

Panic at the pumps returns with surplus

by Dick West
United Press International

WASHINGTON — Petroleum experts are predicting that gasoline prices in much of the nation will hit the dollar-a-gallon mark this spring.

These forecasts come as a shock to many motorists, particularly those old enough to remember paying around \$1.50 for a gallon of auto fuel.

Implicit in the outlook is the prospect of uneven distribution of gas station business. Some sort of allocation system may be necessary.

I don't think there is much support for a rationing program under which each dealer would be entitled to pump a specified amount of gas each month. There are, however, a number of alternative plans under consideration.

One proposal looked upon favorably in several states involves an odd-even arrangement. Under its provisions, motorists with odd-numbered license plates would buy gas at stations with an odd number of pumps, or that sell odd brands of gasoline.

There also is talk of having cars that need gas display green flags while those with full tanks would display red flags.

And it is likely that some form of maximum purchase plan will be adopted to encourage so-called "topping off." Its aim would be to discourage motorists from driving around until their gas gauges registered empty.

It should be pointed out that none of these contingency plans touches on the basic cause of the emergency. Put into

simple terms, the root problem is that there just aren't enough consumers to use up all the gasoline that is being produced.

The only long-term solution, therefore, would be measures to increase the supply of consumers. Several suggestions along this line have been offered.

One potential being eyed by oil companies is the vast contingent of joggers visible in most urban areas.

Millions of prospective consumers who are reluctant to jog under their own power probably could be persuaded to hit the road if a way were found to convert joggers to run on gasoline.

A great deal more research on gas-powered jogging is needed, however. Only experimental methods have been tested to date, and they have proved woefully impractical.

Another possibility is the use of gasoline to operate solar heating units. With gasoline prices about to reach a dollar a gallon, homes with gas-powered solar heating units could become extremely attractive investments.

The situation also calls for some sort of consumer cartel, perhaps named OPUN, short for Organization of Petroleum-Using Nations. The group would meet occasionally to agree on how much gasoline member countries would burn.

It is clear that without some kind of consumption-fixing arrangement, there could be near chaos at the retail level. And nobody wants to see gasoline dealers having to wait in line for customers.



Watergate players not faring well

By David S. Broder

WASHINGTON — Eight years ago this spring, if one of them poked a head out of the door, a crowd of reporters and cameramen would gather. If he or she jumped on an elevator in the Capitol, so many people would follow that the cable was in danger of snapping.

They were the members of the House Judiciary Committee, engaged in the historic task of preparing impeachment charges against President Richard M. Nixon. When they began their formal hearings, a rapt nation watched.

So well did the committee members do their work that at the end, rather than face floor votes in the House and Senate on the charges they prepared, Nixon resigned. His disgrace was complete — if less permanent than many of them supposed that August day.

But it is one of the ironies of history that few of the 38 men and women who served as Nixon's jurors have seen their own subsequent political careers flourish. Eight of the 38 were defeated for re-election or in their bids for other offices within months of Nixon's own departure. Six more have met with subsequent political defeats and eight have retired — voluntarily or otherwise.

The latest two casualties came just last week, when Rep. Robert McClory (R-Ill.) yielded his district without a fight to a younger Republican redistricted into his territory, and Rep. Tom Railsback (R-Ill.) lost renomination to a conservative challenger.

By the end of the year, not more than 13 of the 38 will be left in Congress. Sens. William S. Cohen (R-Maine) and Paul S. Sarbanes (D-Md.) are the only members of the impeachment crew who have been able to move to the other side of the Capitol, and Sarbanes faces a fight for re-election in November.

Eleven others are seeking re-election to the House, among them four of the five senior Democrats on the impeachment panel: Rodino and Reps. Jack Brooks of Texas, Robert W. Kastenmeier of Wisconsin and Don Edwards of California. Also still in the House are three junior Democrats, Reps. John Conyers, Jr., of Michigan, John F. Seiberling, Jr., of Ohio and Charles B. Rangel of New York.

But by the end of this year not more than four of the 17 Judiciary Republicans will remain in the House: Reps. Hamilton Fish, Jr., of New York, Trent Lott of Mississippi, Carlos J. Moorhead of California and Delbert L. Latta of Ohio.

Three of the alumni are on the bench. William L. Hungate, a Missouri Democrat who retired in 1976, is a Federal district judge. Harold V. Froehlich, one of the Republicans defeated in 1974, is a Wisconsin circuit judge. Rep. George E. Danielson (D-Calif.) has just been picked for the California court of appeals.

But the surprising thing is how ephemeral the Watergate fame proved to be for most and how poor a springboard that committee was to higher political office.

Four Democrats have failed in their bids for the Senate: Walter Flowers in Alabama, Ray Thornton in Arkansas, Elizabeth Holtzman in New York and Wayne Owens in Utah.

