

# THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

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## Inflation's Oily Track

# A Reward For Millionaires

By MARQUIS CHILDS

FOR their contribution to President Eisenhower's second term—and it was certainly generous, although perhaps not as generous as in 1952—the Texas oil millionaires are being handsomely rewarded.

The President in his budget message already has lived up to the pledge he made to try again to get Congress to take natural gas out from under federal regulation. He gave that pledge last year to top oil men after he had vetoed a bill freezing gas from regulation when it was disclosed that an oil company had offered Sen. Francis Case of South Dakota \$2,500.

Another bonanza. But thanks to the Suez Canal crisis, the oil producers have had another bonanza dropped in their laps. The price of crude oil has been raised on an average of 12 per cent. The rise was initiated by the Humble Oil and Refining Company, a subsidiary of Standard Oil of New Jersey, on the theory that it would enable the company to obtain additional supplies needed for export to Europe.

This means, it is scarcely necessary to add, a big boost in the bill for the petroleum products on which America moves and lives.

The 12 per cent rise was the first substantial increase since 1953, and what it signifies in terms of the threatening inflation needs no emphasis.

### VOLUME CONTROL

There is at work here a most interesting device that alters the working of the so-called law of supply and demand. The Texas Railroad Commission controls under Texas law the volume of oil to be taken out of Texas wells, which account for more than 40 per cent of American production. But the commission has no control over demand nor over price.

### LOWER RATION

The commission refused to raise the level of the "allowables," and one consequence is that the ration for fuel oil for heating and industry in Western Europe is almost certain to be cut back.

A major problem is the transportation of oil available inland. Since the increased demand is bound to be short-lived, the industry can hardly afford to invest in pipelines, and in any event this would take time. The Texas Railroad Commission, which exerts

such extraordinary power over world affairs at this particularly juncture, is as independent of outside pressure, including pressure from the federal government, as is King Saud in his oil principality.

### SMALL INCREASE

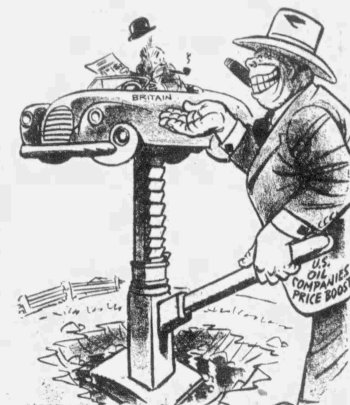
Last week the commission granted a relatively small increase, equivalent to 92,000 barrels a day, for 15 days in February. The Department of Interior in Washington had been gently intimating the importance of an increase of 200,000 barrels a day.

The politics and the economics of oil, both at home and abroad, are wondrous to behold. While the pinch grows tighter in Europe, tankers are being used to bring 100,000 barrels of oil a day from the Middle East to refineries in New York and New Jersey because these refineries cannot get enough from the Gulf of Mexico. This, as an appalling waste of tanker space.

### NASSER'S PACT

King Saud immediately after the British-French attack on Egypt issued an edict that no Saudi Arabian oil should go to either country. En route to this country for a good will visit, Saud stopped in Cairo to join President Gamal Abdel Nasser in signing a pact that Nasser clearly intended as an obstacle in the path of the Eisenhower Doctrine.

Saud agreed to join Syria and Egypt in providing Jordan with



"Glad To Help You Out Of A Hole, Neighbor"

an annual subsidy of about \$30,000,000 which formerly had come from Britain. All of Saud's oil revenue of something more than \$300,000,000 a year, virtually the only source of income from his country, comes from the Arabian American Oil Company, which is owned by large United States oil companies.

### PUSHING THE SPIRAL

High officials in the administration profess to be deeply concerned over the plight of Britain and France, but in view of the oil shortage, but they must know that

the rise in the price of petroleum will seriously complicate the problems faced by America's two principal Western allies. Inflation is an imminent threat in Britain and the action taken by American oil companies will push up the spiral.

Perhaps there is nothing the government in Washington can do about the oil pinch and its disastrous consequences. In any event, there is no sign that anyone here intends to do anything about it. And so the fabulous price of oil to run the world is vied for in the old, fierce, relentless ways.

