

State

Shrimp industry drowning

United Press International
NEW ORLEANS — The federal government must help bail out America's sinking shrimping industry, which has been devastated by skyrocketing fuel costs and an influx of cheap foreign shrimp, commercial fishermen warn.

Unless steps are taken to curb the flood of imported seafood, the fishermen say, the American shrimping industry will be driven to bankruptcy.

U.S. Reps. John Breaux and W.J. Billy Tauzin, both D-La., held a public hearing Friday to get opinions from interested parties on the effects of the American

Shrimp Industry Development Act.

Breaux, chairman of the Subcommittee on Fisheries and Wildlife Conservation and the Environment, sponsored the bill which will impose a five-year quota and a 30 percent tariff on all imported shrimp.

Breaux and Tauzin contend the federal government needs to save the troubled shrimping industry, weakened by cheap imported shrimp which has taken a large bite out of the American market.

Breaux believes the flood of foreign shrimp into this country is hurting U.S. shrimpers and the

federal government must take steps to limit the amount of imported shrimp.

Shrimpers say the bill will increase the price they get for shrimp and help offset higher fuel costs thereby saving them from certain bankruptcy.

"Give us 10 years in the present squeeze and 90 percent of our shrimp will be coming from foreign sources," warns Charles H. Lyles, 6 Ocean Springs, Miss., executive director of the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission.

"Once our domestic production is dead, prices will soar to the

limits of what these foreign producers can extract from us," Lyles says. "One only has to look at the oil industry to see the future of shrimp very clearly."

Although it is popular with commercial fishermen, the shrimping act is strongly opposed by restaurateurs and processors who feel the quotas and tariffs will result in greatly increased prices and less demand.

While the bill will help shrimpers, opponents claim, it will hurt processors who will have less to process and restaurants who will be forced to raise their prices.

Inadequate force cause of stabbing

Astrodome security chief quits

United Press International
HOUSTON — The Astrodome security chief quit his job Friday, saying stadium management's refusal to bolster security for the Rolling Stones concert was contrary to his principles.

Police Lt. Bill Sanders, who worked off duty as the stadium's security chief, said he made his decision after Houston Sports Association officials refused to put more police officers in the Astrodome for the Stones' second con-

cert despite a fatal stabbing the night before.

Wesley Shelton, 22, was fatally stabbed at the first performance. Sanders blamed the stabbing on an inadequate security force, saying 34 off-duty police officers could not control 65,000 rock fans.

"I resigned my position basically because my principles as a human being do not allow me to continue," Sanders said.

Sanders criticized Astrodome management for not providing

more off-duty officers for Wednesday night's concert. He attributed Shelton's death to the small security force inside the stadium.

"Had there been adequately staffed the night might not have been stabbed," Sanders said.

Mike Crowley, H.A. vice president for administration, said additional officers probably would not have made any difference in Wednesday night's killing.

"That kind of thing can and does happen anywhere," Crowley said. "We could have put 3,000 police officers in there and it (the stabbing) still would have happened. The whole thing took place in 10 or 15 seconds."

A 16-year-old suspect in

Wednesday's knifing was arrested and was awaiting a probate court decision that might result in his being charged as an adult in the killing.

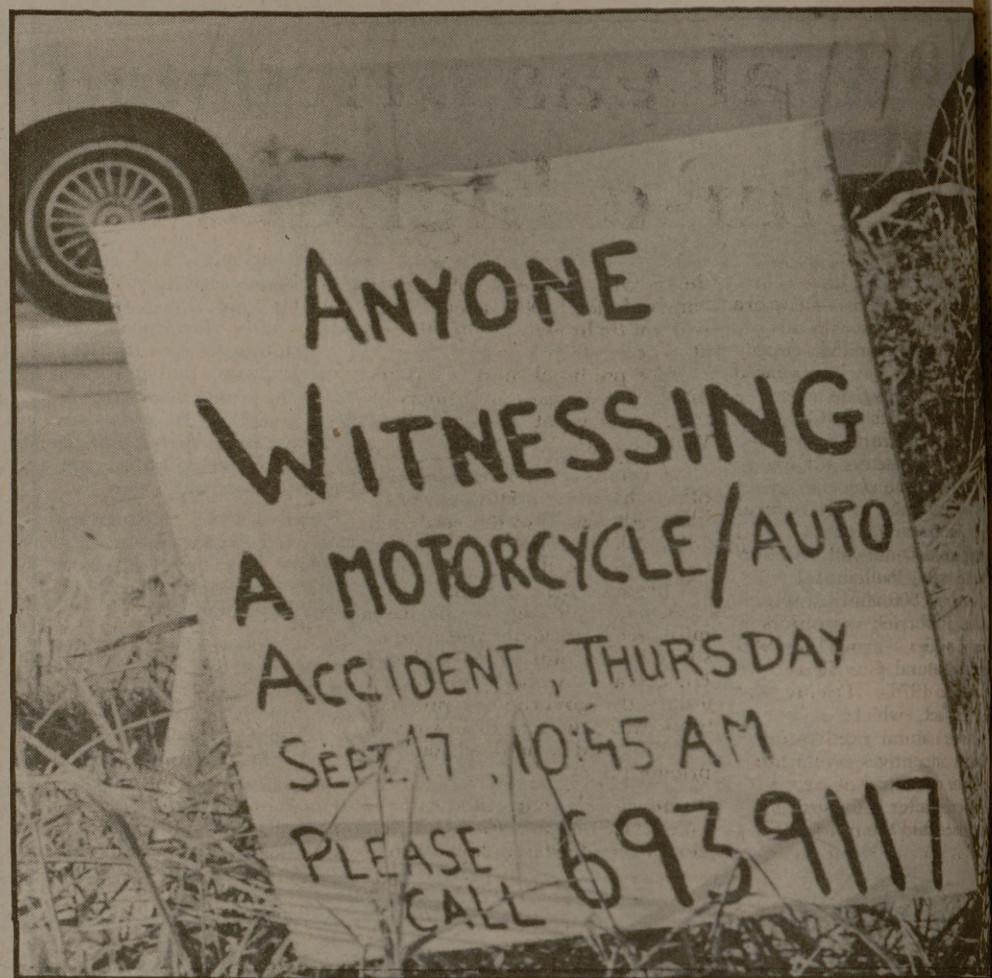
Several arrests for public intoxication were made at Thursday's concert, but no other serious incidents were reported.



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Senate redistricting plan raps counties, GOP chairman says

United Press International
AUSTIN — State Republican Chairman Chester Upham said

the Democratic-inspired Senate redistricting plan ignores Texas constitutional requirements and the one-man, one-vote principle.

"The plan is gerrymandered to protect Democrat incumbents and to reduce Republican strength to a minimum," he said Friday. "It's a crazy-quilt scheme that would dilute dramatically the

voice of the majority of the particularly those in the growing urban areas."

Upham's comments came a delegation of Republican suit in a state district court challenging the constitutionality of the plan.

The suit was the second two days against the Senate apportionment plan proposed by Gov. Bill Hobby and approved by Rep. Ed Emmett, Kingwood, headed a group filed suit in a Dallas federal court on Thursday contending that areas had been split to protect Democrats.

"If a county could be charged," Bill Hobby would dubbed the redistricting plan Emmett said.

The state court suit was Friday by Upham and six Republican senators — Betty Ann Fort Worth, Walter Mengler, Mike Richards of Houston, Meier of Fort Worth and Leedom and Dee Travis of Dallas. Secretary of State David Friday issued a statement sharply critical of Attorney General Mark White, saying either ignores or does not understand the state constitution.

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