

State and Local

Bill puts \$1 billion ceiling on civil suit appeal bonds Proposal would benefit Texaco in battle

AUSTIN (AP) — Texas lawmakers were told Tuesday that a \$1 billion cap on appeal bonds in civil suits would be good for the state and the fact it would benefit Texaco Inc. was coincidental.

"It is just coincidental and fortuitous that Texaco and Pennzoil are involved," Rep. Charles Evans said. "I introduced this because it's a good bill," he said.

But Laurence H. Tribe, a professor at the Harvard Law School who was representing Pennzoil, said the bill, "would accomplish nothing but constitutional mischief."

The legislative conflict stems from a 1985 state jury verdict that awarded Pennzoil \$10.53 billion after determining Texaco unlawfully interfered with Pennzoil's attempted merger with Getty Oil Co.

An appeals court cut the judgment to \$8.5 billion, but with interest the judgment is about \$11 billion.

Under present Texas law, the losing side in a court suit must post a bond roughly equal to the judgment. The pending bill by Evans, and

another by Sen. Carl Parker, D-Port Arthur, would limit that appeals bond to \$1 billion.

The House Judiciary Committee will not vote on the controversial proposal until next week, said committee Chairman Mike Toomey, R-Houston.

Evans, R-Hurst, asked that the bill be kept pending until a Senate committee can hear the companion measure next Tuesday.

Evans' measure also would set up a new system for providing security for real estate involved in judgments until appeals are complete.

Evans told the committee that the bill, if finally approved, would not be retroactive for appeals bonds already posted.

Texaco has not posted its appeals bond and would be affected by a \$1 billion cap.

"This bill is in the public interest," Evans said.

He noted the State Employees Retirement Fund and the University of Texas investment system contains considerable amounts of Texaco stock.

Don Baker, an Austin attorney for Pennzoil, testified, "This bill is a horrible example of overkill."

"It would be terrible legislative policy to legislate like this for special interests. This bill would just invite frivolous appeals."

David Crump, professor at the South Texas College of Law, said the \$11 billion bond requirement was unrealistic.

Crump said the worldwide capacity of firms that could grant appeals bonds was \$1 billion to \$1.2 billion.

Harry Hubbard, president of the Texas AFL-CIO, urged approval of the bill, saying the jobs now held by 8,500 Texaco union employees might be affected.

Bernard Weinstein, an economist at Southern Methodist University, said, "Approval of this bill would help our business climate."

Joe Jamail, Houston attorney for Pennzoil, said, "Texaco is telling the world it is not going to put up with rules the way they are and they want you to change them."

"Texaco could care less for Texas."

