

the state

Turtle airlifted out of danger

Slick stalls but globs wash ashore

United Press International  
SOUTH PADRE ISLAND, Texas — Calm seas Wednesday stalled the northward push of oil in the Gulf of Mexico near Texas beaches where

federal officials prepared an emergency airlift for the first Ridley turtle hatched since the pollution reached U.S. waters.

The Coast Guard, Environmental

Protection Agency and the National Weather Service agreed the unfriendly mixture of oil and water was static, in almost the same position it has been since Monday. Sticky oil

balls, however, continued to wash ashore and bounce through the surf of the luxurious resort area.

With the oil pollution strike force team again on stand by, the Coast Guard learned that an independent program to save the endangered Ridley turtles had produced its first baby turtle in two seasons.

Authorization was granted immediately to pickup the baby and any other offspring that have hatched by Thursday and fly them 400 miles to U.S. Fish and Wildlife tanks in Galveston. They will be kept for 10 months and then will be released off the Florida Gulf Coast.

The Mexican government last week airlifted hundreds of Ridley turtles to avoid the slick near Tampico. Only about 2,000 adults Ridley turtles, compared to about 100,000 in the 1940s. The turtles were killed for their skin, eggs and oils.

Earl Lippoldt, 54, a retired Kansas farmer who has manned a beachfront oasis for 100 days a year since 1974, was ecstatic at the hatching's 2:20 a.m. arrival but distressed by the threat of the oily surf.

"And, I'm very happy that they (federal officials) came in here and helped us out," he said. "I had asked the U.S. Fish and Wildlife office for instructions when I heard about the oil and Saturday they told me not to even let them near the water if they hatched."

The South Padre beach remained dotted with oil balls, believed to have washed in from Mexico's runaway Ixtoc I oil well.

Environmental Protection Agent Meacham said portions of the slick remained stalled off the Texas coast Wednesday because of still seas and low winds.

The National Weather Service predicted winds of 10 knots and seas less than 3 feet but spokesman Stan all said it was doubtful the weather would help turn the creeping oil away.

"Meteorologically speaking, this oil slick took place at a difficult time because we just don't get cold fronts to give north and northwest winds,"

he said. "The winds are mostly from the south and southeast and of course that puts the oil slick on up (the coast)."

"From what (data) we have available, we expect little change over the next two or three days."

Meacham said neither the pancakes of oil spotted Monday about 45 miles offshore from Brownsville nor the sheen 50 miles from Corpus Christi had moved much.

No contradiction between criticism, loan oilman says

United Press International  
FORT WORTH, Texas — Conservative oilman Eddie Chiles, who spent thousands of dollars to advise his complaints against big government, said Wednesday there was no contradiction between his ads and his company obtaining \$15 million in federally guaranteed loans.

Chiles said, however, that rather than give his "enemies" an opportunity to criticize him, his Western friends in North America would seek to finance the federal government's oil rig program in the future.

Chiles, the oil well drilling firm's chief executive officer, has undertaken radio campaigns in eight states against big government and liberal politicians while espousing the benefits of the free enterprise system. Among his ads costing \$100-\$30,000 a week is one radio ad urging the government to "de-fund our shores, deliver our mail and leave us the hell alone."

Chiles said his criticism of government handouts had nothing to do with the government's guarantee of billions of dollars in loans for its company to buy the rigs.

"I really saw nothing in regards to which is philosophically opposed to my philosophy," Chiles said. "I never really thought of this as doing business with the federal government because it doesn't cost taxpayers anything."

"I'm nothing out of the taxpayers' pockets. The government doesn't do any favors, really. We didn't do business direct with the government."

The U.S. Commerce Department ads also show Sedco, owned by Bill Clements who promoted himself as a "classic example of the enterprise system that works," raised \$152 million through the

same process. While Clements also said the taxpayers never paid a dime for government-guaranteed loans to finance six Sedco rigs.

Chiles said his firm obtained the loans through a program begun in the 1930s to "encourage shipowners to do business with American shipyards."

"Quite frankly, we started doing business back several years ago before I got so mad at the government," Chiles said. "Back in 1972 we started doing business with the government bonding business. It means, we bought insurance from them."

Chiles the program allows his firm to borrow money "at a percent-

age point less in interest than we otherwise would" but the government fees required "almost offset any benefits."

Chiles, recently appointed to the North Texas State University board of regents despite efforts by liberal senators holding up confirmation so they could listen to his ads, said Wednesday his company probably will return to private financing.

"If my enemies, quote, feel like I've been a bad boy by doing this, it's such a nothing thing, we probably won't do it anymore," Chiles said. "I probably will use other sources anyway because I don't like to give my enemies the opportunity to make something out of nothing."

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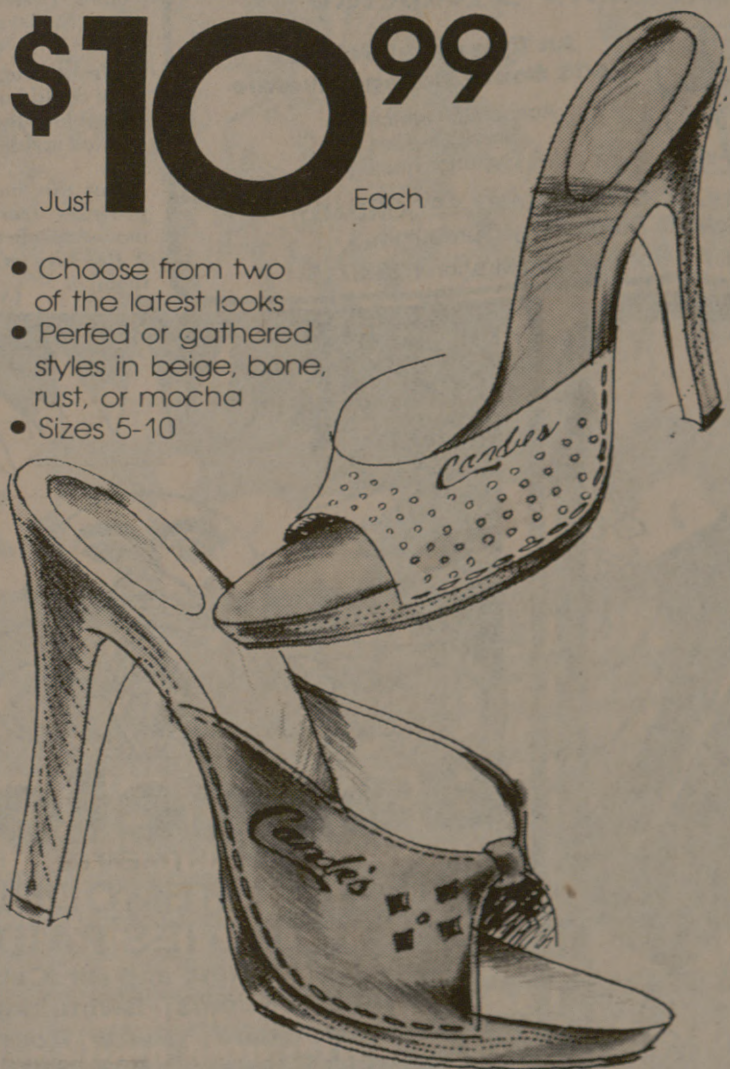
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