

# Importance of Vital Suez Canal To Nations of World Explained

Editor's note: A poll taken this week by the Mail Tribune Journal showed that only six out of 16 Americans could even locate the Suez Canal on a map, let alone understand why it has brought on a world crisis.

**By UNITED PRESS**  
Why all the shouting — and maybe shooting—over the Suez Canal? Why is one waterway so important it has brought a world crisis? What difference whether Egypt operates it or an international authority?

Let's take a look at some fundamental facts about the Suez Canal:

It is 101 miles long. The Panama Canal is 50. The Suez runs at sea level, without locks, from the Mediterranean to the Red Sea. It links Europe with Asia and with the oil fields of the Middle East.

On any given day 40 to 50 ships traverse the canal. They are carrying one-sixth of the entire maritime cargo of the world and 85 per cent of it is going to or from Europe. The Suez tonnage last year was 115 million on 14,666 ships—almost three times that of the Panama.

Europe consumes 2,500,000 barrels of oil a day. About 1,200,000 of it passes daily through the Suez. Some 800,000 comes through pipelines to the Mediterranean, the remainder from North and South America.

**Flow Stopped**  
Should the Suez flow be stopped, Europe would get only half as much oil products for its automobiles, furnaces, factories.

The alternative for getting Middle East oil would be for tankers to go around the Cape of Good Hope at the southern tip of Africa. That is about 5,000 miles longer to London.

The company charged a tanker carrying 100,000 barrels of oil \$12,000 to use the canal. It costs about \$3,000 a day to keep a tanker at sea. So in four days on the cape voyage the \$12,000 would have been spent and the remainder of the voyage would be tremendously expensive.

Great Britain gets its tea from Ceylon, its cotton from India, its wool from Australia, its rubber from Malaya. The voyage from Bombay to London via the Suez is 7,028 miles. By the cape it is 12,548.

The Suez was built by a private French company, completed in 1869. There are now some 800,000 shares of stock outstanding. The British government owns 44 per cent. Private individuals in France hold about 42 per cent. The rest is scattered around the world.

**Profitable Operation**  
The Suez is a very profitable operation. Last year its total revenues were \$97,596,000 and its gross profit \$45,000,000. Shares before the seizure sold around \$300 apiece. Last year they paid a dividend of \$30.50—more than 10 per cent.

In a treaty signed in Constantinople in 1888, the then major powers of the world agreed that the canal must at all times be open to every nation of the world. Last year it was used by ships of 40 nations.

Britain had military occupation of the canal zone for 72 years. At one time it was a vital military passageway, but the advent of jet planes and the atomic bomb drastically reduced its importance. Last year—partly at American urging—Britain pulled

all of its 80,000 troops out of the canal zone.

Nasser's seizure and nationalization of the canal came within less than a year. During the Arab-Jewish war, Egypt closed the canal to Israeli ships. Some of those nations whose life blood depends on the canal see nothing to stop Egypt from making a unilateral decision again about who can use the waterway.

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## Sen. Morse Blames 'Tight-Money' Policy For Slump in Lumber

Portland — (Special) — Sen. Wayne L. Morse today blamed the "tight money" policies of the administration for declining lumber markets.

In a statement released here today, he said, "As you know, our principal industry in Oregon—lumbering and wood products—has not been experiencing prosperity this year. If the economy is booming as claimed, the boom has not trickled down to Oregon's lumber and wood products industry."

His statement continued: The reason for the decline is simple. Oregon's lumber sales are largely dependent upon home building across the nation. And this year, home purchases have been slowed by the tight-money, high-interest-rate policy of this administration. It means that people who would like to buy their own homes are being forced to pay a lot more for the money they borrow—for their mortgages. For many people these high interest rates have made buying a home too costly.

**Housing Starts Down**  
As a result, this year the nation's new housing starts have dropped from 1.4 million units to 1.1 million—a decrease of 21 per cent. On the West Coast this means a drop in lumber sales to the tune of 1 billion board feet.

