

Jittery Iran Eyes Gushing Kuwait Oil In British Dispute

WASHINGTON, Feb. 29 (AP) — The fabulous piece of desert-bound real estate called the Kuwait has moved into the Middle-East oil picture as possibly Britain's trump card in its bitter dispute with Iran.

There are signs that Iran's Prime Minister, Mohammed Mossadeq, realizes this and is getting jittery over his prospects of victory.

Ever since Iran nationalized Britain's \$1,000,000,000 oil properties, production in the Kuwait has been going up and up. This desert sheikdom, an Arabian port at the mouth of the Persian Gulf, is turning out 600,000 barrels of oil daily, replacing nearly half of Iran's output.

Added to stepped-up production in Saudi-Arabia, Iraq and the western hemisphere, the rich flow of oil from Kuwait has enabled the west to get by since last summer when oil stopped flowing from Iran.

Mossadeq is faced with the bleak prospect that oil production in the Kuwait and Saudi-Arabia can be boosted even more in the next few months, if necessary. In the meantime, his government, without British oil royalties to count on, is heading straight for bankruptcy within the next six months unless something is done.

Cooked Goose

Some British and American oil experts think Mossadeq already has killed the goose that laid Iran's golden egg. Even if he were to reach a settlement with Britain tomorrow, they believe the west would continue to rely more heavily on trouble-free areas like Saudi-Arabia, the Kuwait and Iraq in the Middle East rather than Iran.

Further, there are indications that the Sheikh of Kuwait and King Abdullah of Saudi-Arabia would in effect insist that their stepped-up oil production be kept at the same level. These governments could argue cogently, some officials believe, that they helped out in a pinch and should not be tossed aside when things ease up.

Regardless of developments, Kuwait appears to have a gold-lined future. A new agreement with the British-American Oil Company which operates the fields there assures it of a 50-50 division of profits.

This is expected to amount to \$150,000,000 in royalties alone during this year. Not bad for a desert waste inhabited by some 100,000 Arabs.

So much money is pouring into the sheikdom that Britain has sent half-a-dozen specialists there to figure out how the old sheikh can spend it. The 1,950-square-mile area he rules not only stands to be the richest in the Middle East but perhaps the world. Statisticians estimate per capita income in the Kuwait this year, when added to the money earned by inhabitants working for the oil company, will average about \$2,000 annually.

Retail Price Wars Still On In U.S. A.P. Survey Shows

NEW YORK, Feb. 29 (AP) — Are retail prices warping up again in the United States? "Yes," many independent merchants report. "Cut-throat price-cutting threatens to drive us out of business."

"Nonsense," scoff other retail experts. "Current pricing policies are following the usual February pattern."

An Associated Press survey of retail price competition in 24 U.S. cities gives this general picture of conditions six months after the bitter price battles of last summer: Price wars still are going on in several major retail centres. But they're being fought in a different way. It's an unofficial undercover style of warfare, concealed from the buying public but no less real and deadly than the noisy fray of six months ago. Small retailers unanimously pin the blame on the U.S. Supreme Court's decision last spring which pulled the props from fair trade laws in 45 states. The court's action paved the way for price cutting of nationally-advertised brands.

Faced with heavy inventories and lagging consumer demand, many stores are reported still using marked-down branded merchandise as "bait" to attract store traffic. That's the complaint from the small independent merchants. Big stores defend the policy as one which results in lower prices to the consumer.

New Gimmicks

But even where price competition is violent, as in New York, you no longer find it proclaimed in fat black type in newspaper advertisements. Instead, merchants are resorting to the "unadvertised special," with reductions on branded products that may range from 10 to 50 per cent below the manufacturer's list price. The price is lowered from day to day, quietly and without fanfare. How much it is lowered generally depends on what the competitor across the street is doing.

Then there are the fat trade-in allowances paid by some dealers. And the dealers who later give the customer back the old range or refrigerator he traded in.

In many cities discount houses do a thriving business in nationally-advertised refrigerators, rust-toasters and television sets at substantial reductions from manufacturers' list prices.

A top merchandising executive of one of New York's biggest department stores confirms that unofficial competitive-price-cutting is in full swing, particularly in the Herald Square area where Macy's and Gimbels slug it out last summer. But the New York merchandising moguls — remembering what happened in the summer — would prefer to avoid another open war, he says.

Featured in New York's "unofficial" price war at present are small electrical appliances, non-playing phonograph records, sewing machines, cosmetics, drugs and books.

Items like refrigerators and television sets are being sold at substantial discounts in hastily-rented lots and warehouses by dealers who have sprung up overnight.

