

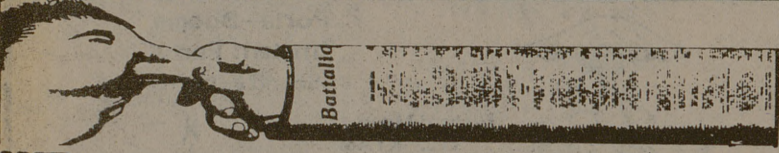
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# Hill to sue on costly mining

United Press International  
AUSTIN — Attorney General John Hill said Tuesday he will file suit to block enforcement of federal strip mining legislation which could prevent mining of eight billion tons of Texas lignite.  
The suit against U.S. Interior Secretary Cecil Andrus will be filed in U.S. district court seeking to set aside federal regulations dealing with strip mining on land designated as prime farm land.  
Hill said the designation is too broad, and could make strip mining so costly it would be prohibitive on Texas grazing land.  
"It's just bureaucratic overkill to have these regulations," he said. "These bureaucrats in Washington just don't understand what is and what is not prime farm land in this state."  
Under terms of the federal regulations, topsoil would have to be stripped from prime farm land and stored separately from other soil covering the lignite deposits.  
Hill said grazing land would benefit from a mixing of the topsoil and other soil before it is replaced over strip-mining sites. But the cost of removing and storing the two types of soil separately would make the cost of lignite mining prohibitive, he said.  
"Eight billion tons of Texas lignite are at stake. This is 70 to 80 percent of our near-surface lignite," Hill said. "Because of the federal method, 95 percent of the electrical generating plants in Texas to lignite power plants in 1985 will be jeopardized by the federal regulations."  
"If we lost this capacity to mine for electrical generation, we would have to import more coal from Wyoming," he said. "Because of the costly, the federal method would make Texas lignite out of business, environmentally unsound."  
Hill said he was filing the suit at the request of the Texas Lignite Commission, which regulates mining activity in the state.  
The federal regulations classify more than 800,000 acres of Texas, which cover 70 to 80 percent of the near-surface lignite deposits as prime farm land.  
"The acreage in question is prime farm land," Hill's suit contends.  
The suit asks the federal court to declare the federal definition of prime farm land invalid.



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













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**Math midgets from pocket calculators**

United Press International  
Do pocket calculators mathematical weaklings of school? "Heavens, no," says Dorothy L. Bernstein, elected President of the Mathematical Association of America. Nine thousand college math teachers long to the association.  
"You learn to use the calculator but you also must learn to subtract and divide and multiply without them. That way, if your calculator breaks down or if you're on an island, you can do math."  
Dr. Bernstein is chairman of Mathematics Department Goucher College in Baltimore over the past 40 years she has dispensed theorems and such to students at the University of California at Berkeley, Brown University, Rhode Island, the University of Connecticut, and Rochester University.  
The interview focused on lessons on the math front and on the tunities for math majors.  
Dr. Bernstein left the impression that if she were stuck on an island without a pocket calculator, work on math problems for her relaxation until rescued.  
"I don't think there is such a thing as being dumb or smart at math," she said.  
"It is a question of motivation how you were taught.  
"I think nine-tenths of the people with poor math performance that many were not taught properly."  
"We know this is true. We know persons who had to drop out of school for one reason or another then 10 or 15 years later go back knowing why they want to do math to advance in a job or to better pay one. We observe they learn math. Motivation is the difference."  
Dr. Bernstein thinks well of high school mathematics test scores despite the fact that the Scholastic Aptitude Test scores in math have been dropping over the past decade.  
"Some students who come could be better prepared but are just as good or better than ever were at the college age," she said.  
"Just about all of them are more articulate and catch on faster."  
Why major in math?  
"That's where the jobs are in computers and accounting and statistics," Dr. Bernstein said. "The practical applications change rapidly. One of our concerns is do you prepare students in mathematics in applied ways the applications change every 10 years?"  
"Our answer is to give them good basic math. That way, they get new applications to know what to do about it."  
"Good pure math includes calculus, advanced calculus, algebra, topology, functional analysis and differential equations."  
The job opportunities just multiplying, according to Dr. Bernstein.  
"It used to be mathematics used as a mainstay mostly in engineering, physics and chemistry," she said.  
"Now the calls for math are coming from the fields of ecology, biology, medicine, psychology and sociology."  
"I heard the other day of someone looking for a mathematician in a geologist! I'm not sure what he is."  
Dr. Bernstein is the first woman to head the Mathematical Association. She doesn't think the movement had anything to do with her selection.  
Next question: Is it true that boys are smarter at math than girls? Boys consistently outscore girls on the math part of the SATs.  
"I don't believe there is a differentiation when it comes to math for math. Given equal opportunity females can do as well as males."  
So why the differences in the records?  
"In the past," Dr. Bernstein said, "girls have been discouraged going on in math — pure math."