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# Bentsen accuses Reagan of drifting in foreign oil deals

BEAUMONT (AP) — Democratic vice presidential candidate Lloyd Bentsen said Tuesday the Reagan administration has hopelessly allowed America to "drift aimlessly back into dangerous dependence on imported oil."

The Texas senator also said that despite Republicans' adoration of President Reagan, the president's coattails will be very short when it comes to helping George Bush get elected.

Bentsen, speaking in this oil town after a visit to the nearby Big Hill Strategic Petroleum Reserve, said the nation's dependence on foreign oil is now greater than it was in 1973 when the Arab oil embargo caused gas lines across the United States and other countries.

"The American people understand... that for eight years this administration has steadfastly refused to produce an energy policy that will protect America's national interests," he told the gathering of about 500.

"The Republicans tell you they have loosened OPEC's hold on the world's petroleum markets, but the numbers tell you that today America is importing 42 percent of the oil we consume.

"Our dependence has increased by 15 percent while this administration has been lulled to sleep by low oil prices," he said.

The petroleum reserve program was launched in the wake of the oil shocks of the last decade. The six reserves are underground vaults of crude oil which can be retrieved in a national emergency.

Bentsen said the visit to the Big Hill site — the last of the six reserves — to underscore his and Michael Dukakis's support for the program which they have planned will eventually put 750 million barrels of U.S. oil in storage.

Bentsen, in shirtsleeves and a gold-colored hard hat with "Sen. Bentsen" on the front, told a group of about 50 workers at the plant that the reserve is crucial to the national security. He also said that he would like to expand the production to a billion barrels.

The Reagan administration has proposed cuts in the program in the past, and Bentsen said only the Democratic Congress was able to keep it going.

Bentsen has been campaigning in his home state while the Republicans hold their convention in New Orleans and dominate the national news.

Asked about the president's speech Monday night to the convention, Bentsen said Reagan had "an adoring crowd, and they enjoyed each other."

"I also believe that in the convention, and after the convention, as we go into the election, that it's George Bush people are looking to, not Ronald Reagan," he said. "And Ronald Reagan's coattails will be cut very short."

Bentsen said there is a yawning gap between the Republican rhetoric and reality, including Reagan's charge that the Democrats' speciality is inflation.

"Inflation is in the trade deficit," Bentsen said, citing Tuesday's news that the trade gap had jumped back to \$12.5 billion in June.

## What's Up

**Wednesday**

**NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS:** Will meet at 8:30 in 145 MSC for a general discussion. For more information call The Center for Drug Prevention and Education at 845-0280.

**Thursday**

**ADULT CHILDREN OF ALCOHOLICS:** Will meet at 6 p.m. in 145 MSC. For more information call The Center for Drug Prevention and Education at 845-0280.

**NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS:** Will meet at 8:30 in 145 MSC for a general discussion.

*Items for What's Up should be submitted to The Battalion, 216 Reed McDonald, no later than three business days before the desired run date. We only publish the name and phone number of the contact if you ask us to do so. What's Up is a Battalion service that lists non-profit events and activities. Submissions are run on a first-come, first-served basis. There is no guarantee an entry will run. If you have questions, call the newsroom at 845-3315.*

## Salutes

**Faculty/Staff**

**Dr. L. S. "Skip" Fletcher,** Dietz Professor of Mechanical of Engineering at Texas A&M University, has been named an Honorary Professor of the Ruhr-University, Bochum, West Germany. Fletcher is the second American to receive this honor.

**Dr. Maurice Shelton,** researcher and professor with the Texas Agriculture Experiment Station at Texas A&M, has received the Animal Industry Service Award during the society's recent meeting at Rutgers University. The award is a distinguished honor given annually to a member to recognize his accomplishments and service in animal industry, says Bob Moser, new president of ASAS.

