

## Local/State

### Benson named dean emeritus

Dr. Fred J. Benson, who retired Aug. 31 after 43 years of service with the Texas A&M University System, has been designated dean emeritus of Texas A&M's College of Engineering.

The title was formally bestowed on Benson by the Board of Regents at the request of Dr. Charles H. Sampson, the University's acting president and Dr. Frank W.R. Hubert, chancellor of the Texas A&M system.

Benson served as dean of engineering from 1957 until 1978, when he was promoted to vice president for engineering and non-renewable resources. He assumed the position of deputy chancellor for engineering in April.

Benson has served as director of both the Texas Transportation Institute and the Texas Engineering Experiment Station. He continues to serve as vice president of the Texas A&M University Research Foundation.

He has received the Distinguished Service Award from the Highway Research Board and the Tasker H. Bliss Award from the American Society of Military Engineers. He is an honorary member of the American Society of Civil Engineers and holds an honorary Doctor of Engineering degree from Kansas State University, where he received his bachelor's degree in civil engineering in 1935.

### Oilgate?

**United Press International**  
DALLAS — A Dallas federal grand jury is looking at possible links between an alleged attempt to corner the peanut oil market in 1977 and a giant Atlanta-based agribusiness cooperative that leases peanut warehouse facilities owned by President Carter and his family.

The disclosure in the Dallas Morning News Tuesday was followed by a few days of accusations by peanut growers and shellers in Georgia that Carter and Sen. Herman Talmadge, D-Ga., were backing a special loan program which could drive out competition against the cooperative, Gold Kist, Inc.

The News said it was told by three witnesses who appeared before the grand jury that they have been questioned extensively to determine if the sale of 78.1 million pounds of government-subsidized peanut oil three years ago resulted in "a financial plum" for Gold Kist.

### Farmers accuse Carter of favoritism after cheap sale in 1977 of government peanut oil to company

Gold Kist leases the Plains, Ga., warehouse facilities of the Carter family under an arrangement worked out by attorney Charles Kirbo, presidential adviser and trustee for the ware-

**... The peanut oil, which could have been resold on the market for larger profits, may have been a "financial plum" to sweeten the (Carter family) warehouse lease agreements.**

The U.S. Department of Agriculture, in a Nov. 3, 1977, transaction that shook the

peanut oil industry, sold the entire government inventory of peanut oil to Camilla Cotton Oil Co. of Camilla, Ga., at a price below market value. The transaction cost taxpayers an estimated \$40 million in lost revenue, a USDA audit shows.

One day later, the oil was resold to Dallas-based snack food giant Frito Lay, Inc., for 1-cent-per-pound profit. The \$16.7 million for the purchase was advanced to Camilla Cotton Oil by Pepsico, Inc., the parent corporation of Frito Lay.

Documents obtained by the News indicated 2.4 million pounds of the oil were sold back to Camilla by Frito Lay, and the remainder was sold to Opelousas Oil Mills, Inc., a division of LouAna Foods, Inc., in Opelousas, La.

Records show that LouAna later sold 7.5 million pounds of the oil to Gold Kist. The sale to Gold Kist came after Gold Kist

had leased the financially beleaguered Carter warehouse facility. One top USDA official, who asked not to be identified, said the grand jury is trying to determine if the peanut oil, which could have been resold on the market for larger profits, may have been a "financial plum" to sweeten the warehouse lease agreement.

Members of the peanut industry said they were surprised to see any interest by a firm in leasing the financially troubled Carter warehouses, and they were even more surprised at the amount that Gold Kist, a Fortune 500 firm, agreed to pay.

Dr. Sidney Reagan, general counsel for the Southwestern Peanut Shellers Association in Dallas, called the proposal "nothing more than a going-away present from President Carter." He said it would mean the government would be carrying Gold Kist's inventory risk.

### Prosecution says officer 'willing'

**United Press International**  
SAN ANTONIO — A federal prosecutor Monday said former Dade County, Fla., policeman Charles Veverka willingly participated in the conspiracy to conceal the beating death of a black man last year.

In closing arguments in Veverka's civil rights violation trial, Assistant U.S. Attorney Brian McDonald said Veverka's contention that he had been ordered to falsify reports about Arthur McDuffie's death was insufficient.

"Obedience to such an order would not be a valid defense," McDonald said.

The prosecutor said Veverka was a "willing participant" in the coverup, which he called a "partnership for criminal purposes."

Veverka testified his superior "ordered" him to file favorable reports not mentioning the severity of the beating McDuffie suffered but McDonald said a statement Veverka gave investigators Dec. 26, 1979, used the words "talked, advised, suggested but never the word 'ordered.'"

Defense attorney Denis Dean rested his case Monday at 9:45 p.m., immediately after the jury was seated for the day.

### 3 girls killed in chase on I45, 7 others hurt

**United Press International**  
DALLAS — Three teen-age girls were killed and seven people injured early Tuesday in a furious police chase going the wrong direction on an interstate highway.

The chase began about 2:20 a.m. when two police officers were checking a report on a shooting in a bar parking lot. Two suspects split up in different cars and the officers, joined by another police car, pursued, with one of the men being captured immediately.

The other suspect, identified as Kearney Earl Nash, 33, led the other officers, who by then had been joined by two more police cars, to Interstate 45. Police spokeswoman Vicki Eiker said Nash made a U-turn

on the highway and fled in the direction of oncoming traffic.

Nash swerved to miss an oncoming car but one of the pursuing patrol cars crashed into it, injuring two officers and three people in the oncoming car. All five were taken to Parkland Memorial Hospital and were in fair condition.

Nash continued on the highway, crashing into another vehicle, killing three girls, ages 18, 17 and 14. A fourth passenger was hospitalized in good condition.

Nash was hospitalized in fair condition. Police were considering three counts of involuntary manslaughter and charges of evading arrest, speeding and marijuana possession against him.

### New plant, New alcohol distillation unit to open more jobs

NL Industries, Inc., which produces threaded tubing and casing connections for the oil and gas industry, has announced plans for a \$34 million second-phase expansion of its Bryan facility.

The expansion of the Bryan plant will house six additional production lines and will increase its annual threading capacity two and one-half times, from 44,000 to 110,000 tons of tubing and casing annually. The increased production is scheduled to begin in the second quarter of 1981.

The initial \$22 million Bryan plant began operation in May of this year and is located on a 137-acre site.

Bryan-College Station Chamber of Commerce industrial division vice-president R.L. Peacock said the expansion is expected to add another 200 employees to the local workforce.

A number of key state officials are expected to be on hand at Texas A&M University Thursday when the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station will officially begin operation of a new alcohol distillation unit.

An experimental permit for the unit was granted recently for research on making alcohol from agricultural biomass and farm by-products. The new alcohol fermentation and distillation equipment was acquired through a recent grant from the Texas Energy and Natural Resources Advisory Council and Experiment Station resources, Dr. Neville P. Clarke, director of the experiment station, said.

The demonstration of the new alcohol unit is set for 2 p.m.

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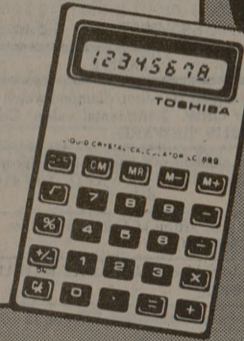


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