

state

Tanker gores banana-bearing freighter in Galveston Bay

United Press International
GALVESTON — An empty oil tanker struck a banana freighter in fog near the entrance to Galveston Bay early Tuesday, tearing a 30-by-30-foot hole in the freighter's side. There was no serious injury or fire

in the collision of the Venezuela-bound tanker Cephalonia, which was carrying only water ballast, and the Galveston-bound freighter Lord Frontenac, Coast Guard spokesmen said.

The 34 crew members of the freighter abandoned ship, but four crewmen returned to close bulkheads and man pumps to keep the vessel afloat while tugs towed it to Galveston, spokesmen said.

Lt. Gabriel Kinney said the Frontenac, owned by the Del Monte fruit company and en route from Costa Rica, was gored in the middle of its left side by the tanker.

The tanker escaped heavy damage but anchored pending Coast Guard inspection.

Coast Guard spokesmen said a slick of oil mixed with other pollution 75 yards wide and about a mile long extended from the freighter shortly after the accident.

Officials said the slick was from deck and engine room waste washing into the sea rather than a leak from the ship's fuel tanks, which did not appear to have been punctured.

The accident occurred within a mile of the wrecked tanker Burmah Agate, which was filled with crude oil when a freighter struck it Nov. 1. It burned for 79 days and is now being emptied of remaining oil before it is scrapped.

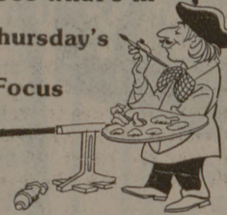
Ag exhibit opens convention hall

United Press International
GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — This city's new convention center, part of a \$212 million construction and renovation program, officially opened this month with an exhibit of the Michigan Grain and Agricultural Dealers.

The new facility, which has 116,000 square feet of display space, is the second largest in Michigan. Located on the Grand River, where much of the city's redevelopment is taking place, it is part of the city's \$25.5 million Grand Center, including a new Performing Arts Center scheduled to open next October.

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Supportive candidates to get pro-abortion group funding

United Press International
AUSTIN — A Texas pro-abortion group announced Tuesday it has formed a political action committee to channel funds to state legislative candidates who support free-choice abortion proposals and oppose those who want to ban all abortions.

Peggy Romberg, director of the Texas Abortion Rights Action League, said the organization also will screen congressional candidates in Texas to assist the national abortion rights organization in campaigning for those who take a "pro-choice" stand.

The move is the first time the pro-

abortion groups have become actively involved in Texas politics.

Romberg told a news conference anti-abortion groups have obtained an inordinate amount of influence on politicians because of their efforts in campaigns, and released a public opinion poll she said indicated 88 percent of the voters in Texas favor legalized abortions, at least under some circumstances.

She conceded, however, that the poll shows people as favoring abortions even if they support abortions only under very restricted circumstances, such as when the mother's life is in danger or in cases of rape or incest.

TARAL has chapters organized in Houston, Dallas, San Antonio, Midland-Odessa and in El Paso, and is working to form chapters in Lubbock, Amarillo and Austin, Romberg said.

The organization also is establishing a speaker's bureau to work along with its political action group called Choice-PAC.

"We are hopeful that such actions will stop further erosion of women's rights," she said.

She noted there were 11 anti-abortion bills introduced in the Texas Legislature last year.

U.S. and Mexico negotiate future oil spill cleanups; Ixtoc I blowout disputed

United Press International
DALLAS — The United States and Mexico are nearing an agreement on how to handle future oil spills that endanger the coastline of either nation, the Dallas Times

Herald reported Tuesday. The agreement primarily concerns cleanup coordination and does not deal with liability, the newspaper said. It may be delayed, however, because the United States is insisting the Ixtoc I spill be included in the agreement.

The Ixtoc I, a Mexican oil well in the Bay of Campeche, has been spilling oil since June 3 with much of it washing up on the Texas coast. Unless the well is capped, a shift in gulf currents will again carry oil to Texas.

The Times Herald reported a source involved in the negotiations said Mexican authorities did not want the Ixtoc spill included.

Bob Krueger, U.S. ambassador-

at-large for Mexican affairs, said the agreement would provide for coordination of spill information and cleanup efforts. He said the talks were "well on the way toward a final agreement" and should be concluded within 90 days.

Under the proposal, one nation would immediately notify the other when a spill occurs and, if necessary, a liaison would be named to coordinate response teams from both nations.

"It is not so much to address liability as it is to develop a procedure for responding to crises for both countries, in an international framework without questions of individual sovereignty," Krueger said.

Mexican chief here for talks

United Press International
AUSTIN — Drug smuggling and the flow of illegal aliens are matters of deep concern to both Gov. Bill Clements and Alfonso Martinez Dominguez, governor of the Mexican border state of Nuevo Leon.

The two governors planned to meet Tuesday to discuss those and other problems and to talk about sales of oil and gas by Mexico to Texas and other U.S. customers.

Clements planned to lead his guests on a tour of the Capitol and then meet privately with Martinez Dominguez for an hour in a continuation of discussions begun in Mexico last fall.

Martinez Dominguez is the first of four Mexican border state governors to visit the Texas Capitol at Clements' invitation, offered when he visited the four Mexican state capitals last year to begin discussions of topics of mutual concern.

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