

Washington Report

By Congressman Walter B. Jones
Last week, the April 25 edition of the Washington Post had several stories concerning the profits of major industries during recent months. For an example, the Xerox Corporation increased their profits by 27 percent in the first quarter of this year. Then, the New York Times announced a 7 percent increase in net income for the same period.

Personally, I have been somewhat critical of the new Department of Energy established in October of 1977 for their lack of control over the major oil companies of this nation. As all of you know, recent oil prices have risen steadily while at the same time I am advised by small independent service station operators that their margin of profit has been seriously curtailed during this price rise. One friend of mine operating in a station in the First District reports that his wholesale price has gone up 11 cents per gallon since the first of the year and to remain competitive there is no way he can pass this increase on to his customers. Therefore, he along with many others is sharing the burden of this increase along with the motoring public.

This office, along with several other members of Congress I am sure, has urged the Department of Energy to take a serious look at these continued increases and in some manner contain the oil

companies in regard to this apparent "rip-off" of the American public. The news item to which I have already referred reported that the profits of Texaco Incorporated, or the Texaco Oil Company, increased 81 percent during the first quarter of this year over a corresponding period of last year. Yes, you read this correctly; it is 81 per cent. Shell Oil Company announced that it had earned \$24 million in profits for the first quarter against \$193 million a year ago. The article concluded by saying that Phillips Petroleum Company had the most modest gain among the major oil companies in that it showed a \$7 million increase in profits in the first quarter of this year. Of course, this \$7 million gain is from the consuming public. This is why so many of us are extremely critical of the Department of Energy in doing nothing to halt this rising inflation. I have stated before that fuel of home use as well as travel has been a necessity of life and can no longer be considered a luxury.

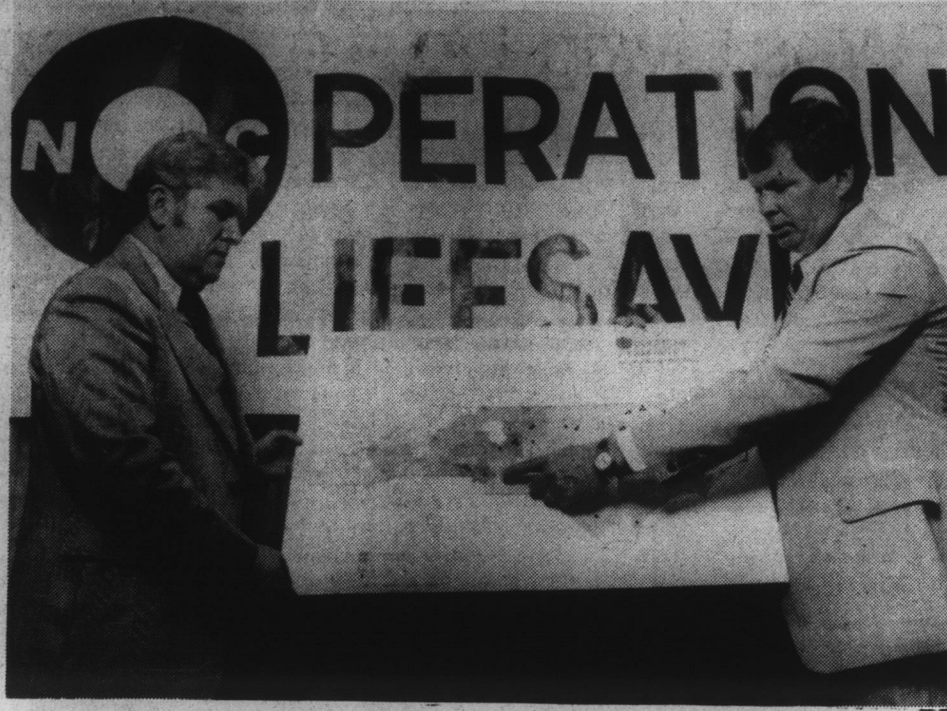
In connection with the so-called energy shortage, more and more experiments are being conducted with the use of gasoline. This, of course, is a mixture of gasoline with alcohol which can be produced from many different commodities. Even though the alcohol would compose only 10 percent of a gallon, when we think of billions of barrels in a year, this could be an important price factor. Just

this week, a gasohol distributor stated he would expand his present dealership to six additional stations beyond its present two here in Washington. Several foreign nations, particularly in South America, are rapidly converting to gasohol production to alleviate the gas shortage. Several bills are now pending before Congress to provide loans to companies who are willing to experiment with the production of this product.

