

Oil

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reporters in Washington. "I would be very surprised to see it fall to levels much lower than where it is right now."

On the New York Mercantile Exchange, contracts for May delivery of West Texas Intermediate, the major U.S. grade of crude, closed at \$10.42 a barrel.

That was down 9 percent from Thursday's close of \$11.44, and 66 percent from the \$31.01 close of Nov. 25, the day before the current price slide began.

The market was closed Friday in observance of Good Friday.

In 1978, refiners were paying an

average \$10.61 a barrel for domestic crude oil.

Futures contract prices for refined products, such as gasoline and heating oil, also slumped Monday.

Among contracts for April delivery, unleaded gasoline closed at 36.75 cents a gallon, down from 3 1/2 cents from Thursday's 40.25-cent close, while heating oil closed at 42.78 cents, down from 43.88 cents.

The current slump began with a glut in world supplies that was already putting downward pressure on prices late last year.

In December, OPEC announced it would increase production to preserve its "fair market share," abandoning previous attempts to support

the market price through restrained production.

The decision sent prices into another tailspin, leading OPEC members to call for renewed cuts in output by both the cartel and non-OPEC members such as Britain and Mexico.

But at a nine-day-long meeting in Geneva that ended March 24, members of the 13-nation cartel could not win agreement from non-members on production cuts and it failed to devise a strategy for cutting its own production. The members agreed only to reconvene on April 15.

A recent study by Charles River Associates Inc., a Boston-based consulting firm, estimated the world

supply of oil in April would exceed demand by 4.2 million barrels a day, "two to three times the imbalance recorded in January and February."

David Mizrahi, editor of the newsletter MidEast Report, said he was not surprised by the latest fall in prices.

He said he expected the level to fall to "\$8, maybe \$7, but not \$5 — although the Saudis can live with \$5."

The Saudis are "are trying to flush some producing countries out of the market," by driving prices so low that they become uneconomic for some competing countries, he said.

Restaurant

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food containers. The report said a follow-up inspection will be made in 10 days.

• Farmers Market at 329 University Drive in College Station was inspected by David Pickens. Score — 87. A four-point violation in the report was given because a hand sink was inaccessible. Four two-point violations in the report were given for food stored on a floor, a dirty ice maker, a dirty floor that needed repairing, doors that weren't self closing and a paper towel dispenser not operating properly. One point in the report was subtracted because grating needed to be placed over a floor drain. The report said a follow-up inspection will be made in 10 days.

SCORED BETWEEN 70 AND 74:

• Wendy's Old Fashioned Hamburgers at 3216 Texas Ave. in Bryan was inspected by David Plett. Score — 70. Plett said in the report a five-point violation was

given because none of the employees during the time of the inspection "washed their hands when necessary." The report showed a four-point violation for utensils that weren't being washed properly. Another four-point violation in the report was given because a back door was open. Six two-point violations in the report were given because no soap or paper towels were at two hand sinks, food and food service articles were stored on a floor and under drain pipes, a soda fountain needed cleaning, dishwashing facilities were not being used properly, garbage was not sealed in plastic bags and utensils were not stored on a clean surface. Five one-point violations in the report were given because wiping cloths were not stored properly, an ice scoop handle was touching ice, a light was needed in a freezer, thermometers were needed in some refrigerators and utensils were not stored properly. The report said a follow-up inspection will be made.

Crash

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crash area told him "the airplane already was burning when it came in. They said there were two explosions on impact."

A flight over the crash area in a chartered aircraft revealed a plume of white smoke slightly more than halfway up the mountain, and several small fires around it.

The airport at Morelia, capital of Michoacan state and about 45 miles west of the crash site, made arrangements to receive the bodies. Three hangars were converted into makeshift morgues, and airline officials requested lime, body bags and other emergency supplies from Mexico City.

One helicopter flew several dozen plastic body bags to the crash site.

In an official statement, the airline said the plane left Mexico City at 8:50 a.m. CST (9:50 EST) and was to arrive in Los Angeles at 12:20 p.m. PST (3:20 p.m. EST) after stops in Puerto Vallarta and Mazatlan.

"The commander of the plane, captain and pilot Carlos Guadarrama Sistos, with approximately 15,000 hours of flight time and vast

experience, reported shortly after 0900 hours (10 a.m. EST) to the Mexico center to inform that the plane was losing altitude and later all contact was lost with the plane," the statement said.

"The captain asked for permission to descend because they had problems about the pressurization of the plane," Jose Henonin, an airline spokesman in Mexico City, said in a telephone interview. "That was the last time they heard from the captain, when he asked for authorization to descend to 6,000 feet. He was flying at 26,000 feet."

A source at the Mexico City airport said contact was lost with the jetliner 14 minutes after takeoff.

Flight information on a TV screen at Los Angeles International Airport said hours after the crash: "Mexicana Flight 940 will arrive 2:40 p.m. new time."

The worst commercial aviation disaster occurred March 27, 1977, when 582 people were killed in a collision of two Boeing 747s operated by Pan American and KLM at the airport on Tenerife in Spain's Canary Islands.

Rejection

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weapon stockpiles for rust and corrosion and to test the trigger mechanism.

It can all be done without a nuclear explosion, Wanke said.

Keeny, former deputy director of the U.S. arms control agency, said he was distressed by Reagan's rejection.

Keeny, now president of the private Arms Control Association, said 16 U.S. tests were con-

ducted last year while the Soviets set off seven explosions.

He said both sides were averaging about 15 to 20 blasts a year.

Smith, chief U.S. negotiator in the Nixon administration, said the failure to pursue an overall ban breaks with a commitment to other nations in the 1968 nonproliferation treaty. Rhinlander, a lawyer who helped draft the

1972 Strategic Arms Limitation Treaty, said he was not surprised by Reagan's decision.

"I don't believe anyone who has followed the situation could be surprised that the Reagan administration was going to reject any proposal to stop underground nuclear testing," he said.

He said the failure to pursue an overall ban breaks with a commitment to other nations in the 1968 nonproliferation treaty, which was designed to stop the spread of nuclear weapons.

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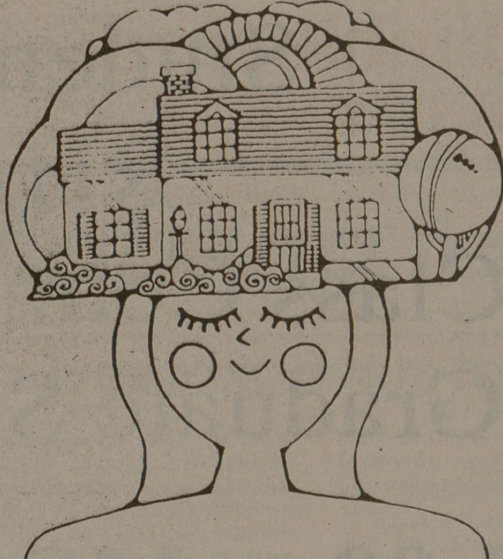
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