

# Roadside Camera to Deter Speeders

Associated Press

A Texas defense firm has told Congress of its invention to detect and photograph highway speeders. Sometimes the device detects more than any driver would wish, such as a cozy companion who's not his wife.

It's called Orbis II and, to hear the industry people talk, it'll drive radar out of busi-

ness as a way to scare speeders into slowing down.

But at least one congressman had some qualms.

Rep T. Caffery (D-La.) said he was concerned about the balance between the need to promote highway safety and the public right to privacy.

"Does anybody feel that in doing this, we're, if not in 1984, at least in 1983" Caffery asked. He referred to the spec-

ter of state spying in George Orwell's novel, "1984."

Tom Vandergriff, mayor of Arlington, Tex., which is experimenting with Orbis, said the system does have some critics.

"But I can't emphasize the fact enough that the overwhelming majority of our citizens are thrilled by the security it gives us," Vandergriff told the House Public Works Investigating Subcommittee.

"Perhaps some could make the point that this is undue invasion of privacy," the mayor said, "yet to those of us who have watched the slaughter on that highway—in my own case three very close friends were killed—the cries of privacy seem very hollow."

The driver knows his picture has been taken because a dull red flash is emitted by

## Arouses Fears of Invasion of Privacy

the conspicuous but not very threatening-look roadside device which houses cameras.

In Arlington, the police department sends out more warnings than tickets to people photographed in the act of speeding. The photographs are kept on computerized files until, or if, a case is to be pursued beyond the warning.

"I must say some persons get anxious about that possi-

bility of photos being mailed to them," Vandergriff said.

"We got a call from one man who got a notice of a photograph and he had been driving along the highway with a woman he shouldn't have been, the mayor said.

"He was not at all happy about the prospect of this picture arriving at his house," Vandergriff said.

Richard H. Myers, traffic

systems director for Vought Missiles & Space Co., a subsidiary of Dallas' LTV Aerospace, said Orbis costs far less and can snare far more speeders than radar manned by traffic patrolmen.

Whereas traffic cops can haul in and write tickets for no more than five persons an hour the photographic machine is getting clear shots of up to 900 violators an hour, he said. Everyone who exceeds a

pre-set speed limit gets his picture taken, along with his license number and general front view of his car.

Sensors are put in the highway. The camera-hiding "eyes" nearby take pictures of any car exceeding the speed limit. It can also be adjusted to take pictures of dangerously slow moving cars. Once a day the film is processed and put in a film reader and a keypunch file.