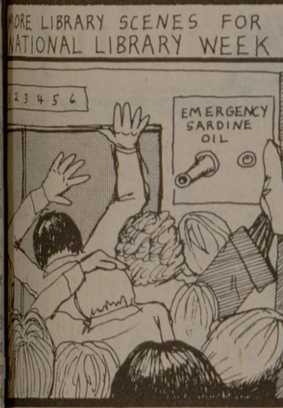
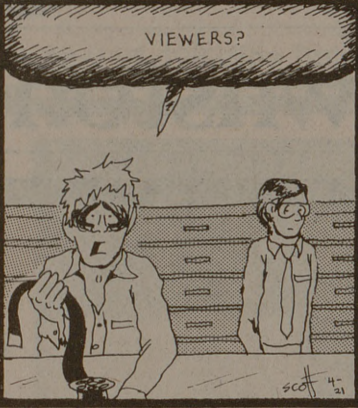


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 VIEWERS?



by Scott McCullar

Gas Policy Act criticized

United Press International
WASHINGTON—The marketplace is the best regulator of natural gas prices, supply and incentives for further production, Rep. Billy Tauzin, D-La., said Tuesday.
 In a speech to the National Energy Resources Organization, Tauzin, who is a member of the House Fossil and Synthetic Fuels Subcommittee reviewing various natural gas proposals, said the basic premise of the current Natural Gas Policy Act is flawed because legislative incentives are unnecessary.
 "Even when you get to the

point where we are today, with an excess of supply, those incentives are still in place in the marketplace," he said.

3.1 percent growth in GNP reported

United Press International
WASHINGTON—The government said Wednesday the nation's gross national product grew a 3.1 percent annual rate from January through March.
 The economic expansion after the recession, the best since the fourth quarter of 1981, was just over the 3 percent to 5 percent range necessary to reduce unemployment, but it was weaker than most private analysts and the White House expected.
 The Commerce Department said the increase in the value of the nation's goods and services after the inflation adjustment was \$11.3 billion in the first quarter.

In the previous quarter, October through December, the GNP decreased at a 1.1 percent annual rate and dropped 1.7 percent for all of 1982, the worst performance since industry demobilized after World War II.

increased 3.2 percent in the first quarter compared with 4.9 percent in the fourth quarter. It was the least growth since the second quarter of 1972, mostly reflecting the drop in oil prices, the department said.

The GNP figure released Wednesday will be revised next month based on more comprehensive data. All inflation adjusted figures were expressed in 1972 dollars.

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Foreign titles to US lands up

United Press International
WASHINGTON—Foreign owners increased their control over U.S. agricultural land last year, with holdings of 13.5 million acres in 49 states and two territories, the Agriculture Department says.
 A survey released Tuesday by the department's Economic Research Service showed foreign corporations and individuals owned more than 1 percent of the 1.29 billion acres of agricultural land in the United States in 1982.
 Foreign ownership is up 1 million acres over 1981 levels, according to the agency, which compiled its information using reports filed by landowners under the Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act of 1978.
 About one-fifth of the foreign holdings were in Maine, where 2.7 million acres, or 14

percent of all the state's agricultural land, was owned by foreign businesses or individuals, the agency said.

Its report attributed the high figure to the large land holdings of three timber companies. One company has partial interests in 33 percent of the acreage; the other two are U.S. companies with partial foreign ownership, the report said.

Aside from Maine, the largest foreign holdings are in Georgia and Texas, which both show foreign ownership of more than 900,000 acres, the report said.
 In their own reports to the government, foreign owners indicated forest land accounts for 55 percent of their holdings; cropland, 13 percent, and pasture and other agricultural land, 27 percent. The balance was either used for other purposes or its use was not reported.

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