

New senate bill — real Pandora's box?

By JOHN TOWER
U.S. Senator for Texas

WASHINGTON — In Greek mythology, the gods presented the First Woman, Pandora, with a beautiful box, but forbade her ever to open it.

Pandora's curiosity eventually got the best of her, and one day she did open the box. Out flew plagues innumerable, sorrow, pestilence and mischief.

Pandora's box was a myth, but Congress is presently preparing a real Pandora's box with the esoteric name of Senate Bill 1284.

S.B. 1284 is really five bills in one, an amorphous conglomeration of virtually every pea-brained notion about antitrust ever proposed in Congress. If enacted into law, the damage to our economy would be incalculable.

Title I is the bill's "declaration of policy." It lists Congressional findings with respect to the relationship of industrial concentration to various purported economic ills. The principal finding is that there is diminished competition and increased concentration in the marketplace today, which has contributed significantly to inflation and unemployment.

The trouble with Title I is that it asserts as fact some highly specious economic theories. There is no consensus among economists either that the economy is any more concentrated or less competitive than it was 50 years ago. Nor is there any evidence that such industrial concentration as exists has contributed to inflation.

Title II would expand the power of the Justice Department to conduct antitrust investigations. It would give the Department more wide-ranging investigative authority than it has via the grand jury process without affording those subject to the inquisition even the slender protections of the grand jury. It would in effect permit the Department to coerce information from any person, anywhere, about virtually any subject, with virtually no protection for those whom the Department chooses to victimize.

Title III is comparatively innocuous, a collection of miscellaneous amendments of varying impact and importance.

Title IV is probably the most dangerous provision in the entire bill. It authorizes states to sue on behalf of consumers for antitrust violations even if the state has not been injured by the violation, eliminates the requirement in law that "fact of injury" be proven with respect to potential claimants, and permits the state to take over the unclaimed portion of the damage fund.

Title V is a pro-merger notification provision which would in effect give the Attorney General unilateral power to veto any merger without any judicial finding of illegality.

Pandora made a grave mistake when she opened the attractive package the gods had given her. Hopefully the Senate will profit from her experience.

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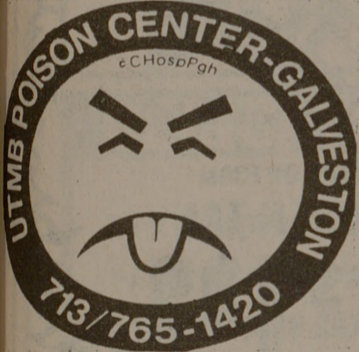
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BULLETIN BOARD

WEDNESDAY
GROVE "The African Queen," Humphrey Bogart, Katherine Hepburn, 8:30 p.m.
WHEELMEN Social-recreational bike ride, everyone invited. Rudder Fountain, 6:00 p.m.
SPORTS CAR CLUB Meeting, Old College Station City Hall, 7:30 a.m.
THURSDAY GROVE "Casino Royale," David Niven, 8:30 p.m.
FRIDAY
GROVE "Dirty Harry," Clint Eastwood, 8:30 p.m.
SATURDAY
GROVE "A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum," Zero Mostel, 8:30 p.m.
SUNDAY
AUTOCROSS Sports Car Club, Zachry parking lot, "Run what you bring," 10:00 a.m.
CHESS COMMITTEE Speed tournament will be held, 20 minutes per player. No admission fee. Room 140, MSC, 6:00 p.m.
GROVE "The Caine Mutiny," Humphrey Bogart, 8:30 p.m.



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Film features TAMU shark research center

A Texas A&M University biology professor, Dr. Herman Kleerekoper, and the school's shark research facilities will be featured in a Public Broadcasting System film Sunday (June 13).

The hour-long presentation was originally filmed by the British Broadcasting Company for their "Horizons" science series which has

already been aired in Europe.

It will be shown as part of the "Nova" series for PBS Sunday, June 13, at 7 p.m. on KAMU-15 (12 on the cable).

Kleerekoper said the film deals with shark research at a number of institutions and that a substantial part is about A&M. It includes his research on the monitoring of locomotion and response to food

odor conducted in the university's 4,000-gallon, 256-square-foot tank, equipped with 2,000 photoelectric

cells to detect movement by a shark and relay the information to a computer.

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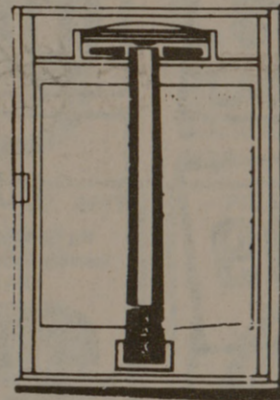
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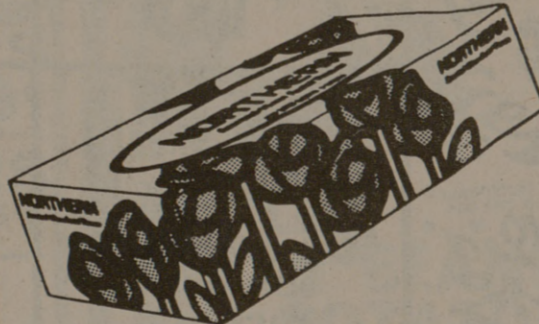
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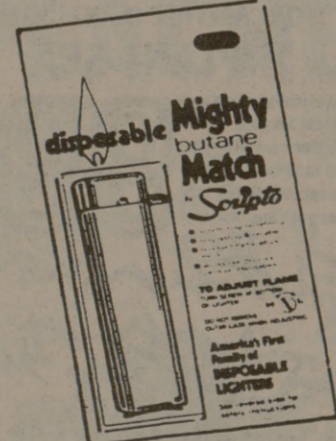
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