

Farenthold appalled by channel pollution

Frances "Sissy" Farenthold made a quick auto tour of the Houston Ship Channel Monday and, reacting much like a housewife surveying an after-the-party mess, said she was "appalled" by the pollution.

The Democratic candidate for governor pledged, if elected, to do all she could to improve the state's pollution housekeeping.

Mrs. Farenthold stopped for awhile at the entrance to Rollins-Purle, Inc., an industrial waste disposal plant where the Air Force has proposed to burn 2.3 million gallons of surplus Agent Orange herbicide.

She looked at the company sign describing the plant as a "pollution control facility," then at the plume of brown pollution stretching at least half a mile from the plant's incinerator smokestack.

"This is like Pentagon language," she said. "It isn't pollution control. It's pollution, period."

Earlier, approaching Pasa-

dena for her first close-up look at the channel industries, Mrs. Farenthold sniffed and asked: "What is that scent?"

Informed that it was Champion Papers, she observed that the Texas Air Control Board thus far has done virtually nothing to control odors. She aimed her sharpest criticism, however, at the Texas Railroad Commission.

"It takes the Railroad Commission to make the Texas Water Quality Board look good," she said. "I'm no champion of the Water Quality Board, but the Railroad Commission is so much worse. I mean, they have not even brought one pollution suit."

Mrs. Farenthold said one of her top goals as governor would be to strip the Railroad Commission of its pollution jurisdiction over oil and natural gas production.

Her guide on the morning tour of the channel was L. A. "Al" Greene, a vice president

of Help Eliminate Pollution (HEP), Inc., which recently endorsed Mrs. Farenthold for governor.

Mrs. Farenthold said that as governor she would encourage and work for the passage of such environmental legislation as State Rep. Rex Braun's bill providing for citizen lawsuits against polluters.

"Of course, if you had agencies that enforced the laws," she added, "you wouldn't have to fall back on citizen suits."

Asked how she felt she could really influence the state's pollution control boards, aside from occasionally appointing new members, she pointed to the governor's veto powers.

"There's bound to be a way to use the veto power for progressive as well as regressive results," she said.

She noted that a governor can also go to the people to rally support to control pollution.



FRANCES FARNETHOLD

Rep. Cruz claims support of minority blocs

SAN ANTONIO (UPI) — Rep. Lauro Cruz, D-Houston, said Monday he is the strongest of five persons attempting

Jesse James in the May 6 primary.

"I'm bringing to the race large bloc votes. I feel I will get most of the Mexican-

bring in many black voters," Cruz said at a news conference.

Cruz said he is the only candidate running for treasurer who advocates abolishing