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Nationwide protests ask for oil, gas price controls

United Press International
The organizers of "Big Oil Protest Day" coordinated demonstrations in 103 cities throughout the nation Wednesday to pressure the government into re-imposing price controls on domestic oil and natural gas.

The protests included a demonstration at the American Petroleum Institute in Washington, signing "Big Oil Discredit Cards" in Cleveland and Chicago and a 15-hour honk-in at Carter-Mondale campaign headquarters in Concorde, Va.

There was even an evening candle vigil at oil company facilities in Detroit. The Campaign for Lower Energy Prices, made up of consumer, labor and

senior citizen groups, orchestrated the protests "to bring grass-roots pressure on President Carter and Congress to re-impose price controls on domestic crude oil, natural gas and home-heating oil," said spokesman Tom Blanton.

The first demonstration was called at APTI's headquarters in Washington by elderly people worried that many elderly on fixed incomes may suffer because they will have to scrimp on oil.

A lunch-hour demonstration was called in Cleveland to distribute petitions urging either government takeover of the domestic oil industry or at least creation of a government-run oil company to compete with private industry.

And a citizen-labor group said it would

collect "Big Oil Discredit Cards" signed by Clevelanders to express "massive distrust and resentment against the oil companies." Chicago cabbies also were dispensing the cards, which read, "The oil companies' credit has run out with me."

In New Hampshire, motorists staged a rush-hour "honk-in" Wednesday night in front of Carter's Concord campaign headquarters to denounce his decision to de-control domestic oil and natural gas prices.

Elsewhere, pickets planned to demonstrate at oil storage tanks in Palm Beach Fla.; union leaders called a candle-lit vigil Wednesday night at Amoco and Mobil facilities in Detroit, and the state AFL-CIO convention in Charleston, W.Va., was expected to join mine workers in a

march on the state capital.

Blanton said the nationwide protest was organized because "domestic oil and natural gas supplies should serve as a buffer for the American economy against OPEC price increases until we become more energy-efficient."

"But under decontrol the U.S. oil companies are going to get the OPEC price when it only costs \$2 a barrel to produce domestic oil," Blanton said.

On the other side, pro-big oil demonstrators held a rally Tuesday in Midland, Texas, the very heart of oil country, to mark "Oil Appreciation Day." Up to 1,500 people spent their lunch hour hearing and applauding speakers who denounced Jane Fonda and cited the oil companies as bastions of free enterprise.

But sponsors expected more donors

Aggie blood drive breaks record

By MARGARET JOHNSON
Battalion Reporter
Texas A&M University students broke another record this semester with the Aggie Blood Drive, although sponsors felt the turnout was low for a university this size.

Last year only 1,343 pints of blood were donated. This semester the Wadley Blood Bank received 1,521 pints. The Student Government Association, along with the Omega Phi Alpha and Alpha Phi Omega service organizations, sponsored the blood drive.

"It was really satisfying that this many people turned out for the drive," said

Roger Lind, an APO spokesman. "We were really pleased."

In spite of the increase in donors, the turnout was not as great as anticipated.

"We expected a big turnout because of all the publicity," Lind said. "I talked to other organizations and dorms and they were really pushing the drive. However, the turnout was still poor for the amount of students at this university."

Many students who planned to donate blood were turned down because of medical reasons. Others did not want to wait 30-45 minutes in the long line at the Memorial Student Center.

"We'd like to have two locations set up

for the next drive. We've considered the Harrington lounge, but it is small and doesn't have all the facilities," Lind said.

"We are going to work this and the long line problem out with the Wadley people before next semester's drive."

Lisa Bartling, OPA blood drive co-chairman, was also pleased with the outcome of the drive.

"We are very happy about this semester's turnout but there are some things that will have to be smoothed out," she said. She said one reason she thought the turnout was better this year was because kegs of beer were given away to the dormitory or organization that donated the most

blood.

"Next semester all clubs and organizations will be required to submit the amount of members in their club or dorm," she said. "We'll then take the percentage of the amount of pints donated from the total amount of members to determine the winning organizations."

This semester the total amount of blood given by a dormitory or organization was used to choose the winner.

Aston Hall won three kegs this semester donating 203 pints. Second place, winning two kegs, was the Fightin' Texas Aggie Band, donating 156 pints. Squadron 12 won third place and one keg with 67 pints.



Come to Papa

John Karger, a certified falconer, shows his success in rehabilitating birds by letting one of his former patients fly across the room. Karger spoke at Texas A&M University Tuesday night on his work with birds of prey. For more information, see page 3.

Battalion photo by Sam Stroder

Mass murderer given death penalty after jury deliberation of 55 minutes

United Press International
OKLAHOMA CITY — Convicted mass murderer Roger Dale Stafford stood with emotion as he was condemned to die for the murders of six restaurant employees. But the Alabama drifter later said he was "cheated" by the state and if executed he would die an innocent man.

