

# Derailed chemical cars blasted

**United Press International**  
MOLINO, Fla. — A 500-foot fireball — "spectacular and very hot" — seared the evening sky, heralding the destruction of a string of derailed tank cars and the return of 1,500 evacuees to their homes.

Detonation of the cars, three of which had been burning since they derailed Sunday morning, was carried out late Tuesday by a jump-started, cowboy-booted demolition expert called in from Texas to defuse the possibility of an uncontrolled chemical explosion.

Authorities said 1,500 people were evacuated just before the blast, and if a daybreak reconnaissance trip to the Louisville & Nashville Railroad wreck showed another blast unnecessary, officials said the 500 residents nearest the scene may be allowed to return to their Florida Panhandle homes.

Wayne Rutledge, who led the Texas demolition team, said the series of controlled blasts Tuesday was successful in at least eight of the nine cars filled with flammable liquids.

If the ninth car still contains gas, it will be rigged with plastic explosives — a procedure Rutledge described as more dangerous than the original demolition job because of the unstable nature of the gases after the earlier blasts.

He returned from a helicopter inspection of the scene, where 29 cars of a 109-car train derailed, and said, "All of the toxic material is being consumed by the fire."

Six of the cars contained liquid propane, which turns into a highly flammable fuel as it mixes with air.

The others contained ethyl alcohol, styrene monomer, used in making styrofoam insulation, and acetone.

Al Smith, coordinator of the Environmental Protection Agency's Regional Response team, said, "We didn't hurt anybody. We thank God for that."

Despite objections by the railroad, which apparently thought only the burning cars should be destroyed, Smith ordered the demolition of all nine cars. "There wasn't any alternative to detonating all nine cars simultaneously," Rutledge said.

Smith said the response team probably would pick up the demolition bill, which was expected to run between \$25,000 and \$50,000, because L&N officials had balked.

Russell Gober, a National Transportation Safety Board member, said the derailment was apparently caused by a washout and L&N was not to blame.

He said the train, bound from New Orleans to Jacksonville, apparently was going about 45 mph, 4 mph below the speed limit, when it jumped the tracks.

## Washington man discovers novel, effective techniques of self-defense

**United Press International**  
SPOKANE, Wash. — Arnold Sanborn, 32, proved a tire iron is an effective weapon against karate moves.

Sanborn, of Wauconda, Wash., found a man going through his pickup truck at a motel Tuesday and the would-be thief grabbed a tire iron. He then threw a couple of karate

kicks at Sanborn.

When Sanborn took the tire iron from the man, the thief assumed a martial-arts stance. So, police said, the truck owner bopped him on the head, chased him and landed a couple of more blows with the tire iron.

Daniel Brown, 25, was arrested and taken to a hospital for treatment of cuts on the head and face.

## Meant to stabilize prices

# Meat import bill passed

**United Press International**  
WASHINGTON — The House voted 352-48 Wednesday to smooth out the ups and downs of meat imports in an effort to stabilize fluctuations in domestic prices.

The legislation also limits President Carter's current power to increase or suspend meat quotas under certain emergency conditions.

The bill now goes to the Senate where it is expected to be approved.

A floor of 1.25 billion pounds of meat imports was established in the bill after the House defeated an amendment by Rep. Willis Gradison, R-Ohio, to place the floor at 1.3 billion pounds.

The bill would change the formula for determining limitations on meat imports.

Australia and New Zealand are major suppliers of the beef imports, mostly lean beef used for hamburger and sausages. Canada, Mexico and Central American nations provide the rest.

Currently, beef imports rise when U.S. production is high and fall when U.S. production falls, thus intensifying swings in beef prices and supplies.

Under the bill, a so-called counter-cyclical formula would result in increased beef imports when domestic supplies are low and lower imports when domestic supplies are high, thus stabilizing supplies and prices. The formula is expected to maintain imports in the neighborhood of seven percent.

The bill was in trouble following its approval May 31 by the House Ways and Means Committee because the committee bill, with the support of the cattle industry, guaranteed the United States would import at least 1.2 billion pounds a year.

But the administration, under pressure from foreign suppliers, supported an import floor of 1.3 billion pounds. The administration and cattle producers compromised on a floor of 1.25 billion pounds.