They Have Adopted Our Navy And Envy Royal Tartan Too

LONDON, Feb. 29 — The battle of the bagpipes, which threatened to turn ally against ally in a dreadful combat along the Korean United Nations front, ended Wednesday before the first shot was fired.

"We will take immediate action," said a 2nd Division officer when he told Britain's Kings Own Scottish Borderers had taken vociferous objection to sharing their exclusive Royal Stewart tartan with the Americans.

"It was all a mistake anyway. We didn't know anything about Royal Stewarts. I personally thought it was a MacDougal."

The opposition from the killed Borderers reached its climax when they learned that the Second Division's new bagpipe band had ordered kilts of the Royal Stewart tartan.

Officially it is the tartan of the Royal Family.

"We just wrote to Glasgow, Scotland, and asked for 10 sets of bagpipes. Then we wrote and asked for kilts to match the plaid of the pipes. I'm inclined to suspect a Communist at work in the bagpipe factory," said Lt.-Col. William Kerr.

"We don't know much about these things in America. Say, where do you think we would get some literature about this tartan business? We don't want any more international incidents."

The band — formed because the skirl of the pipes is considered the best marching music in any army — got its instruction from a Borderers sergeant who was loaned to them.

The news of the American plan ran round the front-line foxholes like wildfire. To Scots this was something world-shaking.

An astounded Scot whispered: "Hae ye no heard what they're saying? Jock?"

"The Yanks' pipe band is going to wear the Royal Stewart tartan. 'Och man, it canna be true."

The Borderers sniggered in indignation. For not just anybody can wear the Royal Stewart tartan. It dates from the Stuart Kings themselves.

The right of others to wear it has been conferred only once or twice in the history of the British Army — and then only as a solemn and high honor.

London newspapers printed the news in outraged headlines.

"Snarled the 'Sunday Chronicle': 'The pipers are coming — and how and how. Yanks' kilty band steal a tartan.'

"G.I.s bag the pipes and a Royal tartan," growled the 'Sunday Graphic.'

"The Pipers' Lament," mourned 'Reynolds News.'

The Borderers themselves don't wear it. Indeed it was a great dispensation by King George VI that they were authorized to wear certain of its color in their pipe band on the regiment's 250 anniversary in 1933.

And then the American announced they had taken a fancy to the plaid and were taking it over.

There's no law against it. But an authority on Highland dress firmly states: "No one should wear a tartan to which he is not by name or descent entitled. To do so is foolish and ill-mannered and invites scorn."

Investigate Visas Issued By Former Canadian Official

MONTREAL, Feb. 29 — Montreal office of the Federal department of immigration for three weeks has been investigating records of several hundred immigrants who received visas from a Canadian immigration official who was dismissed a few weeks ago for allegedly "selling" Canadian visas to Europeans for as much as \$400, it was learned Wednesday night.

The dismissed official was recalled to Canada from Karlsruhe, Germany, at beginning of the year and punitive action is planned when the investigation is complete.

In the meantime, officials in Montreal decline to comment on the probe. They refer all inquiries to the identity of the official to the department at Ottawa.

In Ottawa, officials admit merely that the man has been dismissed and an inquiry is being made into all visas issued by him. Several hundred immigrants here are alarmed because some of their friends had been asked to reappear for medical examination in connection with the investigation.

In some cases, it was learned, immigrants have been told their visas have been cancelled because of illegals allegedly committed by the immigration official.

A prominent Montreal lawyer, it is understood, has approached the Minister of Immigration on behalf of a man who claims to be here legally but who received his visa in the regular manner from the dismissed official.

An immigrant working in Montreal said last night: "It was the easiest thing for any European with money to buy his visa in Karlsruhe, if he knew the ropes leading to a certain official in the immigration office there."

He said people originally from Poland, Israel, the Balkan states and other European countries went to Karlsruhe because of the "easy contact" they could make with Canadian immigration.

Prices of visas ranged, according to this immigrant, from \$300 to \$800 and more, depending on the political, medical and sometimes social status of applicants.

The immigrant said he would like to write a book about his personal knowledge of these "secret channels to a new life on this continent."

Another immigrant said: "One of the tricks used by medically unfit applicants who went to Karlsruhe for visas was to send healthy persons with their application forms through, the medical examination or reply to all questions asked by the officers instead of answering them themselves."

The network of illegal visa traffic was so well organized, other immigrants said, that any person could buy forged passports in Munich, go to Karlsruhe and receive a temporary visa or tourist visa within hours.

Returns The Hat But Can Keep \$10



Captain Walter A. McMillan doffs the celebrated topper presented to him when he brought his oil tanker Britanette, from Clarkson to Toronto to open the navigation season. The old silk hat is presented annually to the first master to bring his vessel in to open the shipping season. Capt. McMillan got a cheque for \$10 but had to return the hat for keeping in its glass case at the Toronto Harbor commission office.

