

State / National

Vietnamese fishermen on Texas coast may relocate

United Press International
PALACIOS — Acknowledging Vietnamese fishermen have not kept past agreements with American fishermen, a spokesman said Sunday 15 refugee shrimpers would relocate if their boats were purchased and employment training provided.

Pham Ba Hoe said several of the Vietnamese would relocate if sponsors could be found and job training was provided. Hoe said the Vietnamese were lovers of freedom and desired to work but because of the language problem, were limited in their employment options. He said fishing was one job where language did not pose a problem.

"We hope to become American citizens and we want to cooperate with you," he said.

Alan Clark, an aide to Gov. Bill Clements, announced he had compiled a list of 15 Vietnamese fishermen willing to relocate from Palacios provided someone bought their boats and they were given relocation assistance.

He said charity organizations, including the Y.M.C.A. and American Catholic Charities, would visit coastal areas to find Vietnamese willing to relocate.

But local shrimper Paul Peters noted, "American boats are not selling. How can they sell and leave?"

The leader of Vietnamese fishermen in Seabrook said Saturday many Vietnamese fishermen living and working along the Texas coast would relocate if charity organizations will help them sell their boats and find inland employment.

About 230 people gathered Sunday at the Palacios Recreation Center for the second of three meetings designed to ease tensions between American and Vietnamese fishermen. Local and state officials visited Seabrook Saturday and plan to hold a similar meeting in Rockport Monday.

Palacios Councilman John Howard, who also is chairman of the Indochinese Affairs Committee, pointed out the situation was not as tense in the community as in other Gulf Coast towns. About 10 percent of the 4,000 residents of Palacios are Vietnamese.

American shrimpers charged the American Vietnamese Association had not kept its promise of last year to limit to 24 the number of Vietnamese fishing boats, saying there are 31

such boats operating in Palacios Bay.

Hoe responded, "We agree that we did not keep the agreement."

"But the new refugees not belonging to the association are not under our control," he said, explaining that while the group kept its promise, the others went ahead and built boats.

Coast Guard Commander Donald Anderson promised stepped-up enforcement of boat registration.

The Vietnamese have claimed ignorance of laws requiring boats with capacity of more than 5 tons to be registered with the government and a license obtained. With less capacity, the boats need only have a registration number.

Crime, voting bills faring better

United Press International
AUSTIN — Gov. Bill Clements' pet bills — initiative and referendum and electronic surveillance — did not get the reception his staff anticipated from two committees last week.

However, the bills by the Texans' War on Drugs are faring better. The governor is supporting the citizen organization's legislative package.

Last week the Senate passed legislation to allow immediate suspension of doctors arrested on any charges involving drugs. The bill

is aimed at preventing doctors from illegally prescribing certain drugs.

On Monday a Senate committee will consider another bill from the Texans' War on Drugs package. This one would set up a state computer to keep track of who is prescribing, who is filling prescriptions and who is buying how much of the Schedule II and Schedule III drugs considered dangerous.

The drugs that would go into the computer would include di-aludid, precludin, amphetamines

and methaqualone. The information in the computer would be not be available to the public. It would be coded and the computer would flag doctors, pharmacists or consumers with aberrant patterns of prescribing or consuming.

The bill's sponsor, Sen. Ray Farabee, D-Wichita Falls, said it will also cut down on prescription forgery. Because prescription blanks are not controlled now, forgery is easy and widespread, he said.

"There are a very few pharmacists or doctors who do abuse (the right to dispense drugs) and they are hard to locate," Farabee said. "There are individuals who get 13 prescriptions and sell them on the street or funnel them to street sales."

The bill would require prescriptions for the dangerous drugs to be written on triplicate, serially numbered forms printed by the state on special, hard-to-duplicate paper.

The pharmacist would turn over one copy of each prescription to the Department of Public Safety.

Clements' initiative and referendum and wiretap bills, which the governor has been pushing since his election more than two years ago, attracted many vocal supporters and opponents. But the chairmen of the two committees that heard testimony on the two issues are reluctant to say the bills will be reported back to the full House.

Rep. Lynn Nabers, D-Brownwood and chairman of the House Criminal Jurisprudence Committee that heard the wiretap bill, has not even formed a sub-committee to further review the measure. Nabers said he will not personally help get the measure out of committee.

"If the votes are there it will come out, but I'm not personally going to kick it," he said.

Neighbors repair home for elderly couple

United Press International
WOODWORTH, La. — It was something like a rural barn-raising, with an unusual twist.

A group of neighbors — spurred on when someone fell through the floor at the home of Mr. and Mrs. H. L. McElwee — collected \$2,300 and donated their time and effort during a three-week period to substantially renovate the elderly couple's home.

McElwee is 86, the eldest deacon in First Baptist Church of Woodworth. His wife is 76. Like many senior citizens, they are living on limited funds and their house was becoming run-down. But unlike many elderly couples, their neighbors care.

