

Building industry recovering

United Press International
HOUSTON — A survey of homebuilders Monday indicates an anticipated upturn in the construction industry in 1984, sustaining a recovery that began last year when the industry built almost 1.7 million homes.

According to the survey, in which 850 builders at the National Association of Home Builders convention were interviewed, the industry expects a 28 percent increase in the number of new homes built this year.

The survey was conducted by Owens-Corning Fiberglas Corp. at the Houston convention.

Economics of housing was clearly a major concern of the builders polled. By a 3-to-1 margin, they said high mortgage interest rates was the most important issue facing the industry today. That was followed by a need to reduce the federal budget. Most of those questioned said the federal deficit was having a significant impact on mortgage interest rates.

The builders also said they do

not anticipate much fluctuation in interest rates this year, but 61 percent said they expected interest rates to stay the same, 23 percent said they thought the rate would drop by about one point.

Because of continued high rates, the builders said they have been searching for way to make their homes more affordable, such as creative financing programs. But many consumers have trouble when shopping for a new home because they are confused by the different types of mortgages available, according to the survey.

Builders are also making houses more affordable by reducing the square footage and selling smaller residences. More than half of the builders interviewed said a single family detached home can be as small as 1,000-square feet or less and still be marketable.

Warped

by Scott McCullo



Tax levied by Bryan council

Citizens protest increase

By **MARSHA MCDADA**
News reporter

In a heated discussion Monday night, citizens living along Finfeather Road protested a proposed tax to be levied against them but the Bryan City Council passed the first reading of the ordinance anyway.

The tax, which is only directed only at those living along Finfeather, is to pay for a portion of the improvements made along the road.

The first reading came at the end of a public hearing in which

the several discontented citizens spoke out. The citizens testified that the assessments were unfair because the improvements did not enhance the value of their property. They also believed that city bond money should be used to pay for the total cost of the improvements on Finfeather Road.

During the hearing, Michael Beal, an appraiser who participated in making the assessments, answered the questions of the citizens. Beal, of Jacob Beal Appraisers, said that the assessments were made on the

judgement of how the market in general sees the property along Finfeather Road economically.

In other business:

• It awarded a \$209,000 contract to the Bryan Construction Company for the construction of a park scheduled to be completed in May.

• The city staff was authorized to negotiate a contract with HDR Techserv for engineering services applicable to a proposed sanitary landfill.

• The annual homestead tax exemption for people 65 or over was increased from \$10,000 to

\$15,000. This ordinance was passed unanimously.

• A resolution which sets fees for softball field, campsite, and tennis court use was adopted.

• Mayor Blatchley recommended that the council occasionally put ads in the newspaper concerning the availability of positions on city boards and committees.

Finally, a number of bids were awarded from a previous discussed agenda.

Lawyer requests new trial after High Court upholds conviction

United Press International

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court Monday let stand the racketeering conviction of Texas multimillionaire Rex Cauble, sentenced to jail for heading a ring that smuggled more than 70 tons of marijuana into the United States.

Immediately following the ruling, Cauble's attorney filed a motion for a new trial in federal court in Tyler citing 11 points he said affected the fairness of the original trial.

Cauble, 70, was sentenced to five years in prison but has been allowed to remain free during his appeal. He stands convicted of supervising the importation into the United States of 147,000 pounds of marijuana from 1976 through 1978.

The Justice Department called him the mastermind of the largest drug smuggling operation ever uncovered in Texas.

The Supreme Court's action

refused to review a lower court ruling that Cauble was guilty of violating the federal Racketeering Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act.

While there was no dispute at his trial that boats, planes and apartments owned by Cauble Enterprises were used in the smuggling operation, Cauble said he was not involved and did not know it was happening.

The government outlined a detailed operation to the jury, including loans from Cauble to a ranch foreman Charles "Muscles" Foster to run the operation.

The appeals court rejected Cauble's claim that he was unaware of the smuggling operation, ruling that his argument was "flatly controverted by the record" of the trial.

In addition to appealing his conviction, Cauble also asked the high court to stop a government move to take away his financial empire, which the gov-

ernment said was built up with proceeds from the drug smuggling operation.

Holdings the government says should be subject to forfeiture include: Cutter Bill Western World of Dallas and Houston, Rite Weld Co. in Texas and Oklahoma, Dallas International Bank, South Main Bank of Houston, Western Bank of Denton and several ranches.

The motion filed in Tyler by

Court rejects pleas from five convicts

United Press International

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court Monday rejected appeals from five death row convicts, including a Texas man sentenced to die for poison-

ing his son on Halloween with cyanide-laced candy.

Without comment, the justices rejected appeals from Ronald Clark O'Bryan, of DeWitt, Texas, sentenced to die for poisoning his 8-year-old son Timothy, with cyanide-laced candy on Halloween night 1978.

Prosecutors convinced a jury that O'Bryan, 39, killed his son to collect a \$60,000 life insurance policy he took out for his boy. He gave the candy to his children, including his son's daughter, in the Houston suburb but only the boy died.

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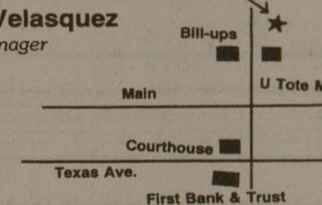
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<p>FRIDAY EVENING SPECIAL</p> <p>FRIED CATFISH FILET w TARTAR SAUCE Cole Slaw Hush Puppies Choice of one vegetable Roll or Corn Bread & Butter Tea or Coffee</p>	<p>SATURDAY NOON and EVENING SPECIAL</p> <p>Yankee Pot Roast Texas Style (Tossed Salad) Mashed Potato w gravy Roll or Corn Bread & Butter Tea or Coffee</p>	<p>SUNDAY SPECIAL NOON and EVENING ROAST TURKEY DINNER</p> <p>Served with Cranberry Sauce Cornbread Dressing Roll or Corn Bread - Butter - Coffee or Tea Giblet Gravy And your choice of any One vegetable</p>

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