

World & National News

by Charles Thibaut

NATIONAL

U.S. Still Leads Energy Waste Despite Crisis

WASHINGTON - The United States has 6 per cent of the world's population but uses 30 per cent of its energy, a statistic that hasn't changed 1 percentage point since the advent of the energy crisis 3 years ago.

By one estimate the U.S. wastes 25 percent of the energy it buys and produces. The energy squandered by 205 million Americans is the energy used by 105 million Japanese.

The average West German enjoys the same living standards as the average American, but uses 42 per cent as much energy.

Of all the emergency legislation written to deal with the energy crisis during the last several years, only the nation-wide 55-mile an hour speed limit came close to catching on.

According to a Federal Energy Administration survey only in Kansas and Iowa do motorists adhere to the new speed limit.

Whether or not the new speed limit has caught on, fuel consumption continues to rise in the U.S.

INTERNATIONAL

Attempted Coup is Suppressed in Greece

ATHENS* Greece - The Greek armed forces were placed on alert Monday, and the government announced that it had put down an attempted coup by the former ruling army junta.

The attempted coup was described as "an expression of disobedience from a limited number of officers."

Military sources claimed that the attempted overthrow took place early Monday by infantry officers based around Athens and other bases in northern Greece. The authorities said: "No more than 28 officers were involved, including a brigadier, two lieutenant colonels and a number of majors and captains."

Collapse of Cambodia Certain, Says Diplomatic Sources

PHNOM PENH* Cambodia - Diplomatic sources predicted on Wednesday nothing would save Cambodia from eventual collapse - even if the U.S. Congress votes all or part of the supplementary military aid requested by the Ford administration.

The sources said it will take more than money to rescue the government of President Lon Nol, pointing out that it suffers a severe manpower shortage.

Pentagon officials say Cambodia will run out of essential supplies in March or early April.

President Extends Clemency

WASHINGTON - President Ford extended his Vietnam war clemency program for an extra month Friday for the second time, calling it a "final extension."

Federal Rails Plan Now Ready

WASHINGTON - A federal advisory panel said Wednesday it will cost up to \$7.3 billion to rebuild seven financially ailing railroads in the Northeast and Midwest into a profit-making rail system.

Congress had already agreed to make available 2.2 billion through loan guarantees and grants to consolidate the seven railroads into one system administered by a quasi-government agency. Recommendations for improvement were upgraded track on the main lines to facilitate high-speed freight and passenger trains as well as upgrading the lines between the 17 major cities involved in Con Rail.

Vote Set on Changes to Oil Tax

WASHINGTON - The House passed a \$21.3 billion economic emergency tax cut bill Thursday night after taking the historic step of attaching to it an amendment that would kill the petroleum depletion allowance.

The vote was 317 to 97.

The legislation now goes to the Senate, where oil-state forces are expected to oppose it due to the oil depletion provision.

Armed Forces Enlistment Time to be Extended

WASHINGTON - Defense Secretary James R. Schlesinger announced Sunday that enlistments in the armed services will soon be extended to three years.

"In this way," Schlesinger added, "I think that we can cut down on personnel cost to some extent and improve the readiness and capability of the military establishment."

Letters for E.R.A.

Anti-era mail is running very heavily against ratification because supporters are not writing letters. This is having a detrimental effect on the legislators!

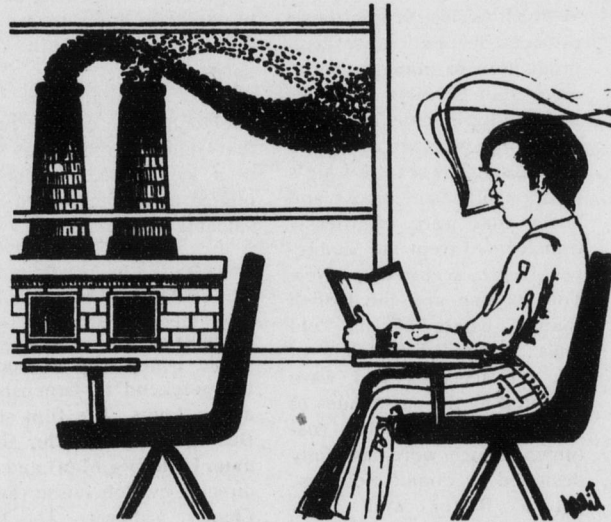
We urge you to organize friends and supporters to write letters to the members of the constitutional amendments committee and your legislators immediately.