Boosts Women For Civic Government

TORONTO, Feb. 29 (CP) — Women are designed for municipal government. Mayor Charlotte Whitton of Ottawa Wednesday told the Canadian Women's Press Club.

"From the moment a woman marries," said Mayor Whitton, "she begins laying by for things that are going to happen. Women's approach to spending is to keep within her revenue. She sees details — almost to a defect at times."

She said municipal government has not caught up with the times as have the provincial and federal levels of government. The home approach was necessary in municipal government.

"For the life of me I cannot see how any great city can be administered with a 12-monthly change of government," declared Ottawa's Mayor. By chipping here and there is all departments Ottawa has a surplus of \$12,000. The tax rate has been struck the earliest in 23 years.

Winnipeg Experts Test Substitutes For Blood Plasma

WINNIPEG (CP) — If an atom bomb hit a city the size of Winnipeg, at least 100,000 bottles of blood plasma would be needed within 72 hours.

Where would it come from? Experiments undertaken by the University of Manitoba's medical faculty may supply the answer.

Blood substitutes are being subjected to extensive tests by researchers. Findings may spell the difference between life and death for thousands of persons should a city become a primary target in a future war.

Substitutes tested are known as dextran and polyvinyl pyrrolidone, commonly called P.V.P. Tests are financed by the Defence Research Board at Ottawa with results forwarded to the Board. Similar tests are being made in the United States and findings are funnelled to researchers here.

Experiments so far show the substitutes to be free of any harmful reactions. But long-term effects have yet to be determined.

Testers here say the good points are readily apparent. Substitutes are cheap to produce, easily sterilized and remain stabilized for long periods. They also do away with typing — persons of any blood type can be given transfusions.

The two substitutes are not new. They were developed during the second World War — Dextran in Sweden, P.V.P. in Germany — and used extensively in emergency cases.

Dextran is a carbohydrate compound related to the starch family. Discovery that it might be used as a plasma substitute was made when researchers studied the nature of gum substances that interfere with the production of beet sugar.

P.V.P. is a synthetic nitrogenous compound, first offered to the German medical profession in 1940. Besides taking the place of blood plasma, it will delay and prolong the action of drugs such as local anaesthetics, antibiotics, antihistamines and hormones.

Absorption qualities of P.V.P. aid in the transport and detoxification of diphtheria, tetanus and other toxins. The dextran substitute has been found useful in the prevention and treatment of shock — particularly from burns.

Importance of substitutes like P.V.P. and dextran is great. Stockpiling of whole blood supplies is not feasible. Blood, for transfusion

Father Treats His Daughter Cruelly

LONDON, Feb. — (Reuters) — A 36-year-old man was described as a "cruel brute" by the judge and sentenced to seven years for burning his 11-year-old daughter with a red hot poker. Francis Fletcher had told the court her father, Cyril Victor Fletcher, beat her with a leather belt because there was no meat for dinner, then burned her saying: "See how much more punishment you can take."

purposes, should not be stored more than three weeks to remain in a healthy state.

Human plasma or serum can be dried and stored for longer periods but there are grave deterioration risks similar to whole blood.

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Could Sir John Have Been Gov. Gen.?

MONTREAL, Feb. 29 — Writing in Montreal Gazette, Mr. Arthur Blakely says:

It was an historic moment on Thursday morning when the Rt. Hon. Vincent Massey was sworn in as Governor-General of Canada. Though most of the noise has gone out of the controversy, many M.P.'s haven't changed their conviction that the selection of a native Canadian to hold the office is a dangerous departure from a wise, time-honored practice. Principal objections are that the change makes Canada's highest office available as a political plum to reward the faithful — that neither the office nor its future occupants will be immune to party rivalries and feuds. To the Progressive Conservatives, Mr. Massey is non-partisan. He's a former member of a Liberal Cabinet and a former president of the National Liberal Federation.

The innovation, though, isn't quite as startling as it might seem. Almost forgotten now in Ottawa is the fact that Canada came reasonably close to having a native Canadian Governor-General 80 years ago this spring. Had the man in question been willing to serve in the office, his appointment would have been recommended to Her Majesty Queen Victoria by the Canadian Government. And the probability is that the recommendation would have been welcomed in London. This Governor-General — who might have been would, by the way, have been the last to describe himself as a non-partisan. He was Sir John A. Macdonald.

Campaign

By the end of the fourth session of Canada's first Parliament (April 30, 1871) many prominent Conservatives felt that Sir John should become Canada's next Governor-General. He had undergone

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