

Harold Ickes

Oil And Gas Division
In Interior Department
Seen As Major Mistake

By HAROLD L. ICKES
(Former Secretary of the Interior)
The President has once more come to grips with "too little, too late." He proposes a spurious "Oil and Gas Division" within the Interior Department, to take over the immediate charge of a director and an associate director, both of whom have been appointed. There will also be two assistant directors and an interpreter consisting of representatives of the War, Navy, State and Commerce Departments, and also the Federal Power Commission and Civilian Production Board. The powers assigned to this division are sufficiently vague and indefinite to merit the earnest support of such a shadow-bossing Interior Council. In addition, the President mistakenly has agreed to the organization, in connection with this Pale Division of a National Petroleum Council consisting of some 85 men actively interested in petroleum and natural gas.

The Petroleum Industry War Council that was set up in connection with the Petroleum Administration for War had a real function to perform. During the war, the job was to produce, refine and transport petroleum products. In the final analysis these objectives could be attained only by and through the oil industry. Therefore, close co-operation between the industry and Government was not only advisable, it was necessary. But the interest of Government and of industry are, at times at least, so widely aparted as in fact to be adverse.

SELF INTEREST FIRST
The primary consideration of the oil industry during peacetime is the promotion of its property. This has proved to be the case in the past, and much to the regret of those who appreciate the energy, the ability and the patriotism of men in that industry. In times of peace except for its own interest, it does not care for the Government. There are questions of taxation, and questions of tariff and of price, and much more, which the industry cannot see eye to eye. They could not even during the war, but such matters were left to the Government, which might be devoted to the winning of the war. Moreover, the industry has been the owner of vast discovered or potential oil interests, both on land and under the sea, and to the whole people that cannot see the industry's interest in telling the Government what it should do.

And this is just what the interests will undertake to do. The whole scheme is ill-advised and unrealistic. It simply will not work. At its ganing meeting, this National Petroleum Council elected as its chairman the Republican National Committeeman from West Virginia, Mr. Walter S. Hallahan. He is well versed in the oil business and has the right as a citizen to be in the oil business. But just as the Petroleum Council can never present anything but a crass-corporate appearance, so the National Petroleum Council can never present anything but a crass-corporate appearance.

The Department of the Interior, with the best of intentions, persuaded the President to sign an executive order that will only make trouble for itself and the President. The best way out is the quickest way. If Interior is well advised, it will continue to support the well-established policy of that Department and recommend to the President the creation of a small and cohesive Division that will take over the oil business, and leave the Army and the Air Force as well as the Navy to their own consideration in petroleum matters.

Frank Jeter
Knows Carolina Farms
Frank H. Jeter knows the farms and farmers of the Carolinas as well as any man we know. So when he drove around the state and wrote about his trip we knew he'd have a lot to say. His story of this trip and the things he found appears in today's Carolina Farmer. Read it now in

Palestine Tension Grows As Refugees Halted

OPA Authorizes Increase In New Auto Prices

Increase Of 7.3 Per Cent Is Approved

Dealer Profits Restored

WASHINGTON (AP)—OPA today raised retail price ceilings on new automobiles an average of 7.3 per cent—first part of the increase required by the new price control law.

The increase, effective immediately on all models, meets a requirement that OPA restore the peacetime profit margins of auto dealers.

On four-door sedans—the most popular type—OPA today's increases range from \$63 on a Chevrolet Fleetmaster to \$230 on a Cadillac.

On a Plymouth de Luxe and a Ford de Luxe the increase is \$72, while on a Buick series 40 the price hike is \$86 and on a Chrysler Royal \$89.

Dealers' profit margins had been cut by OPA to prevent the full amount of increases previously granted manufacturers from being passed on to the public. Congress has outlawed this cost absorption practice.

Still another increase under the new law will put into effect OPA officials estimated to report this may amount to about 5 per cent offset restoration of dealer pre-war handling charges, which also have been trimmed by OPA.

Today's increase was the fourth general price hike since 1942 auto price ceilings granted since last November. The first covered production cost increases up to 1942 auto price ceilings granted since last November. The second was granted early this year, and the third higher prices for materials. The fourth from the OPA price boost last February.

OPA made no official estimate of the increase in retail prices over 1942 ceilings, but an official said it probably is in excess of 15 per cent.

Charge Vet Killed Mother

SALISBURY, Mass.—A 26-year-old veteran was charged with killing his mother, Mrs. Elmer Brown, 67, after he was summoned to his home today by police. The woman's body was found on a road near her home.

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Other Deaths Investigated

MADISON, Ind.—A 62-year-old woman, Mrs. Lottie Lockman, was found dead in her home. The cause of death is being investigated.