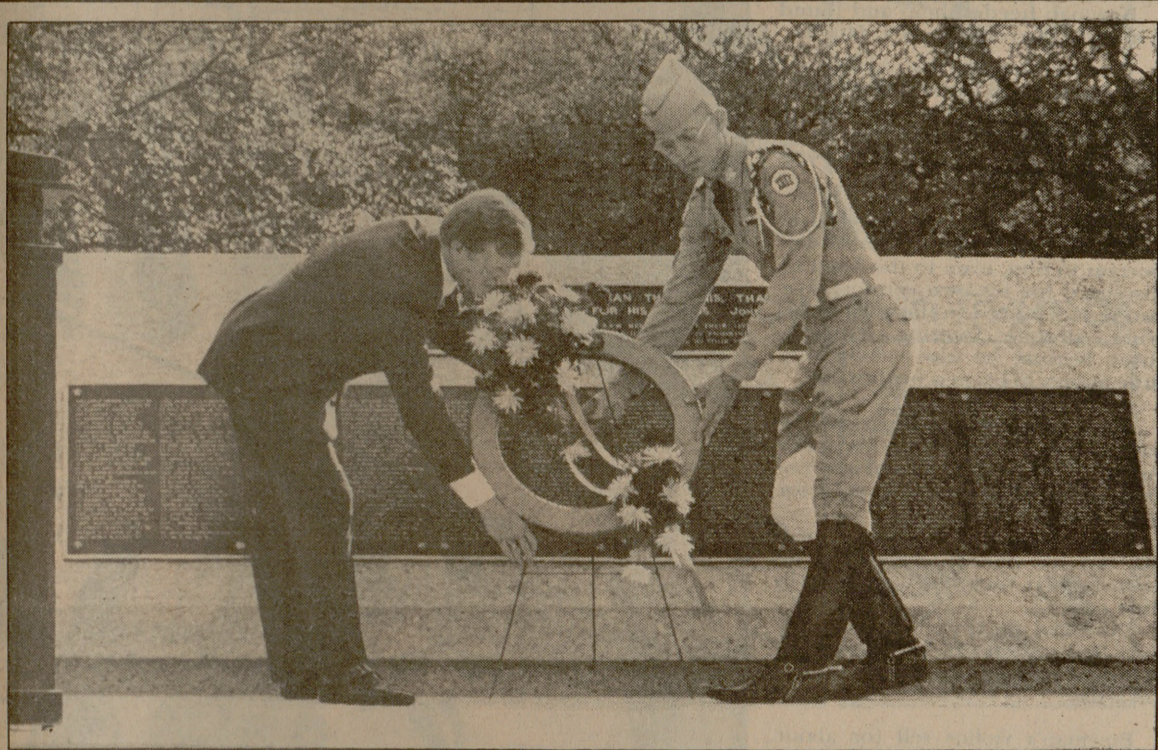


Photo by Sarah Cowan

In Honor

Dr. Robert L. Walker, vice president for development, and Cadet Col. Garland Wilkinson presented a wreath at the War Memorial rededication

ceremony Tuesday in front of the Quadrangle. The memorial honors Aggies who gave their lives in military service since the end of World War II.

Kyle Field to get new, guaranteed \$900,000 artificial turf

By Anthony Wilson
Reporter

Kyle Field is getting a facelift — a bright green one with an eight-year guarantee.

On Monday, workers began replacing the football field's eight-year-old artificial turf at a cost of about \$900,000, said Wallace Groff, associate athletic director for finance. Of that, the cost of the turf alone is about \$600,000, Groff said.

Funds for the re-turfing will be provided by The Aggie Club, an organization which gathers funds for the Athletic Department to use as it sees fit.

The field will look virtually the same, said Billy Pickard, coordinator of training, equipment and facilities.

said, and the new turf is guaranteed for eight years. The field's resurfacing is sched-

"You don't fertilize and water it. It's very minimal care — just the painting of the lines and the vacuuming of debris off of it. The reason to have it is for the multi-use."

— Billy Pickard, Athletic Department coordinator

It will be a brighter green, but the midfield and endzone designs will be the same. The fibers of the carpet will be mounted vertically rather than at an angle as they are now, he

uled to be completed by August 1. The synthetic track in Kyle Field, which is plagued with air pockets, also will be removed, Pickard said. "The track essentially will be re-

placed," he said. "If you're sitting in the stands, it'll look like there's a running track. There will be a red surface with lines painted on it. The track itself will be asphalt with a light spray coat on top of it. It will not be a real running track. We wouldn't hold a track meet on it. It will be for physical education classes."

Pickard pointed out that artificial turf, which first was installed in Kyle Field in 1970, is more practical than natural grass.

"You don't fertilize and water it," he said. "It's very minimal care — just the painting of the lines and the vacuuming of debris off of it. The reason to have it is for the multi-use.

We have physical education classes every day on it from 8 to 4."

Pickard said the turf is not being replaced because of an outbreak of injuries.

The old turf will be offered for sale at 50 cents per square foot. More than half of the field has been sold, Groff said, and anyone interested in buying a large amount of it should contact him.

"We're not interested in selling little pieces," he said. "We're looking to sell long rolls of it."

The football team will practice on the football practice field until the re-turfing is completed.

Corrections

A story on Texas A&M's expected enrollment growth that appeared in Tuesday's issue of *The Battalion* incorrectly reported that the number of freshmen and transfer students admitted for Fall 1987 was up 30 percent over last year. The correct figure is 38 percent.

In the same issue, a name was misspelled in an article on the Society for Creative Anachronism. The name of a source appeared in the story as Tammy Hobbes. The correct spelling is Tammy Hobbs.

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