

# State

## Power companies accused of anti-nuke phone bugging

**United Press International**  
HOUSTON — An opponent to the South Texas Nuclear Project claims project managers have transferred out of the area any employee who had information about problems at the nuclear plant so they would not testify at an upcoming hearing.

Peggy Buchorn, a leader of Citizens for Equitable Utilities, said Tuesday the project management tapped her telephone to find out which employees were giving her information about problems on the job. Brown & Root Co. is the general contractor of the \$2.7 billion project and Houston Lighting and Power Co. is the managing partner of the four-utility project near Bay City.

Company officials have denied her allegation.

Buchorn said people who have given her information in the past have "been transferred to other Brown & Root jobs all over the country."

"Some have been harassed to

the point they quit their jobs," she said.

The charges come a week before a Nuclear Regulatory Commission hearing on whether HL&P should receive a license to operate the plant.

Buchorn said she became suspicious about a telephone tap on her office phone when she read a statement Monday written by the companies denying intimidation of employees.

"Employees known to be in close direct contact for a long period of time with interveners opposed to the project and with the NRC have not been subjected to any disciplinary action," read the companies' statement.

But Buchorn said that "unless they have tapped my phone or are watching my office, how would they know what workers have contacted me? About 90 percent of my contacts with workers are by phone."

Buchorn said those employees who have moved away will not be

able to speak at the scheduled hearing next week because interveners have no funds to defray costs for the return of the workers.

Steve Grote, senior vice president of Brown & Root, said project management learned from the employees themselves who was in touch with the interveners.

The 2,500-megawatt electric generating plant 10 miles south of Bay City is being financed by a consortium of utilities, including HL&P, Central Power & Light of Corpus Christi, and the municipal utilities of Austin and San Antonio.

Federal authorities said Tuesday they are considering filing criminal charges against three former Brown & Root employees who allegedly conspired to thwart an investigation of the project in October by removing records from the job.

However, HL&P spokesman Jim Parsons, said the records had nothing to do with the upcoming investigation. He objected to

NRC saying the employees conspired to obstruct the investigation because the language was too strong and "it may give people the wrong impression on how serious it may have been."

The unnamed fired employees admitted the prior knowledge they had of the upcoming investigation came from a Brown & Root clerk and not company management.

"We knew our people didn't give advance notice because we didn't have any advance word," Parsons said.

Jim Collins, regional NRC deputy director, said a report on the NRC's findings is now under review at the agency's Washington headquarters. Officials will decide whether to refer the case to the Justice Department for possible criminal action.

"To do something that would hamper one of our investigations is a very serious matter," Collins said.

## Hunger strike is staged by Texarkana inmates

**United Press International**  
TEXARKANA — About 500 inmates at the Federal Correction Institute Wednesday refused to eat in the minimum security prison's dining hall for the third consecutive day, officials said.

There has been no violence or other protests since the boycott began at Monday breakfast, said Ray Farrow, executive assistant to the warden. The prisoners also have continued to work as scheduled.

Farrow said about 485 of FCI-Texarkana's 534 convicts continued the boycott after a few inmates dropped out of the protest at lunch Wednesday. He said the protestors continued to buy potato

chips, candy bars and other small food items at the prison's commissary.

An inmate telephoned UPI about the protest, saying it was in response to several grievances but declined to name them "because this phone is monitored."

"There are a number of grievances that need to be discussed," he said. "To bring this issue out would put me on front street (bring unwanted attention)."

Farrow said the inmates have not presented a list of complaints but the prison's staff was interviewing inmates individually about what prompted the dining hall boycott.

## Documents reveal for Dominican overthrow

**United Press International**  
HOUSTON — U.S. government agents say a group of mercenaries arrested near New Orleans

last month were working with an ex-prime minister of the Caribbean nation of Dominica in their plan to overthrow its leaders.

The information was revealed Tuesday in court documents filed by Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms agents who wanted to search the home of the group's leader — Mike Perdue of Houston.

In a copyright story, the Nashville Tennessean newspaper reported that Perdue headed the Junior Ku Klux Klan in Gallatin, Tenn., and bragged of spending his Saturday nights beating black youngsters for the fun of it.

The newspaper quoted Mrs. Charles Guthrie, who was Perdue's high school drama teacher.

"He had a great deal of bitterness toward blacks," Guthrie said. "I think he saw himself as something of a white knight that was going to save the South."

The Tennessean said Perdue harbored dreams of a glorious military career, but instead became a high school dropout and convicted felon before his 20th birthday.

Since the arrest of Perdue and nine other men near New Orleans on April 27, former Dominica Prime Minister Patrick John has been arrested in Dominica and charged with plotting to over-

throw the government. Police unrest has led to a declaration of state of emergency on the island.

The records filed in U.S. district court in Houston on April 27 indicated Perdue told a government informant of his plans "to supply men and equipment to the military forces on the island and once there, to support the overthrow of Prime Minister Mary Eugenia Charles' government."

"Mr. Perdue stated that he had the backing and support of the military and is working with Major Reed and a Captain Roberts, the two heads of the military," court documents said.

The records showed Perdue told the informant he was "tight" with a Dominican governor. However, Perdue did not identify that official.

