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Gas Price Conspiracy Is Felony

County Attorney Outlines Penalties; Hearing Due Monday

Oil companies' officials guilty of engaging in a conspiracy to fix prices are subject to prosecution on felony charges, and also are subject to civil suit for damages in whatever amount may be assessed by the trial court.

The full extent of the penalties possible for such conspiracy was disclosed today by County Attorney Jack Fant. He has pledged all possible assistance in the Texas Attorney General's inquiry due to open in El Paso Monday into circumstances behind the high prices charged for gasoline here by the major oil companies.

The hearing is intended to determine whether there is evidence of a conspiracy among the oil companies. Attorney General Will Wilson said when he announced the inquiry that if evidence of a conspiracy is developed, he will prosecute the oil companies which the evidence may indicate are involved.

"A conspiracy to violate the Texas anti-trust laws is a felony, punishable by minimum prison sentences of two years for the guilty officials," Mr. Fant said. "And, in addition to prison terms for any found guilty, the State law provides that suit for damages may be brought against the guilty companies. All sums awarded as the result of such suits would go to the State."

The initial action in the hearing opening Monday is to determine whether there is evidence of a gasoline price conspiracy in the El Paso area. Whether any criminal prosecutions or suits for damages result will depend upon the nature of the evidence uncovered at the inquiry.

Due Here Friday
Assistant Attorney General J. W. Wheeler, head of the Attorney General's anti-trust division, is due in El Paso Friday to lay the groundwork for the hearing in Judge R. E. Crawford's County Court-Law No. 2. He will be assisted by Allan L. Poage, El Paso attorney.

A report today by Neil McNeill, The Herald-Post's Washington correspondent, clearly established that the U. S. Department of Justice and a Federal Grand Jury in session at Alexandria, Va., are concerned with the matters into which the Texas Attorney General will inquire at the El Paso hearing.

The Washington report disclosed that a deputy U. S. marshal from El Paso tried to serve a subpoena on N. Harmon Black, an official of Standard Oil Co. of Texas. Mr. Black dodged the deputy marshal, but the subpoena finally was served on Black at his home.

All indications were Black was wanted for appearance before the Federal Grand Jury at Alexandria, and that this incident had no direct connection with the prospective inquiry in El Paso.

The grand jury at Alexandria is probing the oil industry. More than 50 witnesses have been called before the jury.

Twenty-six companies have been subpoenaed to appear before the grand jury. (Continued on Page 4, Col. 1.)

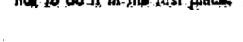
Reds to Release Rocket Experts

MOSCOW, Jan. 21.—The Soviet government is preparing to release 21 West German scientists, including rocket experts, and their families who have been working in Russia since the end of World War II.

It was the first such group to be released in years although West German Chancellor Konrad Adenauer has asked their return in correspondence with Premier Nikolai Bulganin.

The group includes physicists and a number of rocket specialists who were assigned to the Soviet laboratories at Sukhumi on the Black Sea. A total of 54 persons including women and children is involved.

The surest way for a man to keep a secret from his wife is to keep it in the first place.



Some Will Die!

Fear Tuberculosis Spread Because Of Economy Move

County Judge Says He Ordered Reduction In Number of Patients at General Hospital

By FRANK L. WHITE
Needless deaths and the infection of hundreds of persons with tuberculosis will follow a new economy move at El Paso General Hospital ordered by County Judge Hugh McGovern, according to Dr. Jack C. Postlewaite.

Dr. Postlewaite is chief of the tuberculosis section at the hospital and also heads the preventive and home treatment work of the City-County Health Department. He said Dr. Manuel D. Hornedo, head of the Health Department, yesterday ordered him to cut the 50 patients now under treatment in the isolation ward at El Paso General to 20 immediately.

Wants Costs Cut
"Dr. Hornedo told me the order came from Judge McGovern," Dr. Postlewaite said.

Judge McGovern confirmed he had been discussing with Dr. Hornedo the cutting of costs at the hospital by sending patients to State sanitariums and had ordered the cut in the present patient load at the hospital.

"It is my estimate that 15, or half, of the 30 patients we must get out of El Paso General, will die within the course of a year or so as the result of being moved at this time," said Dr. Postlewaite. "The deaths, and those whom we will not be able to admit as a result of cutting down the patient load, will spread infection among hundreds of people."

