

A BUNCH OF "BALONEY" — Sliced Thick?

An Editorial

Is the current, widely-publicised energy crisis the TRUTH? PARTIAL TRUTH? Or, A BUNCH OF "BALONEY" — Sliced Thick?

When the "alleged" energy crisis was first announced by the Government, we recalled the "black-outs" and brown-outs of electrical power in the Urban areas in the North for the past several summers so assumed we were told the truth. Then, when we saw local gas stations cut 10 to 20% in fuel allocations, it seemed to confirm the New Releases that we were indeed in the midst of a very real energy crisis.

Approval of the Alaskan Pipeline was rushed thru Congress, undoubtedly speeded on by pressure from the public that had been told that gasoline for private autos might have to be rationed. Actual facts and figures of existing stocks of petroleum products of large oil companies were impossible to come by — even for Government Officials.

Federal and State Officials "over-reacted" resulting in the hasty passage of un-real speed limits without proper research in several States including New York and Maryland. Public contradiction and repudiation of fuel levels was almost a daily occurrence in Newspapers across the Country. Fuel shortages actually did exist in a few isolated sections of the United States. But — was this due to poor distribution, an actual shortage, or the desire of Major Oil Companies to drive prices up so they could "reap a much larger harvest"?

Most "True Americans" met the demands made on them with a great deal of co-operation in cutting back on the use of electricity and petroleum products. Then a big "credibility gap" set in, no doubt hastened by the "Watergate Affair".

We ourselves debated whether we should attempt to carry out our plans to attend the Alabama-Notre Dame football game in New Orleans — or give up the idea. However, after making several inquiries of current long-distance motorists, we decided not to abort our plans. We did take a couple of emergency measures that we deemed necessary as a result of our Army training as a Supply Officer and also allowed a two-day cushion for time lost on the highway due to newly imposed speed limits on Interstate Highways.

Our entire trip to New Orleans, around Florida, and back North covered 3,800 miles. And, at no time were we refused — or limited in our gasoline purchases when we told the attendants to: "fill er up"! And, at no time in the entire trip were we stopped or warned by Police Officers for the speeds at which we traveled. Despite the fact that all we did was to "keep up with the flow of traffic" on the Interstate Highways — as well as 2-lane highways where the 4-laners were under construction — we were still able to cover the 900 miles from Columbus, Ohio, to New Orleans in Louisiana in one day, arriving there at 9 p. m. Saturday evening.

In New Orleans, we stayed in Officers Quarters at Fort Jackson directly on the Gulf where Ocean-going Tankers and Freighters unloaded. While there, we were told of the many Oil Tankers that were waiting off-shore to unload their crude oil cargoes. And, the only two logical speculative reasons for being "stacked-up" out there in the Gulf was #1. All the storage tanks were full and no place to unload or #2. The Oil Companies owning the crude oil were waiting for the price to rise.

While we were in Florida, the same stories prevailed about Oil Tankers unable to unload their crude oil cargoes — with Government Officials publicly denying that this "holding pattern" was beyond normal conditions. Then, while we were in Virginia, we heard the News Release on TV made by TEXACO that their supply of fuel oil was 40% above that of last year; that their supply of gasoline was about 22% above last year's; and that only their supply of crude oil was down 6% from last year.

We realize that is only the report from one Major Oil Company — but if their entire stored petroleum products were over 60% from that of last year —



by Alex Rankin

Dec. 20, 1973 — Politics is sometimes a nasty business.

Hardly had the dust settled on Gov. Rockefeller's announcement that he would resign than Republican Assembly Speaker Perry B. Duryea, Jr. was indicted by a Manhattan grand jury for an alleged vote-siphoning scheme.

Now Rockefeller has left, taking with him a state pension that amounts to about \$21,000 a year and leaving behind him the strong suspicion in the minds of many people that the whole Duryea affair was part of a plot to keep the new governor, Malcolm L. Wilson, in office beyond Dec. 31, 1975.

If it is a plot, it is likely to blow up in Rockefeller's face before the year is out.

Many people have already ruled out Duryea as a GOP gubernatorial candidate next year, figuring that no matter what happens in the case he has been damaged beyond repair merely because he was indicted.

Those people might not know Duryea too well. The man is not the kind to lay down and quit. He is a fighter and before the 1974 session is over he may well be in the driver's seat.

Those people who are saying that Wilson has finally stepped out of Rockefeller's shadow after 15 years are also bending the truth a little. Because the fact is that Rockefeller's influence in state affairs will still be very strong in the coming months. It will have to be if he wants to count on a New York State delegation in his corner at the Republican National Convention a few years from now.

