

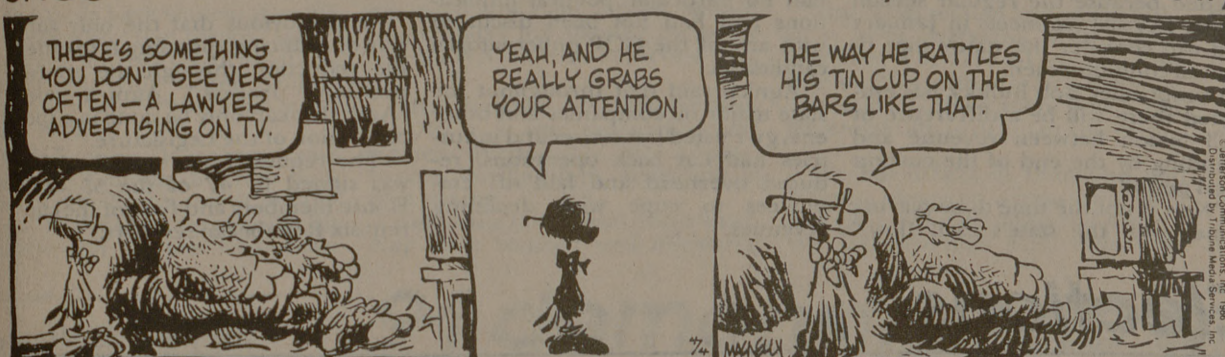
Warped

by Scott McCullar



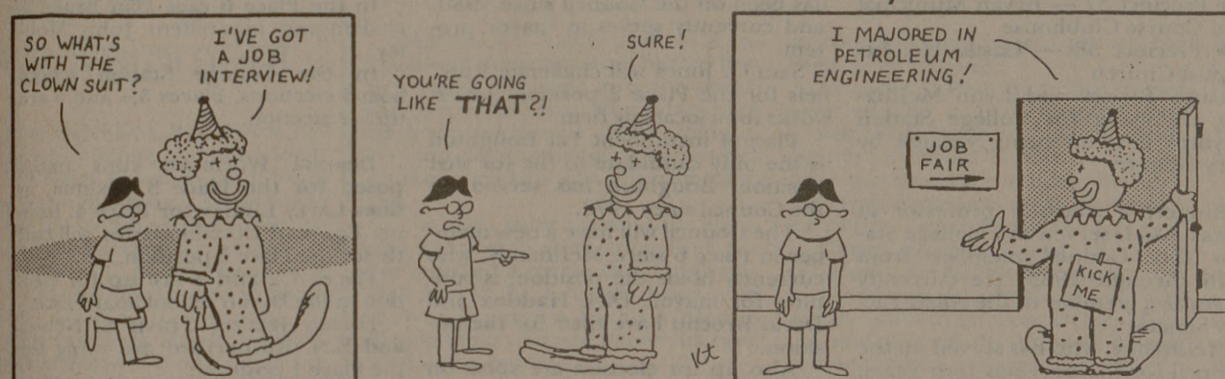
Shoe

by Jeff MacNelly



Waldo

by Kevin Thomas



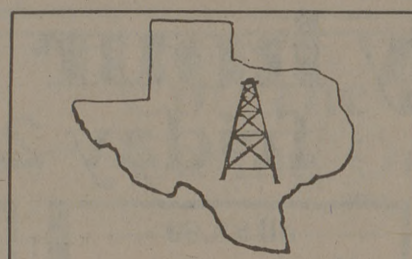
Abilene oilman pushes for subsidies, tax reform

ABILENE (AP) — Tax incentives and government subsidies are among measures needed to help the oil industry overcome the effects of plunging prices, an oilman told a congressional panel Wednesday.

John H. Chalmers, president of Chalmers Exploration Co. of Abilene, said, "It is absolutely necessary that something be done immediately on tax reform. Investors are reluctant to invest when they do not know what type, or if any type, of tax reform will affect their investments."

More than a dozen witnesses, mostly oilmen, testified before the U.S. House subcommittee about the woes the industry has incurred from the drop in crude prices.

