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Profit tax top priority

United Press International
WASHINGTON — Three main components of President Carter's energy program — particularly the oil windfall profits tax — are expected to get top priority treatment when Congress resumes work later this month.

House and Senate negotiators are due to meet Thursday to continue seeking a compromise on their differing windfall tax bills before Congress returns Jan. 22.

The conferees agreed before the Christmas holidays on a \$227.3 billion revenue figure for the windfall bill, splitting the difference between the Senate's \$178 billion tax and the \$277 billion tax passed by the House.

But they did not complete work on

the windfall tax, so the president postponed further decontrol of domestic oil prices until Congress sends him an acceptable bill.

The delay is estimated to be costing domestic oil companies \$700,000 a day, so politicians from oil producing states — which are well represented on both the House and Senate conference delegations — are expected to rush for quick completion of the legislation.

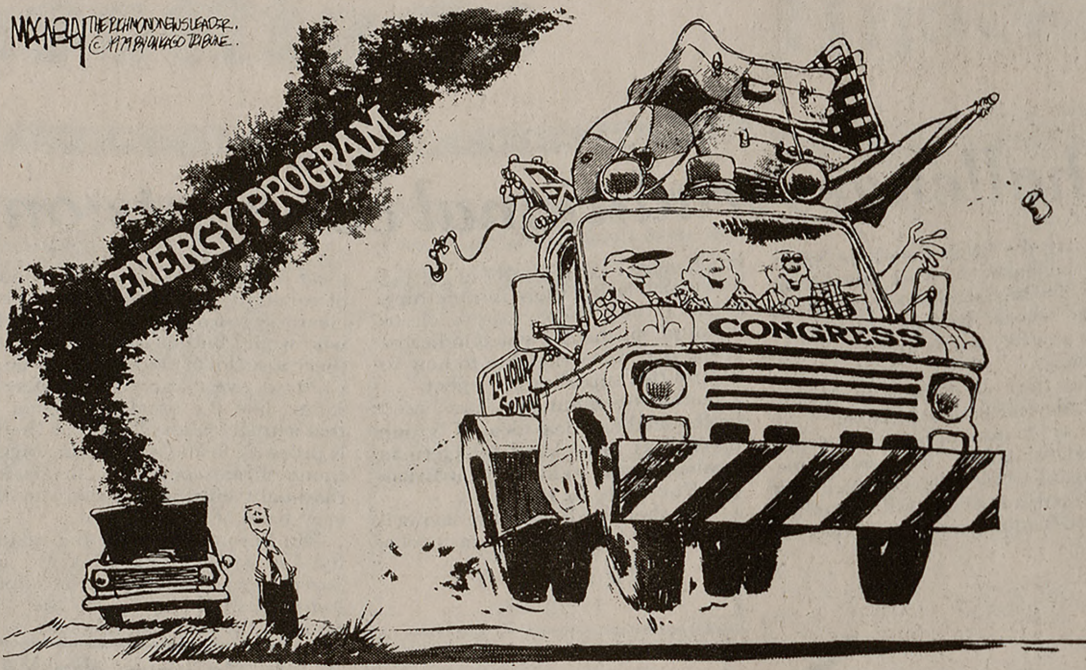
Carter wants the tax so the Treasury can receive some of the nearly \$1 trillion in unearned income oil producers are expected to make between 1980 and 1990 because of Carter's decision to decontrol domestic oil prices, allowing domestic crude prices to rise gradually to world

levels.

One of the controversial decisions facing the conference committee is whether to raise the tax on independent oil producers or on major oil companies to make up the difference between the \$178 billion Senate bill and the \$227.3 billion compromise.

Two other bills considered a major part of the Carter energy program also are tied up in House-Senate conferences.

They are an omnibus energy bill — which includes a program of massive government aid to synthetic fuel plants plus incentives for gasohol production and energy conservation — and legislation creating a "fast track" bypassing government roadblocks for approval of high priority energy projects, such as synfuel plants.



Soviets warned of shortages

United Press International
MOSCOW — Despite the distance that the Soviet Union will be hurt by President Carter's embargo, a Soviet agriculture specialist is warning farmers of shortages this year.

Yuri Gorbunov, head of the central department for the Russian Federation Agriculture Ministry, urged farmers to maintain beef and poultry stocks at their current levels.

Speaking on a Friday night television news program, Gorbunov said, "This year farmers of the Russian Federation boast the largest stocks of cattle and fowl ever."

"But farmers in some regions are encountering difficulties in feeding their cattle owing to a shortage of fodder."

"Their priority task is to avoid losses in these herds", Gorbunov said.

Farmers will demonstrate in Washington in February

United Press International
LORENZO — The tone will be softer, but the resolve of farmers in Washington will be just as strong as last year, says the American Agriculture Movement's national wagonmaster.

"We don't anticipate actions like we had last year with the tractorcade," says Mel D. Cherry. "We're going to be real gentlemen, but we are going to push our points real hard

and present the problems frankly."

Cherry says he expects demonstrations, but no violence.

The nationwide drive to Washington will begin with farmers departing Lubbock or Plainview along a southern route, Cherry said.

Other farmers will travel along Interstate 40, departing from Hereford, where they will be led by state coordinating wagonmaster, Jerome Friemel.

Boat people found to be carriers of hepatitis strain

United Press International
ATLANTA — The national Center for Disease Control (CDC) said Saturday 13 percent of the "boat people" in this country are carriers of hepatitis and dental personnel should take special precautions while treating the refugees.

The CDC said dentists and dental groups in several states had expressed concern the Indochinese refugees

posed a significant risk to them through the transmission of hepatitis-B.

It said, however, that an understanding of the ways hepatitis-B is spread, and use of proper sterilization and disinfection techniques "should allow dentists to provide dental care for the refugees in the normal dental office with minimal risk to themselves and virtually no risk to other

patients."

The CDC said hepatitis-B, a liver ailment, was an occupational hazard of medical and dental personnel, especially those who are frequently exposed to blood. Surgeons, oral surgeons and pathologists are at highest risk, acquiring the infection approximately six times more frequently than the general population.

About 13 percent of general dentists contract hepatitis-B, compared to roughly four percent of the general population, the CDC said.

"The Indochinese refugees have a 13 percent carrier rate, but because they are an easily identifiable group, appropriate precautions can be taken," the federal health agency said.

"Thus the risk to the dentist may be less than that from other high risk groups and from unrecognized carriers in the general population."

The CDC and the Council on Dental Therapeutics of the American Dental Association recommended several steps dentists should take to lessen the risk of hepatitis infection, including the wearing of single-use gloves and surgical masks and eye glasses.

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