The slump in new housing starts has affected Oregon. This year our lumber production is below that of recent years and about equals the rate of 1930—a year that stands out in memory for Oregonians as a bad year because of a harsh winter that hurt logging.

Here's what the Oregon State Tax Commission has to say about the decline in our lumber industry: "The biggest adverse factor at the present time is the drop in new housing starts. This decrease shows up locally in smaller order files, shorter work weeks, lower prices and lower published earnings. From a revenue standpoint, the consequences growing out of the drop in housing starts could be quite serious because of Oregon's position in the lumber industry."

The Oregon Business Review also indicates the effects of higher interest rates on our lumber industry. Comparing this June with June of last year, the Review finds that weekly production is down 4 per cent, weekly orders are down 18 per cent, unfilled orders have dropped 13 per cent. Lumber industry employment for June of this year is off 4 per cent from last June.

**Consistent Policy**  
High interest rates have been one of the few consistent policies of this administration. In 1933, only nine days after the inauguration, Secretary of the Treasury Humphrey announced increases in government bond rates. Many economists argued that these measures were too harsh for our economy to bear

and I opposed and fought this policy as soon as it was announced and pointed out it would mean a heavier national debt.

The Treasury soon discovered that its high-interest-rate policies were, indeed, too harsh. The 1934 recession has been very justly blamed on high interest rates. Meanwhile, the big New York banks made enormous profits. Total bank profits are up 23 per cent and have hit the billion dollar mark for the first time in history. But not all banks are sharing the profit boom. More than two-thirds of all 1935 profits went to less than 3 per cent of the U. S. banks.

### Tests Scheduled for NROTC Candidates

Vice Admiral James A. Holloway Jr., chief of Naval personnel, has announced that the 11th annual national competitive examinations for the Navy's reserve officer training corps will be given to interested high school seniors Dec. 8.

Application forms must be filed before Nov. 17. They are available at all high schools, colleges and Navy recruiting stations.

The Navy NROTC program is designed to allow students to earn a commission while studying at the civilian college of their choice which has an NROTC unit. All tuition, fees and books are furnished by the Navy. The student also receives an annual retainer pay of \$600 for four years.

During the summer the student goes on a training cruise as a midshipman. After graduating from college, the student is commissioned in the regular Navy or Marine corps and goes on active duty. Immediate assignment to flight training is possible.

The NROTC college training program is also open to enlisted men on active duty with the Navy and Marines. Separate quotas are established for applicants from within the service.

### Western Engineers Elect Arizona Man

The Dalles—U. S.—Roger Ernest, Arizona state engineer, was elected president of the Association of Western State Engineers here yesterday at the conclusion of the group's three-day convention.

A resolution adopted by the group said that the federal government should yield water rights it now holds in western states to the states, keeping only the rights needed to regulate commerce.

Faster handling of projects to and through Congress also was passed.

### Pickin' Pears

News and Notes From Camp White

The VAVS honor plaque bears for this week the card of American Red Cross, reported by H. Jaffrey, acting VADC manager, as the group honored for their services.

American Gold Star Mothers chapter sponsored the September birthday party at the theatre Wednesday evening. Eva Campbell, Mary Parker, Mable Nicholson and as guest aide, Ann Coghill, distributed gifts and served birthday cake.

Thursday evening at recreation center, VFW 6412 honored Dan Krotz, the district commander following his formal post inspection. A program of the Daryl School of Dance from Grants Pass and the Muzzioli Accordion studios provided entertainment.

The kick-off opening of the fall dance season of VFW was held Monday night. Music was furnished by Marshall's orchestra of Medford. A group of Roseburg and Myrtle Creek VFW guests attended. In the party were Cora Carlson, VA Hospital Chairman for Roseburg area, Larry Hill and daughter, Darlene, and Roy Richards from Roseburg. Ann Ricketts, Pat Holt, Lucile Halverson and Jonnie Garrett of Myrtle Creek comprised the group.

DAV Post 11 of Grants Pass with Theresa Clayton and Buelah McEwen in charge conducted a game party Monday afternoon. Cigarettes and candy were served.

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