

Letter To The Editor

Editor

Bayshore Sun

I liked what Jack Lockridge had to say about inviting responsible industrial growth to our area, and I admire your stance in commenting editorially on what he had to say. He may lose a few bank customers, and you may lose a few subscribers, but you will both gain, as will all of us who live here, as industry invests.

Our civic responsibility is to be vigilant, vocal and determined in keeping this area an attractive and safe place to live. It does not require or even permit unopposed action against industrial growth. It seems to me that a handful of people would have the Texas Air Control Board believe that it is the community desire to stop industrial development. This is false. We should not let so few decide the economic destiny for so many.

James R. Faucette is one of the few who would have the regulatory agencies believe he speaks for all of us. He doesn't speak for me, and I don't like the manner in which he speaks for those he may represent. It is correct to write that the "health and well-being of the people who live in this area can be seriously damaged by ill-determined and mislocated chemical plants." But it is very misleading, and a far reach to introduce Henrik Ibsen and his 1862 classic "Enemy of the People" on the side of his argument, as he did in this column last week. Let's look at the simple facts.

Faucette and company have appeared in lengthy argument before the Texas Air Control Board in a marathon hearing right here in this community. They attacked every aspect of the American Hoechst facility as they are now fighting the proposed Goodrich plant. After the hearing was over and the

dust almost settled, the hearing examiner recommended to the TACB that the permit they had issued be upheld. No evidence was presented in this lengthy hearing to suggest that the environmental engineers and experts employed by the TACB had erred in any way in issuing this permit.

The TACB has yet to rule on the issue even though their own experts have satisfied themselves that the proposed AHC

facility complies with every existing environmental quality regulation.

Aren't you glad we have a Texas Air Control Board that operates on the facts rather than the whimsy of a few who would decide for all of us that we must halt all development? I am.

Signed

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