World

Experts predict higher gas prices in '81 as trend abides

United Press International

LOS ANGELES — The new year will bring higher gas prices and diminished gasoline supplies, a trend expected to continue through 1981, the Lundberg Letter predicts.

Gasoline surpluses should decline this month because of continued cutbacks in refinery operations, the newsletter reported Saturday.

"With the glut relieved, much of the reason for wholesale price cutting would be gone," newsletter Editor-in-Chief Mark Emond said.

Current and expected crude and other cost increases should add 1½ cents to 2 cents a gallon per month to petroleum product prices on the average for the next 12 months, the newsletter said.

This would make the current $1.21 per gallon something like $1.40 to $1.45 per gallon by December 1981.

But that is based on a conservative hike in world crude oil prices. "It's based on the premise of about a $3 per barrel increase — from $37 to $40 per barrel — in the official Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries price early next year, and no further tightening of world crude supplies," Emond said.

"Any indication of limited gasoline supplies could bring this slide to an end," the newsletter said.

Retail gasoline prices began leveling off last April and have been falling since July, but in November they turned around.

The combined U.S. retail gasoline price of all grades, full and self-serve, inched up to 121.39 per gallon in November, up from 121.37 in October.

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Slang not bad, Oxford don says

'American' is good English

United Press International

NEW YORK — This slang-slinging persecutor of grammar took the assignment with trepidation — "a state of fear and anxiety, nervous agitation," the dictionary says.

Interview Robert Burchfield. He's a don — we call them professors — at Oxford, teaches English there. He lectures on the language. He's chief editor of the Oxford Dictionaries, all of them. He has lots of honors, letters after his name, like that.

This man has been adding words to the Oxford English Dictionary, that 12-volume work of works with 15,000 pages. It took 44 years to put together — 1884-1928.

You'd think 400,000-odd words was enough.

No. This Burchfield got asked to do a little supplement. Bring it up to date, they said. Might take 7 years, they thought.

He has to make a big thing of it. Now the supplement is going to take four volumes — not little ones, either. It isn't even finished.

"I missed my deadline by 21 years," he jokes.

He got the first part done in 1972, 17,500 words, 1,350 pages. It got him up thru G. Then came H to N in '76. He plans to get into S, maybe next year. He hopes to finish off the alphabet and supplement in 1984. At 57, he figures he can get a new dictionary started in four years, then retire — to a really big project.

"You have only been commissioned to do a short, little book," his wife, Elizabeth, says. It is a loving reproach.

"Call me Bob," he says. He's trying to make things easy. The eyes can be piercing. Between loads of white hair that frizzles and bundles about the ears, they also twinkle a lot. It is a visage his Oxford grads must adore. And he's not all that English, a New Zealander, born and reared. He points that out.

He was in town on a U.S. speaking tour remarkably coincident with the publication of the new Oxford American Dictionary. But banish any thought he has bad things to say about American English.

> *"You (Americans) have a vague ancestral feeling that somewhere outside, there is proper English. American is proper. It is as proper as anywhere else."*

"You (Americans) have a vague ancestral feeling that somewhere outside, there is proper English. American is proper." He says it with a vehemence one tends to believe. "It is as proper as anywhere else."

Besides, he concedes, "there are more American speakers than any other."

"Yours is a new kind of English with an identity and independence all its own," he says.

"If you fail to produce great writers, then start worrying about the language. But we have good writers today. Language in the right hands can still be used with all the force it ever has.

Writing now tends more to reflect spoken English. It is conversational. The TV age is a reason.

"The world is not coming to an end because the language is informal," he has concluded. "It still has that power."

But what, perish the thought, of slang?

"I really don't think there is too much slang here." When slang stops being slang and starts being part of the language is an ephemeral thing, he says. Ephemeral — lasting only a short time, the dictionary says.

He has just seen the new Oxford American Dictionary, compiled under his direction, mostly by American editors on contract. "I always been interested in what words are to the United States." And they do include

He rejoices in finding a few:

"Of course, you know fungo."

Of course, we did not.

"A fly ball hit by a batter who has thrown ball into the air for hitting," it says so in the as distinguished from the OED which he has supplementing these many years.

Proudly, he notes, "funky is in the first of the supplement," published in 1972.

The OAD, he says, "seems just a little ary." But he likes it's brief definitions. "I go waffling on." He knows about that. The goes into great detail defining things.

Unlike most dictionaries, the OAD tells use commonly misused words in some 40 notes. It is usage that he's most concerned

He cites one: "Do not confuse climac climatic." The former: "of or having a The latter is the adjective of climate.

Another: "Don't use refute to mean de But what if you do, we said, having de

"What you do is you just look down your this person. What we're saying is, a pe sensibility will be conservative in how he language.

"The language is changing. But it's not a battle as a skirmish. We try to identify the where there is a difficulty. And, in such you're a good chap, you'll just wait a little

Actually, he says, "there are silent, changes going on in the language all the

"Take, 'I'll be right down or right up.'

"That's been in normal usage in the States since 1880. It didn't happen in Brit after World War II. It is a natural, ordin velopment of an Anglo-Saxon word."

Polish leaders end meeting toda

United Press International

WARSAW, Poland — The Polish Communist Party Central Committee convened Monday in a two-day meeting expected to involve an examination of the economic and political crises resulting from the summer labor revolt — and a possible high-level purge.

Political sources said the party politburo met in extended session Monday and the plenary session could begin later in the afternoon.