Last year Carter used a pocket veto on a similar bill because he objected to the bill's constraints on his authority to raise or suspend import quotas.

Presidential use of the authority, most recently in June 1978 when Carter raised imports, has angered cattle producers. Last year, the imports lowered their prices just as they had begun to make money after three to four years of losses.

This year's compromise modifies the president's authority to increase or suspend quotas at times of emergency.

Some pro-consumer legislators objected to any quotas at all, saying that beef prices would be lower if unlimited imports were permitted. They disagreed with the cattle industry's arguments that lifting limits on imports would hurt cattle production.

Although supporting the legislation, the administration said abandoning quotas would reduce domestic cattle production by less than one percent.

# Carter asks Senate for tougher windfall tax

**United Press International**  
WASHINGTON — Determined to toughen the tax on oil windfall profits, administration officials argue that the need to ban further Iranian oil imports emphasizes the importance of developing alternative energy sources.

The Senate is expected to take up its version of the windfall tax soon, possibly Wednesday. Some of the \$138 billion it would raise in revenues would be used for research and development of alternate sources of energy.

"We are trying to get the toughest tax we can get," one official told reporters Tuesday.

He said nearly every senator has been contacted by an administration official with the message that President Carter wants a tougher bill than the Senate Finance Committee has approved.

The recent developments in Iran, including the oil ban, emphasize the need for building alternative sources, he told reporters.

The Senate voted 68-27 Tuesday to give poor southerners money to pay for air conditioning, then decided to amend the windfall tax bill by adding a \$7 billion program to help northerners cope with winter heating bills.

Congress already has approved \$1.35 billion in emergency aid to help the poor heat their homes this winter. The new proposal would authorize \$3 billion for fiscal 1981 and \$4 billion for fiscal 1982.

The administration wants to increase tax revenues \$114 billion by eliminating the committee's exemptions for newly discovered oil, the first 1,000 barrels per day from stripper wells, and tertiary oil — crude so difficult to extract it must be flushed from the earth.

"It is very important that the president get an adequate windfall profits tax," said an official when asked if Carter would veto a bill he felt was weak.

But he said veto talk "would not be productive now."

## Food crisis by year 2000?

# Expert warns of shortage

**United Press International**  
LAS CRUCES, N.M. — The world must double its food supplies by the end of this century or else poor and rich nations alike will face a major crisis, New Mexico State University President Gerald Thomas has told a conference of American and Mexican officials.

Thomas, a member of the Select Board for International Food and Agricultural Development, delivered the keynote speech late Tuesday at the joint U.S.-Mexico Commission on Agricultural Cooperation conference at NMSU.

The four-day meeting of the newly formed commission is being attended by some 50 government and academic officials from both the U.S. and Mexico. The conference is the first formal scientific exchange between the two countries.

Thomas, who said cooperation between the two nations in the area of agricultural research was "long overdue," told the delegates a worldwide famine will threaten the security of prosperous and poor nations alike if current food supplies are not doubled.

The NMSU president said to

achieve that goal, joint research was essential.

"There are no simple solutions to the world's food problem," Thomas said.

Thomas said the most critical factor facing agricultural productivity in this century is energy, but within two decades, water will become the biggest limiting factor in world food production.



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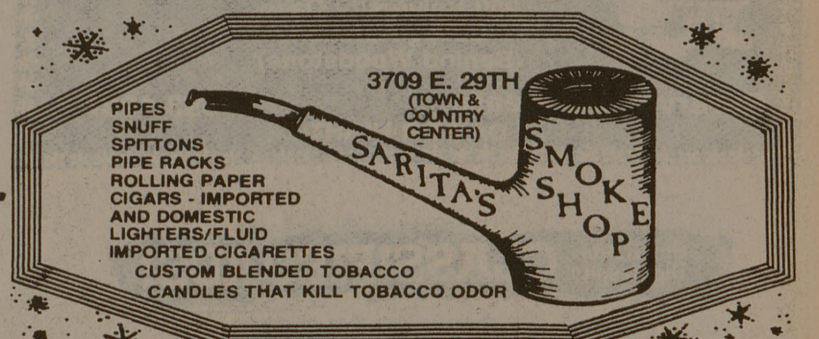
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