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United Press International

HOUSTON — Wilfredo Alvarenga was a polio-crippled 11-year-old boy without a happy future the day volunteer nurse Margaret Anderson came to his Honduran village of La Virtud.

Anderson, a volunteer with Church World Service, an arm of the World Council of Churches, said Wilfredo had to crawl around because polio had devastated his legs. But he always was smiling and quickly became her friend.

"One day he came up to me and out of the blue asked if I could help him get braces for his legs," Anderson said. "I don't even think he knew then what braces are, and I don't know how he knew to ask me."

"He said he just wanted to be able to walk straight like all the other children."

As a result of that chance meeting and that bold inquiry in November 1982, Alfredo, now

12, was in Houston the past several weeks being fitted for braces and crutches at the Shriners Hospital for Crippled Children.

"This is his dream come true," said Anderson. "The first avenue I thought of after he asked me about the braces was the Shriners."

Anderson, 30, who was familiar with the Shriners, because she worked as a burn nurse in San Diego before volunteering for Church World Service, was in La Virtud to aid Salvadoran refugees.

Wilfredo and other village children visited her daily, but she said he stood out.

"There was just something about him that was special. I would read to him when I had the chance, and, at night, after all the other townpeople had gone to bed, we would make soup to gether," said Anderson.

Anderson credits her father, the Rev. Allan Anderson, pastor

of Texas City's First Presbyterian Church, and "divine intervention" with helping make Wilfredo's dream come true.

The Rev. Anderson made some inquiries and found a Shriner in his congregation, Odber Myers, willing to sponsor Wilfredo.

"The Shriners have underwritten most of the medical cost and the congregation has taken care of things like travel expenses," Anderson said.

It took Anderson and Wilfredo several months to obtain needed documents — birth certificate, passport, record of examination by an orthopedic surgeon. But by Thanksgiving they were able to travel to Houston.

Wilfredo is expecting to obtain his braces very soon, but he said he has gained much more than just leg braces. He has made many new friends, Anderson said.

Grain farmers oppose user fees for waterways

United Press International

WASHINGTON — Spokesmen for barge operators and grain farmers said Tuesday they cannot afford to pay proposed "user fees" for inland waterway improvements because they are already struggling financially.

Witnesses at a Senate hearing also said the fees, proposed in water resources legislation now

pending before the Senate, could hurt U.S. exports by making them too expensive in highly competitive foreign markets.

A Senate subcommittee on water resources held the hearing to give affected industries a chance to comment on the bill, which also would set a \$646 annual ceiling on federal water project spending through 1999. The ceiling represents the amount spent by the government on water projects in 1983, including waterways, ports and flood control projects.

Under the bill, any spending in excess of the \$646 million ceiling would require the imposition of user fees.

Many of the groups testifying criticized the \$646 million ceiling and the imposition of user fees, saying they were designed to help reduce federal deficits more than help the nation's transportation network and economy.

Bory Steinberg, of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, said the cost of major water projects authorized by the legislation would exceed \$646 million by 1986, and that \$125 million would have to be raised through

user fees by 1988.

Among the projects authorized by the bill are the shallow draft navigation improvement at Helena Harbor and White River navigation in Arkansas, shallow draft navigation improvements at Lake Pontchartrain in Louisiana, and Mississippi River improvements near Greenville Harbor and Vicksburg, Miss.

The strongest criticism of the bill came from Joseph Farrell, president of the American Waterways Operators, which represents the nation's barge companies.

Farrell said the nation's 15 largest barge companies lost \$30 million in 1982 while paying \$11 million in taxes.

"This bill, it must be noted, contemplates as much as quintupling taxes on an industry already prostrate," he said.

Farrell said the most "dangerous" feature of the bill was that while Congress would decide what water projects would be built, the barge industry and other affected industries would have to pay for them above the \$646 million ceiling.

Several agricultural groups said the panel farmers would be hit twice by any user fees, once for grain shipped out for export, and again for fertilizer shipped into the nation's heartland for farmers.

J. Stephen Lucas, of the National Grain and Feed Association, said farmers could not pass on those extra costs to shippers or overseas grain purchasers because both are already operating in highly competitive markets.