At the same time, Stefan Bratkowski, head of the Polish Journalists Association, wrote in the newspaper Zycie Warszawy, "A formula for true socialism could be used everywhere, but socialism must be a different thing in the Soviet Union's multinational state, in the German Democratic Republic with its private industry and collectivized agriculture, and also it is different in Hungary.

"In every case local or national peculiarities must be taken into account," he said.

"I also think that our socialism, while convergent in principles with those of our neighbors and friends, must be a flower from our own soil."

He listed five principles which should be considered in cultivating Polish socialism. These included allowing Polish Communists to believe in God not to hide their religious feelings, making sure the party bears in mind socialist as communist traditions and it a "partnership" kind of soc

He also said that a class of property owners should be nized, and law should be priority in the social system.

The agenda for the sess cludes reports on the politi economic situation, as affected the months of labor upheava debate and what was termed nizational" matters indicating personnel changes.

On the eve of the sessio Warsaw regional office of the pendent union, Solidarity, ap to its members for order to sp reconstruction of the econo also pledged not to distribute or posters in the capital.

A high-ranking party official ing Saturday in the official party Trybuna Ludu, forecast a p extremists from both ends — line and liberal — as well as elements.

In the weeks preceding the num, dozens of local party of tions were purged.

The Central Committee was reported to have been poned at least twice to avoid it during severe labor tensio also, apparently, to enable munist Party leader Stanisla to marshal his forces.

The plenum will show how has succeeded in getting a the party and in running the since the end of the massive strike, which saw the birth independent Solidarity Kania's predecessor, Ed Gierek, was ousted after the the August strike.

Sunday, the Solidarity which last week brought the to the brink of one of its most ous labor-state crisis by threate general strike in the Warsaw appealed for a period of calm construction of the econo perpetuatuation of achieve

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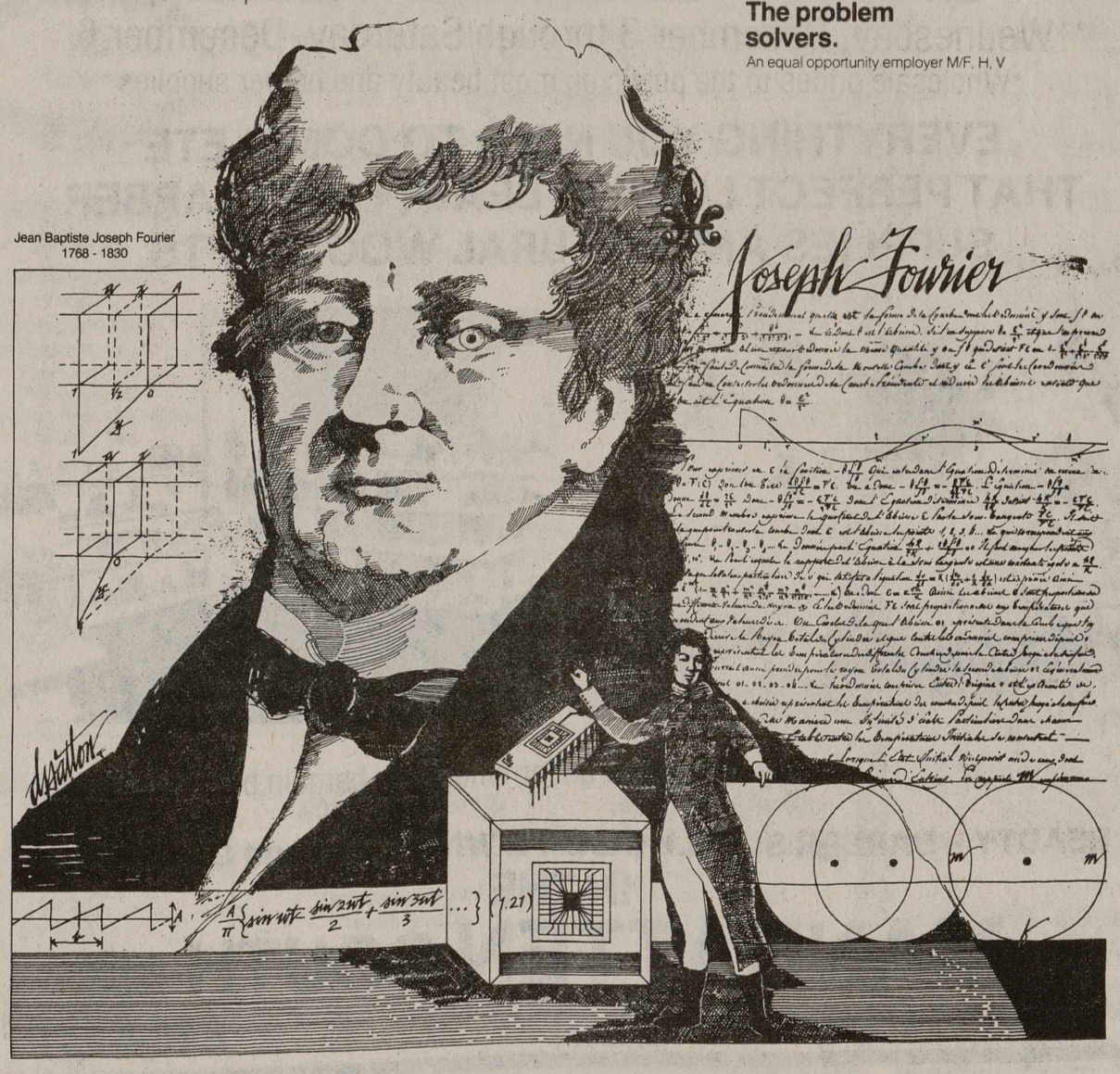

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