

### 83 drug indictments returned

**United Press International**  
BELTON — Law enforcement officials are seeking people indicted by a Bell County grand jury on various drug-related charges, authorities said.

The Bell County grand jury Wednesday returned 80 sealed indictments and the Lampasas County grand jury returned three others against 43 defendants, charged in drug transactions believed to be valued at

more than \$85,000, authorities said.

About 70 law enforcement officers began making arrests Wednesday afternoon. Authorities said most of the drug cases were unrelated.

The bust, believed to be the largest in the history of Bell County, was the result of a three-month undercover investigation headed by the Belton Police Department, authorities said.

## Company plans guilty plea in Pemex bribery charge

**United Press International**  
HOUSTON — International Harvester Co. officials blamed the Chicago firm's financial position for its decision to plead guilty Thursday rather than fight federal criminal charges.

The government has charged that one of IH's former subsidiaries, Solar Turbines International, conspired to bribe officials of Mexico's government-owned oil company.

Bill Greenhill said Wednesday, quoting a company statement.

"International Harvester expects to enter a plea of guilty to a one-count charge of conspiracy to violate the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act in the federal court in Houston," Greenhill said. "The maximum penalty for this offense is a \$10,000 fine."

"The documents to be submitted by the Justice Department will include a statement that there was no evidence of officers, directors or management of IH were aware of, or participated in, the conspiracy," he said.

In a criminal information charge filed Wednesday, the U.S. government claimed Solar Turbines International took part in a conspiracy to bribe officials of Petroleos Mexicanos (Pemex) — the government-owned Mexican oil monopoly — to obtain Pemex purchase orders for turbine compression systems.

The charges allege the bribes were made between December 1977 and May 1980. Greenhill said IH sold the San Diego-based Solar Turbines Co. to Caterpillar in 1981.

Greenhill said lower-level employees of Solar Turbines were involved in the alleged conspiracy.

John Russell, a U.S. Justice Department spokesman in Washington, said the charge against IH stemmed from an investigation which resulted in charges against three other companies last month.

A 49-count indictment last month charged Solar Enterprises of Houston, board chairman and president, and seven other men with a conspiracy to pay \$9.9 million in bribes to Pemex officials to change for lucrative contracts, he said.

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The company was negotiating with the Justice Department on the matter to avoid the financial demands of an extended period of litigation, spokesman

### Colby says better days ahead

## U.S.-Soviet chill seen

**United Press International**  
HOUSTON — Former Central Intelligence Agency Director William E. Colby's forecast is chillier short-term relations with the Soviet Union because of the new leadership in Moscow.

Yuri Andropov succeeded Leonid Brezhnev as Communist Party chief after Brezhnev died last week.

"I think we are in for a period of heightening of rhetoric," Colby told a luncheon Wednesday. "I think we are in for, in the short term at least, an increase in the degree of tensions between our two countries."

Colby, now a Washington

lawyer and international business consultant, said his long-run outlook is different. He expects continued mutual accommodation to reduce the risk of a nuclear confrontation.

"Our leadership is exactly the kind that can reach out to a hostile leadership," Colby said, suggesting President Reagan like President Nixon would be in a strong position to deal with a Communist country.

Colby said "I think this is a dangerous world but it is also the kind that will push both sides" toward reaching some limited accommodation.

On another subject, Colby

said the arms-smuggling conviction of renegade ex-CIA agent Edwin Wilson in Alexandria, Va., Wednesday was the desirable course of justice and not a blot on the agency.

"The CIA has had literally thousands of people go through it over the years," Colby said. "It has had a few bad apples. When someone transgresses American law, he is prosecuted. That's what happened to Mr. Wilson."

"But I don't think we condemn (the institution) for the actions of a few bad apples."

Colby addressed the Chamber of Commerce International Business and Governmental Re-

lations Council under the "International Political Terrorism — Threats and Defense" program.

He suggested that American companies need to do more to gather public support to increase their security against terrorist attacks.

"A company in a situation faced with the existence of terrorists must have a contingency program, not only of finding and terminating threats and having cooperation. How it, but also development of a public support," Colby said.

"In this way, the sympathy of the people can be for the organization, for the company rather than for the terrorists."

## Texan dies capping well

**United Press International**  
LODGEPOLE, Alberta — Amoco Canada officials are puzzled as to why a routine operation to cap a well seeping hydrogen sulphide gas turned into a death trap that killed one member of a Texas crew and left another critically ill.

"We're genuinely mystified," Amoco Canada Petroleum Co. Ltd. spokesman Don Smith said Wednesday. "We're not attempting to hide anything. We just don't know the answer."

While provincial government officials spent the day investigat-

ing the cause of the accident, Joe Bowden, president of Wild Well Control Inc. of Spring, said his expert crew would continue capping efforts today.

"The mystery (of what caused the accident) is troublesome, but we still have faith in Mr. Bowden's ability to cap the well," Smith said.

The accident occurred Tuesday afternoon as workers were trying to cap the well, about 110 kilometers southwest of Edmonton. Bryon Lee of Spring was killed in the accident. Lee, in his mid-30s, was originally from

Clio, Ala.

Rafuse "Irwin" Hoke was listed in critical but stable condition at University Hospital in Edmonton.

Smith said three workers equipped with face masks were lowering a blowout preventer — a device with large steel rams designed to choke off a wild well — onto the well when the accident occurred.

When the preventer was about two feet above the well, Smith said, gas began to steam horizontally out the side of the well at an estimated 3,000 pounds per square inch. It was believed the force of the gas may have knocked the masks from at least two workers, including Lee, who later died.

"The first warning we had (of trouble) was when an Amoco person noticed Lee coming out of the cloud of gas without a mask," Smith said.

"What's so perplexing," he added, "is that this (escaping gas) was expected. The crew and our own people were fully aware it would happen. It's a short-term phenomenon."

The other workers crawled or stumbled away from the well site and were given oxygen to coun-

teract the effects of the hydrogen sulphide, he said.

Wild Well official John Barton said he was uncertain what caused the accident.

"I believe the hydrogen sulphide overcame the workers and they collapsed," he said. "From what I understand, fumes paralyze the lungs of workers black out."

Barton said the 5-year-old company had lost an employee in June while servicing a well.

The 10,000-foot-deep exploratory gas well blew out of control Oct. 17 and a capping team was called shortly afterward. But the 120-foot-tall drill rig caught fire Nov. 1, delaying the capping efforts to cap the well. The flames were extinguished a week later.

Meanwhile, world-renowned well-tamer Red Adair said he was willing to fly to Lodgepole and "kill the monster."

Adair was hired by Amoco in 1977 to solve a spectacular blowout and fire in the Lodgepole area.

Calgary-based Amoco is wholly owned subsidiary of Standard Oil Co. of Indiana.

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