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# Republicans told drop in oil prices may be windfall

WASHINGTON (AP) — The plunge in oil prices could be a political windfall if Republicans make sure voters link falling gasoline prices to Reagan administration policies, the House Republican Research Committee says in a memorandum.

However, the committee said, Republicans in Texas, Oklahoma and Louisiana "will make do with mixed messages as glad tidings overall are offset by turmoil in certain communities and key industries."

Barton, whose East Texas district is coming off an oil boom.

"Because in our state and Louisiana and Oklahoma, it needs to be a non-partisan issue and everybody pull together for the good of our area," he said.

Sen. Lloyd Bentsen, D-Texas, is pushing for an oil import fee to stabilize prices. His Republican counterpart, Phil Gramm, is opposed to the import fee.

Gramm favors measures to support the banking industry and tax incentives for oil producers instead, an approach also endorsed by other GOP members of the Texas delegation.

Barton said Rep. Tony Coelho, head of the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee, who gave copies of the memorandum to Democratic members of Congress, was trying to paint the Republicans as opponents of producing states and Democrats as "their big friends."

The March 19 memorandum, titled "A GOP Windfall: The Oil Price Plunge and How to Talk About It," offered members tips for telling voters how the oil price decline benefits them and how Reagan is responsible for those benefits.

"I hope the Republican Party doesn't take it on itself to do everything it can to make that a partisan issue," said Republican Rep. Joe

# Barrels of crude difficult for today's Texans to buy

AUSTIN (AP) — With crude oil prices down to about \$12 or \$13 a barrel, why not buy one?

The steep drop in oil prices offers a cut-rate chance to become a Texas oilman or oilwoman, albeit in a small way.

Bubbling crude. Texas tea. Black gold. Your own barrel of it.

Can a Texan buy a single barrel of oil? Apparently not for \$12.

This is an exercise for Texans who are oil illiterate, those who believe that gasoline pumps are stationed wherever oil has been struck.

Texas Railroad Commission as an oil purchaser.

Once you fill out the forms, you have to notify the commission about your intended purchase.

Also, somewhere along the way you'll find that all those \$12 and \$13 figures you've been seeing for a barrel of oil refer to oil futures. The "spot market" prices have been around \$20 per barrel.

Step two: Finding your oil.

Contrary to popular belief among the oil illiterate, crude is not sold at West Texas roadside stands the way watermelons are sold in East Texas.

"Really the most practical thing would be to go to a refinery and buy a barrel before they refine it," Commission spokesman Brian Schaible advised.

# What's up

- Thursday**
- ENGLISH DEPARTMENT:** will sponsor the mini writing course, "Modifying Modifiers," at 6:30 p.m. in 227 Blocker. For more information call 845-3452 or stop by 227 Blocker.
- TEXAS AGGIE BAR ASSOCIATION:** will award two \$500 scholarships to A&M students entering law school in May. Applications are available to any student who has completed most or all of his pre-law work at A&M and maintained 3.5+ overall grade point-ratio. Deadline is April 17. Interested students should contact Dr. Hillary Jessup, 101 Academic.
- MSC LOST AND FOUND AUCTION:** will be from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Rudder Fountain.
- TAMU CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION:** Frank Wilkinson will speak on "Reflections on 40 Years of Defending the Bill of Rights from the U.S. Government" at 7 p.m. in 607 Rudder.
- SNEAD TRANSPORTATION SEMINAR/DEPARTMENT OF CIVIL ENGINEERING:** John Turner from Friendswood Development Co. will discuss the proposed transportation plans for Houston at 2 p.m. in 503 Blocker.
- STUDENT Y ASSOCIATION:** will be voting on the campus positions from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at a table outside the Pavilion.
- MEXICAN AMERICAN PRE-HEALTH AGGIES:** will elect officers and provide academic advising for underclassmen at 7 p.m. in 104 Agronomy.
- RHA COMMITTEE DIRECTORS:** applications available through Tuesday in 215 Pavilion.
- CEPHEID VARIABLE:** will show "The Lord of the Rings" at 7 p.m. and 10 p.m. in Rudder Theater. Admission is \$2.
- AGGIE CINEMA:** will show "The Rocky Horror Picture Show" at midnight today, Friday and Saturday at the Grove.
- BETA BETA BETA BIOLOGICAL HONOR SOCIETY:** will meet at 7 p.m. in 107 Heldenfels.
- NATIONAL SOCIETY OF BLACK ENGINEERS:** will elect officers at 7:30 p.m. in 504 Rudder.
- ASSOCIATED BUILDERS AND CONTRACTORS:** sponsor a "Chili Today — Hot Tamale" cookout at 6 p.m. at Central Park.
- AGGIES AGAINST DRUNK DRIVING:** will meet at 7 p.m. in 604 Rudder.
- MS/MBA ASSOCIATION:** will sponsor a corporate planning seminar at 7 p.m. in 120 Blocker.
- Friday**
- TAMU CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION:** Frank Wilkinson will speak on "Threats to Civil Liberties: Are We Returning to the '50s?" at 7 p.m. in 607 Rudder.
- GRADUATE STUDENT CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP:** meet at 8 a.m. in the Meditation Room of the All Faith Chapel for Bible study in John 14 and prayer.
- MSC AGGIE CINEMA:** will show "Rocky IV" at 7:30 p.m. and 9:45 p.m. in Rudder Theater.
- CAMPUS CRUSADE FOR CHRIST:** will meet at 7 p.m. in 108 Harrington.

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