

State

Lawsuit filed to delay testing of private rocket

United Press International
HOUSTON — Matagorda Peninsula landowners concerned about their liability in the event of a misfiring private rocket have filed a lawsuit to delay the testing, and an official involved said the action will cause the launch site to be moved.

An attorney for the landowners late Monday said nine plaintiffs to the suit filed in Matagorda County District Court last week would meet in Bay City with officials of Space Services Inc. of Houston and GCH, Inc. of Sunnyvale, Calif., to discuss the problem. No date has been set for that meeting.

Whatever the result of the talks, the Percheron Project — which is openly cheered by several of the lawsuits plaintiffs — has suffered its first adversity.

SSI President David Hannah Jr. of Houston said a test launch of the 55-foot, liquid-fuel rocket would be put back to early August.

Earlier Monday he said the move from Matagorda Peninsula down the coast to Matagorda Island was imminent and that the two companies would not contest the lawsuit.

"We didn't want to make an issue out of it if we could find an alternate site. As it is, it is a two-week delay. It would have taken longer to go to court," he said.

A state district court hearing was scheduled for July 7, but landowners' lawyer G.P. Hardy III of Houston said the hearing would not be needed because something would be resolved before that date. GCH officials have requested a meeting with the landowners, he said.

"They (SSI and GCH) have about \$25 million

third-party insurance," Hardy said. "That may or may not be enough. How do you determine how much is enough? How long is a piece of string?"

The companies hope to be the first private interests to carry satellites into orbit. Except for one German company, only governments have been in the rocket business.

The chances of a misfire causing an accident are extremely slim, the companies say. Several stationary firings of the boosters — with the rockets in place — will be made prior to launch.

UPI learned the Matagorda Island launch pad will be built on the land of Dallas oilman Toddie Lee Wynne Sr., but Wynne said by phone he had not given final approval.

"If I would talk about working out a proposal with them, I would work out an agreement (on the liability)," Wynne said.

He said he backed the project "100 percent" and felt the Bay City residents who filed suit had "built up straw houses to knock down."

Part-owner Bert L. Huebner, a Bay City lawyer who is John's second cousin, said the other owners — three of the nine plaintiffs are named Huebner — did not know of the rocket plan.

"I first heard about it on the news," Bert Huebner said Monday. "I first thought it was funny. Then I thought it was a great idea. I'm pulling for them."

Both then the "12 or so" partowners began calling each other. Some were mad, some like the attorney wanted to make sure they would not be liable in case of a misfire and accident.

"It's an extremely dangerous undertaking. No one approached us in any manner showing insur-

ance or financial responsibility," Huebner said.

"And I know from practical law is that if anything goes wrong, or if the rocket hits the Texas Project or an oil rig, you can rest assured the land owners are going to be named in a lawsuit," he said.

The South Texas Project is a nuclear reactor being built about 60 miles northeast of the launch site.

"So I flew my plane onto the peninsula and talked to the people working at the launch site. They were all young guys in their 20s. They couldn't help me," he said.

Hannah said the lawsuit hit him "out of the blue."

"Right now we're staking out the land on Matagorda Island for the concrete slab and well. It poured this week."

Texas Briefs

Viet loss not vet's

United Press International
DALLAS — Senate Armed Services Committee Chairman John Tower has said a proposed Washington memorial to Vietnam veterans should not only honor the war dead but also remind politicians of who is to blame for losing the war.

Tower made the comments Monday in a speech at a luncheon for the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund, which is seeking to raise \$7 million to finance the monument.

Tower said the proposed memorial should serve as a reminder that the 2.7 million veterans of the war served well, and that blame for losing the war rests with "the actions of any number of my colleagues (in the Senate)."

"As a U.S. Senator, I will never again vote to commit American boys to military action that we are not dedicated to bring to the earliest possible conclusion," Tower said.

The monument — a 10-foot peaked wall of black granite that would bear the name of each of the 57,692 servicemen killed in the 11-year war — is scheduled for dedication on Veterans Day, 1982.

Fund founder Jan Scruggs said the organization has collected \$1.8 million from private contributions, including \$1 million from the American Legion. He said there were 3,381 Texans among the war dead.

Errors blamed

United Press International
DALLAS — Computer errors that lead to overpayments and duplicate payments by Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Texas are partly responsible for substantial rate increases for some employee groups, a state insurance official says.

William P. Daves, chairman of the State Board of Insurance, said Monday the overpayments and duplicate payments inflated the firm's cost of doing business and contributed to Blue Cross' \$45 million loss last year.

Insurance companies generally base their rates on how much they paid out in claims the previous year. The Insurance Board does not regulate rates for group medical policies. State insurance examiners have been conducting a special examination of the company's books for two months.

4 Oil firms cited

United Press International
DALLAS — The Department of Energy has served notices of possible violations against four Houston oil firms it said exceeded maximum legal prices by a total of \$7.2 million in the resale of crude oil during 1980.

The notices, announced Monday by DOE, are the first steps in department administrative sanctions. The DOE alleges the firms exceeded ceiling prices on crude oil sold before price controls were removed in January.

Included in separate notices of probable violations were Thomas Petroleum Products, Kelly Trading Corp., TEG Petroleum Corp. and Alma Energy Inc., all crude oil reselling firms that generally act as middlemen with producers, refiners and other resellers.

Production down

United Press International
AUSTIN — The Railroad Commission reports that Texas crude oil production declined during April by more than 3 million barrels from the same month in 1980.

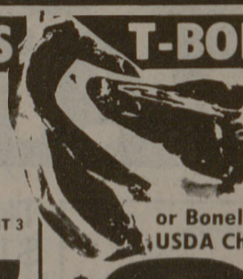


Production during April of this year totaled 74,062,276 barrels, compared to April 1980 production of 77,376,009 barrels and production in March of this year of 77,400,736 barrels, the commission said Monday.

