

Features

Price Daniel, Sr.

At 70, he doesn't want to be 'Monday morning quarterback'

United Press International

LIBERTY — Price Daniel Sr. spent four decades in public office — as legislator, Texas House speaker, attorney general, governor, U.S. senator and judge.

Now retired, he keeps his thoughts to himself, at least until his book is published. He refuses virtually any comment on state and national affairs.

"I'm no Monday morning quarterback and don't care to be in a position of telling people how to run their government," Daniel says. "It's not my responsibility and I haven't studied the facts."

"When you retire, you still have ideas. But I certainly am not going to spend my time deciding what is right or wrong for other people."

(Daniel's son, Price Daniel Jr., 39, was shot to death at his home Monday, prior to his being interviewed by UPI.)

At 70, Daniel has become a more private man, preferring to work on the book, tend to his ranch, practice a little law, spend time with his wife and family — or just go fishing, run his cattle and enjoy the scenery of life.

Daniel has mellowed, but he remains a lively conversationalist. The man whose ancestors settled in Liberty in 1824 and who has held more offices than any other Texan in history, quickly and politely cuts off talk about himself.

"I don't see anything great about me," he said. "The great men — Sam Houston and Jim Hogg — fought hard for the state and the people. I tried to follow the example of those two, but I didn't have the opportunity to do as much as them except in the tidelands."

History probably will record as his most important accomplishment the tidelands case, when he fought for years with the federal government for state control of revenues from oil and gas found in the 4 million acres of submerged lands within 10 miles of the Texas coast.

As attorney general, U.S. senator and governor, Daniel continued the battle until he won. Because the courts finally agreed with him, more than \$600 million has been put into the state public school fund and used for the education of Texas children.

"That was my major accomplishment," he said, folding his hands on his large wooden desk, his light blue eyes shining proudly through his glasses.

Daniel — the great great grandson of Hugh B. Johnson, the first "alcalde" of Liberty under Mexican rule in 1831 — graduated from Baylor University in 1932. His wife is the great grand

granddaughter of Sam Houston.

Daniel set up a law practice near the Liberty County Courthouse on the same spot where Houston had his law office.

Daniel admits to having been ambitious. However, he said he has never had his eye on the White House.

"I'd rather be governor of Texas than president of the United States," he said. "There's too many problems and too much responsibility in being president. But being governor can still be handled by one person."

Daniel was 29 when first elected to the Texas Legislature in 1939. He served three terms as a representative. At 32, in his last term, he became speaker of the house. After a stint in the military, he was elected for two terms as Texas attorney general in 1946.

Daniel returned to public service in 1971 when appointed by then-Gov. Preston Smith to the Texas Supreme Court. He retired from the bench in December 1978.

Looking back over all the different jobs and years of service, Daniel says it was the Texas house speaker's position in 1943 that he enjoyed most.

"I lived in the Capitol near my office, I got to be with my family and there wasn't too much misery because the (Legislative) session lasted only two or three months," he said.

But politics have changed in the past quarter century and Daniel said he doubts he could win election now because costs have risen.

"I don't know if I could run for a statewide office now because it is just too expensive," he said. "I bet I ran my campaign for one-tenth of what it costs today."

He explained he would not want to be indebted to the many special interest groups which contribute heavily to politicians.

However, Daniel said he has little desire to re-enter politics. It is not because he thinks he is too old, rather that he wants to enjoy retired life on his 6,000-acre Holly Ridge Ranch.

"Some of the smartest men in the world made their greatest accomplishments after they were 70. Being 70 doesn't mean you can't perform well," he said, acknowledging President Ronald Reagan's success at 70.

Daniel now works as chairman of the Texas Library and Archives Committee and recently helped establish the Sam Houston Regional Library and Archives in Liberty on land he donated to the state.

'Found' mink had several losers

United Press International

WASHINGTON — Just after it was reported that transit officials had found a mink coat in a subway car on Inauguration Day, four women called claiming to have lost one. There was just one hitch — no coat had been found.

Metro subway spokesman Cody Pfansteihl said Wednesday he erroneously reported a mink coat had been turned in to "lost and found." He later corrected himself, saying there had only been a query about a lost mink.

But the news there was a mink coat to be claimed had already spread.

"A lady called Lost and Found and said she was looking for a black full-length mink coat, but she didn't know where she lost it," Pfansteihl said.

In another call, he said, "A limousine rental service man called on behalf of a lady from New Jersey. She thought she lost a mink coat in the subway."

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Almost better than Grandma's.

Shrub could solve need for rubber

Poster to be 'hot' item

United Press International  
MIAMI — The "Miami — See It Like a Native" posters of model Gale Kelly's bare back are likely to become collector's items.

Only about 7,000 were circulated to travel agents before the outraged protests of feminists caused the Dade County Commission to halt their distribution two years ago.

Since then, the remaining 23,000

posters have been locked up while commissioners squabbled over what to do with them.

Tuesday, with one pro-poster commissioner attending Ronald Reagan's inauguration in Washington, another ill and a third absent, the anti-poster group put the matter to a vote once again.

They voted, 4-2, to destroy the posters.

United Press International

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — A rubber shrub that has not kept up with current demand, an unsettled international scene and the rising costs of petroleum-based products have all created an interest in a native American desert shrub as a possible natural rubber source.

Guayule, pronounced wy-oolee, is a 4-foot-high shrub that grows wild in the semi-arid plateaus of the Southwest. Lately it has become a focus of research and experimentation by the scientific community and the federal government in the search for a new, domestic source of natural rubber.

The United States' supply of natural rubber is presently in a precarious position. The demand for natural rubber is increasing at a steady rate and experts estimate the demand will outstrip supply by the next decade.

Since the mid-19th century when Great Britain introduced the Hevea rubber tree into its colonies, Southeast Asia has been the major world source of natural rubber.

However, in recent years the political unrest and the ravages of war in Vietnam and Cambodia have taken their toll on the rubber plantations. The United States is still dependent on Southeast Asia for that rubber.

Dr. Edward Lawless, head of Kansas City's Midwest Research Institute Technology Assessment Section, said while synthetic rubber is a viable alternative, it is a petrochemical product relying on increasing quantities of oil.

In addition, synthetics do not have all the qualities of natural rubber, which is preferred in applications that demand high elasticity, resiliency, tackiness and low heat build-up.

The combination of these factors has led to an increased interest in guayule, a renewable source of rubber which can be produced domestically, as a major source of rubber.

Because of this interest, the National Science Foundation sponsored a study by the University of Arizona and Midwest Research Institute to assess the implications of the development of a new U.S. agribusiness based on guayule technology.

Lawless concluded that the benefits of full-scale guayule production would be many and the costs and risks involved few.

On the local level, Lawless said guayule commercialization would cause minimal impact. Guayule would be grown mainly on land that has been farmed with little success or on selected irrigated

lands. The shrub can survive on 5 to 10 inches of rainfall a year, but ideally prefers 15 to 25 inches.

Since guayule farming can be mechanically cultivated and harvested like cotton or soybean production, Lawless said major guayule production would not be an extensive labor-intensive agribusiness.

The study indicated that on the national level, successful commercialization of guayule would provide a degree of self-sufficiency in natural rubber for the United States and on the international level, an increased use of domestically produced guayule rubber would help the U.S. balance-of-trade deficit.

At this point, Lawless said there is no commitment to a major program for commercialization of guayule. But major U.S. rubber companies, universities and on a small scale, the federal government, are all involved in guayule experimentation and research and several demonstration guayule plots have sprouted in the Southwest.

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