## City Shows Good Faith On Annexation

THE city is making earnest and intelligent efforts to take the perimeter area into its confidence as well as its corporate limits.

This much is clear following the reluctance of mayor and council through their own unwillingness to submit its annexation plan to the imagined fury of suburbanites. The city obviously wants the scheduled series of "town hall" meetings to be something more than a gesture made necessary by the unpromising reaction of Mecklenburg legislators to a request for quick approval of the expansion package.

To this end thoughtful plans were framed at council's special session this week. These include presentation of a film showing the general problem of cities stunted by unaffiliated suburbs, and a brochure detailing specific reasons for Charlotte's need to expand its limits for the benefit of city and suburban residents alike. On hand for questions—and with answers in hand—will be the mayor and council, city manager, planning director and city school superintendent.

This showing of good faith on the city's part should diminish the ogre-like image of annexation, and clear the way for sensible discussion of the very real and urgent factors involved. Then city will come to the meetings prepared to talk about its own need for city limits extension, and the suburbs' need for city services. But will the suburbanites come at all? We earnestly hope so.

For if progress toward the legitimate aspirations of both groups cannot be made in such an elemental framework of democracy, the prospects of future progress for either suburb or city are poor indeed. Both will suffer from continued separatism.

Attendance at the meetings, however, will commit suburbanites to nothing more than informed consideration of the needs and the future of the metropolitan community in which their stake is as large as anyone's.

The city at long last is ready to make its case.

It deserves an attentive and sympathetic hearing.

## Trouble In The Schools: A Vignette

A hundred years ago scuffling in school in North Carolina brought four lashes, doing any mischief seven lashes and climbing every foot over three feet up a tree one lash per foot.

EVER since some dusty-nosed researcher or etched this quaint vignette it has been turning up far and wide in the press.

Why seems simple. The item speaks—both comfortably and safely. It naturally appeals to that vast and harried group of people called parents. And it proves the superior wisdom of modern parenting such sharp revision in rules governing the department of Johnny's deportment. Some parents doubtless find the item of such quaint interest as to make it part of party or dinner table talk.

But another, more pertinent vignette, ought to be the topic of Tar Heel talk today.

It is fashioned from these facts and figures:

Of every 100 children who enter the first grade in North Carolina, 75 fail to graduate. North Carolina ranks last among all states in percentage of high school graduates per population. In one school year almost 1,000 Tar Heel teachers left their profession for other states or other occupations. While the national average of annual teacher pay rose \$700 since 1954, North Carolina's climbed only \$100.

Needing a minimum of 2,602 white teachers from its colleges last year North Carolina got 1,047. Almost half the state's newly graduated teachers took their talents to other states or other professions—away from Tar Heel schools, at any rate.

Less than half of the state's school administrative units have any sort of supplementary fund.

These figures encompass only a tiny segment of a troubled educational scene which shocks—neither comfortably nor safely—and which allows no room for smugness. Back of the picture is a public neglect quite as harsh as the lashes that used to be applied to mischievous youngsters.

The true proportions of the schools' trouble is only now being brought into sharp focus. Citizen and administration leaders are bustling about Raleigh trying to arrange for a complete, continuing showing.

One of them is Dr. Charles Carroll, state superintendent of public instruction, who said he once was refused funds for an information program about the schools, and given this reason:

"If money were informed about their schools, there would be a tremendous demand for improvements."

It was a negative statement, but in it lies the only positive hope for the proper training of North Carolina youth.

## 'Honestly, Pop—I'm Beginning To Wonder About You'



'Honestly, Pop—I'm Beginning To Wonder About You'

## Veterans Earned Free Schooling

Mount Holly, N.J.—ONE Platform contributor's letter naturally leads one to the deduction that not all imbeciles have attended, or are attending college under the GI Bill of Rights.

## People's Platform

the service of their country. Not only to protect those who appreciate their sacrifice, but also to protect men who refer to them as imbeciles and freeloaders!

## Bark Into Box

of a battery of phones was spread out on the huge, bare desk. He could bark into a box and summon union chiefs from any place in his glass palace. Upstairs was a cafeteria where teamster chiefs could eat free. Nearby was a gold-leaf decorated projection room seating 50, where the teamster boss could show

## Oil Lobby

Sen. McClellan was entrusted with the probe of the gasol lobby after a lobbyist for Howard Keck and Superior Oil attempted to bribe Sen. Francis Case of South Dakota to the tune of \$2,500.

## Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

WASHINGTON—"WE put the teamsters right here so we could keep an eye on Congress," quoth roly-poly, bald-headed Dave Beck, czar of the Teamsters Union, explaining why he had located his national headquarters so that any senator looking out a rear Capitol window could not escape the modernistic glass-and-aluminum palace dedicated to the biggest union in America.

## Refuse To Answer

One by one a long file of teamster chiefs at before the Senate Investigating Committee, blithely pleaded the Fifth Amendment. With monotonous regularity they refused to answer questions.

## Swank Office

Sitting in his swank office at the foot of the Capitol a few weeks before election could push a button and have the curtain automatically drawn over his huge glass window. Or he could push another but-

## No Tears For Beck

Not many people in the labor movement felt sorry for Dave Beck or the teamsters. Dave has thumbed his nose at too many other labor leaders, crossed swords too frequently with them, raided too many other unions, even loaned money to firms engaged in locking out other unions.

## Congress Returns Dave Beck's Stare

Furthermore, there's a lot in the record of both Beck and his No. 2 teamster boss, Jim Hoffa, that ought to be investigated for the good of union non-

## Quote, Unquote

Never attempt to argue a self-dramatizing woman out of the part she is playing. To her argument is the equivalent of applause. Wait until she tires of it.—CHARLES MORGAN

## It's Those Crazy Mixed-Up Masters

BOWSER: "If you're in such bad shape why don't you visit an analyst?"

Fido: "I'd like to but I'm not allowed on the couch."

IT HAS BEEN our suspicion all along that civilization was going to the dogs. Now, we find that dogs are indeed the unwilling inheritors of our civilization—and it's getting them down.

Result: The neurosis of civilization has become the neurosis of the civilized dog trying to live with his own and human nature.

So, according to Joanne Bourne of the New York Times, a tranquilizing drug is being developed solely for canine neurotics. It is called Paxital and it is remarkably similar to the "happy pills" taken by their terror-kicked masters.

Small wonder. Unable to contain his own anxieties, man shares them with his noble, four-footed servant who: a. Must protect the premises but not chase newspaper boys or postmen.

## Vernon Schriest In The Rocky Mount Telegram

## A REBEL IN THE SQUIRT AGE

DON'T get me wrong. I have always been for progress. I stood on the sidelines and cheered after I had first watched those hips on a radar scope. And when they harnessed atomic energy and equipped an undersea craft with it, at the same time pointing out that its potentialities were unlimited, I cheered some more. In similar fashion, I cheered for jet aircraft, elastic top socks, remote control television gadgets, improved horseless humans, plastic seat covers and seaweed cocktails. However, this squirt age is about to get me.

The full impact of the squirt age came home to me one night recently. In my camp kit I had carefully stored lots of items compact in nature and easy to handle, included was a tiny vial of sweetening, the equivalent of some 10 pounds of sugar and much easier to carry, and a fancy, new spray that does away with the sniffles in one squirt.

Well, the sniffles were about to get me. My nose was stopped up. I could hardly breathe. Quickly I snatched up my camp kit, still lying unpacked in a closet. Twilight was turning into darkness and I hadn't yet turned on a light when I put that squirting machine to my nose, squeezed it thrice and sniffed.

You guess it—sugar. Three big sniffs of it up my nose and I dare you to find a doctor who will recommend it.

That was but one of several calamities which have befallen me in this squirt age. There was the time last summer when I got two other squirting machines mixed up and sprayed shaving lather on my strawberry shortcake instead of the squirting-type of whipped cream.

There was the time I sprayed mustard on my boat because it was in a can similar to the one which contained green spray paint. And there also was the time I squirted roach powder into my shoes instead of the spray-type of Foot-Ease.

Understand, I think these spraying-squirting devices are fine, else I wouldn't have so many of them around. But the same scientific world which produced the sprays also should provide some means of controlling and filing them.

The greater part of all the mischief in the world, said Goethe, arises from the fact that men do not sufficiently understand their own aims. In some cases if men really understood their aims they would aim somewhere else.—ARKANSAS GAZETTE

—ARKANSAS GAZETTE