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PET EAGLE—Mrs. Daniel P. Mannix of Philadelphia holds Aquila, her pet American bald eagle. This big bird, which has appeared in the movies, ran away recently when frightened by dogs but was caught after a night out.

Bizarre Operation

Family Smuggling Ring Uncovered

BERLIN (AP)—An international smuggling and black market ring involving five members of a New York City family was uncovered recently when the Army's Criminal Investigation Department apprehended two members of the family in Berlin and Paris, an official announcement today.

The five persons involved, all had yet been drafted, but the agency's spokesman asserted that a confession had been obtained from one member of the family and that stacks of letters had been confiscated as evidence of their operations.

One charge, the Department said, might be based on transmitting goods for sale through Army Post Office channels.

The statement asserted that thousands of dollars in Allied currency and a quantity of jewelry had been confiscated at the home of the Paris member of the family.

Seek Identity Of Girl's Torso

CHICAGO—Police and Dr. J. Edgar Hoover's men are renewing efforts today to establish the identity of a torso believed to be that of a girl about 18 years old, found washed ashore at Lake Michigan and a North Side beach.

Strike Hits News Fow

NEW YORK (AP)—An embargo on all international press messages, voted by the American Press Association, will become effective at 2 P. M. EDT today. Officials of Western Union, Radio City, RCA Communications, Inc., said their wires had moved no press dispatches since the strike.

Movement of foreign press messages, both incoming and outgoing, was halted at 2 P. M. EDT today. The strike is being called by the ACPA joined in a sympathy strike by the International Union of Press Workers.

RCA said hundreds of operators stopped sending and receiving messages as the deadline for the embargo arrived.

Government business, personal messages and ordinary commercial traffic were not to be affected, Lawrence said.

In effect, he said, the only way remaining for newspaper and press associations was to send their copy to the United States by telephone.

Two Vessels Are Halted Off Harbor

Bloodshed Predicted

JERUSALEM (APL)—Two more immigrant ships crowded with Jewish refugees anchored just outside Haifa harbor today, adding an explosive pressure to the Palestine situation already tense with reports of a pending British blockade.

Arrival of the two ships brought to 2,800 by Jewish estimates the number of refugees aboard ship at Haifa or enroute who may not be allowed to land, and hence the Jews have predicted bloodshed if the immigrants are not allowed to land, and hence the Jews have predicted bloodshed if the immigrants are not allowed to land.

The Jewish underground radio broadcast that "British military action against us is pending and we are determined to 'stock up on food because long curfews are before us'."

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Byrnes Assumes Conference Chair

PARIS (AP)—Secretary of State Byrnes took over today as chairman of the Peace Conference, and the Soviet delegation quickly challenged one of his rulings on procedure.

Byrnes said he would recognize Yugoslavia today to answer the Soviet demand for a treaty terms—and only Yugoslavia in view of a previous conference decision that general debate on the case of the former enemy countries would be reserved to a later date.

Witness Describes Refrigerator Deal

WASHINGTON (AP)—Senator William F. Fields, Washington promoter and broker, testified today that he had secured a deal for the purchase of 100 refrigerators for the Government.

Fields, whose name has figured in the Senate investigation of war profiteering, testified today to the special House Committee on surplus property.

There were 181 refrigerators involved, he said, and the difference in price meant a \$91,405 loss to the Government.

Fields told the Committee he had offered to sell the refrigerators on April 8, but he was advised by a letter in reply May 10 that the deal was not for sale at \$200, but could be obtained for \$250 each.

Fields testified he immediately

Committee To Act

Yancey Leading Candidate For City Manager

By DICK YOUNG
Charlotte News Staff Writer

No recommendation on the appointment of a city manager will be made at tomorrow's weekly session of the City Council but the committee will be ready for Council action by Aug. 20, Councilman W. C. Childs, chairman of the special Council committee, announced today.

At the same time he disclosed that the committee had already interviewed Henry A. Yancey, city manager at Greensboro, who has emerged as the most likely candidate. He added that all three members of the committee, including Councilman Henry G. Newton and John P. Watt, as well as himself, were present for the interview.

Ruling Assailed

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Gl's Hold Meeting At Pinehurst To Lay Plans

District Leaders Are Selected

By TOM WATKINS
Charlotte News Staff Writer

PINEHURST—A new and potentially powerful force entered the political picture in North Carolina here yesterday when GI-Democrats from the mountains to the sea assembled in secret caucus and established a permanent organization of a fourteen-point program for the state's welfare and laid plans for active participation in future elections.

To carry out their aims and purposes the veterans—many of whom had just emerged from bitter but successful political campaigns in their home counties—appointed temporary chairmen to organize in each of the twelve Congressional districts.

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