

Oil Industry Said Living Up To Promise To Supply Needs for Europeans

Prosecution Waits Violators in Oil Price Increases

Washington—(U.P.)—Secretary of Interior Fred A. Seaton said today U. S. oil companies are more than living up to their promise to supply Europe's emergency oil needs.

Seaton also told Senate investigators that any oil firms or individuals found guilty of anti-trust violations in recent oil price hikes should be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law.

Seaton testified before a combined Senate Anti-monopoly and Public Lands Subcommittee investigating oil price increases and shipments to Europe to meet the shortage caused by the Suez Canal blockade.

He said the Middle East Emergency committee, composed of U. S. oil firms who agreed on a voluntary basis to supply extra oil to Europe, promised to furnish 75 per cent of Europe's normal needs.

Seaton said he received information Wednesday night that the oil firms actually were supplying Europe with 75 per cent of its requirement for diesel fuel and distillates, 79 per cent of its fuel oil, and 87 per cent of motor gasoline.

Grand Jury Probe
This averages out to 80 per cent of Europe's overall needs instead of the 75 per cent promised, he testified.

This backed up a statement in New York Wednesday by M. J. Rathbone, president of Standard Oil of New Jersey, that oil shipments to Europe have more than met their target.

Seaton said he was "happy that a federal grand jury is undertaking a review" of possible collusion by oil firms in recent oil and gasoline price hikes. The Grand Jury review was ordered by the Justice Department last week.

"I do not think that the American people will stand for any alternative," he said. He said any persons or firms found guilty of anti-trust violation should be prosecuted to the limit of the law.

Seaton emphasized that the federal government has no authority to seize the oil industry or force a cut in prices. He said the department has no power to demand information on costs of oil output or on the industry's pricing decisions.

Warns Oil Firms
Before the start of today's hearing, Sen. Joseph C. O'Mahoney warned major oil firms to cut back prices and speed up emergency shipments to Europe or face possible federal regulation.

O'Mahoney said he had no specific legislation in mind, "not for the present anyhow." He said he would not recommend any until after he has "looked at all the facts."

O'Mahoney is particularly interested in getting testimony from Rathbone. He made no secret of the fact that he was irked that Rathbone invited reporters, including a number from Washington, to New York to a press conference Wednesday.

Rathbone, head of the nation's biggest oil company, also said the recent 25-cent a barrel price increase that swept the oil industry was "overdue." He said the increase would have come even if there had not been a Middle East crisis.

Charges Pressures
"It would be much better," O'Mahoney said, "for them (the oil officials) to come before Congress with open minds instead of talking things over behind closed doors and holding executive press conferences out of hearing of these committees."

O'Mahoney also charged that certain interests have been trying to relegate the oil hearings to inside pages of the newspapers.

"We are hearing from the public on the problem of keeping the home fires burning and automobiles running at a reasonable cost," O'Mahoney said. "This is a front page story—per se—since it affects every facet of the American economy."

Neuberger Lauds Timber Sale Decision

Washington—(U.P.)—Sen. Richard Neuberger today lauded the decision of the Department of Agriculture to sell 75 million board feet of sub-alpine timber in the Umpqua National Forest.

The Oregon senator said the sale of the timber will help greatly in the ultimate establishment of a widespread pulp and paper industry in the state.

"The verdict sets a precedent, because on wise use of this sub-alpine timber depends the possibility of adding pulp manufacturing in substantial measure to forest payrolls in our state," Neuberger said.

Memorials To Congress From State Legislatures Mostly Duds

By A. ROBERT SMITH
Mail Tribune Correspondent

Washington—What about all those memorials Congress is receiving from the state legislatures—what happens to them?

Do they start the wheels turning here on the federal level toward goals deemed wise or politically desirable in the grass roots?

Or do they rain down upon the harried Congress with the light and scattered profusion of confetti rather than the mighty thunderclaps they are intended by the state lawmakers to be?

