

State and Local

Candidate: Commission needs to make changes

By Todd Riemenschneider
Staff Writer

The Texas Railroad Commission needs to have a 180-degree turn from its current status and learn to plan in its policy making, Jerry J. Langdon, a Midland democratic candidate for railroad commissioner, said Tuesday.

"What we've been seeing for the last seven years are 'wait-and-see' regulatory policies that just don't cut it," Langdon said at a press conference in the College Station Ramada Inn. "We shouldn't wait for a crisis to develop, because crisis-motivated regulation is ill-conceived."

Texas is the largest producer of natural gas in the United States, Langdon said, so it can and should have an effect on national energy policy.

"I believe we don't have a national energy policy because we don't even have a state energy policy," he said.

Langdon, 36, said the railroad commission should maintain a surplus of natural gas through its regulatory policies.

He believes that the surplus would guarantee the state's domestic needs and have a stabilizing affect on the market. Langdon said maintaining natural gas reserves will help the industry, and as the amount of drilling increases, so will the amount of natural gas found.

"Historically, the railroad commission regulated oil prices by allocating any surpluses equally to all producers, which had the effect of stabilizing oil prices for almost 50 years," Langdon said. "The commission, by utilizing similar procedures, could regulate the natural gas industry to develop surpluses of natural

gas and to increase stability in prices."

Langdon said a much of the nation's natural gas comes from just a few states, but the states that do not produce natural gas control the energy policy for the nation.

"We cannot allow the interests of consumption to outweigh the interests of production," Langdon said. "Without incentives for production, consumption can't occur. Our addiction to foreign oil and lack of a national energy policy has left our industry suffering."

Langdon said he is confident in the strength of a healthy petroleum industry in Texas.

"A healthy petroleum industry will strengthen our economy and is essential to putting back to work some, if not all, of the 200,000 Texans who have lost their jobs," he said.

Report says \$378 million loaned by GSL

AUSTIN (AP) — More than \$378 million in higher education loans were made available last year by the Texas Guaranteed Student Loan Corp. program, according to a new report.

The report, released Monday, said more than 140,000 students, 770 lenders and 1,900 schools participated in the program during the period from Oct. 1, 1986 to Sept. 30, 1987.

"In 1987, statewide access to student loans was our No. 1 priority," the report from William H. Shroeder, board chairman, and Joe L. McCormick, executive director, said.

The loan program was created by the Legislature in 1979.

Civil suit served to former minister as he tries to flee

DALLAS (AP) — A lawsuit accusing Walker Railey of trying to murder his wife was served to the former Methodist minister as he and a woman romantically linked to him tried to flee, the *Dallas Times Herald* reported Tuesday.

In a copyright story, the newspaper said a process server placed a copy of the civil lawsuit under the windshield wipers of a car as Railey and Lucy Papillon, a Dallas psychologist, sped away from a Northern California resort Monday.

The parents of Railey's wife, Margaret "Peggy" Railey, filed the lawsuit Feb. 2, accusing their son-in-law of the attempted strangulation. The

suit seeks unspecified damages.

Mrs. Railey has been in a coma since she was left for dead on the floor of the family's garage April 22 and is now in a Tyler nursing home.

"I am not an expert on civil process, but I'm sure this constitutes good service," Dallas County Assistant District Attorney Norm Kinne said. "I'm sure it does."

Several California attorneys told the newspaper that they believe placing the papers under the windshield wipers would be considered a proper service. They said they didn't know of any case with the same circumstances.



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