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## Texas asks for larger medfly quarantine

United Press International  
AMARILLO — Texas Agriculture Commissioner Reagan Brown vows to keep hammering at federal officials to strengthen quarantine measures that would prevent spreading of California's Mediterranean fruit fly infestation.

"We still believe the counties in California with the fruit fly and the counties that border them should be quarantined, and this is what we're holding out for," Brown said late Monday.

Brown's remarks were made in a telephone interview after a federal judge in Dallas said he would give Texas and the U.S. Department of Agriculture time to negotiate a compromise on how large the California quarantine zone should be to stop the spread of the Medfly.

U.S. District Judge Patrick Higginbotham's decision came a day before he was scheduled to rule in a suit by the state of Texas against the USDA demanding the quarantine zone be increased.

"The judge's ruling gives us a chance to look at every way possible to work this out and we believe pressure is the only way to get this done," said Brown, who also

serves as president of the Southern Association of Agriculture Department Commissioners.

Brown said he had been joined by agriculture commissioners from 14 other states in requesting mandatory fumigation of fruit transported out of California's infected and adjoining counties.

He said the request would be forwarded to USDA officials by telegram Tuesday.

"We feel hopeful the Department of Agriculture is going to take this action. It's in their hands. They have the power to do it," he said.

"We don't think this is unreasonable. Those trucks leaving those counties carry about 1,000 cartons of fruit and it would cost about a nickel a carton to fumigate."

California and the USDA have quarantined six counties, but Brown contended fumigation should include adjacent counties to establish a "buffer zone" because the Medfly has a range of 30 to 35 miles. "We need those adjacent counties quarantined," he said.

Other association states joining the request were Maryland, West Virginia, Virginia, North Carolina,

South Carolina, Georgia, Mississippi, Louisiana, Florida, Kentucky, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Arkansas and Alabama, said.

"The commissioners of agriculture in these states are just led that the U.S. Department of Agriculture doesn't go along with this," he said, adding demands were being made by a number of countries.

Brown also said he had received word California was moving road stations set up to halt trucks from transporting fruit from infected counties.

"It's (the Medfly) spreading just don't understand it. I'm amazed that California is moving their road stations."

"We found nine cars in El Paso and El Paso with fruit out of the quarantined area past 30 days. It's unbelievable someone would do that, but it's happened."

"Under the powers I have as agriculture commissioner, someone comes out of Texas with fruit in their cars and Texas they could be facing and perhaps jail."

## Author wants grave open for publicity, widow says

United Press International  
DALLAS — Marina Oswald Porter — widow of accused presidential assassin Lee Harvey Oswald — says the author who has publicly pushed for an examination of the Oswald grave in Fort Worth actually wanted the grave kept closed to support his own assassination theories.

Porter Monday withdrew her permission for British author Michael Eddowes to conduct an exhumation, saying Eddowes renegeed on a secret agreement to open Oswald's grave in May.

She told UPI the secret plan to open the grave had been set for May 15, but Eddowes withheld financial backing until the plan had to be canceled. She said she would pursue her own efforts to open the grave.

She said Eddowes was more interested in the grave not being opened so his theory that Oswald was replaced by a Soviet agent could not be disproven and he would continue to garner publicity.

Porter said Eddowes "had his chance to prove his theory," but delayed his support when it came time to open the grave.

"When it came to doing it (opening the grave) on May 15, he didn't send the money," Porter said. "He's more interested in blocking it (an exhumation) than in keeping his word."

She blamed aides to Eddowes for several leaks to the news media.

Eddowes could not be reached in London for comment.

Porter signed a document on Aug. 8, 1980, giving permission to Eddowes to pursue an exhumation. That plan leaked shortly before it was to be executed, however, and Oswald's older brother — Robert, of Wichita Falls, Texas — obtained a restraining order.

The second plan to open the grave was not revealed until Monday when Porter withdrew her permission from Eddowes. She mailed a brief letter to a Fort Worth court, which is considering an appeal by Eddowes of the earlier restraining order.

In her letter to the court, Porter said: "In general, I am very satisfied with the way Mr. Eddowes has handled the case. Ever since obtaining my consent, Mr. Eddowes has abused it in many ways."