Members of Congress would be the last to provide a clear and objective answer to this question—for quotation. But privately they will tell you that as a tactical political weapon for routing the opposition or establishing a legislative beachhead, the memorial is a dud.

Generally, a memorial from a legislature is honored in form and cast aside on content. Like so many pieces of legislation introduced by senators and representatives who sit in Congress, as a rule they are dutifully referred to appropriate committees according to subject matter and there perfunctorily recorded by clerks in the committee annals for posterity.

Yet it would be reckless to say that memorials are utterly worthless, for they represent a fine American tradition—the right of petition—which is an integral part of the lawmaking process by which the views of the governed are expressed.

At its best and mightiest, a memorial can become one more element which a senator may wish to use to build an argument he has already determined to make—whether it be in opposition to increasing gasoline prices or in favor of high Hells Canyon dam.

He may use it in the course of debate to illustrate a point he wishes to impress upon his colleagues—that his position is not a personal stand, but the considered judgment of his people back home as reflected in the memorial passed at the recent session of the legislature. In itself, the memorial won't be greatly persuasive when promoting certain positive actions, but in concert with other political tools used by a senator it may possibly help.

More Effective in Negative
Very probably a memorial is more effective in the negative. When a legislature memorializes Congress not to do something which some forces want to do—

say, building high Hells Canyon dam, for example—this is bound to have deeper impact upon the Congress if it is then championed by a senator from the state, than would a memorial advocating such a project.

The reason, however, is simply because Congress has an aversion for being overly generous, and a memorial against any "costly" project from the state itself is all many congressmen need to support a "nay" vote.

Memorials Run Poor Second
But compared to the petitions of organized private groups who exert a continuous pressure upon the state's delegation in Congress, the memorials run a poor second in terms of influencing the decisions and votes of the congressmen and senators.

An effective mobilized local chamber of commerce, with stable roots that run deeply through the community year in and year out, probably is more influential in ways that count than the here-today-and-gone-tomorrow legislature.

Most every member of Congress, after settling into his job, becomes responsive to the pleas of various, well-defined groups, if not always to the vast voiceless segment of his constituency.

And the strongest current of influence flows directly from them to Congress itself, not via the state legislature.

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Japan Asks Britain To Cancel Bomb Test

Tokyo—(U.P.)—Japan called on Britain again today to cancel the nuclear weapons tests it plans to hold on Christmas Island in the Pacific ocean this year.

The Foreign Office announced the government has instructed Ambassador Haruhiko Nishi to deliver its second protest against the tests to the British government in London.

Japan delivered its first protest Jan. 30.

The British reply, released by the Japanese Foreign Office today, said Britain understood Japan's "anxieties" but felt it was duty bound to go ahead with the tests in the absence of a worldwide disarmament agreement.

County Court Takes Tour of Area Roads

The county court yesterday inspected three roads in the county to determine efficiency of drainage facilities and other general conditions of roads.

Included in the tour were Ward's Creek rd., east of Rogue River; Foothills rd., between Rogue River and Gold Hill; and the River rd. from Rock Point bridge to Rogue River.

Members of the court said drainage facilities appeared satisfactory and the roads seemed in good condition, especially for this time of year.

High Priority Urged for Shelter System Against Atomic Warfare

Washington—(U.P.)—Dr. Edward Teller, "father of the H-bomb," said an atomic attack would force many Americans to go underground a week or more to escape injury or death from radioactive fallout alone.

Teller, guiding light of the Atomic Energy Commission's weapons laboratory at Livermore, Calif., urged high priority for a shelter system which he said would cost about \$7.25 billion in the next five years.

Such a system would be designed, he said, to protect everybody against radiation. It would provide protection also against nuclear blast and heat for those in big cities and other target areas.

Teller said the nation's "military security" requires that work be started on such a shelter system right away.

Lack of Precautions
Teller, who is widely credited with speeding this country's development of the hydrogen bomb, testified before a House Government Operations Committee which is studying what it considers a serious lack of civil defense precautions.

The subcommittee is headed by Rep. Chet Holifield (D-Calif.).

