

the state

Oil tax will hurt small firms, owner says

United Press International
DALLAS — Gwynne Gazzaway says the federal windfall profits tax will force many small oil companies out of business and threaten the financial security of thousands of small royalty owners, and that's why she's organizing an opposition.
Gazzaway said the federal government has created distrust of the companies, and through that distrust has made the windfall profits tax acceptable.
"It's the biggest extortion scheme this country's history," she said. "There has been a pretty good job done by the executive

branch of the government, but we're coming along in our efforts. I believe if we can get the American people to start thinking about this, they will see this."
Gazzaway is organizing small producers and royalty owners, primarily in Texas and surrounding states, into the Gwynne Gazzaway Energy Trust, headquartered in Dallas. Some of her early efforts have involved distribution of news releases with reaction to a move by either President Carter or the Congress, and asking for general support.

Her latest was a broadside mailed to "the millions of small mineral and royalty owners and small stockholders of oil companies, large or small; the small independent oil people of this country."
The mailer contained exhaustive information and then a stacked true-false test that includes such statements as, "OPEC is not ripping you off — your own federal government is" and "Of all domestic products, only gas and oil are price-controlled by the federal government."
"The name itself is a misnomer,"

Gazzaway said. "Essentially it is not a windfall profits tax at all, but a permanent excise tax. They have given it that name, but the tax will still be levied whether or not any profit is made on a well."
"The government has set up a minimum, but they have not let the American people know that the tax will be in effect whether or not that minimum is met."
Most importantly, however, Gazzaway believes the American public is being misled as to whom the tax will affect.

"The government has used the figure of \$140 billion it will receive from the tax, but they don't tell the people that one-eighth of this amount, or just a little over \$17 billion will come from the small producers and royalty owners," she said.
She said the majority of the small producers and royalty owners come from middle class America, and some could even be classified in the low income bracket.
"This tax is forcing many small drillers out of the business, because they just can't afford this type of tax," she said. "From the information I've gotten the number forced out is already near 3,000. It's a serious proposition."
"Royalty owners come from all walks of life. Some are small farmers, one out in east Texas is a county clerk and a lot of them are retired people who depend on their royalties just to exist. There are some in nursing homes, who for one reason or another don't have any Social Security benefits and have to have the royalty checks in order to have a place to live."
"One lady in particular gets \$150 a month, which supplements her \$75 Social Security check. She is 80 years old and a widow. It is all she has to live on. So, you see, most of us are not oil barons."

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Student helps break cocaine ring

United Press International
LUBBOCK — A third-year Texas Tech law student, indicted June 7 with 13 other persons in connection with an alleged cocaine-trafficking ring, has pleaded guilty to a lesser offense and may assist federal prosecutors in gaining additional indictments.
Randy Tom Leavitt, 25, of Austin, pleaded guilty Wednesday to one count of marijuana possession on Jan. 10. He was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Halbert Woodward to a six-month probation term and a \$1,000 fine.

charges relating to his involvement in the alleged ring were dismissed by Woodward.
Leavitt's plea-bargained arrangement was announced at what was expected to be a pretrial hearing on wiretapping procedures used by the government during the drug investigation.
Assistant U.S. Attorney David Bass said Leavitt will provide a trial jury or a federal grand jury, tentatively scheduled to meet in Amarillo this month, with "whatever personal

knowledge he has of the drug situation."
Of 17 persons named in cocaine-related indictments returned this summer, only seven have not completed plea-bargaining arrangements with prosecutors, Bass said. Three of the seven are fugitives.
Bass refused to disclose the names of the four others who have not reached agreements because "we are still in the process of negotiating," and he declined to discuss the plea-bargained agreements of other defendants.

Alamo called imperialist symbol

United Press International
SAN ANTONIO — Arizona Gov. Bruce Babbitt, chairman of the U.S. Border Regional Commission, says the Alamo is a symbol of what is wrong with U.S.-Mexico relations.
"We must forge a new relationship based on recognition of Mexico as an equal," said Babbitt, heading a group of Arizona lawmakers studying San Antonio's famous river walk with the idea of creating a similar tourist attraction in Phoenix.
"But the Alamo is a symbol of the problem in our relationship with Mexico, a sacred symbol to Texans and an extension of the American ideal," he said. "But to Mexico, it's a symbol of territory lost, a nation plundered by overbearing gringo neighbors."
Babbitt said both the United States and Mexico should reconsider their views on such symbols as the Alamo.
Earlier this summer, Babbitt clashed with Texas Gov. Bill Clements during a meeting of the border regional commission, calling Clements' plan to purchase oil and natural gas from Mexico "imperialistic."

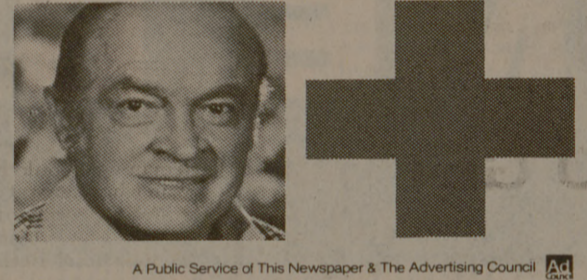
During his visit Wednesday Babbitt continued his criticism of Clements, saying the Republican Texas governor's style of diplomacy was "something that went out in 1938."
"Instead of talking of going down there to develop their energy resources, we need to invite Mexico to come to the Southwest," the Arizona governor said.

Wine favored as medicine

United Press International
ANAHEIM, Calif. — A pharmacy professor says scientific experimentation with wine over the past 30 years has strengthened the validity of many ancient medical claims made about it. Steven Strauss, an associate professor from Long Island (N.Y.) University's pharmacy col-

lege, says the clinical uses of wine declined because of Prohibition and competition with new drugs. "Wine lacked the dramatic quality of the claims made for the increasing number of new drugs," Strauss said in a paper presented at the recent American Pharmaceutical Association convention in Anaheim.

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