district regional director of the Tennessee Emergency Medical Agency, said one is really sure what happened.

"It's just a conjecture as to what caused it, but it was just one of those damn chain reaction collisions that happen in this kind of situation — very heavy fog and probably not much speed," Newman said.

In Washington, the National Transportation Safety Board said it was dispatching a six-person team of experts in highway and hazardous material investigations.

The interstate was blocked in both directions, hampering efforts to move the injured to hospitals in Athens and Cleveland. Helicopters from Knoxville and Chattanooga helped with the evacuation.