Beds Restricted
"We had 151 new cases reported last year, giving us 485 cases of active tuberculosis. We have over 100 patients in homes who ought to be brought to the hospital, given diagnosis and treatment and either sent to State sanitariums or returned to isolation rooms in their homes. We know of these. We do not know how many are not known to us."

Dr. Postlewaite pointed out that 75 beds are available in the TB ward at El Paso General, but due to previous economy moves under the financial management of Judge McGovern, the patient load, will be reduced to 20.

Bull Barn Gets Plaque
County Commissioners Court not only found money to build a range bull auction ring barn at the Coliseum when County Judge Hugh McGovern had already claimed all funds were exhausted, they also found \$126 yesterday to put a plaque on it—presumably bearing their names.

The expenditure for the plaque was included in a change order approved late yesterday which runs the cost of the bull ring up to \$122,366.75. The change orders approved, including the plaque, excavations, concrete, men's lavatories, etc., came to a total of \$366.76.

By a bit of figure juggling the account has been made to appear that \$15,856 has been saved, but this is not strictly true. When the contractor's bid, architects' fees, brokerage charge and other fees except interest had been added they came to \$137,856, so \$15,856 was lopped off construction costs. This was made to appear as a change order to keep within the \$115,000 which Judge McGovern had said was all that could be issued even with the Livestock Show people paying rent in advance for a dozen years. But the total has crept up now to \$122,366.76.

For Highway
Practically all of this money has been spent on right-of-way for U. S. Interstate 80, known as the Freeway. Since June, 1956, the state and federal governments have had a standing offer to purchase all right-of-way for the Freeway but this has not stopped the majority of the commissioners court from spending local ad valorem tax funds under the McGovern policy, while other worthy projects in the county have had to be neglected for "lack of funds."

The figures on right-of-way expenditures came from the annual report of County Engineer Lee R. Jones presented to commissioners court yesterday.

Engineer Jones reported 1957 expenditures for routine operation of construction and maintenance by his department were \$165,975.88 leaving him a surplus of \$1243.82 from the budget while the overall figure including engineering, new equipment, repairs, salaries and \$6000 for "mileage" for the county commissioners came to a total of \$239,719.92.

The Only Surplus
With a \$4000 fund which was allotted in the budget but not requested by him, Jones reported this left a surplus at the end of 1957 of \$11,196.54.

This is estimated to be the only department of the county which will show a surplus from allotted tax funds, although Tax Assessor and Collector R. R. Deason annually turns in a large sum from fees collected which goes into the Officers Salary Fund of the county.

"The more fees I collect the more places the county finds to spend money instead of putting it into better salaries for county employees," Mr. Deason remarked recently.

Retired S. P. Chief
W. R. Adair Runs For Commissioner

W. R. Adair, retired Southern Pacific railroad executive, today announced he will be a candidate for County Commissioner, Precinct 4, on a platform calling for a full time intelligent and dignified service to all of the people.

Mr. Adair a resident of El Paso for more than 50 years, said the withdrawal Saturday of William C. Collins, a long-time friend, opened the way for his announcement.

"I had been wanting to run for the office of commissioner from the Upper Valley for some time but did not like to announce against my friend Mr. Collins," said Mr. Adair.

He is a member of Scottish Rite Bodies and El Maida Shrine, the Baptist church and the Country Club. He is a life member of the Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen and a member of the Railroad Superintendents Assn. He prides himself on a good command of the Spanish language, having grown up in El Paso.

"I have had special training in finance and economics while with the railroad and understand budgets and the need for taking care of necessities before indulging in luxuries," said Mr. Adair.

Ike Directs Shakeup In Armed Forces

Pledges Personal Aid in Project; Opens Campaign

By United Press
CHICAGO, Jan. 21.—President Eisenhower pledged last night he will take personal charge of modernizing the Defense Department and promised America will grow "ever stronger" against the threat of Soviet Russia.

Mr. Eisenhower and his party arrived back in Washington during a light rain today. The presidential plane, Columbine III, took off from Midway Airport, Chicago, despite blowing snow which reduced visibility to three-quarters of a mile.

The President fired the opening gun of this year's GOP congressional campaign before 5408 Republicans gathered here for a nationally televised \$100-a-plate dinner speech.

The President told his fellow Republicans to fight Democrats for control of Congress this fall by standing "proudly and erectly" on the record of his administration.

Modernization Necessary
Eisenhower drew a rousing cheer when he said "a prompt and effective modernization of our Defense Department is necessary."

He then departed from his prepared text to add: "In this, I intend to participate personally until the job is done."

