

Dec. 31, 1973, Monday
Reid Collins

The Federal Energy Office today approved an increase of one-and-a-half cents a gallon in the retail price of gasoline - and, at the same time, predicted an overall price rise of ten-cents a gallon for gasoline and home heating fuel by March First. Currently, the average price of regular gasoline is forty-three-and-three-tenths cents a gallon - and twenty-nine cents for home heating oil. Earlier, Energy Chief William Simon said price ^{necessary} increases were ~~coming~~ to help dealers who are now in a "profit squeeze" because of cutbacks in their supplies. Simon also said President Nixon has ordered a "tough and thorough investigation" of any price-gouging, fuel stockpiling, or improper allocations during the present crisis.

Police in Harrisburg, Illinois, say four persons - three of them children - were killed in a highway collision. Explosion of a five-gallon ~~of~~ spare container of gasoline - carried in the trunk of the car - was blamed for the fatalities.

ECONOMY

In San Clemente, President Nixon today signed two bills which have significant bearing upon the nation's economy. One would allow MILLIONS of homeowners and small businessmen to buy more flood insurance at Federally subsidized rates. The other authorizes the sale of nearly nine-hundred-MILLION dollars worth of government stockpile materials - especially copper and aluminum - on grounds that current supplies far exceed national defense needs.

WATERGATE

Special Watergate prosecutor Leon Jaworski

indicated today that, during the next two months, Federal grand juries may hand down a "substantial number" of indictments in the on-going investigation. Jaworski noted that investigations by his task force have resulted in pleas of guilty by twelve persons, ~~NOT counting the~~ ^{IN ADDITION,) MEN} seven already convicted in the Watergate burglary.

^{The} ~~The~~ Manchester, New Hampshire, ~~the newspaper~~ ^{Union} Leader printed a front-page retraction of charges that President Nixon's long-time associate - Murray Chotiner - masterminded the Watergate bugging incident. Chotiner - who had brought a three-MILLION-dollar libel suit against the newspaper - says he has reached an out-of-court settlement for a "substantial amount" - but declined to reveal the ~~exact~~ total.

MORMON

The Mormon Church's membership of more than
three-MILLION has a new ^{LEADER} "~~prophet, seer and revelator~~" -
with seventy-eight-year-old Spencer W. Kimball succeeding
the late Harold B. Lee as the church's twelfth president. T

The Mormon Council of Twelve - meeting in Salt Lake City -
made the announcement, as expected. Kimball's
~~today as expected announced Kimball's designation. His~~
grandfather - Heber C. Kimball - was one of the church's
original Council of Twelve, appointed by Mormon founder
Joseph Smith back in Eighteen-Thirty-Five.

CADETESS

A Missouri Congressman has nominated an eighteen-year-old girl for admission to the Air Force Academy - and he promises a fight to overcome the Academy's "men-only" policy - if necessary. Democratic Representative William Hungate's nominee is Karen Dwyer of Saint Charles, Missouri - where she is a high school senior and a member of the Air Force Junior R-O-T-C honor guard and drill team. Hungate says Miss Dwyer also ranks very high scholastically. None of the service academies ~~has~~^{HAS} yet enrolled women - although the possibility is usually discussed ^{at} academy board meetings.

OLEOMARGARINE

Out in the Wisconsin dairyland, a lot of grocery shoppers are wishing oleomargine ^{an} a happy new year.

Tomorrow - for the first time in Wisconsin history - stores can sell oleo without adding on a state tax which, currently, exceeds five cents a pound. Ever since the Eighteen-Eighties the controversy over the butter substitute.

~~the controversy over the butter substitute~~
has been bitter.

~~But the consumers~~ Also an important ~~factor~~ - because the dairy industry in Wisconsin is powerful politically. Dairymen, of course, have opposed oleo because it cuts into butter sales. But the consumers wanted it - colored just like butter, and tax free. Finally, it seems, the consumers have now won on both counts.

WEDDING

A San Mateo, California, couple - Jay Hoskins and Jill Kelly - decided to get married before New Year's Day - and also tie the ^{MARITAL}~~marital~~ knot in a different way. So, they and their wedding party - clad in colorful ski clothes - went to the bottom of nine-thousand-foot Slide Mountain near Reno, Nevada - and were lifted to the top. There - with a minister conducting the ceremony - Jay and Jill took the vows, then skied down the snow-covered mountainside as man and wife.

UFO's (TAPE)

Have you sighted any UFOs lately? Lowell Thomas

has a few thoughts about those unidentifiable phenomena.

Lowell....

TAPE RUNS: 2:00

OUTCUE: So long until tomorrow...

EXCERPT FROM THE LOWELL THOMAS BROADCAST
December 31, 1973

Last week, remember a Gallup Poll indicated fifty-one percent of all Americans - fully believe in the existence of U F O's. A new book attempts to prove they do exist. Retired Marine Major Donald Keyhoe in his "Aliens from Space" presents a wealth of what contends is carefully documented evidence - to show that the earth has been scrutinized by "alien intelligence" intermittently for centuries. Author Keyhoe further claiming that any aggression intent - would have long since been demonstrated. "Behind a new curtain of secrecy" - he adds - "the U.S. Air Force is engaged in a dangerous gamble - involving attacks on UFO's". Whatda yuh think 'o that?!

Astronaut John Young, the ninth man on the Moon - is also reported to be a believer. In a recent interview saying: "If you bet against" the existence of U F O's - you'd be betting against an almost sure thing."

"There are so many stars" he explained - "it's mathematically improbable that there are not other life sources in the universe." Well - I'm still sceptical! I'm from Missouri!

ROTATION

Perhaps it was because events moved so fast in
Nineteen-Seventy-Three - with the Mid-East War - Watergate
- withdrawal from Vietnam - and the resignation of a vice-
president. Or perhaps it was just because the world ran out
of gas. At any rate, the Commerce Department says the
earth slowed down - rotating on its axis one second slower
than the year before. To make the adjustment, clocks around
the world were stopped for one second at midnight - London
Time.

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