

Oil a slick problem for Congress

WASHINGTON (AP) — After months of wrangling, Congress will attempt to find legislative solutions to the nation's energy problems when it returns from a 10-day recess next week.

The lawmakers' attention will focus on two problems: alleviating an expected natural gas shortage this winter and reducing American dependence on foreign oil.

Also pending are tax reform and tax reduction legislation and seven appropriations bills, including the ones covering defense spending and foreign aid.

Congress devoted much of its time prior to the Columbus Day recess debating American involvement in the Egyptian-Israeli Sinai peace accord. Both houses voted to permit an American force of up to 200 civilian technicians to serve as monitors along the new cease-fire line. Israel had refused to sign the accord unless Congress agreed to permit the use of technicians.

But even with so much of its attention directed toward the U.S. role in the Sinai pact, work on the energy problem continued.

The Senate is scheduled to vote Oct. 24 on a measure to remove

temporarily private controls on natural gas. This is expected to free large amounts of natural gas currently sold only within the borders of the state in which the fuel is produced.

This natural gas is higher priced than the natural gas shipped in interstate commerce because it is not subject to federal price controls.

A far-reaching energy proposal is being worked out in a House-Senate conference committee. It could determine whether the price on so-called "old oil," which comprises 60 per cent of domestic production, would remain frozen at its present level of \$5.25 a barrel.

The conferees also could decide whether prices should be rolled back on so-called "new oil," which is not controlled and selling presently for about \$13.50 per barrel.

The conferees also are considering tougher automobile efficiency standards and limiting gasoline consumption by restricting the amount of gasoline refined or imported.

Congress probably will attempt to complete action on the compromise measure before Nov. 15 when oil price controls expire.

'Tanya' escaped detection

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP) — Patricia Hearst and Emily and William Harris narrowly escaped detection in March after the body of a murder victim was found near their hideout, police reported Sunday.

Detective Sgt. Sam Somers said the hideout, a rundown duplex, was visited during the investigation of robbery and murder which was unrelated to SLA activities.

But Somers denied a report in this week's *Time* magazine that the aliases used by the three were found on police records after federal agents discovered the hideout.

Time said Sunday that police routinely interviewed Miss Hearst and the Harrises, who were using false identities.

Somers, who said he is familiar with both the murder case and the hideout investigation, said Sunday: "There's nothing to reflect that any officer talked to anyone using any of the aliases they had been using."

Asked specifically about the police records, he added: "No, sir, unless there are reports I don't know about, and I don't think there are."

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'Saturday night specials' become Sunday offerings

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) — A Roman Catholic priest invited his parishioners to turn the so-called Saturday night specials into a Sunday morning offering by handing their guns in during weekend services.

"Please listen to me," the Rev. Richard Engle, pastor of St. Philip the Apostle Church in suburban Whitehall, told his parishioners Sunday morning.

"I am not a nut, I am not a radical, I am not a Communist. I am just a concerned person."

The 50-year-old Engle, a World War II infantryman, started off the donations with his own target pistol, which he has owned for 17 years.

As Father Engle, dressed in green vestments, greeted parishioners in the brilliant sunshine, six uniformed

Columbus policemen checked each weapon to make sure it was empty. The guns are to be melted down into small crosses and distributed to the donors.

The bearded priest recounted an incident involving a parishoner and a 15-year-old boy who broke into his home and stole five dollars. The parishoner told Father Engle he is afraid he would have shot the young intruder if he had had a gun.

"What value is a 15-year-old boy?" the priest asked. "Nothing is worth more than a person's life."

Readings for the Mass were selected to correspond with the theme of gun collection.

Cat survives car crusher

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP) — The cars had been flattened and shipped to a salvage yard when truck driver Jim Faulk heard the meowing of a tiny kitten coming from inside one of the smashed hulks.

Faulk had just trucked the eight flattened cars from a wrecking yard in Eugene to Portland for shredding. He poked around for a while, and returned Saturday with his boss, Curtis McCracken, trying to find and free the kitten.

The stack of flattened cars weighed 20 tons. With the aid of a forklift truck, they toppled most of the hulks to the ground and called the fire department.

