

FROM CAPITOL HILL

By A. Madison

AMERICAN PUBLIC AT THE MERCY OF BIG OIL CORPORATIONS

Under President Nixon a wage and price freeze was put on domestic crude oil in 1971. Then in 1973 controls were locked into law under the Emergency Petroleum Allocation Act. Under the Energy Policy and Conservation Act in 1975 controls were mandatory until 1979. President Carter issued an order which would phase out controls, completely, in September, 1981.

In one of President Reagan's first acts to, seemingly, give big business a free hand in controlling the American economy, he has immediately removed all price and allocation controls from oil. He has authorized the Secretary of Energy to take the necessary action to revoke the Emergency Petroleum Allocation Act. The Secretary must promptly review the reporting and record-keeping requirements and eliminate all except those that are necessary for planning and energy gathering purposes.

The state set-aside for middle distillates and the special allocation of middle distillates for surface passenger mass transportation will remain in effect until March 31, 1981.

Secretary of Energy Edwards said that for the eight years of controls, the oil companies had no incentives for production. Decontrol

will increase production, and lessen dependence of foreign oil.

Mr. Edwards admitted that both gasoline and home-heating oil prices will rise, but he didn't know just how much. He stated that an increase in price will bring about a decrease in use. He also said that the free market will increase production and that this plentifulness will reduce prices. Mr. Edwards stated that the windfall profit tax also discouraged production. Yet he said local governments will get from 10 to 15 percent of the gas price and that the federal government will also get a big chunk. However, the Secretary failed to put a figure on the federal government's share.

Secretary Edwards admitted that they had not really worked out all of the ramifications of decontrol. But in response to a question, "Why lift controls immediately, before giving full consideration to the entire problem?", the Secretary said this was the fulfillment of Mr. Reagan's campaign promise.

Surely, the consumer will pay the price. This is a first step in the Reagan government's making the middle and lower income people pay the balanced budget price. Nothing was said by Mr. Edwards about easing the

burden of those who are already bearing the brunt of the financial load.

This decontrol will permit oil refiners and retail distributors to charge any price they choose for their products.

Senator Metzenbaum says that since oil affects every facet of American life, prices on just about all goods and services are certain to rise, and that the President's action is inflationary. Mr. Metzenbaum has his attorneys looking into possible actions against decontrol. One might be the introduction in the Senate of a resolution of disapproval. Representative Toby Moffitt of Connecticut will introduce the same resolution in the House. Another possible alternative considered by the Senator is attaching control amendments to appropriation bills on both floors of congress.

Secretary Edwards expressed a certainty that the decontrol measures will pass congress. This will just be another instance in which the Republican controlled Senate flexes its muscles.

The Congressional Black Caucus is waiting for the presentation of Mr. Reagan's economic plan before making a statement.

President Reagan has given the oil companies a blank check, and the American people are left at their mercy.

Black Students In Cincinnati Learn Hebrew; A "Cultural Bridge," Their Teacher Calls It

CINCINNATI—Hebrew is taught in one public school in Cincinnati, and 18 of the 20 pupils in the class are black.

Teacher Winston Pickett sees the class of largely black Woodward High School as a bridge between Blacks and Jews. That's why he began teaching it two years ago.

"In 1979, I felt the polarization from the Andy Young affair," explained Pickett, a doctoral student at Hebrew Union College here.

Young resigned as U.S. ambassador to the United Nations after an unauthorized meeting with a representative of the Palestine Liberation Organization. His resignation infuriated Black leaders who thought Young had become a scapegoat in a government policy change regarding Israel. Some Jews were angered by what they thought was the government's betrayal of Israel.

The incident prompted Pickett to take over the class in Hebrew.

"It was my first experience teaching," he said. When I began to feel more self-confident, I began to think about what the role of the program could be at Woodward."

Pickett said he felt awkward bringing a Semitic language to Black students, who were still trying to come to terms with their own culture. Then he met a Kentucky professor of Semitic languages.

