

# Oil Companies Invited To Refute Cartel Charges

WASHINGTON (AP) — Five big American oil companies have an invitation to balance the official record with their replies to government charges that they joined in a virtual monopoly of the Western world's oil trade.

Most of them already have entered unflinching denials.

The invitation for formal answers came from Sen. John Sparkman of Alabama, Democratic nominee for vice president, in his role as chairman of the Senate small business subcommittee.

It resulted from release of edited

portions of a critical and controversial report on an international oil cartel, kept secret for more than a year after its completion by the Federal Trade Commission.

The report charged that the five American oil companies joined two huge foreign corporations in an arrangement designed to reap rich profits for themselves and collaborators from major oil production centers and markets of the non-Communist world.

President Truman, acting upon advice of top administration leaders, had withheld the 378-page re-

port from the public for more than a year.

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Standard Oil of New Jersey was the first to protest the cartel report. Denying any wrongful acts, it said, "The net effect of this report... can hardly be other than to undermine the integrity of Americans whose investments abroad are of great value not only to the economy of the nations where they are made, but also to the economy and security of our own country."

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spokesman said his company is studying the report and "naturally expects to present a complete defense against all charges made against this company and any of its affiliates."

"We are confident we can establish that our Middle East operations have been conducted in the best interests of the country and strictly according to law," he said, adding that Standard of California has kept the government fully advised of "all significant developments" in its Middle East operations.

A Gulf Oil spokesman said of the report: "Insofar as Gulf is concerned it is not based on fact. Gulf is not a party to any cartel arrangement, either international or otherwise."

A spokesman for the Texas Co. also denied that the company participated in a cartel and said he doubted the existence of any such international agreement.

The FTC report, tracing a maze of corporations, subsidiaries, interlocking directorates and agreements, pictured the cartel as carving up the world's reserves, supplies and markets for petroleum and fixing high prices.

It said production in the oil-rich Middle East, Venezuela, and other major petroleum reserves had carefully controlled to fit world market demands and thus stabilize prices without price-cutting competition.

The report said this was accomplished in the United States, despite anti-trust laws, through a system of state and federal laws

in the name of "conservation."

Chairman Sparkman said the small business group would give the oil firms a chance to reply at public hearings Wednesday and Thursday before its monopoly investigating subcommittee.

Release of the report came shortly after two government court actions against the oil firms by the Justice Department.

One sought recovery of 67 million dollars or more from four of the American firms on the basis of prices they charged for oil for the foreign aid programs. The other involved an anti-trust investigation of all seven.

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Dr. Charles F. Richter, California Institute of Technology seismologist, found such false ideas widely discussed in the stricken Bakersfield area. Also popular was the idea that California is gradually sliding into the sea.

Instead of pool-pooling these no-

tions, Dr. Richter has inquired into their origin. By pointing out their beginnings, he hopes to uproot them, much as a psychiatrist works.

As for earthquake weather, Dr. Richter observes that "it is pictured as hot, humid and calm. This notion goes back to the ancient Greeks. They believed that earthquakes were caused by action of the wind, temporarily imprisoned in caverns under the earth.

"Thus with the wind inside the earth, the earth's surface must be hot and calm. Greek writings on this 'theory' have been widely read."

Actually, emphasized Dr. Richter, weather has nothing to do with earthquakes — except during the start of the rainy season in California.

At that time—the end of summer—the seismologist has noted a slight increase in the number of small earth shocks.

This he attributes to the cold polar masses spreading southward, increasing the atmosphere pressure against the earth.

As for volcanic action, it has nothing to do with earthquakes on the Pacific Coast of the United States, the scientist says. Quakes are caused by "mountain-building forces building up pressures in the earth to the point where the earth can stand no more pressure and ruptures or fractures, invariably along fault planes. These faults are scars from old ruptures.

"Volcanic action can cause localized quakes in volcanic areas from subterranean explosions and the sudden movements of molten rock."

Dr. Richter said there is truth in the idea that earthquakes are California's growing pains. The state is very young, geologically, he explains.

As for the fantasy that the state is sliding into the sea, Dr. Richter smiled. This comes, he said, from geological reports that the California coastal section, from San Francisco south, is moving northwest in relation to the rest of the continent at the rate of four inches a year.

Many persons fear the opening of great fissures in the earth during tremors. Cracks do open, but a quake is more likely to close a crack than to open a new one, the scientist said.

"Total casualties from cracks opened by California earthquakes are one cow lost in a fissure during the San Francisco quake of 1906," he said.

"People shouldn't be afraid that greater shocks will follow the first big jolt. The pattern of most disturbances is for the first shake to be followed by smaller and smaller disturbances."

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# Legionnaires Hear Dewey

NEW YORK (AP) — President Truman urged the American Legion Monday to help "put all the facts before the people" in the present political campaign.

The presidential message was read by National Commander Donald R. Wilson at the opening session of the Legion's 34th annual convention in Madison Square Garden.

"In our country, the people have an opportunity to determine their own destiny by deciding the vital issues at the ballot box," the President said.

