

# Winds may push oil toward shore

**United Press International**  
**GALVESTON**—A predicted shift in winds Wednesday threatened to push another black tide of oil toward the shore, collision-damaged tanker that firefighters hoped to douse with chemical foam. Attempts to extinguish the blaze failed Tuesday when firefighters ran out of foam and the latest in a series of explosions occurred. Firefighters Wednesday re-cooled the wreckage of the tanker with water. Autumn winds blowing from the north had helped keep the spill offshore until winds shifted to the southeast Sunday and Monday. Coast Guard spokesman Ray Baker said Wednesday. "The winds are out of the east now about 15 knots and are expected to shift out of the southeast between 10 and 15 knots." Baker said there had been no reports or wash-ups on Texas beaches since early Tuesday, and he said most of the oil was parallel to the coast and staying six miles offshore. The currents flowing to the southwest had carried the spill past the entrance to Matagorda Bay, halfway

to Corpus Christi where beaches already were stained by the five-month-old Ixtoc I well blowout in Mexico's Bay of Campeche. Dutch and American firefighters using specially equipped boats fought a holding action with water until Tuesday, when they decided the vessel was cool enough to pour on thousands of gallons of chemical foam to kill the blaze. "Before they could completely extinguish the fire, they ran out of foam, and the fire flared," Baker said. "They came back in and loaded

back up with foam. When they're going to attempt it again, we don't know." Meanwhile, Coast Guard and private contractors cleaned up oil from public beaches and monitored threats to wildlife-nurturing bays, where they had gathered 10,000 feet of floating fence and six skimming machines. "Right now, there are no plans to completely encircle the vessel (with floating spill barriers), but they do plan to put some more of this heavy duty barrier just downwind of the

vessel within a few hundred feet of the ship," Coast Guard spokesman Richard Griggs said. Thirty of the tanker's 36 compartments had been loaded with 16.8 million gallons of crude, five times as much as the 3 million gallons estimated to have lain on South Texas beaches during the height of the Mexican oil spill. Three compartments were damaged initially, but the relentless fire and a series of explosions since Friday had damaged and possibly opened as many as nine more tanks.

million downward "adjustment" in UH books. State District Judge Wallace Moore scheduled a hearing Nov. 16 to discuss what roles Covington and Knox might play in repaying the university. Harwell and Sullivan pleaded guilty to related charges and are serving four-year federal prison sentences. UH officials have said the exact losses resulting from the scheme to use short term UH funds for private investments would be impossible to calculate, but officials made a \$14.6

## UH defrauders get probation

**United Press International**  
**HOUSTON**—Two men convicted of helping a fired University of Houston official use school funds to make investment profits have been placed on probation for six years. Mel Covington and Roger Knox were sentenced Tuesday after their convictions Monday on charges they helped former UH financial analyst Sam Harwell and Harwell's half brother, Pat Sullivan, defraud the university. UH officials have said the exact losses resulting from the scheme to use short term UH funds for private investments would be impossible to calculate, but officials made a \$14.6

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## Texas mortgage activity declining

**United Press International**  
**AUSTIN**—A representative of the Texas Savings and Loan League Wednesday told the Senate Interim Committee on Financial Institutions the pace of mortgage lending activity in Texas had dropped drastically even before last month's sharp increase in interest rates.

Pat Malone said mortgage loans closed by Texas savings and loan associations during the first eight months of 1979 were 24 percent below the same period last year, while the decline nationally was only 6 percent. He said single-family mortgage loans granted in Texas fell 30 percent, while the national decline was 4 percent.

Malone also said savings and loan associations allocated \$4 billion on mortgage loans during the same period this year, while the first eight months of 1978 had turned up a \$5.2 billion business.

"The decline of \$1.2 billion represents 28 percent of the total nationwide decline of \$4.4 billion," he said.

Malone said Texas savings and loan associations have sold large volumes of mortgage loans to lenders in other states, thereby bringing out-of-state funds to Texas to meet the demand for mortgage credit. He said in 1978 Texas sold \$1 billion of mortgages out-of-state. This year only \$610 million of loans have been sold.

"The sharp increase in interest rates generally has forced Texas savings and loans out of the secondary mortgage market because market interest rates are now above the Texas interest rate ceiling," Malone said.

L. DeWitt Hale, a representative of the Texas Association of Home Builders, said home builders in the state were faced with two dilemmas: a need for an ample supply of money for interim financing and an ample supply of money for home buyers.

He said, however, that money to finance home construction was not as critical as money to purchase homes. "But we need an ample supply for the home buyer," Hale said. "There's where the real crisis is."



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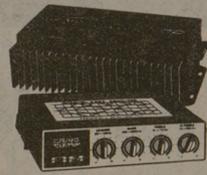
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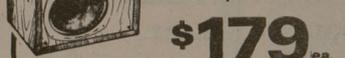
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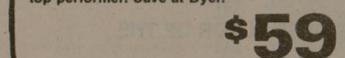
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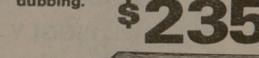
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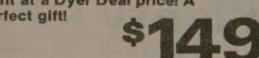
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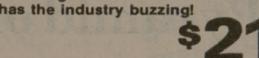
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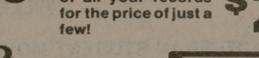
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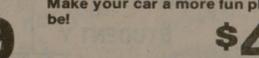
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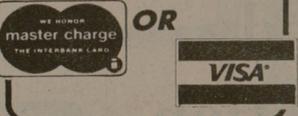


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