Presidential Press Secretary James G. Hagerly said he expects the President to send to Congress soon his plans for reorganizing the Defense Department.

The President's address in the flag-draped, spotlighted International Amphitheater celebrated the fifth anniversary of his inauguration. And the scene was at times as loud and uproarious as the GOP convention of 1952 when Eisenhower was nominated at the Amphitheater for his first presidential campaign.

The President's speech was part of a nationwide fund-raising effort by the Republicans. The President appeared on radio and television along with a number of other speakers, including Vice President Richard M. Nixon, who spoke from New York, and GOP National Chairman Meade Alcorn, who spoke from the Amphitheater here, working from a tele-prompter.

Injects Fighting Phrases
The President's prepared text was a rather soft-pedaled political call to battle. But he departed from the text frequently to inject fighting phrases into his remarks.

It's Now Official The Pattersons Are Missing

It is now official that Mr. and Mrs. W. D. Patterson are missing. David J. Smith, attorney for Patterson Photo Supply at 113 East Main street, today filed an affidavit in the District Clerk's office, saying that after long and diligent search he is unable to locate Mr. and Mrs. Patterson.

The affidavit was filed in connection with legal proceedings involving the receivership for Patterson Photo Supply.

Mr. and Mrs. Patterson vanished without trace from their home at 3000 Piedmont avenue last March 6.

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W. R. Adair

Billion Missiles Fund Approved

VD Cases Are Treated In One Day

Rapid Plasma Reagin Test Is Outlined

(Pictures on Page 20)

A one-day method of testing and treating brucellosis was described today at public health officials attending the Venereal Disease Control Seminar at the Cortez Hotel.

Dr. Austin W. Mathis, health officer of California's Imperial County, outlined his office's success with the Rapid Plasma Reagin test.

Brucellosis is given blood tests when they arrive at the contract centers, Dr. Mathis said. Those showing a positive reaction to the RPR test are given the one-shot method treatment for syphilis before they are contracted out.

150,000 Examined
Their records are sent to their home districts so that local officials can follow up on contact infections.

The RPR test covers all brucellosis passing through the reception center and replaces the previous method of detecting and treating which Dr. Mathis claimed was incomplete and unsatisfactory.

He estimated 150,000 farm workers from Mexico had been examined for syphilis since the program was put into effect last year.

The RPR method of detecting infectious syphilis is being used at the five brucellosis reception centers along the border, Dr. Mathis said.

Big Increase
Venereal disease is still on the rise and is a major health problem all over America, two top U. S. public health officials warned today.

Dr. R. J. Anderson and Dr. William J. Brown of Atlanta, spoke at the seminar today. Dr. Anderson is assistant surgeon general and chief of the Communicable Disease Center at Atlanta. Dr. Brown heads the Venereal Disease Branch of the Center.

"In 1957 the total number of syphilis cases reported in the United States showed an increase of 9323 over the previous year," (Continued on Page 2, Col. 5)

More Warmth Due in El Paso

Fair and warmer weather was ahead today for the El Paso area following the third, thickest and most unusual fog of the winter.

The fog was accompanied by heavy frost. It reduced visibility to one-eighth of a mile and delayed air traffic.

Coldest Day
Visibility in the Lower Valley before noon was reduced to one block and less at some points. Motorists were forced to travel slow because of the fog.

Despite the fog and almost 100 per cent humidity, El Paso had its coldest day of the year. The temperature registered a low of 22 degrees. It was not the coldest day of the winter, however. Last Nov. 23 a low of 18 degrees was reported. It was 19 on Dec. 21.

The U. S. Weather Bureau forecast a cold night tonight, with a low of 27 in the heights and 17 in the Valley, but with somewhat warmer weather due tomorrow. The high today will be 52, and tomorrow's high will be 55.

Only a trace of rain was reported.

Long Humidity
A curious feature of the fog was that it caused the Lower Valley, where temperatures usually are below those of El Paso, to be warmer than the heights. Fog forming in the Valley prevented cold air from settling there. As a result the Valley had 23 degrees, one degree above El Paso's low reading.

Officials said the fog was caused by a long period of humidity, starting last Saturday night, that saturated the air with moisture. Rapid cooling of the air last night caused the moisture to condense into fog. The temperature dropped (Continued on Page 4, Col. 5)



Jack Chapman

He Serves El Paso Jack Chapman Named JCC Man of Year

Jack Chapman, 34-year-old radio station manager and civic leader, today received the coveted Distinguished Service Award conferred annually by the El Paso Junior Chamber of Commerce.