Stafford was sentenced Wednesday to death by lethal injection on each of six counts of first-degree murder for the July

16, 1978, shooting deaths of the six workers. The same seven-woman, five-man jury had convicted him less than an hour before.

Referring to testimony by his wife, Verna Stafford, that she saw her husband shoot the victims, Stafford said, "I hope ... either my wife admits the truth or they find the right person who did the crime. If not, I die an innocent man."

Stafford made the comments moments

after stoically hearing his death sentence read by District Judge Charles Owens, who had earlier urged the jury to exact "just a little bit of vengeance" in its deliberations concerning the sentence. Stafford's attorney, J. Malone Brewer, said his client was prepared for the verdict.

"I have been cheated by the state," Stafford told reporters.

He told the jury, "He (Stafford) thought no more of taking these lives than you

would of stepping on an insect."

The jury, which began hearing the case seven days earlier, deliberated only 27 minutes before reaching a guilty verdict and only 55 minutes before returning the death sentences.

Stafford was convicted of herding four teen-agers and two men into a meat locker and shooting them during a robbery at the southside Siroloin Stockade restaurant.

Natural body protein may be cancer-fighter

United Press International
DALLAS — Interferon, a substance produced by the body to fight off infection, appears to have cancer-fighting properties, but scientists say they cannot get enough of the substance to do the amount of research necessary to be sure.

"The world supply is very limited, yet the interest in having interferon available for research is very high," said Dr. Nolan Hill, president of Wadley Institutes of Molecular Medicine, site of an interferon symposium beginning today.

The supply of interferon is so limited that Wadley is the only institution in the United States currently producing it, he said, although research on its medicinal properties is underway in several locations.

"Interferon is a naturally occurring anti-viral protein which is produced as our own natural defense against viral infections," Hill said. "There appears to be some evidence it might have anti-cancer

activity."

The substance is produced in the laboratory from cultures of human white blood cells that are obtained as a by-product from ordinary blood donations, said Hill.

"They are challenged with a virus of the flu family and in response, they release interferon," Hill said.

Hill said large doses of interferon have been given at Wadley to patients with "far-advanced" cases of leukemia who have undergone all other known methods of treatment.

"With a high dose there is been an improvement in the leukemia, a definite reduction. It has reduced the number of leukemia cells dramatically," Hill said.

However, Hill said only a minute amount of interferon is obtained from each culture and it would take 3,000 blood donations to get enough interferon to produce a 15-month supply for a normal-sized adult undergoing cancer treatment with a high dose of the substance daily.

OPEC expected to raise oil prices — again

United Press International
TOKYO — The Organization of Petroleum Exporting countries will raise oil prices at its next meeting in December, the chairman of OPEC said Wednesday.

Chairman Nana Said Al Otaiba, in Japan since Monday for talks with Japanese officials, said "the price of oil has to go up."

An official source said the margin of the

increase will be fixed in Caracas, Venezuela, in December.

The source said Otaiba's statement was made when the powerful oil minister of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) met with International Trade and Industry Minister Masumi Esaki Wednesday.

During the 50-minute meeting, Otaiba also hinted of the UAE's readiness to fulfill

Japan's oil needs.

The oil minister reportedly told Esaki "Japan can put its total faith" in the UAE for supply in crude oil and natural gas.

Japan currently imports about 450,000 barrels of crude per day, or 10 percent of its total oil requirements, from the UAE.

Otaiba also told Esaki OPEC would "take responsible actions for the world

economy" at its general meeting scheduled for mid-December in the Venezuelan capital, Japanese officials said.

But the oil minister warned that oil supplies did not necessarily meet demands. "Consuming nations have to try to save oil to prevent the arrival of global tragedy," he said.

New Department of Education 'will not usurp' local authority

United Press International
WASHINGTON — President Carter Wednesday signed legislation creating a new, \$14.2 billion Department of Education, and said the new department will not usurp local school board authority.

The president, flanked by key members of Congress who helped push the bill to final passage, signed the legislation during a ceremony in the White House East Room.

In his remarks, Carter stressed that the new department, which includes about 17,000 workers responsible for 150 or

more federal programs, will not usurp local school board responsibility.

"The federal government is there, eager to help," Carter said, "but the real authority lies with parents and teachers at the local level."

"Primary responsibility for education should rest with those states, localities, and private institutions that have made our nation's educational system the best in the world," Carter said.

"Education is our most important national investment," he said, adding that three out of 10 people in the country are

directly or indirectly involved in some educational pursuit.

He said the country spends \$120 billion a year on education, but until today (Wednesday), "There has not been an adequate mechanism in the federal government by which we could improve education in the United States."

As the audience of more than 200 people applauded, Carter said, "I hope and I pray and I'm determined that we're going to cut out unnecessary forms and red tape that dominated the past."

Carter made no mention of who will head the department.

Midnight blaze guts Northgate cleaners; owner will take claims early next week

Fire destroyed University Cleaners at Northgate early this morning.

Owner Bernie Gessner said all the clothes were lost in the blaze.

