

Mexico offers cheap loans

United Press International
HOUSTON — In an effort to boost export sales, Mexico is offering American businesses low interest loans to finance purchase of Mexican manufactured goods, a Mexican banker said.

Ezequiel Padilla, president of BancaConfia, Mexico's eighth largest bank, Tuesday told American business executives the program would save them money.

"On this occasion, we have come to the United States not to ask for credit but to offer credit

to your banks so they can provide low cost finance to the importers of Mexican manufactured goods," said Ezequiel Padilla, president of BancaConfia.

The program is aimed at easing Mexico's balance of payments problem and to help pay off Mexico's foreign debt, Padilla said.

Padilla, whose bank is located in Mexico City, said the loans would be provided through U.S. banks. All Mexican banks have been nationalized.

Padilla said the biggest attraction should be "low and fixed interest rates" ranging from 7.5 to 8.5 percent, compared to the current 10.5 percent prime rate for loans in the United States.

"The importer could have the possibility of negotiating better prices because the Mexican exporter receives payment at the moment the export is made," Padilla said.

Petroleum and agricultural products were not eligible under the low-interest loan program, but Padilla said there was no

limit on the size of the transaction.

Padilla said credit under the program could be initiated by the American importer going to his U.S. bank and obtaining a letter of credit to be confirmed in Mexico by BancaConfia.

Padilla said the program — Fondo para el Fomento de Productos Manufacturados — has been in operation since 1964 but has been ineffective in the past, partly because of the relatively high valuation of the Mexican peso.

Dealer says he told agents about Hill

United Press International
DALLAS — A convicted cocaine dealer testified Tuesday he told federal agents Dallas Cowboy player Tony Hill was aware of a 2-pound cocaine shipment, but he denied naming Cowboy Harvey Martin.

Elias Murback was the first witness to testify in the federal trial of former Brazilian soccer player Lauribeto Ignacio, who is charged with conspiring to import and distribute South American cocaine in Dallas.

Ignacio's attorneys have subpoenaed Hill and Martin to refute anticipated prosecution tes-

timony that they knew of Ignacio's alleged smuggling or had purchased cocaine from him.

Attorneys for Hill and Martin asked federal Judge Robert W. Porter to quash the subpoenas Monday. Porter delayed his ruling, saying he first wants to see if government witnesses implicate the players.

At Cowboys training camp in Thousand Oaks, Calif., Hill called Murback's testimony "utterly ridiculous."

"I don't know anything, and I would swear to that on a stack of Bibles," Hill said.



photo by Tom R...

Lawn rowing

Kristy Lane, 9, goes for a boat ride in her backyard and even brings along the water. Kristy

usually restricts her sailing to area behind the Married Student Apartments.

Fairchild found guilty, lethal injection ordered

United Press International
LONOKE, Ark. — Barry Lee Fairchild, 29, of North Little Rock became Arkansas' latest Death Row inmate after his conviction for capital murder in the death of an Air Force nurse from Florida.

The Circuit Court jury in Lonoke returned with the guilty verdict Tuesday after deliberating nearly three hours. The death sentence followed after 45 more minutes of deliberation, and Circuit Judge Cecil Tedder set the date for execution by lethal injection for Nov. 10. Fairchild's alleged accomplice in the slaying is still at large.

Testimony said 2nd Lt. Mar-

jorie L. "Greta" Mason, 22, of Gainesville, Fla., was kidnapped while shopping for furniture in North Little Rock Feb. 26. Her body was found the next day at an abandoned farmhouse near Scott. Authorities said she had been raped, robbed and shot twice in the head.

Prosecutor Chris Raff of Searcy pleaded with the jury to impose the death sentence. He said Mason, who was assigned to the Little Rock Air Force Base, begged for her life because Fairchild "had taken everything else." Raff said Fairchild then took her life as well.

Mason's mother, Sandra Breckur of Hurst, said she thought justice had been served

by the verdict against Fairchild. In testimony Monday, Fairchild recanted two earlier confessions, which implicated Harold Lee Green, who was later arrested and released after authorities mined he was in Columbia time of the slaying.

Fairchild said he was beaten because he was beaten by County Sheriff Tommie son and deputy Mayor Dill. Closing arguments centered on whether he had been coerced into making confessions.

Fairchild was turned over to the Lonoke County office for transfer to the Correction Department.

White says crossing pass policy shows 'benign neglect'

United Press International
WASHINGTON — Texas Gov. Mark White says the government's pilot project forcing Mexicans to get temporary crossing passes through two consulates shows a "benign neglect"

toward the people of the financially troubled border areas.

Previously, Mexicans could enter the United States for up to 72 hours and stay within 25 miles from the point of entry by acquiring a temporary crossing

pass called an I-586 authorization and Naturalization bridges in Brownsville, Del Rio and Eagle Pass.

Under the INS program, temporary passes at the State Dept. consulate offices in Matamoros or in Nuevo Laredo from Laredo.

White said the new policy affecting approximately 100 miles stretch between Brownsville and Brownsville, was without warning in already suffering from the devaluation of the peso.

White said he canceled his vacation to meet with officials to discuss which requires Mexican want to cross at Eagle Pass 125 miles to a consulate office in Laredo to get a document or to travel miles to Laredo if the cross at Del Rio.

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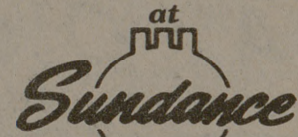
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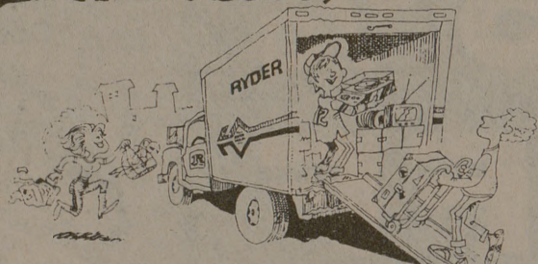
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