

# Oil baron auctions farm

**United Press International**  
**TERRELL** — Oil baron Nelson Bunker Hunt, who took a drubbing on the silver market two years ago, apparently found the farmer's market little better and Saturday began to dismantle his vast agricultural equipment empire.

Auction sales from the multimillionaire's 13 farm and ranch operations in five states were expected to bring in far less than the \$5 million-plus value they would garner in nonrecession years.

"Certainly some years are better than others," said Tom Whitaker, Hunt Energy vice

president. "This market went against us. Bunker made a very determined effort to make a viable business out of farming and ranching. But the return just hasn't been good, and the future doesn't look that bright."

He said the revenues would be "redeployed," probably in oil, gas, or real estate development.

The decision to liquidate the equipment — ranging from branding irons to massive farm combines — was made 10 months ago, officials said. Hunt, however, will not sell the valuable agricultural tracts in Mississippi, Louisiana, Montana,

Texas and Tennessee, but will lease them out to high bidders.

"This must signal to a lot of small farmers that they don't need to fear big corporations pushing them out of business," said Robert Riggs, farm editor for Dallas television station, WFAA.

"Farming is a 24-hour business," he said. "The small family farmer can better afford the commitment than a corporation. He's willing to invest in the equipment and time."

That sentiment was reflected in the huge number of participants who turned out and whose

semi-trailer rigs and trucks clogged for hours the muddy roads near this community, 30 miles east of Dallas.

"The turnout was good, maybe 2,700 people," Whitaker said. "We literally had traffic jams on those roads, and the bidding was spirited some of the time."

However, he estimated the sales would bring in far less than the equipment was worth in good years.

"Yeah, our timing was not perfect."

He said many buyers were apparently attracted by the Hunt name.

"Prestige played a large part," he said. "But I'm not sure if it really caused people to reach deeper into their pocketbooks. Certainly a lot of people were there because this was Bunker Hunt."

Saturday's equipment sell-off represented goods from seven Texas ranches and farms. The next Hunt auction takes place in a week in the community of Gunter, about 50 miles north of Dallas, officials said, and others will be held throughout the region in coming weeks.

Bunker, who with his brothers and late father H.L. Hunt own a fortune, much of it devoted to oil, began his farm operation four to five years ago. Officials said the sale was not related to the \$1.1 billion loan the Hunts had to take to cover losses when the silver market collapsed in 1980.

# Mondale considering presidential nomination

**United Press International**  
**NEW YORK** — Former Vice President Walter Mondale said Saturday he will decide within the month whether to seek the 1984 Democratic presidential nomination.

Mondale, speaking at his first news conference since Sen. Edward Kennedy, D-Mass., took himself out of the race, made no secret of his ambitions.

"I am not trying to be coy about it," Mondale said of the nomination. "I may very well seek it. I would certainly like to be the front-runner."

"I think I'll make a decision within the month and an announcement some time next year," said Mondale. Asked if the announcement would be in January, he replied: "I haven't picked a time."

Mondale, 54, senator from Minnesota from 1964 to 1976, predicted: "I think we will see a change in course." He said Reagan would be an easy mark in 1984.

"I think, based on the issues, he should be very easy to beat,"

Mondale told reporters.

Then, Mondale attacked Reagan for failure in the areas of jobs, Social Security, and nuclear disarmament.

"He promised us jobs, he's given us the worst unemployment in American history," Mondale said. "He promised to protect the safety net and that has turned into a tight rope. He promised that he would protect Social Security, we know what's happened there. We've had, I think, an appalling nuclear discussion. We need arms control desperately."

Earlier, he received applause and cheers from an audience of 500 when he was introduced for a speech before a fund-raising luncheon of the Israel Histadut as "the next president of the United States."

He told the group, a labor federation and social welfare agency representing about 90 percent of Israel's work force, that for the Reagan administration "to deny an American who needs to work, who wants to work, is perhaps the most fundamental insult, the most degrading attack on your people that's possible."

Mondale, with an obvious Kennedy's supporters, continued the conciliatory comments he has been making the Massachusetts senator drew from the race.

"I think we need him more than ever," Mondale said. "I want him to know that his leadership is needed now more ever."

Although neither declared his candidacy, were considered the front-runners for the nomination, Kennedy with drew family obligations.

Mondale served with Kennedy in the Senate for years the two were on opposite sides when Kennedy challenged Carter for the 1980 Democratic nomination. Kennedy, after a divisive challenge, lost to Carter-Mondale ticket was defeated by Ronald Reagan and George Bush.

# Group says doctors' money may have influenced vote

**United Press International**  
**WASHINGTON** — Common Cause says that all but seven of the 208 House members who voted against keeping doctors and dentists under federal regulation received campaign contributions from groups representing the two professions.

The self-styled "citizens' lobby" analyzed political action committee contributions and Wednesday's House vote to exempt business practices of state-licensed professionals — among them doctors and dentists — from jurisdiction of the Federal Trade Commission.

"The correlation between PAC giving and congressional voting on this special interest bill is clear," Common Cause President Fred Wertheimer said Friday. "And what it says once again to the American people is that money talks very loud on Capitol Hill."

At issue was an administration-backed compromise amendment offered by Rep. James Broyhill, R-N.C., to continue FTC jurisdiction that was defeated 208-195. Then the House voted 245-155 to bar the FTC from looking into the professionals.

Of those voting against the Broyhill amendment, only seven didn't receive money from political action committees of the American Medical Association and American Dental Association, Common Cause said. Between 1979 and 1982, those who received money got an average of \$11,254.

Common Cause listed the top recipient of AMA and ADA contributions as Rep. Phil Gramm, D-Texas, who received \$26,400 during the 1979-1982 period but voted in favor of the Broyhill amendment.

# Striking wives demand love, help with chores

**United Press International**  
**SMITHFIELD, R.I.** — Neighborhood housewives walked out of the kitchen and onto the streets Saturday picketing for more love and affection and help with the chores.

The 15 wives say they want better treatment from their husbands, and won't cook, clean or cuddle until their demands are met. They only vow to care for their children.

"The strike won't end until all the husbands get together and agree to pull their weight and show us some recognition for all the work we do," Gloria Gangi said.

"Appreciation isn't too much to ask for a slave who's on call 24 hours a day," said Terry Waterman as she and some other young mothers picketed outside their homes on Oak Street, carrying signs saying "Have You Hugged Your Wife Today?"

The strike, which was secretly planned for several months, began Friday. It caught the husbands off guard.

"It's actually pretty fun, with the news media out here," Jim Gangi said. "The phone's been ringing off the hook. I don't think it's going to be a serious problem until the working week starts, because weekends are

usually lazy. We'll see what happens on Monday."

Gangi agreed the wives' valid complaints but said she thinks the whole thing will probably just blow over. "I think it's a life or death situation."

Michael Larkin offered to switch jobs with his wife, da, for two weeks.

"I think it would be great to watch a soap opera between laundry or thing that," he said with a chuckle. "She doesn't feel like cleaning house or making the beds on a particular day, she doesn't go to."

Waterman's husband, said he sympathized with wives complaints.

"I can understand how can get a little nutty being all day with crying kids, work, cooking, and all that trying to do everything at the same time," he said.

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