He said he could not estimate how much damage was done.

College Station Fire Chief Douglas Landua said the department received the call at 12:34 a.m., and the fire was out about 40 minutes later. He said four pumps from College Station and two units

from Bryan were used.

No cause of the fire has been determined, but witnesses reported sparks from the electrical transformer and from inside the laundry.

The Drafting Board, next door to the laundry, suffered heavy smoke damage, Landua said. No injuries were reported.

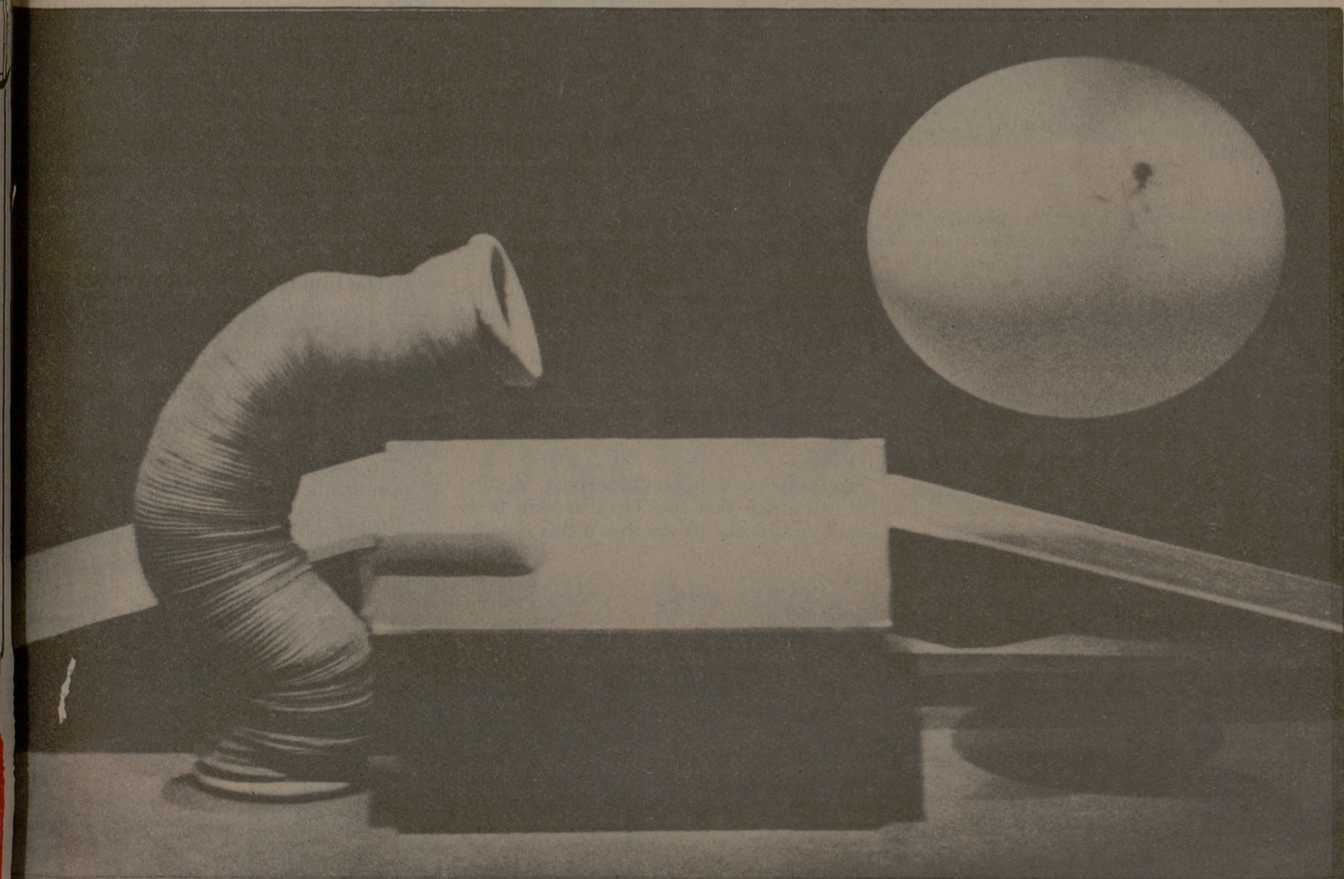
Gessner said people who had clothes in the laundry probably won't be able to do anything until Monday.

"We will be set up and taking claims on the clothes," he said.

One Texas A&M University student, Mary Jo Stine, said she lost two wool suits in the fire.

Terry Byrd said he saw the sparks about 12:30 and ran to a nearby pizza store to call the fire department.

"They responded in eight minutes," he said. "By then it was engulfed in flames."



Super-size surrealism

This five-foot inchworm (formed by person inside a flexible duct) and his giant round playmate created one of dozens of scenes presented by the Mum-

menschance troupe Wednesday night at Texas A&M University. For a review of the group's silent antics, see page 3.

Battalion photo by Lee Roy Leschper Jr.