Among the suggested remedies were giving double tax credit for oil-field investments; repealing the windfall profits tax, the Fuel Use Act and preferential tax items for minimum tax; opening interstate and intrastate pipelines; establishing an oil



ducers, of the world's single most dominant producer."

Chalmers outlined several actions to help maintain stripper or marginally producing wells and continue exploration for new pools of oil. Parts of his proposal recommended:

- Subsidizing marginal or stripper well production at a \$22-a-barrel level. When the market price drops below that figure, the federal government would subsidize the difference and put the oil in the Strategic Petroleum Reserve, Chalmers said.

- Doubling tax benefits on stripper wells. "If all intangible costs connected with maintaining marginal and-or stripper wells were doubled for tax purposes, then a substantial amount of these wells could be kept producing," he said.

- Doubling tax benefits for exploration into new pools of oil.

- Give a 150 percent tax credit for intangible costs for development wells.

import fee; and restoration of depletion to 27.5 percent.

Rep. Charles Stenholm, who chairs the House Small Business Subcommittee on Energy, Environment and Safety, said independent producers have all but abandoned the search for oil.

"The price slide of the past 90 days is not the result of supply-and-demand market economics," the Stamford Democrat said. "It results from punitive, monopolistic actions, designed to undercut high-cost pro-

Tower: Negotiations key to arms control

AUSTIN (AP) — Former U.S. Sen. John Tower of Texas, until recently a Geneva negotiator on nuclear arms control, said Thursday both the U.S. and the Soviet Union accept "the idea of a non-nuclear world" but neither nation has a practical plan to achieve it.

He also predicted that after lengthy negotiations, the two nations eventually will come to terms on arms control.

Tower, whose resignation as an arms negotiator was effective Tuesday, was the keynote speaker at a

symposium on U.S.-Soviet relations since World War II.

Andrey Kokoshin, deputy director of the Institute for the U.S. and Canada in Moscow, will offer a "Soviet perspective" on Friday.

The symposium was proposed by Elspeth Rostow, former dean of the Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs, who noted that Tower's 24-year career in the Senate covered much of the 41-year period that is the focus of the conference.

Tower said that the resolution of arms control issues is the most im-

portant aspect of U.S.-Soviet relations.

Tower said Gorbachev's economic goals for his country "are not compatible with the continued dedication of human and material resources to the level of military capability that the Soviet Union now has."

"And certainly we in the United States would rather dedicate less of our human and material resources and less of the taxpayers' money on weapons."

Billionaire's life attracts attention 10 years after his death

HOUSTON (AP) — Ten years after his death, billionaire Howard Hughes still attracts the attention he so desperately tried to avoid in life.

A few "regulars" frequent the Houston cemetery site where Hughes is buried next to his parents, and curious visitors still seek directions to it, a Glenwood Cemetery caretaker said.

A decade ago Saturday, a private

jet carrying Hughes' 94-pound body flew from his Mexican seaside hideaway to Houston, where he was born. The Hollywood playboy-turned-recluse died that day of kidney failure at age 70.

Hughes, known for his exploits as a moviemaker, pilot and financial wizard, was buried two days later in a brief Episcopal ceremony.

He left a legacy of money, adven-

ture and glamorous women — but apparently no will.

The case of Hughes' millions landed in the lap of Houston Probate Judge Pat Gregory, who said more than 500 people have claimed to be related to Hughes and entitled to his money.

A worldwide search failed to produce a legitimate will, and in November 1981, Gregory declared an

and 21 cousins heirs to the Hughes fortune, estimated to be worth up to \$2 billion when he died.

"We still get our regular complement of people who purport to be related to Mr. Hughes or an heir," Gregory said.

One woman who says she is a queen living in Alabama often writes to the judge, making claims to Hughes' money.

Although Gregory never met Hughes, he said he grew to know the man exceptionally well during court proceedings.

"As in many contested cases, you learn more about the person in death than others did in life," he said. "He was a total enigmatic person in my opinion."

Gregory said after hearing all the testimony, claims and odd bits of in-

formation regarding Hughes, he wasn't surprised Hughes did not leave a will.

"He was a procrastinator, that was one of his inconsistencies," the judge said.

Although litigation designating the heirs is complete, Gregory said he would not be surprised to see a motion filed concerning expediting the distribution of the estate.

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