Teller said evacuation of target areas, currently the official policy of the Federal Civil Defense Administration, no longer is feasible. In a substantial

enemy atomic assault, he said, it is likely that a "considerable proportion" of the nation will be contaminated by fallout.

For persons not in the immediate area of an atomic blast, he said, there will be plenty of time, 15 minutes to several hours, to take shelter, provided that shelter is available.

The explosion itself will be their warning, he said.

Deadly Fire Storms
For big city areas, Teller

urged construction of shelters against blast and fire as well as radiation. He warned that fire storms may prove more deadly than blast.

He said protection against blast will require taking shelter for a matter of minutes; against fire, a day or less; and against fallout, "a week or possibly somewhat more."

Teller's estimate of the cost of a mass shelter system ran considerably less than that of previous witnesses.

Teller said the work could be done at a rate of about \$1.5 billion yearly, for five years. Shelters would vary in cost from about \$10 per person, in individual homes far from population centers, to about \$100 per person for heavy duty big city shelters for several thousands of people, he said.

Pear Festival Names Committee Chairmen

Chairmen of committees for the fourth annual Pear Blossom festival, scheduled Saturday, April 27, were announced today by Jay Pierce, president of the festival association.

Committee chairmen are Elliot Becken, judging; Cliff Lovejoy and Lyle Kinny, finance and merchants; Lowell Iverson, floats; Dick Walsh, parade; Medford Police Officer Jack McMillan, traffic; Russ Jamison, publicity; Granville Brittan, gifts and awards; and Robert Boyer, queen's committee.

Pierce said individuals who want to participate in planning for the Pear Blossom festival may contact chairmen of the committees.

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1,139 Visit Museum During January

Jacksonville—A total of 1,139 people from 20 states, Alaska, Iran, Okinawa and Canada visited the Jacksonville museum during January this year, according to the museum monthly report.

The January, 1957, total is 13 higher than the January, 1956, total. Since July 10, 1950, visitors at the museum have totaled 239,280.

Gifts and loans to the museum last month included a double-barreled shot gun from James Dunnington, Jacksonville; three old drugstore bottles and old scales used in the Haskins Drug store in Medford from Cash Davis of West Side Pharmacy; specimen of tungsten ore and copper filled with garnets from Howard Taylor, Medford; green garnets and sun stones from Dr. Paul Olsen; uranium specimens owned by the Sage Hollow Mining company of eastern Oregon from Tom Kennedy; and two large showcases from the Klocker Printery of Medford.

Columbus—(U.P.)—Columbus police finally got a telephone number that's easy to remember, Capital 1-1111. Today, police changed their number to Capital 1-1166. They said that when youngsters play with a phone, they always dial the simplest number, CA 1-1111, much to the annoyance of police.

Legislative Briefs

Salem—(U.P.)—Support for a new and stronger law governing use of chemical tests for intoxication and an amendment to the current Oregon law of arrest were voiced yesterday by members of the Oregon Traffic Safety commission.

The new chemical test law will be submitted to the Legislature with the commission's recommendation, according to Attorney Gen. Robert Y. Thornton, temporary chairman of the commission.

Salem—(U.P.)—The House Taxation Committee yesterday considered income tax bills involving changes in dependency credits for minors, for minors claimed as dependents in divorce and separation cases and allowing deductions for transportation for medical care.

None of the bills was acted on, pending further research.

Salem—(U.P.)—Sen. Carl Francis, chairman of the Senate Public Health committee, said a bill will be introduced soon to give health services financial help. He said he was told that 19 out of 36 counties in Oregon have no health program at all and that eight had abandoned their health departments since 1950.

Salem—(U.P.)—State Adjutant General Thomas Rilea proposed a \$5 million armory for use by the National Guard in Portland to the Multnomah county delegation. The 11-story structure could hold 10,000 persons in its main auditorium.

Salem—(U.P.)—A labor-backed bill which would have allowed deduction of union dues from the paycheck of a state employee at the employee's request was defeated by the House 39-18.

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