"He (Perdue) stated that he would be taking 60 weapons," court documents said. Perdue described the weapons as 30-caliber Winchester, pump shotguns, Bushmaster .223-caliber rifles and several Uzis (Israeli machineguns)," the court papers said.

During one of Perdue's phone conversations with the informant, he said he had planned the operation for two years "and another two weeks would not matter."

## Lawyer wants Klan leader committed

**United Press International**  
HOUSTON — A lawyer for Vietnamese fishermen Wednesday asked in a federal court motion that the Texas Ku Klux Klan's dragon be committed to a mental hospital because of his "deranged behavior."

Houston lawyer Morris Dees said KKK leader Louis Beam resorted for almost an hour "in a semiconscious state," chanting, "You die, you die, you die."

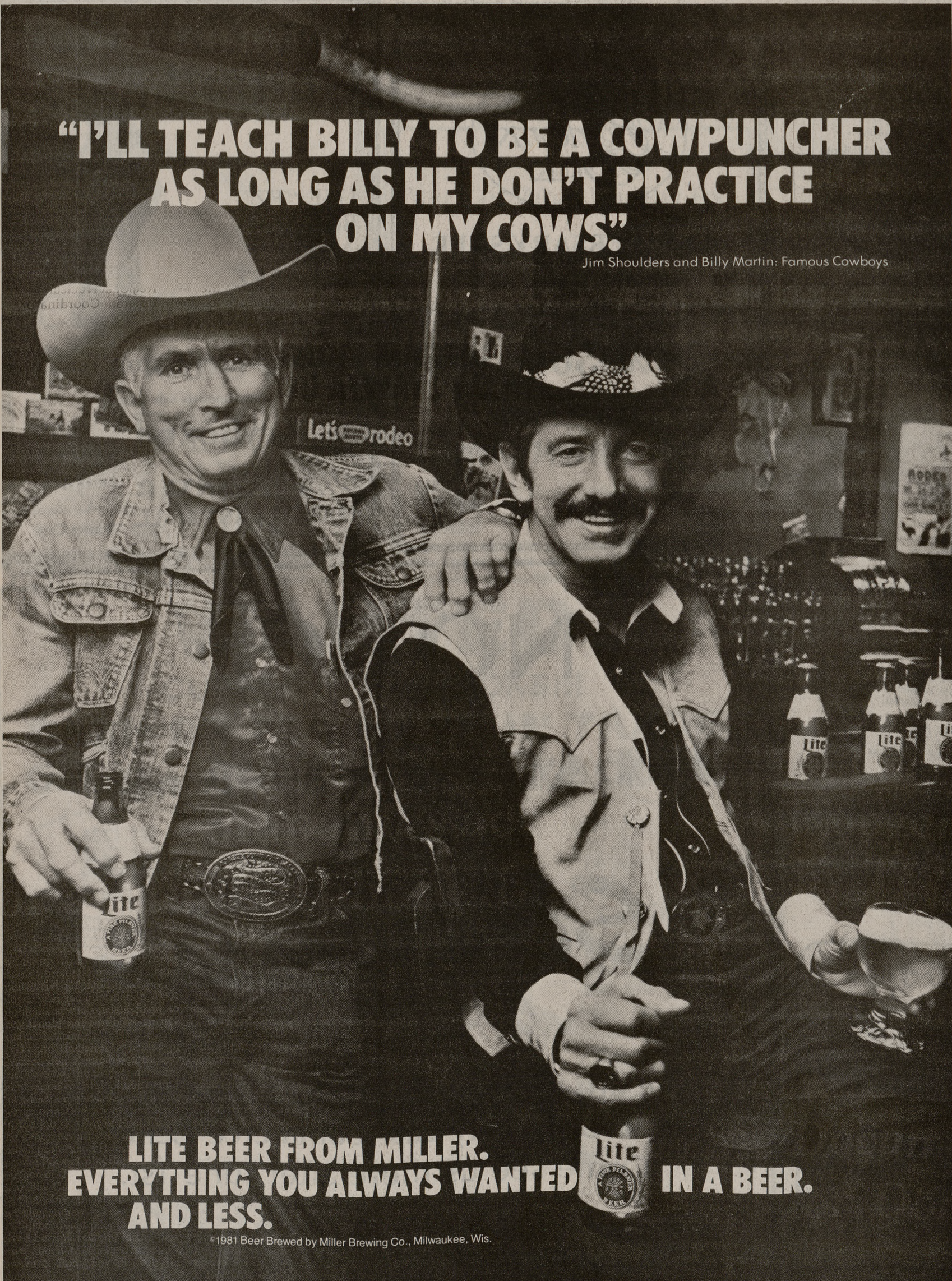
In another incident, Dees said another lawyer representing Vietnamese, David Berg, found notes at his home and office saying, "You have been paid a social visit by the Knights of the Ku Klux Klan. Don't make the next visit a business call."

The lawyers originally had sought court-ordered protection against the Klan's efforts to help native fishermen keep the Vietnamese refugees from fishing off the upper Texas coast.

Beam said the motion indicated Dees was trying to have Beam arrested.

"He is my enemy, and I am his," Beam said. Dees asked that U.S. District Judge Gabrielle McDonald order Beam to take a mental examination, and if it proved he was insane, commit him to a mental hospital.

The Klan plans its second rally in support of the native fishermen Saturday in Santa Fe, Texas.



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