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**Hunt family in federal court over tax dispute**

WASHINGTON (AP) — Attorneys for the wealthy Hunt family of Dallas told the U.S. Tax Court on Monday that millions of dollars transferred from Nelson Bunker Hunt to his children in 1980 were loans to cover losses in the silver market and not taxable gifts.

In a trial consolidating eight cases against the prominent oil family, the Internal Revenue Service is seeking resolution of more than \$358 million in tax claims related to the Hunts' ill-fated silver buyout.

"We intend to show that the lender had a deep and abiding faith in silver and gold during that period of high inflation and turbulent world events," the family's lead attorney, Ewing Werlein Jr., said.

"We expect further to show that the lender, Nelson Bunker Hunt, expected full repayment of the loans with interest."

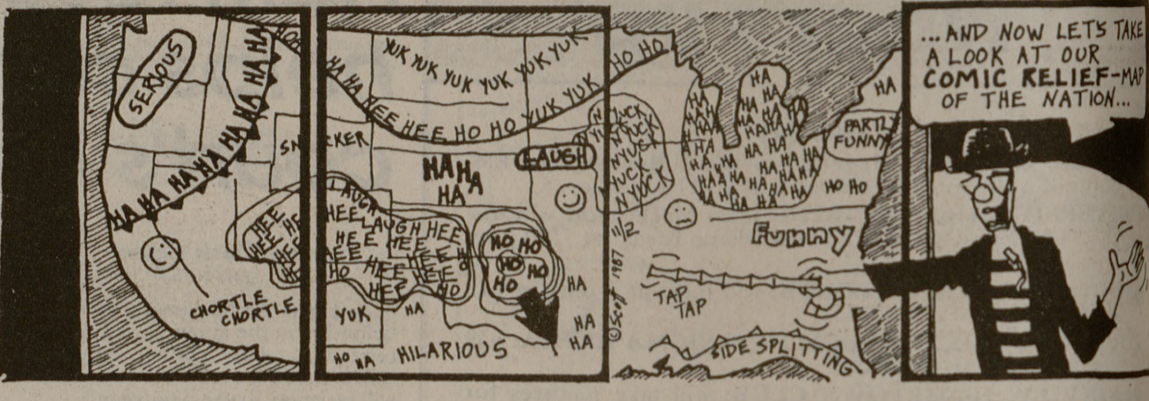
The elder Hunts said in court filings that they transferred \$165.4 million to their children, all in the form of business loans that "became worthless" and were uncollectable after the bottom fell out of the silver market in March 1980.

The silver crash resulted in at least a \$1.3 billion loss for Bunker Hunt and his brother, Herbert Hunt. The two had bought a total of 59 million ounces of silver, estimated at one-third of the existing world supply.

IRS attorneys told the court that Bunker Hunt and his wife Caroline gave, rather than lent, the money to their children and their spouses and should be required to pay \$150 million in gift taxes.

If the court decides Bunker Hunt's transfers were loans and not gifts, the IRS is prepared to seek \$106 million in income taxes from the Hunt children and an additional \$102 million from the Hunts for forgiving portions of the loans.

**Warped**



**Waldo**



**Joe Transfer**



**A&M researchers test stress effects**  
 Study finds link between cadmium, anxiety-reducing acts

**By Sara Mitchell**  
 Reporter

Rats exposed to the element cadmium react more strongly to stressful situations and will consume more alcohol, Texas A&M researchers have found.

Dr. Jack Nation, a behavioral toxicologist involved in the research, has discovered a link between exposure to the environmental pollutant cadmium and increased alcohol intake in laboratory rats, possibly due to stress.

"We are looking at the effects of environmental contamination, including cadmium, on situations where the animal is exposed to stress," Nation said.

"We're looking for differences in terms of stress reactivity as a result of exposure to these different contaminants," he said.