I want to assure one and all that I am just as concerned about the spiraling price of gasoline as anyone, but there seems to be no simple answer.



The gold wedding ring is a tradition that goes back to ancient Egypt.



OPERATION LIFESAVER—Secretary of Transportation Tom Bradshaw, right, and Bill Garmon, president of the N. C. Rural Safety Council, discuss locations of numerous train and motor vehicle collisions in the state. The safety council, along with state government agencies involved in highway safety and the state's railroads, announced details Friday of "Operation Lifesaver," a new volunteer public education program to combat the rapidly rising accident, injury and fatality toll at highway and rail crossings across the state. For a presentation, program chairmen of civic clubs and community groups are urged to call (919) 787-5739 or write Executive Director, P.M. Box D-25801, Raleigh, N. C. 27611.

The hoop in the hoopskirt popular early in the century was known to fly up and break a woman's nose if she sat down too quickly.

Gardner To Appear

James E. Gardner, trumpeter, will appear as soloist with the N. C. Symphony in Williamston on May 21.

Associate conductor James Ogle will conduct the orchestra for the 8 P.M. concert in Martin County Auditorium.

Gardner a native of Eden, is currently the visiting artist at Martin Community College. A graduate of the N. C. School of the Arts where he earned a bachelor of music degree and of Catholic University with a master of music degree, Gardner has been a member of the U. S. Army Band (Pershing's Own) and the Piedmont Brass Quintet. He has also served as the visiting artist at Western Carolina University in Cullowhee.

During the past year he was featured as brass clinician-soloist at the N. C. Eastern Regional All-State Band Competition at East Carolina University in Greenville.

In his role as visiting artist at Martin Community College, Gardner, at the end of the current year, will have appeared before some 22,000 people in his role as a soloist-clinician.

Perquimans Horse Show Is Scheduled

The Perquimans County Horse & Pony Club will host a horse show Saturday beginning at 6 P.M. The show ring, located four miles west of Hertford, is on Joe Perry's farm.

Classes in the show include halter, trail, pole bending, barrel racing, western pleasure, ring spearing, and fastest horse around the ring.

The concession stand will be open featuring homemade goodies and hamburgers and hot dogs. The public is invited to attend. Admission is free.

Edenton Town Council

Continued From Page 1-B
fortunate and embarrassing to the Town. Mayor Harrell suggested that Mr. Mitchener be sure he has all the facts correct before speaking.

Motion by Councilman Hornthal, seconded by Councilman Burroughs, unanimously carried appointing Peggy Anne Vaughn to the Town Tree Committee.

Administrator Gardner reported to the Council on the following: 1) Completion of census, 2) Marine Science Council meeting in Edenton on April 23 & 24, 3) Execution of Fueston Lease, 4) Delivery of Airport Hangar, 5) Chowan River Public Hearing on April 19, 6) Non approval of Community Development Block Grant application. Mr. Gardner suggested that a committee of citizens be appointed to work on the redrawing of ward bound-

dary lines. The Council decided that each Councilman and the Mayor would appoint two persons and call the Town Office by Tuesday, April 17, 1979.

Motion by Councilman Hornthal, seconded by Councilman Burroughs, unanimously carried approving the trip to Opp, Alabama and directing the funds to be paid out of the contingency fund and directing the payment of all bills after the four cashed checks are refunded to the Town.

Motion by Councilman Hollowell, seconded by Councilman Ricks, unanimously carried approving Town of Edenton bills in the amount of \$339,389.90 for payment.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.

W. B. Gardner
Administrator

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