



PRECISION—Flying skill is exhibited by this flight of F-80 shooting Stars of the 8th Fighter Wing as they return to a forward strip in Korea. The speedy fighters were giving close air support strikes to ground forces of Siberia and Bunker Hill areas.

Government Alleges Overcharge In Lawsuit Against Ten Oil Companies

NEW YORK (AP) — Four major American oil companies and six subsidiaries are being sued for 67 million dollars by the government, which says it — and the U. S. taxpayers — was overcharged on foreign aid oil shipments to Europe.

In the latest step in a joint congressional-administration war on an alleged international oil cartel, three separate civil suits were filed here yesterday in Federal Court.

Atty. Gen. James P. McGranery, suits as "a test of whether the defendants, having control over the supply of Middle East crude oil shipped to countries participating in the Marshall Plan program, can block the efforts of the government agencies to protect government funds committed to European recovery and defense."

The suits cover Middle Eastern oil deliveries by the firms to Marshall Plan countries in Europe between May 1949, and May 1952. McGranery accused the major companies of flouting federal laws by using their subsidiaries to maintain a two-price system — charging the responsible government agencies more than other customers.

He said the companies violated federal laws designed to hold crude oil prices at reasonable levels while the free world rearms. Financing of Middle Eastern oil for European countries by the Mutual Security Administration (MSA) was stopped in June after the oil firms reportedly refused to make refunds on purchases made during the three years covered in the suits. MSA and its predecessor, the Economic Co-operation Administration, are the agencies involved.

Companies named in the three suits and damages asked of them are: Standard Oil Company of New Jersey and its wholly owned subsidiary, Esso Export Corp., both of New York — \$31,785,619; Standard Oil Company of California, the Texas Company of New York and their jointly owned subsidiaries: Bahrain Petroleum Company, Ltd., a Canadian Corporation; California-Texas Oil Company, Limited; Caltex Oceanic Ltd., and Mid-East Crude Sales Company, all incorporated in the Bahamas but with home offices in New York — \$21,477,722; Socony-Vacuum Oil Company, Inc., of New York, and its wholly owned subsidiary, the Socony-Vacuum Overseas Supply Company, Inc., of Fort Lee, N. J. — \$14,118,488.

"Because of the vital importance of the principle involved—free competition in world markets—Esso Export emphasizes that it will defend its positions as strongly as it can."

In its opinion, Esso said, the ECA "was attempting to interfere with normal competitive prices."

The Texas Company in another statement last night, reiterated that it has not been a party to any international oil cartel or price-fixing arrangement. It said it believed that its joint operations abroad "are in the best interests of the United States and its citizens, as well as of the foreign countries involved."

Other defendants in the three suits had no immediate comments on the charges. Yesterday's litigation here came just the day after the MSA in Washington said no claims concerning Gulf had been referred to it by MSA for collection.

In another phase of the oil situation, a federal grand jury in Washington is deep in an investigation of alleged monopoly in the oil industry.

Washington's Port Angeles Works Out Democracy Lesson

By CHARLES J. KEIM
Port Angeles Evening News

PORT ANGELES (AP) — Eight citizens of Rosenheim, Bavaria will come to Port Angeles this fall to watch democracy in action. And eight Port Angeles residents will head for Rosenheim to carry a message of democracy to that city.

The United States Department of State will sponsor the action as a result of a decision Port Angeles citizens made last fall.

At that time a small group representing a cross section of this community's life held a short meeting. They discussed how they could diagnose Port Angeles' economic, social and cultural problems and how they could be solved.

It was a spontaneous meeting growing out of a talk a few days earlier by Richard W. Poston, head of the University of Washington's Bureau of Community Development. Poston had appeared in Port Angeles as a speaker for Community Forum, a non-partisan organization.

He pointed out that small towns, where democracy was born and nurtured, are gradually dying out all over the nation. He urged their revitalization through community cooperation. He said America must strengthen its community life if it wishes to continue to live in freedom.

Since the first meeting last fall the small group of citizens interested in improving Port Angeles has grown considerably. All feel they can do something to improve community life. Poston has helped several other small towns in the state diagnose

their ills and do something about them. These included Battle Ground, Winlock and White Salmon.

More than 60 communities in the state have requested his aid in the same manner as Port Angeles. All the requests sprang from the citizens in the various communities. Nothing was forced upon them.

Poston finally agreed to advise Port Angeles next, although it is the largest community to consider tackling the job.

Recently the United States Department of State contacted Poston, saying it is interested in his program and the way American citizens are working to further democracy.

"We'd like to show other parts

of the world how Americans work for democracy," the state department told him. "Do you have any community in mind that has requested your immediate guidance?"

Poston answered "Port Angeles." The state department said it will send eight German nationals from Rosenheim, Bavaria, to Port Angeles to study how that city is furthering democracy. The Rosenheim group will arrive here November 5 and will stay three months.

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