Nation said cadmium, which is similar to lead in both structure and physiological effects, is a threat to humans because of its presence in food and tobacco. The studies on rats may reveal information applicable to humans.

"Cadmium shows up in food sources partly because it is in high concentration in municipal sewage sludge bought by agribusiness as fertilizer," Nation said.

"It works its way into the food web and eventually is presented to us as a potential toxin," he said.

He discovered that rats exposed to cadmium react more strongly to aversive stimulation and stress, such as shock, than animals that are not exposed to cadmium.

Cadmium-treated animals react differently to alcohol and tend to prefer alcohol consumption to water — possibly to reduce anxiety caused by stress.

"If cadmium does provoke an increase in terms of stress reactivity, then — to the extent that stress reactivity regulates alcohol consumption — you would expect an increase in alcohol consumption in cadmium-treated animals," Nation said.

Nation emphasized there isn't necessarily a causal link between cadmium toxicity and alcoholism.

"That's just not the case," Nation said. "We do not have any evidence that lead or cadmium are related to alcoholism, which is a psychosocial disorder."

"What we're talking about is alcohol consumption."

"This would only contribute to an existing predilection for the use of alcohol."

In 1982, a British team found a correlation between the concentration of lead in the bloodstream of humans and the amount of alcohol they drank, he said, but the reasons for this are still unknown.

When governments realize the economic impact of increased alcohol consumption, such as absenteeism and social unrest, they may begin to get interested and support research in this area, Nation said.

Nation's research found that after rats were accustomed to the effects of a 10-percent-alcohol solution, stress induced by shock caused cadmium-treated rats to consume twice as much of the alcohol than non-treated rats consumed after the shock, and that treated rats drank slightly more alcohol than water.

The research team found it takes longer for alcohol to affect cadmium-treated animals, and these rats recover from alcohol more quickly.

"That means that the alcohol is not having the same effect on cadmium-treated subjects that it is on the other animals," Nation said.

"We're trying to define more clearly why cadmium and lead cause an increase in alcohol consumption," he said.

"We know that it does, but now the issue is to try to find out why," he said.

Nation wants to find out whether increased alcohol consumption is due to anxiety in the rat or is due to a nutritional demand caused by cadmium.

Cadmium disturbs certain neurotransmitters in the brain, causing an increase in anxiety, he said. Alcohol is an anxiety reducer, but also provides a source of calories for the animal.

"We are looking at the effects of environmental contamination, including cadmium, on situations where the animal is exposed to stress. We're looking for differences in terms of stress reactivity as a result of exposure to these different contaminants."

— Dr. Jack Nation, A&M behavioral toxicologist

might be corresponding behavioral differences," he said.

The researchers found that with both lead and cadmium, the increased alcohol consumption was more pronounced after the stressor was removed rather than during the period where the animal actually was exposed to the stressor.

Nation said alcohol consumption increased both for the control and treated animals during the recovery period, but increased more dramatically for the treated animals.

"It could be that during the period of stress, ingestive behaviors generally are suppressed," Nation said.

"They have to deal with that stress so they're engaged in other behaviors," he said. "Only during the post-stress period are they actually free to engage in ingestive responses, so that's when you see the dramatic increases in alcohol consumption."

Nation said his research is significant because it looks at emotional behavior rather than motor reflexes.

"Sometimes it's difficult to talk about emotions in animals, but you can talk about differential reactions to environmental, physical and psychological stressors," he said. "We were the first to explore the effects of cadmium in learning situations that were concerned with aversively motivated behaviors."

Outside stress, he said, lead and cadmium have other side effects, such as pulmonary problems, kidney dysfunction, motor-nerve impairment and deterioration of the olfactory bulbs in the brain, which regulate the sense of smell.

"It's not unusual for factory workers to lose their sense of smell when they're working in a cadmium-related industry," Nation said.

The next goal for the research team is to look at the combined effects of toxins.

"Very little is known in terms of the combined effects of different chemicals like lead and cadmium," he said.

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