Ever since Republican Senate Majority Leader Warren M. Anderson of Binghamton was elected to that post last year, he has been trying to improve the image of that body of legislators as something better than the reputation it has earned in the past, a rubber stamp for the governor.

Anderson is going to have problems destroying that image if he sides with Wilson in the coming battles in the Legislature, with Duryea in firm control of his Republicans in the Assembly, but under heavy fire from minority Democrats who sense that they have a good chance of putting one of their own in the governor's office next year.

But of course Democrats have had opportunities just as golden in the past and blown them beautifully.

Dec. 28, 1973 — Gov. Wilson has made his first appointment to a top state job since he took over earlier this month, and it goes to a professional.

James L. Biggane has been named to replace Henry Diamond as the commissioner of the Department of Environmental Conservation. Biggane had been Diamond's chief of staff in the department.

While Biggane is Wilson's first appointment to a vacant post — Diamond is leaving to head Rockefeller's committee on the future — several "Open Line" sources hint that Wilson may soon sack the present head of the Department of Mental Hygiene and that

it has something to do with last year's Willowbrook scandal.

Wilson also has four more top jobs to fill.

He will have to find a new secretary of state to replace John P. Lomenzo. He is looking for a replacement for Joseph Swidler who steps down next month as head of the Public Service Commission.

And there will be a swarm of candidates to fill the two upcoming vacancies on the state's highest court, the Court of Appeals, when Chief Judge Stanley Fuld and Judge Adrian Burke retire.

Republican Sen. Thomas F. McGowan of Buffalo says the results of his annual questionnaire show that most of the constituents in his district of Erie, Wyoming, and Livingston counties who answered said they favored the lower speed limits imposed to save fuel.

The answers to one question obviously please McGowan. Fifty seven per cent of those answering said they favored longer terms for state senators, from the present two to four years. And 60 per cent said they favored full-time legislators who work all year in Albany.

The poll also showed a majority of those answering oppose state aid to parochial schools, favor state control and regulation of shotguns and rifles, favor full state funding of schools to replace the property tax and oppose the elimination of all restrictions on Sunday selling.

One of Republican Assembly Speaker Perry B. Duryea's prime concerns has been legislation aimed at protecting abused children.

Duryea noted the other day that a preliminary finding of a special committee on the subject he set up shows that more than 35 per cent of children abused or neglected later show up on court records as juvenile delinquents.

Jan. 4, 1974 — Things have begun to change already.

For example, Harry O'Donnell the new press secretary to the new Gov. Wilson, recently sent around a single-spaced seven page letter to capitol newsmen and editors around the state.

"It looks like Harry is going to work for Wilson for free," remarked one reporter when he had finished the letter, a glowing tribute to the honesty, integrity and overall good character of Wilson.

One is tempted to ask after reading the letter if the former governor was corrupt, malicious and greedy by comparison somehow.

Seriously, O'Donnell brings a wealth of experience to the job. In a city where most public relations men are little more than hacks, O'Donnell stands out as one of the best appointments Wilson has made.

Wilson filled one of the remaining big cabinet posts the other day. He named John J. Ghezzi of Albany as acting secretary of state.

Ghezzi won't have the job long, however. Wilson said he will serve as acting secretary "until the ap-

just where would they have any storage space for more crude oil. And, wouldn't this be a major reason why their crude oil storage is down 6%?

Could all this furor be to take the pressure off the "Watergate Affair" — and give the Oil Companies a chance to boost their prices by 50 to 100%? What do YOU think?

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Jan. 4th, 1974

Hi Folks,

Am enclosing a check for 1974 subscription for The News. Missed the old items of years ago. But as the holidays came anyone has a right to enjoy them.

Best Regards

Earl C. Howland

Park Square

Franklinville, N. Y. 14737

P. S. — am sending a poem (author unknown) cut out of a paper.

"The Monkeys Viewpoint"
Three monkeys sat in a coconut tree

Discussing things as they're said to be.

Said one to the others, "Now listen you."

There's a certain rumor that can't be true,

That man descends from our noble race —

The very idea is a disgrace.

No monkey ever deserted his wife,

Starved her babies and ruined her life;

And you've never known a mother monk

To leave her babies with others to bunk.

Or pass them on from one to another

Till they scarcely know who is their mother.

And another thing you'll never see —

A monk build a fence around a coconut tree

And let the coconuts go to waste.

Forbidding all other monks to taste.

Why, if I put a fence around this tree,

Starvation would force you to steal from me,

Here's another thing a monk won't do —

Go out at night and get on a stew.

Or use a gun or club or knife;

To take some other monkey's life

Yes man descended — the ornery cuss —

But, brother, he didn't descend from us.

by Author Unknown

Thought you might get a kick out of it.