

Chemical Plants

From the Office of
Senator Art Robinson
Senate District 2

The polyethylene plant shown here was designed by my Dad, Ted Robinson, also pictured. It is still operating in Seadrift, Texas.

My Dad designed many plants like these for Union Carbide. He was in charge of design and construction and had 200 engineers working under him.

My Dad moved to Texas to build this plant at the request of Dr. Blair at Union Carbide on the promise that he could be superintendent after it was built. Dr. Blair then sent him on business trip and appointed a drinking buddy instead.

This upset my Dad who quit the U.S. division and took over the international division, building plants all over the world. He was killed while commuting to India in a commercial airplane crash over Mt. Blanc. This was an assassination of India's head of nuclear research who happened to be on the same plane.

Building chemical plants around 1950 was easy. The worst problem my Dad had was squabbling among his office secretaries.

He never mentioned the government. They did not get in the way.

Since that time, government restrictions – like those often passing out of this chamber – have changed things. The U.S. doesn't build chemical plants anymore. It's too difficult. We are barely keeping the ones we have.

We need to return freedom to our industries.