*Salutes is a community service provided by The Battalion to list students, faculty and staff who have received honors and awards (such as scholarships, retirement, etc.). Space is limited and is provided on a first-come, first-served basis. There is no guarantee that your submission will run. Submissions may be refused if they contain incomplete or incorrect information. If you have any questions, please call The Battalion at 845-3315.*

# Activists: Discrimination trial could help hispanics

EL PASO (AP) — The racial discrimination trial brought by Hispanic FBI agents against the bureau could have huge ramifications, according to Hispanic activists.

The 311 agents who have joined the class-action suit being tried in U.S. District Court contend the FBI discriminates against Hispanics in hiring, promoting and disciplining. They want damages and a change in FBI promotion practices. Of 9,000 FBI agents, 400 are Hispanic.

"The '60s were the decade of blacks; the '70s were the decade of women," Hugo Rodriguez, co-counsel for the plaintiffs, said Tuesday. "The '80s and '90s are the decades of the Hispanics. Hispanics are here to be reckoned with. We think the laws should be applied to them equally."

In Tuesday's testimony, a statistical analyst hired by the plaintiffs testified that the numbers show Hispanic FBI agents are less likely to hold higher-level jobs. Some agents testified about alleged discrimination they have suffered.

The agents' testimony will prove

over the country," he said. "This (case) is sort of a detonator that will get this issue going."

Rodriguez agreed. "We hope there is a domino effect," the Albuquerque-based lawyer said.

John Garcia, director-elect of LULAC Texas organization, said Tuesday he already is working on a case dealing with the way Hispanic Border Patrol agents are treated at the Sierra Blanca highway checkpoint.

The FBI suit "is just the leading case in implementing affirmative action," Garcia said. "We look to these Hispanic agents as paving the way for better jobs in the future, especially in the FBI."

De Lara said the case is important "not only for law enforcement, but for other departments as well, such as government offices in other entities such as social workers."

The Justice Department, which is defending its FBI branch, has dispatched a total of 23 people to mount the defense, including two teams of lawyers, paralegals and non-Hispanic FBI agents.

"The '60s were the decade of blacks; the '70s were the decade of women. The '80s and '90s are the decades of the Hispanics. Hispanics are here to be reckoned with. We think the laws should be applied to them equally."

— Hugo Rodriguez, co-counsel for the plaintiffs

# Feud heats up between cities for tax money

BRIDGE CITY (AP) — A feud is heating up between the cities of Port Arthur and Bridge City over a 417-acre tract of Orange County land that contains the Gulf States Utilities Sabine Station facility.

The area was part of Port Arthur's extraterritorial jurisdiction until Bridge City annexed it Aug. 2. The GSU power generating plant paid \$1.37 million in lieu-of-tax payments to Port Arthur last year.

City officials from both sides have emphasized their confidence in their city's right to hold the 417-acre tract.

A statute that Bridge City officials have cited states that certain areas outside a municipality's established boundaries may be designated as an extraterritorial jurisdiction "to promote the general health, safety and welfare of the persons residing in" the area.

Several Bridge City officials contend that to meet this requirement Port Arthur should at least be able to provide services to the area, regardless of whether the residents in the area request them.

Port Arthur, which is located in another county and across the Neches River from the tract, does not currently provide the area with water or sewer lines or fire or police protection.

# Judge tightens gag order for trial

SHERMAN (AP) — A judge tightened a gag order Tuesday as attorneys prepared to begin the federal drug trial of suspended Orange County Sheriff James Wade, accused of using department drug-fighting funds to bankroll amphetamine sales.

U.S. District Judge Howell Cobb of Beaumont ruled that "no one can discuss open court testimony with the news media."

Although the judge would give no reason for his order, he said he wanted "no speculation or predictions as to what any evidence presented through testimony showed or did not show."

Wade was charged May 2 in a federal drug indictment alleging he was involved in drug trafficking, conspiracy to obstruct justice and embezzlement of county narcotics funds.

Wade will be kept in the county jail, across from the courthouse, during the trial.

The sheriff made no comment as he was escorted into the courthouse by two federal marshals.

Gary Richardson of Tulsa, Okla., and Jeff Kearney of Fort Worth, Wade's attorneys, would not comment on the jury selected because of the gag order.

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