

# State

## Synfuel incentives too small, official says

**United Press International**  
HOUSTON — Government incentives for commercial development of coal synfuel plants are inadequate, although the energy industry has the technology to handle the projects today, the president of Conoco Coal Development Co. told the International Coal Utilization Conference Tuesday.

"What we need are incentives on the order of investment tax credit and accelerated depreciation," said Jimmie R. Bowden. "Unless we adopt tax policies which make synthetic fuel plants an attractive proposition, broad-based production will be impossible."

Bowden said the problem with incentives offered by the

new federal Energy Security Corp. such as grants and loan guarantees "is that they imply government involvement in project management. The best example today of management control placed on a corporation because of loan guarantees is Chrysler. We in the energy business who are competent to manage a synfuel plant can do without that kind of incentive."

Bowden stressed the technology to operate commercial coal synfuels plants existed while time was being lost on government-financed research and development projects.

"If we have the commercially available technology and abundant coal supplies, why aren't we embarking on a logical plan toward commercial coal-based energy now?" he asked.

"While acknowledging the value of research and development, it seems to me that we are wasting our own and our nation's valuable time."

"The ambitious and comprehensive energy goals of the Energy Security Corporation certainly will accomplish much, but I am convinced that the most prudent course to pursue is rapid synfuel commercialization now using established, proven technology."

Bowden said delays in commercial development of coal gasification and liquefaction plants will thwart President Carter's Program for Energy Security goal of 500,000 barrels of oil equivalent per day in 1987.

## Man found innocent in suicide assist trail

**United Press International**  
DALLAS — A man acquitted in the initial testing of a 6-year-old law that makes it a crime to assist a suicide, said he never intended his friend to die.

David M. Touponce, 24, was found innocent Monday by a jury that deliberated for more than 10 hours over three days.

The charge, the first ever brought

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## Silkwood award sets warning

**United Press International**  
DENVER — A plaintiffs attorney says the \$10.5 million verdict against Kerr-McGee Corp. for plutonium contamination in the Karen Silkwood case should be viewed as a warning to large companies to exercise extreme care with deadly substances.

Arthur R. Angel, a lawyer from Oklahoma City, made the claim to the 10th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals Monday as he urged a three-member panel to uphold a federal court jury's award of that amount to the Silkwood estate.

The woman suffered the alleged contamination a few days before her death in a single-car traffic accident Nov. 13, 1974. The company has denied responsibility for the contamination.

Kerr-McGee lawyers have appealed on the argument that massive pre-trial publicity, as well as the Three Mile Island nuclear accident in Pennsylvania, prevented the company from getting a fair trial when the jury heard the case last year.

Angel, explaining that half a gram of plutonium could cause cancer in 32 million people if evenly distributed into their lungs, said he was "astounded to learn just how hazardous this substance was."

He described the large damage award as an attempt by the jury to tell Kerr-McGee "in unmistakable terms" that citizens would not tolerate carelessness with so dangerous a material.

"We know it's a lot of money, but it's justified under the law," he said.

Silkwood worked as a lab analyst at the company's Cimarron, Okla., plant, which turned liquid plutonium into pellets and inserted them into metal fuel pins to be used as reactor fuel.

The woman's fatal car crash occurred while she was en route to meet with a New York Times reporter, reportedly to disclose alleged evidence of safety defects at the facility.

During the hour-long court presentation Monday, attorneys for Kerr-McGee argued jurors were influenced by publicity from the case, news stories about the Three Mile Island accident, release of the movie "The China Syndrome" and opposition to the Black Fox nuclear power plant being constructed near Inola, Okla.

## News on TV too simple — broadcaster

**United Press International**  
EL PASO — Television is responsible for over-simplifying a complex world, veteran broadcast journalist Robert Goralski told 1,200 delegates to the 71st annual convention of the Texas Congress of Parents and Teachers.

"When I hear that two out of every three people get their news from television, I worry about the competency of people to judge complex issues," Goralski, who spent 15 years as an NBC correspondent, said at Monday's opening session of the three-day meeting.

He suggested television's tendency to be a "headline service" could result in the nation's youth not knowing enough to make proper decisions.

"We're rather bored with difficult stories," he said. "The economy, the nation, jobs — generally, do not lend themselves to short stories."

He encouraged parents and teachers to provide students with newspapers, magazines and books for detailed explanations of the issues of the day.

Goralski spoke on the eve of delegate voting on a number of proposals which will determine future lobbying efforts by the 107,000-member state PTA. The association successfully lobbied legislators last year for a return to the semester system for public schools.

Issues expected to come before the congress include: legislation providing for recall of school board trustees, definition of a district's responsibility in educating the children of illegal aliens, collective bargaining for teachers, state supported all-day kindergarten, state reimbursement to school districts for revenue lost through tax exemptions, teacher proficiency testing, state funding of college museums and stronger laws regarding the use of alcohol and tobacco.

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