April production averaged 2,468,742 barrels of crude daily, down from 2,579,200 barrels a day from the same month last year.



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<p>Spare Ribs Medium Size, Pork Spare Ribs Lb. \$1.18</p> <p>Pork Steak Boston Butt, Shoulder Lb. \$1.53</p> <p>Sausage Smok-A-Roma Sliced Bacon, Assorted Variety Lb. \$1.89</p> <p>Bacon Smok-A-Roma Sliced Bacon, (2 Lb. Pkg. \$2.98) 1 Lb. Pkg. \$1.49</p> <p>Sausage Safeway Whole Hog, (2 Lb. Roll \$3.38) 1 Lb. Roll \$1.69</p>	<p>Top Sirloin USDA Choice Whole Boneless Beef Loin Lb. \$2.59</p> <p>Whole Strips USDA Choice Boneless Beef Loin Lb. \$3.89</p> <p>Tenderloins USDA Choice Beef Loin, Half or Whole Lb. \$4.89</p> <p>Catfish Steaks Center Cut, Fresh, Frozen Lb. \$1.49</p> <p>Perch Fillets Fresh, Frozen Lb. \$1.79</p>	<p>Lunch Meat Safeway Brand, Water Sliced, Assorted Pkg. 55¢</p> <p>Braunschweiger By The Piece Lb. 79¢</p> <p>Bologna Scotch Buy By The Piece Lb. 99¢</p> <p>Cooked Ham Safeway Brand, 6 Oz. Pkg. \$1.79</p> <p>Lunch Meat Safeway Variety Pack, Round 12 Oz. or Square Pkg. \$1.99</p>		
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<p>Cheese Scotch Buy Brand Imitation Cheese, 16 Slices Per Pkg. 12 Oz. Pkg. \$1.29</p> <p>Margarine Scotch Buy Brand Solid Pack 1 Lb. Pkg. 37¢</p> <p>Biscuits Mrs. Wright's, 10 Count, Reg. or Buttermilk 8 Oz. Cans \$1.69</p> <p>Orange Juice Bel-air Brand, 1/2 Gal. SPECIAL! Ctn. \$1.59</p> <p>Sour Cream Lucerne Brand, Low Priced! 16 Oz. Ctn. 89¢</p>	<p>Pickles Vlasic Kosher Iceberg Dills 32 Oz. Jar \$1.09</p> <p>Mustard Planchman Squeeze Bottle 10.5 Oz. Btl. 31¢</p> <p>Catsup Town House Tomato Catsup, Why Pay More? 32 Oz. Btl. 89¢</p> <p>Instant Tea Crown Colony 2 Oz. Brand Jar \$1.59</p> <p>Dressing Scotch Buy Salad Dressing 32 Oz. Jar 89¢</p>	<p>Mellorine Joyell, Frozen Dessert 1 1/2 Gal. Ctn. 99¢</p> <p>Cream Pies Bel-air Brand, Frozen 14 Oz. Pkg. 79¢</p> <p>Topping Party Pride, Whipped 8 Oz. Ctn. 69¢</p> <p>Chicken Manor House, Medium Frozen Pieces 2 Lb. Box \$2.59</p> <p>Donuts Bel-air Brand, Jelly Filled, Frozen, Low Priced! 11 Oz. Pkg. 79¢</p>		
<p>HOT DOG SAUCE</p> <p>SAFETY SPECIAL</p> <p>Gebhardt's Chili Sauce</p> <p>31¢ 10 Oz. Cans</p>	<p>10¢ OFF BREADS</p> <p>WHY PAY MORE?</p> <p>Mrs. Wright's, Multi Meal Sandwich or Round Top Bread</p> <p>(7 Ct. Cinnamon Bread 16 Oz. 99¢) (12 Ct. Granulated Sugar Donuts 10 Oz. 99¢)</p> <p>69¢ 24 Oz. Loaf</p>	<p>BARBECUE SAUCE</p> <p>SAFETY SPECIAL</p> <p>Heinz, Regular • With Onions or • Hickory Smoked With Onions</p> <p>69¢ 16 Oz. Btl.</p>	<p>ICE CREAM</p> <p>SAFETY SPECIAL</p> <p>Lucerne Deluxe Homestyle, Finest Safeway Quality! 1/2 Gal. Ctn.</p> <p>259¢</p>	<p>Mrs. Wright's Buns</p> <p>SAFETY SPECIAL</p> <p>13 Oz. Hamburger or 11 Oz. Hot Dog</p> <p>39¢ 8 Ct. Pkg.</p>
<p>S & F BEVERAGE CO.</p> <p>El Paso, Texas</p> <p>WHY PAY MORE?</p> <p>Folanari Wine (1.5 Liter Btl. \$3.49)</p> <p>175¢ 750 ML. Btl.</p>	<p>WHITE BREAD</p> <p>SAFETY SPECIAL</p> <p>Mrs. Wright's Brand</p> <p>2109¢ 1 1/2 Lb. Loaves</p>	<p>CHARCOAL BRIQUETS</p> <p>SAFETY SPECIAL</p> <p>Kingsford Brand (20 Lb. Bag \$3.99)</p> <p>199¢ 10 Lb. Bag</p>	<p>PAPER PLATES</p> <p>SAFETY SPECIAL</p> <p>Bondware/Bluebird, 9 Inch White</p> <p>99¢ 100 Ct. Pkg.</p>	<p>CIGARETTES</p> <p>WHY PAY MORE?</p> <p>Scotch Buy King Filter Lights</p> <p>469¢ Each Ctn.</p>

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