A letter writing campaign is crucial to the passage of this bill. Please keep letters pleasant and positive. Address mail to Legislators at: N.C. Legislative Building, Raleigh, 27611.

Constitutional Amendments Committee

Rep. A. Hartwell Campbell, Chairman (7th district)
Rep. J.P. Huskins, Vice-chairman (35th District)
Rep. Sam D. Bundy (8th

district)
Rep. Bobby W. Rogers (13th district)
Rep. Ruth Cook (15th district)
Rep. Wade Smith (15th district)
Rep. H.M. Michaux, Jr. (16th district)
Rep. Hector Ray (20th district)
Rep. W.S. Harris, Jr. (22nd district)
Rep. Thomas O. Gilmore (23rd district)
Rep. Fred Hutchins, Jr. (29th district)
Rep. Judson D. DeRamus, Jr. (29th district)
Rep. Carl J. Stewart (38th district)
Rep. Robert A. Jones (40th district)
Rep. Mary C. Nesbitt (43rd district)
Rep. C. Kitchin Josey (6th district) speaker pro tempore
Rep. John Ed Davenport (97th district)



Strict Smoking Laws

The hazy view of the lecturer through pipe smoke may soon be a memory as the current wave of state and local anti-smoking laws continue.

In several cities, new and stringent laws that outlaw smoking in a variety of public places, including classrooms have been enacted.

In the past, colleges and universities fashioned rules prohibiting smoking in classrooms but set no penalties or fines for violators. Administrators have described these regulations as generally "unenforceable" or have left enforcement to the discretion of individual professors.

But the teeth of the new laws must have been heavy fines and penalties. In Washington, D.C. smokers in elevators can now be fined up to \$300 and in New York City penalties for smoking in college classrooms, supermarkets, elevators and other public places range up to

\$1,000 or one year in jail.

Arizona and Nebraska have banned smoking in elevators and most areas of concert halls, museums and hospitals, and Colorado is currently debating such a bill.

Nationally, Rep. Edward Kock (D-NY) has advocated a two-cent-per pack hike in taxes to "discourage cigarette smoking" and raise nearly \$600 million a year for research into diseases linked to smoking.

Advocates of the new laws have pointed to research which indicates that smoke present in the air can be hazardous to health. According to a Public Health Service study, smoke contains carbon monoxide, a well-known poison; cadmium, a trace metal which has been linked to certain chronic lung disorders, and benzo (a) pryne, a hydrocarbon which has been found to cause lung cancer when inhaled by laboratory animals.



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be taken lightly, and that finding one's identity is a process that also affects others. Responsibility, caring and integrity are the key words here: "The sincere search, with a loving regard for others" is exactly the idea. These traits, as you say, need not make the process any less enjoyable.

Having publicly revealed my homosexuality however, has not resulted in any way in anything that could be termed "indulgence" or "promiscuous gratification". Quite the opposite in fact. For "coming out", in a very important sense, has also meant taking responsibility for myself and my actions.

It is relatively easy to be irresponsible about those portions of one's life that are necessarily secret, cut off from the rest. It is almost necessary to be irresponsible under these conditions, and one quite often causes a lot of pain in this fashion. I am not saying that one's life should be opened up to public scrutiny, but only that the things one hides from others are easy to hide from oneself. And that's a habit I don't think advisable.

I have a need to live one life, in one world; at any rate, I can't maintain so completely separate worlds as some can and do. If I am going to integrate my life, then I have to be able to know and like myself as a whole, and to know that there are friends who like me for the person I perceive myself to be.

There is a need for people to help each other with this kind of experience. We need more than anything else to find ways to communicate on this, to find ways of discovering and confronting one another, dispelling the ignorance and fear of the subject whenever possible. This is not always easily done. But avoidance is not to be excused, nor indifference for that matter.

For that reason, I thank you again for taking the time to write.

Yours
Jim Baxter