Pickens wants to change Gulf

United Press International

HOUSTON — T. Boone Pickens said Tuesday despite his recent setback he still expects to force restructuring of Gulf Oil Corp. and said his team will make a decision soon whether to propose a new board of directors.

That proposal would come at the May annual meeting of Gulf's shareholders, who on Dec. 2, over Pickens' objections, approved Gulf's defensive maneuver to reincorporate in Delaware and change its bylaws to discourage takeover.

Pickens — the Mesa Petroleum Co. chairman who leads a \$1 billion, 13.2 percent holding in Gulf — also predicted Gulf's 50 percent investment in the \$35 million Cross Island exploratory well off Alaska will be a bust.

"We felt after the contest it was very clear to Gulf management that we're serious about what we're doing and we're going to stay around until it's finished," Pickens said at a meeting of energy analysts and executives.

Pickens told reporters afterward he held meetings in the morning and afternoon Tuesday with co-investors and advisors. He said he hopes Gulf management will come around and reach agreement to change.

"It's not long where we will have to make the big decision whether we challenge Gulf's

management and board directors at the May meeting," he said. "We haven't made a decision but it's not unusual to have discussed."

Pickens did not rule out alternatives, including agreement with Gulf management to purchase of additional stock, taking in more investors to help up the fight. He said he still has \$140 million from his original warchest.

Pickens said major oil companies have been failing to place oil reserves as they are used and cited Gulf as one of the worst offenders. He said Gulf's strategy of drilling risky prospects like Alaska's Beaufort Sea is wrong.

"I don't think the Beaufort Sea is economically viable, that we (Gulf) have done no other business in there," Pickens said, predicting the Cross Island project would be another example of unsuccessful Gulf exploration.

Gulf was a 2 percent investor in Alaska's Mukluk well, a billion the most expensive drilled, which lead investor Sohio recently announced would be plugged and abandoned as a failure.

"Frankly, I'm concerned about our industry. We let the soaring oil prices of the 70s set up a lot of problems, including rising finding costs and continued reserve depletion."

Archbishop named to Boston post

United Press International

VATICAN CITY — Pope John Paul II named Harvard-educated Bishop Bernard Law Tuesday to succeed the late Cardinal Humberto Medeiros in the powerful and prestigious post of archbishop of Boston.

Law, 52, considered a leading American ecumenist, has been bishop of the Springfield-Cape Girardeau Diocese in Springfield, Mo. for 10 years. He was born in Mexico and served earlier in the Natchez-Jackson Diocese of Louisiana.

As archbishop of the third largest Roman Catholic diocese in America, he is virtually certain to become a cardinal, possibly at the consistory the pope is expected to call this year.

September 1970 and a cardinal 10 years later.

Still to be filled is another post, archbishop of New York left open when Cardinal John O'Connor died Oct. 6, 1983, the age of 62 of leukemia. New York has 1.9 million Catholics.

With the number of cardinals eligible to vote for a pope next conclave reduced by age and age from 120 to 103, the pope is expected to call a consistory this spring to appoint new cardinals.

Born Nov. 4, 1931, in Teaneck, N.J., Law received a history degree from Harvard in 1953.

He studied philosophy at St. Joseph's Seminary, St. Benedict, La., and the Pontifical College Josephinum, Worthington, Ohio, where he was ordained priest May 21, 1961.

Appointed to the Natchez-Jackson Diocese of Louisiana, he served as assistant at St. Paul Church, Vicksburg; editor from 1963 to 1968 of the Mississippi Register, now Mississippi Today; director of the Diocesan Family Life and Information bureaus; and from 1971 to 1975 as vicar general of the diocese.

From 1963 to 1968, he was director of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops' Committee on Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs.

He has been a member of the Vatican Secretariat for Promoting Christian Unity and also overseeing the touchy movement of dissident Episcopal ministers of them married clerics into the Catholic Church.

He was ordained bishop of the Missouri diocese Dec. 1973. At the last bishops conference in November he was named chairman of a Standard Committee on Pastoral Research and Practices.

He is one of 40 bishops serving on the combined administrative board of the bishops conference and the United States Catholic Conference.

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