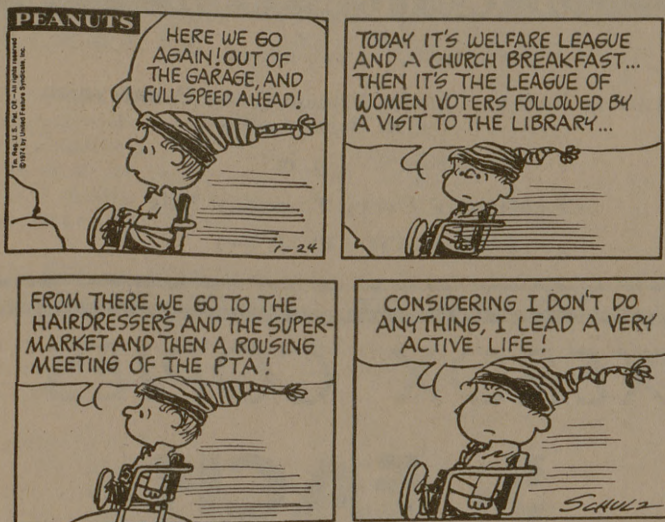


PEANUTS

By Charles M. Schulz



Prof says government responsible for crisis

"Government has caused the energy crisis and has attempted to cover its own blunders by using the oil companies and private industry as a scapegoat," Dr. W. Philip Gramm, a Texas A&M University professor, said

Wednesday in statements released here. Dr. Gramm made the remarks in conferences with federal officials, the university reported. Gramm, an economics professor called to Washington to consult

with the Federal Energy Office (FED) for the second time this month, said the elimination of the energy crisis would come not by spreading misery through allocation programs and rationing but by eliminating the bureaucratic restrictions which he said have almost destroyed domestic oil and gas operation.

Gramm urged officials to end the price ceilings on natural gas at the wellhead and the two-tiered pricing system for domestic crude.

He said in the next two years increased domestic production of oil must come from second and tertiary recovery methods. He encouraged a definition of all production increases derived from secondary recovery methods as "new" oil, thereby allowing it to be sold on a free market.

The A&M professor cited specific instances where oil being produced by artificial water flooding and sold at "new" prices would be made economically unfeasible under new regulations.

Oil produced by this method would be redefined as "old" oil if in January 1972 the well in question produced more than 10 barrels a day by primary methods, he said.

This oil would then sell at a fixed price of roughly one half the face market price, causing a decline in production and making the shortage more severe.

"America cannot afford to lose such oil," he emphasized. "It will be a national shame if all the sacrifices the American people have made to save fuel are wasted by government which is too busy finding scapegoats and attempting to force further sacrifices rather than seeking the real solution of increased supply."

Gramm is spending the week in Washington working with U.S. Rep. Olin Teague, D-Tex., on pending energy legislation. He will participate in a round table conference with the FEO Friday as an advocate of the free enterprise system and a free market solution to the energy crisis.

Judge campaigns despite charges

BROWNSVILLE (AP) — Cameron County Judge Ray Ramon said Wednesday he will seek another term in office despite his murder conspiracy trial.

Ramon, 35, serving the last year of a first term as county judge, called the murder conspiracy charge against him a "sophisticated frameup."

Jury selection is scheduled to start at Corpus Christi Thursday for the trial of Ramon, County Civil Defense Director Calos Carrasco and Noe Alaniz Trevino, an accused heroin smuggler from Matamoros, Mexico. The men are accused of conspiring to murder County Commissioner Adolph Thoma Jr. of San Benito.

Before leaving for Corpus Christi, Ramon said, "I am going to again ask the public to hire me as county judge. My name will be on the ballot."

Describing himself as "the public's county judge," Ramon said he will campaign on his accomplishments during his first term.

He said these included the first private audit of the county's finances and the establishment of a competitive bid system to buy county supplies.

Ramon said he believed the indictment against him is part of a "rather sophisticated frameup," said he did not believe that law enforcement officers themselves are "knowingly trying to frame me."

He did not elaborate on the statement, saying his lawyers had told him not to make further comment.

News Summary

National

WASHINGTON—President Nixon proposed easing clean-air standards and cutting tax breaks for overseas oil production by U.S. companies to cope with the energy crisis.

Nixon also ordered a tenfold increase in federal offshore leasing for petroleum development and a study of possible future oil and gas pipelines from northern Alaska.

In a message to Congress, Nixon also said he would propose that the federal government spend \$1.8 billion for energy research for the fiscal year 1975.

WASHINGTON — The Agriculture Department said the nation's wheat supply, already crimped by record exports, has shriveled further and soon may force President Nixon to suspend import quotas so that U.S. bakers can get grain and flour from Canada.

It said that wheat reserves may be down to 182 million bushels by next July 1, the lowest since 1947.

International

CAIRO — The Egyptian government is telling the people it accepted the agreement on military disengagement with Israel to save lives and divert money to economic development.

Daily newspapers carry the message on the home front, while President Anwar Sadat explains the move in person to fellow Arab leaders. Among development projects in the offing is repair of the Suez Canal and reconstruction of cities along the waterway.

CHATEAU THIERRY, France — Eight French soldiers were

killed when a train ran through a narrow railroad tunnel.

Three others were seriously injured. Police said the men were on a training march lost their way when they decided to follow the railroad through the tunnel, forcing both military and railroad officials.

LONDON — Coal miners in Yorkshire called for a strike that could cut electrical production enough to bring British industry by a stop. The miners are already calling for a strike at a time when the government has brought power shortages reduced the work week to days a week for many firms.

BEIRUT, Lebanon — The governments are seeking deals with oil producing nations to by-pass the major oil companies that often have the final word on who gets how much on the oil market.

TEL AVIV — Israeli troops began withdrawing from the west bank of the Jordan two days ahead of schedule. At the same time, the state radio reported, Israel admitted Egyptian military forces through Israeli lines to wounded soldiers trapped in the city of Suez since the war.

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