"His real intentions are very

questionable and serve only personal purposes. I have filed a motion to have the grave opened myself so there is no reason for Eddowes to waste the court's time."

Porter said, "My issue is different from his. My main concern is just to get some answers — the grave been tampered with."

She said in a telephone interview from her Rockwall, Texas home that Eddowes "tries to sue his theory about an impostor. To me, it's just such a wild, far-fetched theory but I gave him a year to prove it. There's one way I can go now — and that's my own."

Eddowes is appealing a decision by State District Judge J. E. Wright denying Eddowes' permission to open the grave. Although Eddowes' lawyers still argue that issue, a court would be largely symbolic because he would no longer have a widow's permission to open the grave on his own.



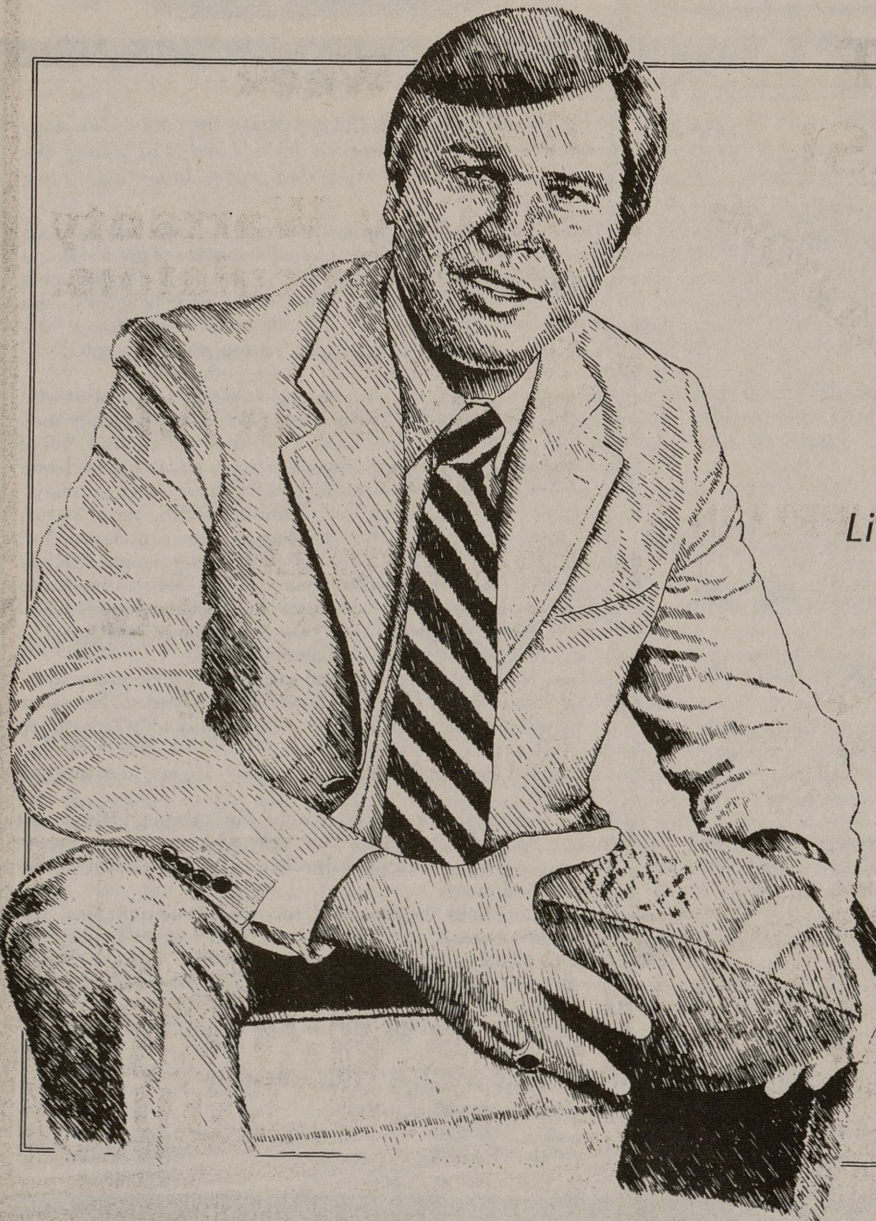
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