

the nation

# Krueger new head of Mexican affairs

United Press International  
WASHINGTON — Former Texas congressman Robert Krueger Tuesday became the first U.S. official to be in charge of administering and coordinating all aspects of relations between Mexico and the United States.

Krueger was sworn in by Undersecretary of State Ben Read as coordinator for Mexican-American Affairs, a new post created by President Carter following his trip to Mexico City earlier this year.

U.S. relations with Mexico—centering almost exclusively on bilateral trade and cross-border issues such as illegal immigration and control of

water supplies—have become more significant since the discovery of huge oil and natural gas fields in Mexico.

Krueger, a former dean at Duke University, served in Congress from 1975 until his unsuccessful race against Sen. John Tower, R-Texas, in 1978. Krueger is a native of New Braunfels.

Carter has met three times with Mexican President Jose Lopez Portillo since taking office in January 1977. In fact, Lopez Portillo was the first foreign dignitary to visit the Carter White House in February 1977.

# 'Kick 'em Jenny' may become island

United Press International  
WASHINGTON — An active submarine volcano known as Kick 'em Jenny is growing steadily in the Caribbean north of Grenada, and two geologists say it could emerge as a new island by the end of the century.

Kick 'em Jenny — the origin of its name is a mystery — was discovered when a black column of volcanic ash and steam burst through the tranquil waters of a sailboat route to the spice island in 1939.

A deep sea survey in 1962 showed that the top of the submerged volcanic mountain was 750 feet below sea level. By April 1978, the peak's crater was only 525 feet down.

"The present evidence indicates a mean growth rate of 15 feet per year, which could result in Kick 'em Jenny's emergence as a new volcanic island in about 2000," reported Haraldur Sigurdsson of the University of Rhode Island and Stephen Sparks of Cambridge University.

They reported that the undersea volcano is known to have erupted eight times since 1939. They said the likelihood of another eruption within several months is very high.

"Volcanic eruptions will become more violent and affect a wider area as they occur in ever shallower water," the researchers said.

They suggested it might be wise for sailors to steer clear of Kick 'em Jenny and avoid the fate of the Japanese oceanographic vessel Kaiyomaru, which disappeared with a crew of 29 when a submarine volcano erupted 230 miles south of Tokyo in 1952.

They said if the volcano emerges from the sea as expected within a few decades, it will probably resemble its 1,000-year-old sister, the extinct volcano of Isle de Caille, a barren uninhabited island 4 miles to the east.

# DOE accuses refiners of pricing violations

United Press International  
WASHINGTON — Nine of the nation's 15 largest oil refiners have been cited for nearly \$1.2 billion in alleged pricing violations between August 1973 and December 1976, the Energy Department announced Tuesday.

This raised to \$6.4 billion the amount involved in citations against the 35 largest oil firms in the agency's continuing audit.

Mobil, accused of \$274.6 million in pricing violations, led the new list, followed by Shell with \$211.6 million, Sohio with \$179 million and Sun with \$129.7 million.

Chevron was cited for \$117 million, Gulf \$80 million, Amerada Hess \$88 million, Conoco \$46 million and Arco \$58 million.

"We believe we are in full compliance with DOE regulations and Mobil is confident it will be fully vindicated by DOE's administrative review or, if necessary, in the courts," said Mobil spokesman John Flint.

Shell's C.A. Seibert denied the

violations, and said the company will seek to vindicate itself in court.

Sohio's Charles King accused the agency of "political expediency," but conceded \$3 million of the citation might be due to a Sohio mathematical error.

Paul Bloom, Energy Department special counsel, said the citations represented "potential overcharges," since they involved accounting discrepancies in refinery operating costs the companies can pass to customers for such things as overhead, labor, taxes, interest, maintenance and depreciation.

Bloom, who already has wrested \$370 million of the \$6.4 billion total from the oil firms in consent orders, said he expects most of the new citations to be contested.

"They are the commencement of what could be a long, contentious civil dispute between the companies and the agency," he said. "The companies have the means and the will to contest these charges."

If the agency makes its citations stick, he said, restitution will be

sought in the form of price reductions to customers who are refunded, and elimination of overcharges or banked costs that otherwise show up in the petroleum products.

Bloom's audit of the 15 largest companies is slated for completion before the end of the year.

Carl Corallo, Bloom's aide, said the latest violations stem from the crediting themselves with "non-product costs" that are not to be included in the price of oil.

He defined non-product costs as just about everything in the process except the cost of producing the oil.

"The companies were using a document to our auditors that books booked actually occurred," Bloom said. He said the citation is a first step in a long legal process that does not imply wrongdoing.

Although Bloom said he is "lost a single dollar" in litigation, the companies over such violations, Shell's Seibert said, company has won four of the agency pricing actions in court.

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# Railroad sale debated Arguments continue

United Press International  
KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Government and business representatives Tuesday continued to submit stacks of written testimony and hours of oral arguments on the pros and cons of selling a Midwest stretch of Rock Island Railroad line to another company.

Most of the testimony reflected the same themes entered Monday.

Supporters of Southern Pacific subsidiary's purchase plan pleaded agricultural interests. Opponents argued financial damage to other rail lines and local economies.

Earlier, an Interstate Commerce Commission official indicated the final phase of two months of hearings to determine the fate of the bankrupt Rock Island Railroad will be conducted in Washington sometime after Thanksgiving.

But presiding administrator judge Peter A. Fitzpatrick said he would conduct two days of hearings to discuss the pros and cons of Southern Pacific's proposal to acquire Rock Island's lines from the Mississippi River to Santa Fe, N.M. — said a final decision would not be reached until shortly before Christmas.

Further hearings will be conducted next week in Los Angeles, Washington.

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