The award, accompanied by a key and certificate, goes to the young man of El Paso who has made the most outstanding and unselfish contribution to the community during the past year.

Sun Carnival Leader
Presentation of the 1957 award was made by Attorney Crawford S. Kerr, chairman of the Distinguished Service Award Committee, at the Jaycees' luncheon meeting at the Hilton Hotel.

Mr. Chapman was chosen by the committee, which includes representatives of 17 service clubs and other groups, from several nominations. He is not a Jaycee.

Mr. Crawford cited a long list of civic activities to Mr. Chapman's credit.

The honoree has been especially active in Sun Carnival work. Mr. Chapman is a vice president and secretary of the Sun Carnival Assn. and attends many board meetings through the year.

He was executive committee vice president in charge of the Coronation Ball for three years. In 1955-56 he was a board member assisting with publicity.

Ex-Students President
Mr. Chapman's other activities include: Co-chairman of the El Paso County Chapter of the American Cancer Society and of the cancer drives in 1953 and 1954. Before and since, he has been a worker in the cancer campaigns.

President of the Texas Western College Ex-Students Assn., 1951-52.

Jan. 31 Is the Deadline
Why You Should Pay Your Poll Tax

By DR. MARIO PALAFOX
Important decisions must be made by El Paso county citizens this year on personalities and issues in local, state and national politics, therefore it is more important than ever that all persons who can qualify pay their poll tax or get an exemption receipts.

The right to vote is an important contribution of the individual. Dr. Palafox to the democratic form of government. But you must have more than the right, you must qualify by complying with the state laws which say you shall pay a poll tax or obtain an exemption certificate before you are allowed to cast your ballot.

The deadline for getting these receipts or certificates is Jan. 31. I suggest all of you who have not yet obtained yours go right now and get them. Your precinct chairman, a Lulac or Veterans of Foreign Wars member in your neighborhood either has poll tax books or can direct you to where you can get your receipt. Or you can go to the county court house where poll tax deputies are on duty just inside each door on the main floor or in the tax office on the second floor.

You who are proud to be citizens of this great nation have both the privilege and the duty of voting. Prepare yourself now. This is the fifth of a series of statements from El Paso County leaders on the importance of obtaining poll tax receipts or exemption certificates.

House Group Okays Ike's Arms Plan

Extra Funds Go to Speedup In Defense Race

By United Press
WASHINGTON, Jan. 21.—The House Appropriations Committee today voted all of the \$1,260,000,000 in extra cash asked by President Eisenhower to speed missile and other defense programs.

At the same time it boosted from \$110 million to \$150 million the authority he asked to shift funds from one defense program to another to exploit any unexpected weapons breakthroughs.

House approval appeared certain on Thursday at the latest.

More Money Later
Army Secretary Wilber M. Brucker told the House Armed Services Committee the Army is modifying two Jupiter-C missiles to launch scientific satellites. He also said the Army wants a program to launch large reconnaissance and mapping satellites "of great military value." He added that the Army is "developing hardware" for the Nike-Zeus anti-missile missile.

The House Appropriations Committee said in approving the extra money asked by the President that more probably will be sought later on.

More Missile Money
The committee report said that in the "critical areas" of space satellites and ballistic missiles, "we are generally behind the U.S.S.R." Even those who dispute this point, it went on, agree the U. S. should work "as though we were behind."

The bill earmarks \$333,400,000 for the Atlas, Thor, and Jupiter long-range missile programs, and \$550 million for the Navy's Polaris and the first three submarines which will fire it. The committee urged the Defense Department to speed its fund transfer authority to speed work on the Titan, an intercontinental ballistic missile.

Other items provide \$218,600,000 to disperse Strategic Air Command bases and make them less vulnerable to attack, and \$358 million for the ballistic missile detection and Sage warning systems.

Escapes From Prison

By United Press
NASHVILLE, Tenn., Jan. 21.—Robert Riviera, 22, one of five Texans due to be tried next week for shooting a state trooper, escaped from state prison today.

Pay Your Poll Tax 15,156

El Paso citizens have paid poll taxes or obtained exemptions permitting them to vote. Jan. 31 is the deadline.

Same date last year: 13,541

Inside Your Herald-Post

U. S. Weather Bureau Forecast: Fair tonight and tomorrow, cold tonight, warmer tomorrow. (Details on Page 6.)

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