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Tilton sues ABC, Diane Sawyer

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

TULSA, Okla. — Television evangelist Robert Tilton sued ABC News and reporter Diane Sawyer on Tuesday...

The lawsuit, which asks for more than \$50,000, focuses on three allegations made by ABC: Tilton gets his Holy Water from Taiwan...

Environmentalists urge recycling legislation

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — Environmentalists urged Congress on Tuesday to pass legislation requiring newspapers to use a standard proportion of recycled newsprint...

Representatives of newspapers and the paper manufacturing industry disputed the environmentalists' assertions and said industry groups would continue to oppose federal and state legislation...

Susan Birmingham, director of recycling efforts for the U.S. Public Interest Research Group, said the organization found in a survey that only 19 percent of the total tonnage used by the 56 biggest newspapers was recycled paper.

"This is far below the amount necessary to give paper recycling a fighting chance," Birmingham said. "Mandatory recycled content legislation is necessary since voluntary measures are not working."

The House Energy and Commerce Committee on July 1 recommended a measure that would have required newspapers to meet specific standards for recycled content, a bill supported by the environmentalists. Congress did not pass it, but Birmingham said the environmental group would urge the next Congress to do so.

Failing that, the groups said they will seek legislation in more states.

The Newspaper Association of America has opposed federal requirements, arguing that they would make it harder for small- and medium-sized newspapers to find recycled fiber newsprint to comply with existing state laws and voluntary agreements.

Paul Boyle of the newspaper association said there are 14 voluntary agreements between states and the newspaper industry calling for the use of recycled paper.

The Public Interest Research Group, in a report issued along with the National Environmental Law Center, said more than half of the 12.6 million tons of newspaper generated in 1991 was collected for recycling, but only 15 percent was used by newsprint mills.

Richard Storat, vice president of the American Paper Institute in New York, challenged this figure, saying about 30 percent of old newspapers go into the manufacture of recycled newsprint.

Storat said the industry had increased the recovery rate of all kinds of paper from 30 percent to 36.7 percent since 1978 and was on track toward its goal of 40 percent by 1995.

The Newspaper Association of America said the number of North American mills producing significant amounts of recycled newsprint had increased from nine to 27 since 1989 and 17 more are expected to go into operation by mid-1995.

The environmentalists' report said the Atlanta Journal had the highest rate of recycled paper use among the 56 newspapers surveyed, 60.7 percent. The Dallas Morning News, meanwhile, had the lowest rate, half of 1 percent, the report said.

Harold Garr, vice president for marketing at the Dallas newspaper, said the figure "doesn't ring true." Garr said that of 18,000 tons of newsprint used by the newspaper last month, about half had some recycled fiber in it. He said the percentage of recycled fiber ranges from 5 percent to 20 percent.

"Anybody with any sense of responsibility would like to use as much recycled newsprint as possible, but you have to look at availability and price," said Garr.

Garr said The Dallas Morning News plans to expand its use of recycled newsprint as rapidly as possible and will be helped by Champion International's plans to open a plant to produce such paper in the Houston area next year.

Newsprint is one of a newspaper's largest operating costs.

The environmental groups said the markets for recycled materials have been overwhelmed by increased supply because of the expansion of municipal recycling collection programs. The newsprint industry hasn't kept pace, they said.

"This caused market prices for old newspapers to decline, in many cases reaching negative values, and newspapers collected for recycling often ended up in landfills or incinerators," they said.

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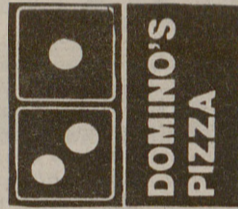
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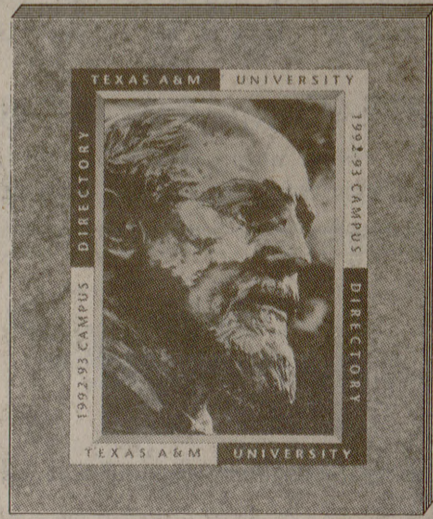
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