

Legal snag delays limiting scavengers

United Press International
RIO GRANDE CITY — A legal snag late last week delayed plans in Texas' poorest county to prosecute as trespassers the impoverished people who forage through the local dump for food, aluminum cans and other scraps.
 Starr County Judge Blas Chapa said guards and "no trespassing" signs were to have been posted Friday around the dump, located near the Texas-Mexico border, to try to prevent someone from getting sick or hurt.
 "It's county property and we are doing it for the protection of the individuals and the county is liable if someone gets hurt there," he said. "It's very unhealthy for people to be fooling around out there."
 The problem, Chapa said, is that Starr County does not have a trespassing ordinance, though he said the county attorney was examining county and state law.

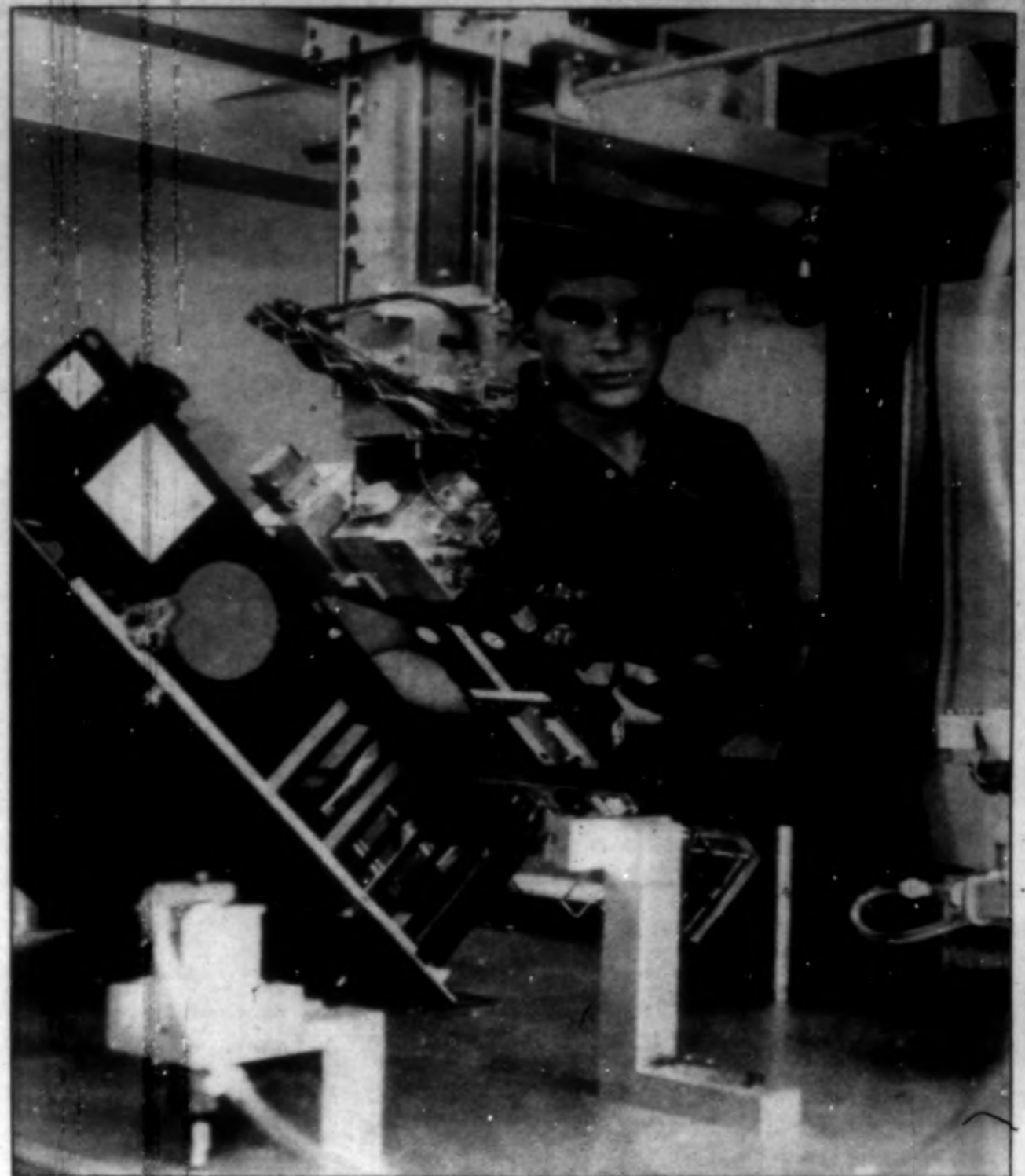
Commissioners, heeding a warning from Chapa, voted earlier this week to post the signs and add additional personnel to keep scavengers out of the dump.
 "We have people eating out of it and building shacks for when the crops come in," Chapa told the commissioners.
 Starr County has a per capita income of \$3,884 a year, one of the lowest in the nation, and an unemployment rate near 50 percent most of the year among its population of migrant workers. The impoverished population lives mostly in Mexican concrete block houses and subsists on culled vegetables and government food and welfare programs.
 On Friday, however, Chapa downplayed the hunger aspect. He said most of the scavengers are after aluminum cans and scrap metal, but sometimes do keep discarded food they consider edible.
 "There are not very many (scavengers)," Chapa said. "There are sort of regulars. There are people for a fact — I know a family — that send children over there every day, four or five children and adults."
 "It's not necessarily because people are hungry. We have a good food program in the county, food stamps and surplus commodities. There's no hunger. If somebody does it, it's curiosity or habit or he doesn't want to see it go to waste."
 Commissioner Reynaldo Alaniz blamed 90 percent of the problem on Mexicans from neighboring Camargo, Mexico, who cross the Rio Grande to pick through the dump.
 Jose Alvarez, the commissioner who supervises the dump, said posting signs would be useless because they would be ignored unless the county prosecutes trespassers.
 "What you need to do is move the dump away from there," he said.

