

## State Department blasted for statement

**United Press International**  
CORPUS CHRISTI — A congressional panel investigating the cause of a giant Mexican oil spill and the ecological and economical damage it wrought on the Texas coast Sunday criticized a State Department official for saying Mexico's cooperation had been "excellent" in the situation.

Morris D. Busby, director of the State Department's Office of Oceans and Polar Affairs, told the committee hearing two days of weekend testimony. "Our general working relationship with the government of Mexico has been excellent."

"That's a typical State Department statement," Rep. John Breaux, D-La., responded.

"I find that a little strong in that they (Mexicans) don't even want to talk about it," Breaux said. "When we wanted to talk about damages they told us, in effect, to go fly a kite."

During the two days of hearings by two House committees, those on Merchant Marine and Fisheries, and Public Works and Transportation, a Port Mansfield resident begged the congressmen to prevent South Texas coastal residents from being made "pawns" in U.S. negotiations for Mexican oil and natural gas.

Critics have charged the U.S. government and Texas Gov. Bill Clements, whose firm owned the SEDCO rig used to drill the Ixtoc I well that blew out June 3 in Mexico's Bay of Campeche, with downplaying the situation because of the ongoing negotiations.

Under questioning by Breaux and Texas Democratic Reps. Joe Wyatt and Kika De La Garza, the Coast Guard official in charge of a blimping operation at the blowout site testified he was reluctant to question the Mexicans about progress in capping the well for fear they would ask the Coast Guard team to leave.

"I don't think any inquiries would be answered," said Capt. Charles Corbitt, acting chairman of the U.S. response team in the Bay of Campeche. "We're doing only exactly what we're asked to do. I think (asking questions) would jeopardize keeping our people at the well site."

Breaux told Busby the State Department's "highest priority" should be a proposed U.S.-Mexico contingency plan to deal with future spills. Breaux said testimony showed the Mexican oil monopoly PEMEX was beginning to drill one offshore well every two weeks and other oil spills could occur.

## Mexico will exclude shrimpers U.S. boats to be barred

**United Press International**  
WASHINGTON — The State Department says "it seems unlikely" American shrimp fishermen will be able to continue operating in Mexican waters after the end of this year.

Department spokesman Hodding Carter said Friday Mexico has made clear its fishermen can catch all of the allowable annual yield of shrimp in Mexican waters and that there is no surplus available for foreign fishing — mostly by Texas shrimpers.

The shrimp fishing matter is another on the growing agenda of bilateral problems between the United States and Mexico and may be included in the Sept. 28-29 talks in Washington between President Carter and Mexican President Jose Lopez Portillo.

Other outstanding issues on the Mexican-American agenda are natural gas sales, trade and immigration.

But state spokesman Carter insisted: "This is a completely separate matter and the Mexican position on this question has been clear for quite a long time."

The spokesman said it was possible that U.S. shrimp fishing in Mexican waters may resume at some time in the future — but he was not very hopeful that will actually happen.

"Mexican scientists have not yet made a final determination regard-

ing the current status of the shrimp stocks off Mexico, although it appears likely there will be a finding of no surplus.

"This could change in the years ahead but, frankly, it seems unlikely," Carter said. "The shrimp fishery in the Gulf of Mexico is Mexico's most important fishery."

Under the existing U.S. Mexico Fisheries Agreement, signed in 1976, American fishermen are allowed to fish off Mexico for the remainder of 1979. The spokesman said according to that agreement, "U.S. shrimping will cease beginning in 1980."



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## Ships bearing 5 tons of pot seized in Gulf

**United Press International**  
NEW ORLEANS — Coast Guard U.S. Customs officials found 25 lbs. of marijuana Sunday aboard a tug accompanied by a tug and tug that had been under surveillance for a week, a Customs spokesman said.

Richard Wright of the customs of said authorities seized the 60-ton tug Nautilus which was pushing a barge on which the marijuana was found. The yacht Summer was accompanying the tug and was also taken into custody at the mouth of the Mississippi River. We had performed a surveillance on the vessels from beyond the 50 mile perimeter and they moved them in and finally seized boats in the area of the Gulf Out-Marina," Wright said.

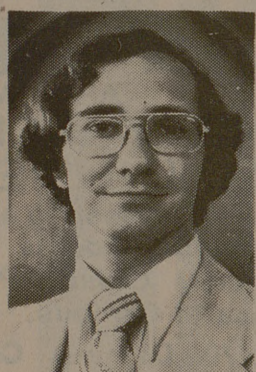
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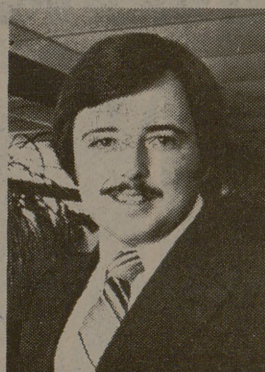
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