

the nation

Coal tax will keep poverty out of West, legislator says

United Press International
KEYSTONE, Colo. — Taxes on coal production by Western states will keep the states from becoming another Appalachia, a Montana legislator believes.
Montana's 30 percent coal severance tax has not driven coal companies from the state that holds 52.5 percent of the nation's coal reserves, State Sen. Thomas Towe also told a Colorado gathering.
"Mention Appalachia and two things come to mind — coal and poverty," Towe said Saturday. "I think there is a real connection between the two."
As a freshman legislator, Towe said, he was instrumental in winning passage in 1975 of the Montana tax — the nation's highest. But the coal companies opposed it vigorously, he said. "They even said they would leave the state and go to Wyoming and Colorado," he said. "Hogwash."
Since passage of the tax, he said, Montana coal production has increased 5 percent and the tax has won support.
"Even those in the Legislature who fought the tax now are supporting it, he said. But the tax has been challenged by utilities in Texas and Illinois which claim it is an unconstitutional interference with interstate commerce.
Towe predicted the case, now being appealed by the utilities to the Montana Supreme Court, would ultimately go before the United States Supreme Court. He said he is optimistic the state of Montana would win.
"It does not interfere with interstate commerce since the same tax that applies to out-of-state companies also applies to Montana coal companies," he said.

What's up

Monday

- OFF-CAMPUS AGGIES:** MSC Coordinators Jim Reynolds, James Randolph and Don Rohel will speak at 6:30 p.m. in Room 108, Harrington.
- ORANGE HOMETOWN CLUB:** Will meet to discuss yearbook pictures and a future party at 7:30 p.m. in Room 109, Military Science Bldg.
- JALAPENO CHEESE SALE:** The Dairy Science Club will sell the cheese through Tuesday on the third floor, Kleberg.
- COMMUNITY SINGERS:** Members and non-members will begin the first of five rehearsals for the ninth annual presentation of Handel's "The Messiah" at 7:30 p.m. at the Brazos Center.
- ALPHA ZETA:** Club pictures will be taken at 7 p.m., and Dr. Fred Miller will speak at the meeting at 7:30 p.m. in the Main Lounge, MSC.
- MSC CAMERA COMMITTEE:** Will meet at 7:30 p.m. in Room 601, Rudder.
- ASSOCIATED GENERAL CONTRACTORS:** Will meet and have Aggieland pictures taken at 7:45 p.m. in Zachry.
- BIBLE STUDY:** Don Hartman will lead a Bible Study at 9 p.m. in the All Faiths Chapel Meditation Room. Sponsored by Student "Y."

Tuesday

- A&M WHEELMEN:** Will meet at 7:30 p.m. in Room 504, Rudder.
- DEADLINE:** Today is the last day to enter a photo in the MSC Camera Committee's Fall Photo Contest.
- AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF CHEMICAL ENGINEERS:** Will meet to have Aggieland pictures taken at 7:45 p.m. in Room 203, Zachry.
- WATER SKI CLUB:** Will make plans for a party and elect officers at 7 p.m. in Room 308, Rudder.
- SOUTH LOUISIANA HOMETOWN CLUB:** Will meet and take yearbook pictures at 8:30 p.m. in the MSC Student Lounge.
- DPMA:** The Data Processing Management Association will meet at 7:30 p.m. in Room 200, Harrington. Speakers' topics are "Developing Client Contacts" and "Women in Data Processing."
- SADDLE & SIRLOIN CLUB:** Will meet at 7 p.m. in Room 115, Kleberg.
- PRE-LAW SOCIETY:** Arno Krebs, president of Texas Aggie Bar Association, will speak at 7:30 p.m. in Room 301, Rudder.
- ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGY SOCIETY:** Buster Calloway of Briggs-Weaver will speak and pictures will be taken at 7:30 p.m. in Room 105, Harrington.
- FESTIVAL OF ARTS:** The Brazos Valley Arts Council will sponsor the demonstrations and displays at 8 p.m. in the Assembly Room of the Brazos Center.
- SOCIETY OF MECHANICAL ENGINEERS:** Hiram Wilson of PPG Industrial Chemistry Division will discuss "The Mechanical Engineer in the Chemical Industry" at 7:30 p.m. in Room 102, Zachry.
- EL PASO HOMETOWN CLUB:** Aggieland pictures will be taken at 7:30 p.m. in the MSC Lounge.

Wednesday

- STUDENT SENATE:** Will meet at 7:30 p.m. in Room 204, Harrington.
- AGGIE SCOUTS:** All Scouts and those interested in scouting are invited to the meeting at 9 p.m. in Room 604, Rudder.
- BOWIE COUNTY HOMETOWN CLUB:** Will meet for Aggieland pictures at 7 p.m. in the MSC Lounge.
- SPORT PARACHUTE CLUB:** Will meet at 7 p.m. in Room 302, Rudder.
- STUDENT "Y":** Carolyn Storm will lead a share group at 9 p.m. in the All Faiths Chapel Meditation Room.
- HILLEL FOUNDATION:** Naomi Brodtkin will show recent slides of Israel at 7:30 p.m. in the Hillel Jewish Student Center.

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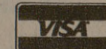
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