Firm offers positive view of executive setbacks

United Press International
DENVER — You are an upper-level corporate executive and your record on the job is without blemish, yet you have just been handed a pink slip.
 What most people would take as a career setback, Sid Walker says he can turn into a positive step forward.
 Walker is president of Outplacement Services Inc., a Denver firm that helps companies find work for executives they dismiss for reasons unrelated to job performance — a new corporate direction, for example, a reduction in staff or simply a lack of the right "chemistry."
 "This sort of thing is happening to people all the time," Walker said. "People who have done a good job for the company, but somehow no longer fit."
 Walker's firm attempts to transform what initially seems a major career setback into a positive experience.

"The essence of what we do is help people work on their strengths," Walker said. "It's an in-depth process of taking a look at what their skills are, what their strengths are, what they want to do at this point, what their next challenge is."
 "It's a transition process of getting people back on their feet, getting their confidence up and making them realize the situation wasn't right somehow and it's time to move on," he said.
 In the end, Walker said, many of his clients end up with better jobs.
 "They're a much more valuable commodity by the time we get through with them," he said.
 Many of those sent to Walker — he said most are upper-level executives from Fortune 500 companies, and the number varies from 30 to 200 a year — have never had to look for a job before.
 "They've always been recruited," Walker said.
 Typically, they are angry, resent-

ful and frustrated by what has befallen them, and Walker said part of his firm's job is to turn those feelings around.
 The process begins with counseling to help the unfortunate executive overcome the trauma of being fired and re-evaluate his career and personal goals. Walker's firm then helps in preparing resumes and actually searching the job market. Outplacement Services also provides office space, telephones and unlimited secretarial help for its clients.
 Benefits for the terminated employee are obvious. For the companies that pay Walker's firm to find work for those they dismiss — he charges 12-15 percent of the employee's annual salary — the benefits include a positive image.
 Whether a firm chooses to use Outplacement Services "depends on the company philosophy — and how guilty they feel about why they're letting people go," Walker said.



Robot assembler *Photo by CONNIE HUTTERER*
 Brian Niznik, an industrial engineering graduate student from Clarksville, Penn., demonstrates the IBM 7565 Manufacturing System that he designed along with a group of engineering students at the Texas A&M Robotics Lab. IBM, which funded the project, will use the robot at its Austin assembly plant.

Barefoot denies air conditioning for protestors

United Press International
DALLAS — A federal judge refused Monday to order the city to provide cooler accommodations for weary protesters whose battle against 100-degree heat at their tent city cooled their ardor for protesting Republican policies.
 U.S. District Judge Barefoot Sanders conducted a hearing hours after 1,000 protesters from the Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now packed their colorfully striped tents in the Trinity River bottoms and headed home.

"He told us ACORN accepted the conditions, they had a tent city, they should have known better," said Les Ledbetter of the Dallas March and Rally Committee.
 Jim Fosbinder of Madison, Wis., the lawyer who filed the petition, said he had wanted the protesters to air-conditioned facilities and provide showers and medical facilities, all at city expense.
 He also said the protesters were considering seeking damages against the city whose representatives "certainly knew" during negotiations last June

that temperatures in August would exceed 100 degrees.
 ACORN, which agreed to camp in the rocky riverbed, had planned to leave Monday anyway. Other protesters have been taken into homes by sympathetic Dallas residents, Ledbetter said.
 The remaining 100 or so "hard core" protesters may take over a city park in search of shade, Ledbetter said.
 "We're losing people. That's what the city wanted," he said.
 "It's a death trap down there if

someone had to stay there for four more days of this kind of weather," Ledbetter said. "If it were 90 we'd understand. But they (the city) must have known there would be a good chance (of hotter weather)."
 Sunday the temperature at the city's Love Field airport reached 108 degrees, which broke an all-time high of 105 degrees and was the hottest in the nation. Monday the temperature in Dallas topped 100 for the third straight day.
 The heat turned a huge, round reflecting pool in front of City Hall

into a makeshift swimming pool for protesters and passersby alike. City officials, however, called lifeguards and not police.
 Several lifeguards patrolled the shallow water while a group of protesters splashed and chanted under the afternoon sun.
 The heat also forced cancellation of nightly open-air performances of the Dallas Ballet on City Hall plaza, just in front of the pool.
 Earlier, the Dallas Fire Department treated four protesters at Tent City and one outside convention

center for heat-related illnesses. The Red Cross set up a canteen to give cold drinks to protesters.
 About 30 people were Monday at a makeshift first aid station in the Dallas Public Library, mostly people just trying to cool down.
 Holly Coors, Colorado delegation chairwoman and member of the Coors brewing family, said, "It's a little warm, yes. But she said inside the convention hall, where the temperature at times has dipped below 70 degrees, "It's too cold."

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