The McElwees left their house four weeks ago and went to stay with Mrs. McElwee's

son in Hessmer, La. When they returned Saturday, they almost didn't recognize it.

"Welcome home, we love you," said a banner on the house.

"I think this is wonderful," said Mrs. McElwee. "They performed a miracle."

The neighbors rebuilt the termite-ridden back porch, fixed the front porch, repaired the roof and patched the floor.

"They built this house," McElwee said. "It's not even my old house — it's a new one, and it didn't even cost me a dime."

The project began when Bobby Marshall went to the McElwee's house to repair a leak in the kitchen.

"I was just checking the leak

and I fell through the floor," he said. "The next day I started to pass the hat."

The neighbors raised \$2,300 and received donated materials from area businesses. Other businesses sold them material at a discount.

The project kept expanding as the neighbors started working.

"The more we kept doing, the more we realized had to be done," said Harlan Marshall, Bobby's father.

All labor was donated.

"It's worth it just to see them walk in and see their faces. That's pay enough," said retired carpenter Ben Gunter.

"It's wonderful to have neighbors like this," Mrs. McElwee said.

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Hunt families making bid for geothermal control

United Press International
WASHINGTON — The Hunt family of Texas, in a bid to dominate America's geothermal resources, have obtained federal leases making them the biggest developers of burgeoning energy source, The Washington Post said Sunday.

The family in the past has been accused of trying to corner the markets in soybeans and, most recently, in silver.

Now, the Post said, Hunt family members, Hunt trusts and Hunt corporations have staked claims on roughly one-sixth of all federal land leased for geothermal power exploration.

Quoting Interior Department

records, the Post said the Hunts hold 252 of the 1,600 geothermal leases issued by the Bureau of Land Management, which oversees development of resources on federal property.

The leases give the Hunts control over about 480,000 of the 2.9 million acres of federally leased geothermal land, it said.

Geothermal energy is the power of the hot water, steam and molten rock trapped beneath the earth's surface. It is the power that keeps Old Faithful spouting and, in less frequent and vastly larger eruptions, causes volcanoes like Mount St. Helens to become active.

Harnessed geothermal energy

already generates much of San Francisco's electricity and Boise, Idaho's heat, according to the Post, which said it also is used to dry onions in Nevada and heat greenhouses in Utah. The Energy Department estimates geothermal power can someday supply 10 percent of the nation's energy needs.

It said a number of major oil companies are getting into geothermal energy but the Hunts' holdings are already three times as big as any of theirs.

The Hunts were thwarted in their efforts to corner soybean and silver, but have avoided federal limits of 20,480 acres per individual on geothermal land leases by obtaining them in 20 different names, including individuals, trusts and corporations.

The Post said while a federal judge ruled that all of the Hunts' soybeans had to be counted together, the Interior Department says there is nothing illegal about splitting geothermal leases among several family members.

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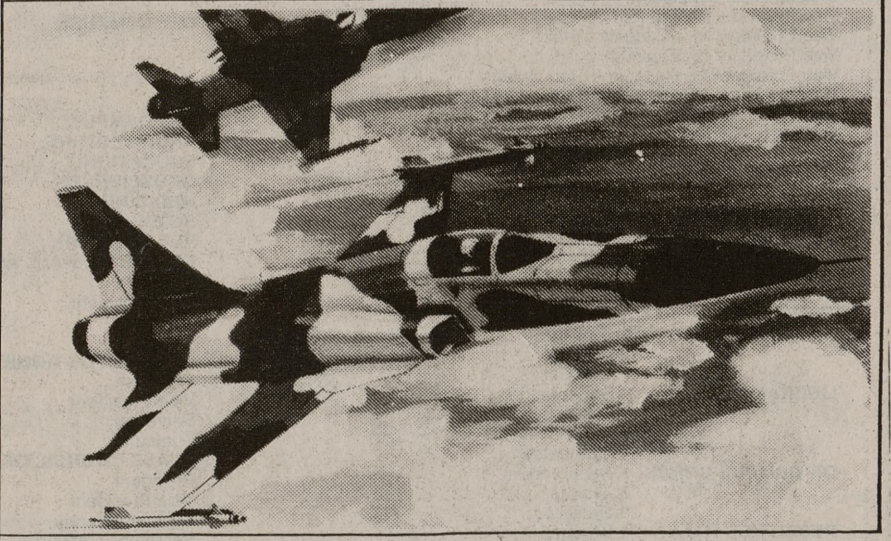
ON CAMPUS INTERVIEWS MARCH 4

Newest Northrop Fighter Advances F-5 Family
March 24, 1980 - Hawthorne, California

The new generation of Northrop's F-5 family of low cost tactical fighter aircraft, the F-5G, was announced at Hawthorne today, stepping up a nearly 20-year evolutionary program for the company. The single-engine F-5G was conceived to meet world defense needs today and through the 1990's, and offers an affordable, supportable defensive system that keeps pace with the changing requirements for national security.

March 1981

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