

the nation

# Kennedy figures called false

United Press International  
WASHINGTON — President Carter's campaign manager charged Saturday Sen. Edward Kennedy is using false figures to woo voters in politically influential cold weather states. A Kennedy spokesman defended his boss's integrity and said Carter's people had their own version of the truth.

control oil prices.  
"In a Manchester, N.H., speech Wednesday, Senator Kennedy is reported to have claimed that decontrol of oil will cost the average family \$1,000 a year. That statement is just flat wrong," said Strauss.

— especially in cold weather climates where the skyrocketing cost of home heating oil seriously jeopardizes Carter's candidacy.  
"Joint calculations of the Council of Economic Advisers and the Department of Energy show that the effect of decontrol on the average family to be about \$20 during this year," Strauss said. "Based on current world oil prices, the estimated effect for 1980 is approximately \$100."

Southwick explained "what we did was take the estimate of the Joint Committee on Taxation of the total cost of decontrol over the next 10 years — about \$700 billion — divided that by 10 years and divided that by the number of families, which is about 70 million."  
"What Strauss has done is say what is going to be the increased cost to the average family of their gasoline and heating oil. But what he ignores is the fact that every item people buy is going to go up because of increased energy costs."

Japan thinks U.S. is main friend

United Press International  
TOKYO — A government opinion poll indicates a majority of the Japanese believe the United States is the No. 1 "country to be friendly with" followed by China, government sources said Saturday.  
The poll was conducted by the prime minister's office, which interviewed 3,000 men and women

over the age of 20.  
While 27 percent of the respondents picked the United States as the top country with whom Japan should maintain friendly relations, 23 percent blamed America for the trade imbalance between the two nations. China came in second with a 20 percent showing.

## Oil companies prefer cash

### Credit cards not welcomed

United Press International  
PORTLAND, Maine — The sign at Dick Stewart's Congress Street Shell station reads: "As of Dec. 1st Master Charge & Visa won't be accepted."  
More and more, oil companies are refusing to accept bank credit cards and station owners like Stewart are being forced to pass along the bad news to their customers.  
Stewart, who also a Texaco station in Portland, says Texaco has told him it will not accept the "independent" cards after Jan. 1.  
"It's a fair statement to say that the (oil) companies are demanding cash," said James Grant, a spokesman for Visa's eastern headquarters in Virginia. "It's a seller's market. If you don't have a pocketful of cash, they're saying 'the heck with you.'"  
"We've had lots of recent inquiries about it from consumers. They

don't like carrying that much cash," he added.  
"It's going on all over," said Phillip Pimentel, head of Maine's gasoline retailers association. "It's not that service stations don't want to take bank cards, it's that oil companies won't. They're telling us they're losing too much money on fraudulent cards or non-payment."  
The manager of public affairs for the Getty Refining and Marketing Co., Charles Smith, said from company headquarters in Texas, "It's basically a matter of economics. We can process our own cards cheaper than we can handle credit cards issued by other people. And we'd eventually have to pass on those costs."  
Pimentel said some banks in other parts of the country are setting up pilot programs for bank cards used only for gasoline and auto repairs, as well as check guarantee cards, to fill the void left by the bank cards.

## Blacks' income increases most

### Average income is \$17,640

United Press International  
WASHINGTON — The median income of American families rose to \$17,640 last year — a gain of 2.4 percent above inflation — and some black families had even bigger increases in their real income, the Census Bureau said Saturday.  
Although median family income

rose more than 10 percent, from \$16,010 in 1977 to \$17,640 last year, most of that gain was lost to inflation, which was 7.6 percent as measured by the Consumer Price Index.  
The Census Bureau said there were big differences in income among whites, blacks and Hispanics. The 1978 median income for white

families was \$18,370, a 2 percent increase after adjusting for inflation. For Hispanic families it was \$12,570, which was not significantly different after inflation from 1977.  
Although the median for black families was lowest — \$10,880 — the figure constituted a 6 percent gain over inflation, "the first significant rise in three years."  
The Census Bureau said the gain for blacks was mostly in husband-wife families, while median income for families headed by a black woman did not change significantly.  
Among all women who were head of their own households, median income in 1978 was only \$8,537.  
The bureau said median incomes for people living alone or with non-family members rose 5.5 percent in inflation-adjusted dollars.  
The median is the middle figure, with as many families with incomes above the figure as below it.  
The bureau said the number of people living in poverty — 24.5 million persons, or 11.4 percent of the population — was essentially unchanged from 1977.  
So far, the average annual increase in real family income during the 1970s has been 0.8 percent compared to 3 percent in the 1960s.

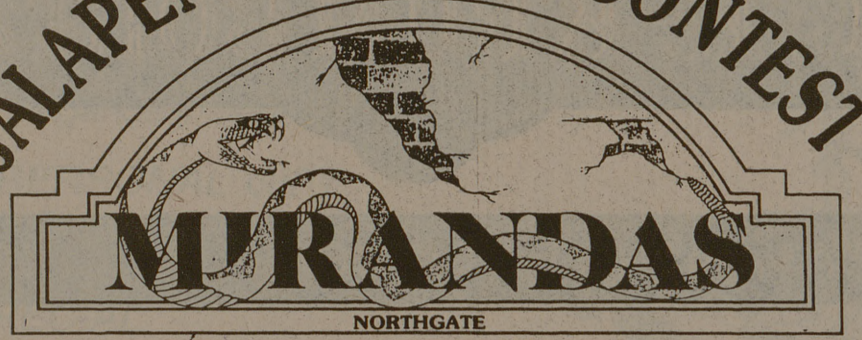
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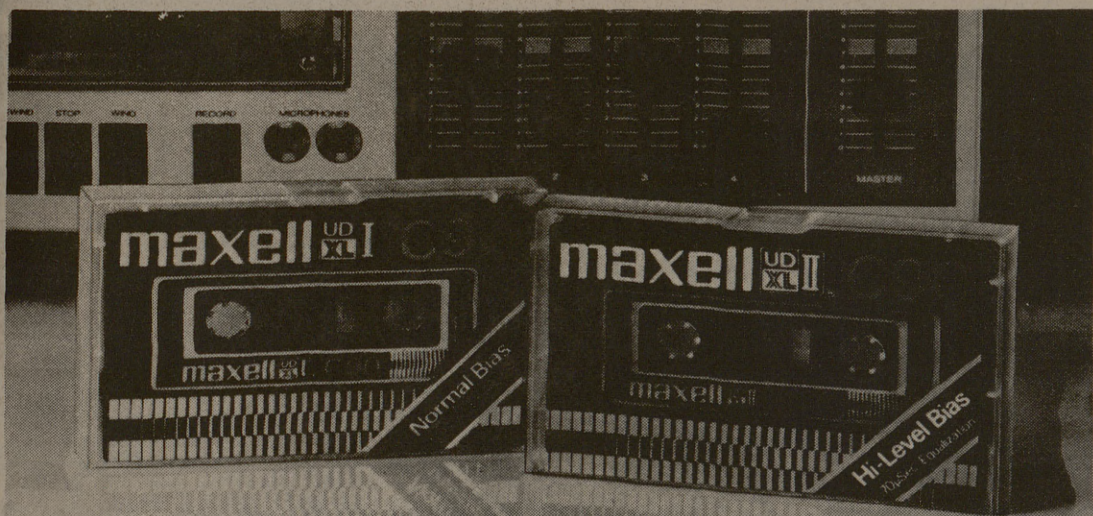
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