

## Bentsen pinpoints trade legislation as his top priority

HOUSTON (AP) — U.S. Sen. Lloyd Bentsen said Thursday his top priority as new chairman of the powerful Senate Finance Committee will be to create a bipartisan effort aimed at passing trade legislation.

"When we have a national debt that has doubled in six years, when we have a nearly \$170 billion trade deficit and a \$210 billion budget deficit, when our energy producers and our farmers are in serious trouble, I think you will agree that partisan politics is a luxury America can no longer afford," Bentsen said in a speech to the Houston Rotary Club.

Bentsen, in outlining his goals for the committee he takes over in January when Democrats assume control of the Senate, noted that he was the first Finance Committee chairman in recent times to have hands-on business experience.

His family long has oil and land holdings in Texas and Bentsen was involved in insurance business before entering politics.

"I'm not a protectionist but a pragmatist," he said. "We have the most open market in the world. The real problem is protectionism overseas."

He complained of value-added taxes in Europe and plans in Japan to impose such a tax.

"They raise the tax on everything coming in and take the tax off everything going out," he said. "We must ensure that the rules of trade do not operate to our disadvantage."

Bentsen also complained that part of the trade problem in this country is that American companies are forced to compete against foreign governments.

"Time and time again, we have companies owned by governments," he said.

"Let's understand that we have rights as well as obligations in trade," he said. "We have a right to demand that nations who export to America grant us equal access to their markets. We have a right to demand a rollback in protectionist, non-tariff barriers all over the world."

Bentsen said erecting trade barriers in this country was not an acceptable solution.

He added that the Reagan administration's problems with the Iran arms deal and the Congressional investigations of the deal would not reduce his emphasis on trade.

"I think it's very serious but I don't think this is a crisis or crisis atmosphere," he said of the mood in Washington. "We'll take care of both of these problems."

## Report: Regional NRC officials whitewashed negative findings

WASHINGTON (AP) — Inspectors at the Comanche Peak nuclear plant in North Texas were intimidated by regional Nuclear Regulatory Commission officials who pressured them to downgrade negative findings on the plant, according to findings made public Thursday.

As a result of the harassment, the plant's entire structure and systems have been called into question, the NRC said in a statement.

A 47-page summary of the investigation — carried out by the NRC Office of Inspector and Auditor — said dozens of witnesses, whose names were blotted out in the report to protect their identities, told of being threatened by their superiors if they didn't go along with the fraudulent inspection system.

The report concludes that the NRC's safety inspection program at Comanche Peak fails to verify that the plant is safely constructed and that information in official reports on the plant was reported inaccurately.

Rep. Edward J. Markey, D-Mass., chairman of the House Subcommittee on Energy Conservation and Power, said, "This report is an indictment of the entire safety inspection program done by NRC field inspectors."

Comanche Peak, located about 80 miles southwest of Dallas, has a

construction permit from the NRC and an application for an operators license is pending, according to the NRC statement.

The statement said, "NRC Chairman Lando Zech has requested Victor Stello, executive director for operations, to inform the commission as soon as possible of actions taken or planned as result of report."

The report added, "Chairman Zech also directed the commission's general counsel to review the report

and make appropriate recommendations."

Markey's office said further reports would be made soon on the activities at Comanche Peak, some of which could involve criminal charges.

The report also alleges the Region IV NRC management failed to regularly review the adequacy of its inspection program and did not establish a comprehensive system of planned and periodic audits of

safety-related activities.

A third allegation was that of the information contained in the plant's automated, computerized system that is used as the data source was utterly misleading because inaccurate information had been introduced to the system.

Markey called on the NRC to ensure that the workers who are forward with accusations be protected and that all nuclear plants in the region meet safety standards.

## Texas high court justice requests public apology from committee

AUSTIN (AP) — State Sen. Oscar Mauzy, newly elected member of the Texas Supreme Court, said the House Judicial Committee should publicly apologize for involving him in an investigation of alleged misconduct by another judge.

"We will take it under advisement," Rep. Frank Tejeda, D-San Antonio, said. "There are two sides to every story. We will consider it."

Mauzy, veteran Dallas law-

maker, made his demand near the end of a committee hearing on judicial ethics.

An Austin attorney, Jeff Armstrong, who was formerly brief attorney for the Supreme Court, testified last June, under questioning by Tejeda, that he was present at the time Associate Justice William Kilgarlin gave a confidential file to a man that Armstrong later learned was Mauzy.

"The whole alleged episode

never happened," Mauzy told the House committee Thursday.

Mauzy claimed Armstrong in a legal deposition two weeks after the committee hearing that he did not know Mauzy, that he did not know who received the file and furthermore, that it was a confidential file.

"I have never requested for any confidential file at the Supreme Court and have never seen one," Mauzy told the committee.

# WHEN IS THE RIGHT TIME TO CALL YOUR GRANDPARENTS?

- a) Five minutes into "The Lawrence Welk Show?"
- b) About a week before your birthday.
- c) When you just want to tell them you miss them, and that you ate the last of Grandma's chocolate-chip cookies this morning.

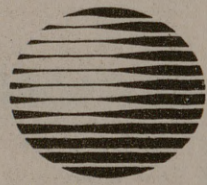
There's nothing grandparents like better than a call from a grandchild in college. But if you do accidentally happen to interrupt Lawrence, you ought to have something worth telling them.

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And then you can tell them that AT&T gives you immediate credit if you dial a wrong number.

And that you can count on AT&T for clear long distance connections.

Finally, of course, you should quickly reassure them that you're eating enough, then let them hurry back to the TV to catch the rest of the Lennon Sisters' Blue Oyster Cult Medley.



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