

Fuel access, board study

The Congressional Technology Assessment Board has begun a study of institutional constraints and incentives affecting access to fuel minerals such as oil and gas.

The board is chaired by local Texas Democrat, Congressman Olin E. Teague.

The results of the study are intended to provide Congressional policy-makers with balanced and objective information pertaining to: (1) future supply and demand forecasts for key domestic minerals; (2) the importance and impact of existing State and Federal regulations affecting mineral accessibility; (3) a range of alternative legislative strategies and their expected impacts, and (4) the flexibility of such

strategies in the face of changed conditions in the future.

Objectives of the study include an examination of the effects of regulatory modifications, including possible new State and Federal constraints and incentives, affecting exploration for, and development of, domestic resources of vital industrial materials.

Also within the scope of the study is an assessment of the potential role, and impacts, of environmentally protective technologies for mineral extraction and land reclamation.

The assessment will focus on Federal and State influences on the accessibility of 15 important hard-rock and fuel minerals believed to exist in large quantities on Federal lands, exclusive of the Outer Continental Shelf, in the Western United States and Alaska. The OTA study will include a detailed examination of State regulatory influences in Alaska, Colorado, and Wyoming.

Particular attention is being focused on Federal lands, because their utilization is subject to a wide

variety of restrictions, including classification for wilderness preservation and administrative withdrawals of tracts from mining for such purposes as military reservations.

In this assessment the term "accessibility" refers to all necessary steps leading to and including the application of technology for the purposes of mineral exploration, development, extraction and initial processing and delivery.

The assessment is scheduled for completion in April, 1976.

O. O. Haugen (far right) presents letters of appreciation to Texas A&M custodial workers with 25 or more years service, and still going. Recipients are (from left) Ness Washington, with 30 years; Floyd Woodfork, 25; Dennis Watson, 30; Lizzie Tubbs, 25; Eliza Mitchell, 27, and Margaret Bray, 28. Velma Parish, with 25 years, is not pictured.



School officials to be abolished by bill

A bill is on its way for Governor Briscoe's signature which would terminate the office of County School Superintendent in many Texas Counties, including Brazos and Robertson.

The bill terminates state fiscal support of a county school superintendent, county school trustees, and a county school board in counties that contain no common school district with less than 150 students in average daily attendance.

Independent School districts of a county, may, under this bill fund the county school offices and boards by voluntary contract. The bill abolishes the county school offices and boards which are not supported by ad valorem tax revenue or by voluntary local contract on September 1, 1977.

2,500 years of kissing still enjoyable

Man's (and woman's) preoccupation with kissing has been around at least 2,500 years even though few of the world's cultures kiss, says a Texas A&M University anthropologist.

Dr. Vaughn Bryant Jr. says that the Romans were probably the most avid artisans of the kiss, dividing them into a virtual triumvirate according to the purposes served.

One kiss was for greetings (osculum), another for close friends (basium) and the kiss of passion was called savium.

Bryant notes, "It's hard to trace the origin of kissing. We've never found anything like a pair of lips imprinted on a cave wall."

"But we have kissing going very strong by 500 B.C. in the Greek culture and soon after in the Roman Empire," he says.

Touch, taste and smell were a strong reason for kissing, he thinks.

"The inner skin is sensitive, the most sensitive part of the body. The lips are merely an external part of that skin. More neuron endings are exposed and the lips are more sensitive," explains Bryant.

Today, man has lost most of the sense of smell that could be derived from kissing primarily through disuse of the nose for survival. But phrases describing the taste of a kiss are all through literature, he adds.

Cross religion marrying means less church

One in every four American couples stating a religious preference has a so-called "mixed" marriage, one crossing lines of major religions or denominations, says a Texas A&M University social survey analyst.

A major trend, says Dr. Jon P. Alston, is that couples under 30 years of age have the highest rate of such marriages, 40 per cent.

The sociologist believes such cross-marriages often result in the couples attending church less often and in feeling less interest in religion generally.

From his analysis of a 1974 survey, the figure could go as high as 30 per cent overall, with Lutherans and Presbyterians demonstrating the highest rate of line-crossing in marriages.

Catholics and Protestants show little difference in the ratio of mixed marriages, having roughly 22 per cent and 26 per cent ratios respectively. The sample of Jewish persons was too small to be reliable, Alston adds.

The rate of Catholic and non-Catholic marriages matches closely the rate of Baptists and Methodists in the 22 per cent figure.

Education, occupation or size of urban residence make no difference in the ratio. People in the southern region of the U.S. or those living in rural areas, compared to the rest of the nation, show a higher tendency not to cross religious or denominational lines when marrying.

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