"I ask the Legion to help America choose wisely by seeing that all the facts are put before the people in free and fair debate."

Gov. Thomas E. Dewey of New York, welcoming the Legion, praised it for its efforts in behalf of universal military training.

Dewey told the delegates — expected to reach a total of 30,000 before the convention ends Thursday—that the Legion should continue its drive to enact U.M.T. if the nation is to keep strong.

"If the United States had followed the advice of the American Legion," Dewey said, "we would not have been caught naked at Pearl Harbor."

The New York governor declared the Legion had fought subversive forces within the nation "when it was considered silly by many to recognize the threat from within."

With their families, the men who met in Army camps and on battlefields and battleships are expected to swell New York's population by 100,000 as they gather here for serious talks—and to have a little fun."

Electioneering for the \$15,000-a-year post of National Commander was underway.

The two leading candidates—Lewis K. Gough, 44, of Pasadena, Calif., and Walter E. Alessandrini, 39, of Philadelphia—addressed 50 delegates Sunday representing 25,000 Legionnaires in foreign and outlying departments and posts.

Two other candidates—Seaborn Collins of Las Cruces, N.M., and Arthur J. Connell, of Middletown, Conn.—also addressed the 50 delegates.

Lee Ward, of Paragould, Ark., is a fifth candidate. Voting will be held Thursday.

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# Army Pigeon Gets Confused

WITH 1ST CORPS, Korea (AP) — An Army carrier pigeon returned recently to the 1st Corps signal battalion in a box.

The pigeon, named Joe, was missing for 10 days after a training flight. Soldiers at a forward division found him sitting on the ground, lost and bewildered. They boxed him up and sent him back by truck.

# Tele-fun

by Warren Goodrich



"You needn't snap my head off! I was going to look up the correct number before I called!" ... You'll save time ... and avoid wrong numbers ... if you look up numbers before you call... Pacific Telephone.

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# Salem Falls To San Diego

HASTINGS, Neb. (AP) — Salem, Ore., took its first setback of the sectional American Legion baseball tournament here Sunday, bowing 7-1 to San Diego, Calif.

The Oregonians, who reached the sectional tourney after three straight wins over Waipahu, Oahu, in the regionals at Yakima, Wash., last week, were held scoreless until the ninth inning when they put together three hits for their only run.

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# Buy a Wife

Geo. N. Taylor

Pay 12 Cows—First go to her father with the "asking cow." Then take the ten cows that buy her. Lastly, the wedding cow—12 in all.

So women are bought and sold in some parts of the world. Let None Bring-God has ever called such as these tribesmen to be his saved ones. He calls the weak, the despised, the foolish, the nobodies — BIBLE, 1st Corinthians 1:26 — 31.

Geo. N. Taylor

Brag not, for — We are all as an unclean thing and all our righteousness as filthy rags. — Isaiah 64:6.

Here And Now — Only Christ's blood, poured out at Calvary can wash away your sins. Only He can lift you out of the grave into glory. Meet God's terms and stand on that eternal life is yours. "Now is the day of Salvation." — 2nd Cor. 6:2.

A Portland Lumberman and wife sponsor this space. For details write Geo. N. Taylor, 3101 S.W. McChesney Rd., Portland 1, Ore.

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Gearhart has everything! Golf, riding, surf fishing, safe swimming in the surf. Dancing. Relax in the Driftwood Lounge. Delicious local seafoods and charcoal broiled steaks in the Copper Grill.

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Save over \$26

Big savings on Wards 7.4 cu. ft. Model with these top-quality conveniences: 21-lb. capacity freezer with chill tray below for defrosting meat; glass-topped Food Freshener that stores 9 qts. fruit and vegetables; and 13.8 sq. ft. of shelf area.

17.8 cu. ft. M-W HOME FREEZER **439.95** Terms, \$10 down

Hold 624 lbs.

This large 17.8 cu. ft. Model features an increased storage capacity yet takes no more floor space than usual—now holds 624 lbs. Has 2 counter-balanced lids, 2 wire baskets and 4 dividers, and non-sweat freezer walls. 5-yr. warranty on unit.

REGULAR 229.95 M-W REFRIGERATOR **198.88** Terms, \$5 down

Save over \$31

Fine 7.1 cu. ft. M-W priced for special savings. Has 35-lb. capacity full-width freezer with froster tray below for small cuts of meat. Food Freshener keeps vegetables and fruit fresh and crisp. Provides 16.4 sq. ft. shelf area. 5-yr. warranty.

REGULAR 374.95 M-W HOME FREEZER **336** Terms, \$10 down

Save over \$38

Wards fine 15 cu. ft. Model holds 525 lbs. yet sells for less than some well-known models with 280-lb. capacities. Top-quality construction: enamel-finished cabinet, galvanized steel interior, easy-to-lift counter-balanced lid. 5-yr. warranty.

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ROSE FIGURED TAPESTRY COVER MATCHING DAVENPORT AND SWING ROCKER

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Daveno and Swing **\$99.95**

Rocker. Wooden Arms, **\$99.95**

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