The kitten kept crying and the five firemen kept shouting, "We're coming."

An hour later, fireman Dan Clouser spotted the cat in a small space near the glove compartment of a flattened Mercury Comet and brought it out.

The 8-week-old kitten was named "Bobby" by McCracken's 4-year-old daughter, who had joined in the search. Bobby wolfed down a bit of hamburger and tamely went home with Faulk.

Lennon, Yoko give birth

NEW YORK (AP) — John Lennon and his wife Yoko Ono became the parents of a boy Thursday, just one day after the U.S. Court of Appeals ruled that the former Beatle could not be deported because of a 1968 British conviction for possession of marijuana.

"It's an all-American boy," said Lennon's lawyer Leon Wildes announcing the birth at New York

Hospital. "He weighs 8 pounds 10 ounces and they've named him Sean Ono Lennon."

The baby was born on his father's 35th birthday.

Both mother, 42, and baby were reported doing fine.

Wildes said the court decision apparently clears the way for approval of Lennon's long-standing application for permanent residency.

Union campaign feud...

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heard of it." He claimed that it was "the height of irresponsibility and immaturity on AFSCME's part to release such accusations to the press before I've even had a chance to read the letter." But he answered the charges by explaining the elections policy.

"There must be agreement by all parties to the election as to who is and who is not eligible in a bargaining unit," said Shapiro. He claimed that a University eligibility list does not exclude any voters (or solicitors) just on the basis of the list. Unless eligibility is determined prior to the election, Shapiro said that anyone may take part in that election. Votes may be challenged by any of the parties, and challenged votes are subject to later hearings to

determine their eligibility, according to Shapiro.

Shapiro claimed that Schrader is "blowing smoke." But Schrader feels that he has an issue. "We think it's blatantly illegal what they're doing here," he said. "Part of the spirit of the law is that supervisors are supposed to remain neutral."

Shapiro argues that "we're running a clean, honest campaign. There has been no agreement between OSEA and the University on the excluded list. We will, if necessary, contest those people who vote under challenge if we do not consider them to be supervisors. We will continue to encourage and solicit people to cast their ballots for OSEA. We are not violating the law, and if anybody thinks we are, they have recourse."

Nonreturnables ban: labor, public disagree

NEW YORK (AP) — Support from federal agencies and U.S. senators appears to be growing for a proposed set of federal guidelines banning nonreturnable beverage cans and bottles on federal property.

The idea is vigorously opposed by industry and organized labor, who fear it is a step toward a nationwide ban on such beverage containers.

Federal officials say they expect the Environmental Protection Agency to publish the guidelines within a few weeks.

The act of publishing the guidelines would not automatically give them the force of law. First there would be a 30-day period during which the EPA would invite comment. But probably by early next year, a final version of the guidelines would be printed and that version would become mandatory on all federal property.

The key feature in the proposed guidelines would impose a five-cent deposit on beverage containers sold on federal property such as military bases, post offices, parklands and veterans hospitals. Federal agencies would have a year to comply.

Other parts of the country would be unaffected, and most experts estimate the EPA guidelines would affect two to four per cent of the nation's beverage sales.

Manufacturers say the regulation would probably increase costs to consumers. The EPA says that over the long haul the price would probably not increase and might even go down, though short-term equipment changes and handling procedures might raise the price temporarily.

But neither side of the controversy has been able to show what the economic effects would be from either the proposed federal bottle and can deposits or of a more sweeping nationwide ban on nonreturnables.

"There is no answer," says Frank McManus of the Can Manufacturers Institute, which has fought the proposed guidelines. "The EPA and no one knows what people will do, what businesses will be affected."

But one way or another, can manufacturers, bottle makers, the workers in those industries and beverage distributors and retailers all say they fear a loss of revenue and jobs.

Backers of the proposed guidelines say the nation has been buried under heaps of empty cans and bottles. The volume of that rubbish has increased about 230 per cent since 1960, they say.

According to one study cited in Senate testimony by the EPA, beverage containers account for nearly 20 per cent of highway litter.

And spokesmen for the National League of Cities and the National Association of Counties said that there has been an enormous increase in solid waste in recent years.