Academia has claimed some of them. Drinan teaches law at Georgetown. Thornton is president of Arkansas State University at Jonesboro, and Barbara Jordan, the Texas Democrat, is on the faculty of the University of Texas.

Republican Edward Hutchinson of Michigan and Democrat Harold D. Donohue of Massachusetts are retired. Flowers heads the Washington office of an energy firm. Law practices provide the livelihoods for retired or defeated Democrats Owens and James R. Mann of South Carolina and Republicans Charles E. Wiggins of California, David W. Dennis of Indiana, Wiley Mayne of Iowa, and Charles W. Sandman, Jr. and Joseph J. Maraziti of New Jersey. M. Caldwell Butler of Virginia will join them after his retirement at the end of this Congress.

But that employment is not available. Joshua Eilberg, the Pennsylvania Democrat who was defeated in 1978 and convicted of interest charges. He was disbarred by the Pennsylvania supreme court in 1979.

It is, on the whole, not an extraordinary history. But that is not disturbing. Congress is a representative body. And these Representatives — no better or worse than most, as their careers show — stepped up and met their historic responsibility admirably.

Slouch

By Jim Earle



"It's not that I don't want to take notes, but I've had an accident..."

Letters: Help set direction by voting in elections

Editor:

In recent weeks, I have been amazed at all the discouraging remarks I have heard about the Texas A&M Student Government. People have said that the Student Government is inefficient, ineffective and inactive. I would like to address this letter to those points.

As a former member of Muster Committee, Who's Who Selection Committee and other University committees, and as senator and Speaker Pro-Tempore of the Student Senate, I have seen all realms of Student Government over the past two years. I have devoted many hours to Student Government over this time period, and on hearing this recent criticism I asked myself if it had been all a waste of time. I then examine the role of Student Government over the past year.

Academic excellence is one thing that the University and its students strive for. The Academic Affairs Committee has worked very hard over the past year to promote this. A University-wide quiz file program was coordinated through this committee, and a tutoring program for use by all students was also initiated by this committee of Student Government.

Student services are also a concern to both the student body and Student Government. In the past year, the Student Services Committee started a Dorm Security Awareness Program in conjunction with Residence Hall Association. The Student Services Committee also initiated action which resulted in the installation of additional equipment in the campus weight room.

Yet another area Student Government deals with is community affairs. In the

past year, the External Affairs Committee, working with the local Chamber of Commerce and various businesses, has improved community relations. In conjunction with the Chamber of Commerce, Student Government is also seeking to place students on advisory boards at local banks.

The committee is now working on a plan to reduce congestion at Northgate by having business entrances moved to the rear. The second annual Conference of Student Government Associations sponsored by Student Government was a great success. This regional conference explored student oriented service issues and how they may be improved at the various universities.

Student Government has tried to keep the student body more informed this year through the "Aggie Connection," a supplement published in *The Battalion* by Student Government about once a month.

Student Government has addressed issues this past year which are important to students — issues pertaining to academics, campus services, and the community relations — to name just a few areas.

If one feels these issues are insignificant and that Student Government lacks direction and effectiveness in handling them, then criticism toward Student Government is just. But the issues mentioned, and many more the Student Government researches and supports are for the improvement of student life on campus and throughout the community.

The direction that Student Government takes will be determined by the vote of you, the students. I encourage everyone to vote today and tomorrow. I also

encourage everyone to support Student Government and its activities throughout the coming year.

Mike Wolff
Speaker Pro-Tempore
Texas A&M Student Senate

very pleasant if brought to life. With this in mind, we cannot stand idly by anymore.

By diverting attention away from nuclear buildup, the U.S. can have a ba-

lanced budget and a better navy, killing two birds with one stone.

Richard John Goselin '85
College Station

U.S. needs better navy

Editor:

President Reagan is going to have to make some compromises if he wants to balance the budget. As it stands now it is perceived the nation will have a staggering deficit in excess of \$91 billion.

While it is obvious that major spending cuts in the military budget would not be in the nation's best interest, cuts where there is excess fat will do the job. This fat is the money spent on nuclear armament. The Pentagon would be wiser to spend their money on bettering the navy rather than trying to gain nuclear superiority over the Soviets, which is simply nonsense. The sea is where the U.S. does a great deal of its trading and it needs a strong navy to protect its merchant ships.

The Soviet Union does virtually no trading at all by sea. However, they have a powerful navy that consists of over 900 battleships, heavy cruisers, and submarines. This would tend to signify an offensive move on the part of the Soviets to deny the U.S. access to the sea. That would be a horror story that would not be

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The Battalion also serves as a laboratory newspaper for students in reporting, editing and photography classes within the Department of Communications.

Questions or comments concerning any editorial matter should be directed to the editor.

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Letters to the Editor should not exceed 300 words in length, and are subject to being cut if they are longer. The editorial staff reserves the right to edit letters for style and length, but will make every effort to maintain the author's intent. Each letter must also be signed, show the address and phone number of the writer.

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