

# U.S. Steel chairman says steel firms facing hard times

**United Press International**  
**NEW ORLEANS** — The American steel industry is facing its worst crisis in more than 30 years and can only survive by scaling down operations and diversifying into oil, gas and other areas, the chairman of U.S. Steel says.

High interest rates, a sour economy and — most importantly — a flood of foreign imports have devastated the steel market and forced producers to streamline operations nationwide, chairman David M. Roderick said Monday.

U.S. Steel recently merged with Marathon Oil Co. and has invested assets in real estate, chemicals and other areas, but the company's steelmaking operations remain unprofitable, Roderick said.

"The news is not reassuring," he said. "There is no doubt that the commercial climate is getting chillier. The market for tubular goods has declined and in some plants the only sound to be heard is the overhead piling up."

For the first time in U.S. Steel's history, net income exceeded \$1 billion in 1981, but

much of that profit was generated from non-steel productions.

Steel-making operations have plunged to 48 percent of normal levels and there is "no realistic way we can be profitable" below an operating rate of 50 percent, he said.

Roderick said steel imports soared by 20 percent in the first quarter of 1982, further weakening the U.S. market and forcing the layoff of thousands of steelworkers.

"Until intolerable trade practices are curbed and until the steel market rebounds, we are forced to react to the present crisis with reduced operations," he said at U.S. Steel's 81st annual stockholders meeting.

Steel now accounts for 38 percent of company assets, energy-related interests accounts for an equal 38 percent and the remaining 24 percent is divided among other interests.

In an effort to improve efficiency, corporate planners are seriously considering a shut-down of the Fairfield Works in Birmingham, Ala., which is operating at 66 percent below normal levels.

The plant, which employed 20,000 steelworkers in its prime, has been scaled down to 4,000 workers. Corporate economists will decide within two months whether to close Fairfield.

Planners also were re-evaluating operations in the

Monongahela Valley, U.S. Steel's home turf near Pittsburgh. Roderick criticized the Reagan administration for not cracking down on foreign imports and said U.S. Steel would begin aggressively attacking unfair international trade practices in the courts.

"I don't think we're being very fair to the American steelworker," he said. "Our government could be much more aggressive in enforcing trade laws."

## Baylor, others, to research vaccine for herpes in cattle

**United Press International**  
**DENVER** — American Genetics Inc., a Denver-based firm involved in genetic engineering, has signed a contract with the

Baylor College of Medicine and two Colorado universities for research to develop a vaccine that will prevent herpes virus infections in cattle.

Veterinary Medicine, to be followed by \$92,000 in research at the Baylor College of Medicine in Houston.

The vaccine the scientists will try to produce will be used not only for bovine genital herpes, but also respiratory herpes, both of which cause abortions, conjunctivitis and encephalitis in cows.

American Genetics Chairman Stanley Rose said respiratory herpes is particularly rampant in feedlots, where it causes cattle to lose weight.

Bovine herpes apparently reached North America through the importation of infected animals earlier this century. First reports of the disease in the United States date from the mid-1950s.

## Park turf damages covered

**United Press International**  
**LUBBOCK** — Officials said the turf in Buddy Holly Park, destroyed by a weekend of rain and thousands of music fans at the Tornado Jam concert, would be covered by an insurance policy and a promoter's deposit.

Parks director Dan Kamp said Monday that damage to the park did not appear more serious than expected.

Promoter Jeff Krump estimated 20,000 people attended the Sunday concert, which went on despite several afternoon rain showers. The event was a financial loss, he said.

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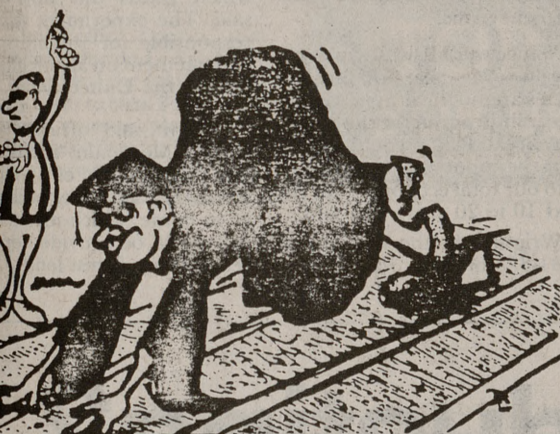
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