

Americans paying for empty grain space

United Press International
WASHINGTON — On Aug. 11, there wasn't one kernel of government grain in 44 percent of the elevator space rented nationwide. That one day cost taxpayers an extra \$88,000.

At that rate, the annual taxpayer cost would be \$32 million for empty space. Space enough, in fact, to empty a train of grain hoppers 761 miles long.

But Department of Agriculture officials say that by the end of the year the percentage of empty space could be above 50 percent.

At the same time the elevator owner is free to rent the same space to someone else simultaneously, sometimes at the

higher-than-average rate the government accepted. All this can be done without negotiating under a 2-year-old program that was supposed to save taxpayers money.

"This program is a scandal," said Rep. Glenn English, D-Okla., whose Government Operations subcommittee is scrutinizing the program managed by the government's Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service.

The allegation comes at a time when the government is reeling from public outrage over a defense department spare parts scandal. The Department of Agriculture also is under siege by farmers charging

fraud and deceit in the Payment-in-Kind program.

Officials blame the empty space on the worst drought in 50 years and the unexpected implementation of PIK — where farmers receive surplus grain in exchange for leaving their farmland idle.

"We didn't have a crystal ball," Everett Rank, ASCS administrator and vice president of the Commodity Credit Corp., told English's panel last week.

The agriculture department says it is unable to determine the amount of loss under the long-term program because it is only one part of a CCC storage plan that includes nearly 5,900 short-term grain contracts and surplus

food warehousing.

Although the stabilization

Annual taxpayer cost would be \$32 million for enough empty space to empty a train of grain hoppers 761 miles long.

service administers the storage program, the CCC is the government agency with the funding to implement it. It also owns the grain kept in reserve for disasters and that acquired when far-

mers default on their loans.

Agriculture officials contended they would save \$12 to \$14 million during a four-year period by putting large quantities of government grain under two-, three- or four-year storage contracts in 23 states.

Officials originally said the savings would come from the grain being stored at or below the annual rates set by each elevator, called Uniform Grain Storage Agreement rates.

But English said 1982 records show 64 of the first 290 contracts signed under the program were at rates higher than those set by the UGSA.

English said he believes the program deteriorated because

its administrators failed to ensure the government would be protected. The program today involves half of the country's government-owned grain.

"It's a good good concept," he said.

"Where the program went sour was when Mr. Rank and others chose to ignore the directives of the secretary (Agriculture Secretary John Block)," English told UPI.

But Rank and Merrill Marxman, deputy CCC vice president and deputy ASCS administrator, vow the empty space will be filled with CCC grain within 60 to 90 days after they complete paper movement of grain stocks under PIK.

"My question is going to fill these English said. 'The only going to fill these simply to go out and more grain.'"

He said that would even bigger scandal.

Marxman told UPI will come through warehousemen, which al about 15 cents a load-in and load-out though no grain will be moved.

Instead, the govern swap ownership of stocks in other elevators those in partially empty

Textbook group slams creationism

United Press International
AUSTIN — Ministers, educators and anti-censorship advocates claimed



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THRU SATURDAY 11/12/83

Wednesday that the fundamentalist religious influence on textbooks presents a "mind-shackling" view of science to schoolchildren across the nation.

About 85 teachers, publishers, clergymen and laymen participated in a one-day conference on evolution in textbooks. The conference was sponsored by the national anti-censorship group, People for the American Way.

The group is leading a fight for the repeal of a Texas Board of Education rule it claims dilutes the teaching of evolution.

The rule, scheduled to be discussed at a board hearing today, requires equal treatment of evolution and "other theories of origin" in school textbooks.

"Creationists affect the dogma that (the biblical book of) Genesis expresses the way the world was created," Methodist

minister and conference panelist George Ricker of Austin said. "In doing so, they would plunge us into a non-scientific and mind-shackling literalism."

College and high school science teachers complain Texas influences science texts nationwide, placing limitations on the teaching of evolution.

That does an injustice to both science and the Bible."

A few creationists attended the conference. Howard Wheeler of Austin, who said he represented a loosely knit creationist group dubbed "People for the Real American Way," accused

Ricker and other fundamentalist clergies being politically motivated by socialist sympathies.

"Aren't your liberal theologians connected to the 'ism'?" Wheeler asked, citing catcalls from the

College and high school teachers complain Texas, which buys textbooks than any other state spent \$60 million on textbooks this year influence texts nationwide. Publishers tailor books to Texas' limitations teaching of evolution.

Dr. William Mayer, professor at the University of Colorado, blamed the for contributing to a decline in the quality of public education by perpetuating "religion ma disguised as science."

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Judge se execution denies

United Press International
BELTON — A Dec. 11 execution date was set Wednesday for inmate "Andy" Barefoot, convicted of the killing of a Harker Heights police officer.

Barefoot, 37, an ex-roughneck from New La., won a stay of execution this year when the State Court sent his case back to original court where he was tried.

Barefoot was convicted killing Officer Carl Leno was shot in the head after pinning Barefoot following a Harker Heights club in 1978. Barefoot maintains innocent of the charges.

State District Judge Black in Bell County set execution date for execution denied a request by Barefoot's lawyers that the death sentence be set aside.

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