

N62604.AR.000074
NCBC GULFPORT
5090.3a

NEWSPAPER ARTICLE "LOTT ASKS FIR FORCE TO REMOVE HERBICIDE ORANGE AT
BASE" NCBC GULFPORT MS
1/31/1977
THE DAILY HERALD

Lott asks Air Force to remove Herbicide Orange at Base

DAVID BEAN

Herald Staff Writer

U.S. Rep. Trent Lott, R-Miss., said in a letter to the Harrison County Supervisors Monday that he has requested the U.S. Air Force remove 800,000 gallons of Herbicide Orange stockpiled at the Gulfport Seabee Base quickly and in the safest way.

The chemical defoliant, used to destroy much of the vegetation in Cambodia and Vietnam, has been the cause of concern

lately among area officials who believe its presence here constitutes a danger to human life and vegetation.

Hue Snowden, Beat 4 Supervisor, said at a meeting two weeks ago, "It is the responsibility of the board to make a resolution and send it to our Congressional delegation ... the toxic chemical is definitely a danger to human life."

The Air Force sprayed Southeast Asian jungles with more than 11 million

gallons of the defoliant from 1965 until 1970. In 1970 Herbicide Orange was linked to birth defects and the Air Force discontinued its use.

In other business at the short morning meeting, the board passed a resolution on its intent to issue revenue bonds, not exceeding \$3.5 million, for the construction of the International Harvester plant near Gulfport. The revenue bonds will be paid by International Harvester.

Board President Ernest Melvin said issuance of the revenue bonds will not affect Harrison County indebtedness.

The board also expressed its intention to advertise for bids within the next 90 days to widen De-deaux Road to four lanes from U.S. 49 to Three Rivers Road. According to Snowden, the work will be paid for with state funds.