That professor, who was Black, said that his interest in languages had helped him to put in perspective his experience as an inner-city child.

"That's when I got religion," Pickett said. "I promoted the program."

Hebrew has been taught for 10 years at Woodward. When the class began, the school had a large Jewish enrollment. Instead of parents sending their children elsewhere to learn Hebrew, it was arranged for the Hebrew Bureau of Jewish Education to provide a teacher and pay part of his salary.

Now, the school is predominantly Black.

"Cincinnati has a big Jewish community, and there is a great Jewish-Christian dialog," Pickett said. He tries to establish that dialog in class, pushing pupils to broaden their interests.

NLV VOTERS TO GET SAY ON CITY NAME CHANGE

Three city charter names, one that would change the name of North Las Vegas to Vegas Verdes, were the center of a discussion at the North Las Vegas City Council Wednesday night and ended with two of them being placed on the May 5 primary ballot.

While the council or voters can recommend a change be made by the state Legislature, North Las Vegas City Attorney George Franklin said.

The city council recommended that the city's name be changed to Vegas Verdes, if the voters approve the change in the May election. Representatives of both the chamber of commerce and the Citizens Advisory Committee spoke in favor of the change.

Ellen Frehner, executive vice-president of the North Las Vegas Chamber of Commerce, said association with Las Vegas has been bad for North Las Vegas. She said companies are reluctant to move into North Las Vegas because of the association the name has with gambling and drinking.

"They don't want to be associated with 'Sin City'," she said. She cited an example of one company who told her if all things had been equal they would have located in Henderson.

"I think it is time we became a place and not a direction," Frehner said.

The council approved a recommendation changing the charter to delete the words "elected or" from a charter provision prohibiting council members from being appointed or elected to a position that they have created or increased the salary for.

"I suggest that it (the present provision) is unconstitutional," Mayor Ray Daines said. Franklin agreed with Daines and said the change would bring the charter "in line" with the Nevada constitutions.

The recommendation will now go to the Legislature.

The other charter measure, changing the municipal judge term of office from two to four years will be on the primary election ballot.

Daines, who was municipal judge in North Las Vegas for nine years, said he opposed the change because, "I didn't mind facing the people every two years, it keeps the judge in line."

QUESTION:

I have to write a report about a famous woman for my social studies class. Who should I pick?

J.S., Los Angeles

ANSWER:

There are many, many famous women to choose from, even though, until very recently, women weren't mentioned very often in history books. Those women whose names are familiar are usually known because of a famous husband (such as Martha Washington) or a colorful incident (such as sewing the first American flag). Unfortunately, the history books have ignored or slighted women and their history-making achievements.

Things are changing. During the last 20 years, we have become more knowledgeable about the historical contributions of women. Women's studies are taught as part of high school and college curricular, degrees are awarded in the subject, and special history texts which concentrate on the too-long neglected achievements of women have earned the appellation 'herstory.' But for every Susan B. Anthony or Florence Nightingale, there are hundreds of other women whose names and achievements are all but forgotten.

A recently published book documents the deeds of many of these often neglected women. 'First of All' by Joan McCullough (Holt, Rinehart and Winston) is a collection of significant firsts by American women. It tells us, for example, that the first printer of the Declaration of Independence was Mary Katherine Goddard of Baltimore, who was also America's first female postmaster. The first American female astronomer was Maria Mitchell of Nantucket, Rhode Island, who sighted a new comet in October, 1847. The comet was later named for Mitchell, and she went on to become the first woman member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

The first person to conquer Niagara Falls in a barrel was Annie Edson Taylor, who rode over the great Horseshoe Falls in a barrel of her own design on her forty-third birthday in 1901. The first black millionaire was Sarah Breedlove Walker, who at the turn of the century, created a line of hair products especially for women.

The list goes on: 'First of All' has more than 160 entries. If you choose one of these women as the subject of your report, you might have to work a little harder to discover all the facts, but you are sure to learn some interesting things.