

Wednesday, April 11, 1973
Salt Lake City, Utah

AUTOS

Bowing to the auto's industry's predictions of a possible shutdown of assembly lines, the government today granted the automakers a one-year delay in meeting tough standards for clean air. The original schedule had called for such standards to be met by Nineteen Seventy-Five. At the same time however, the Environmental Protection Agency did set higher interim standards for forty-nine and states for new cars in pollution plagued California. These to be equipped with clean air devices known as catalytic converters, thus setting up a test area for a conversion program to eventually embrace the entire nation.

PENSIONS

President Nixon sent another message to Congress today - this one asking for a broader program of old age benefits including tax incentives to encourage workers to set up their own retirement plan. The President saying new laws are needed to boost benefits for more than thirty million workers now involved in private pension plans - and to encourage other workers to join them. His proposal rejects organized labor's suggestion that the government insure workers against the loss of benefits incurred whenever an employer's business fails.

PIPE LINE

A House Public Lands Committee heard testimony from several witnesses today urging Congress to pass laws that would get around court decisions now blocking construction of the three billion dollar trans-Alaska oil line. Others also urged further consideration of an alternate route through Canada. Citing our growing energy crisis, they asked the lawmakers to repeal the fifty year old law which limits to fifty-four feet the width of a right of way across public lands. This limitation - among other things - provides the present legal basis for blocking the Alaska pipe line's construction.

PRICES

Democratic leaders in the House decided to temporarily abandon the proposal for tough new price controls - and instead simply support an extension of President Nixon's wage-price control powers for another sixty days. The decision is considered a victory for the Administration and those who oppose a roll back on prices, rents and interest rates to January levels.

BUSING

Civil rights leaders - in testimony today before the Senate Judiciary Committee - insisted that any amendment to the Constitution forbidding racial busing would turn the clock back on the school integration program. On the other side , more than a dozen other witnesses insisted that busing is causing hardship, stirring up anger, and hurting the quality of education.

HEALTH INSURANCE

A sixty member panel of business leaders today proposed major changes in our national health care system - changes that would require employers to provide health insurance for their workers - with the government picking up the tab for the poor and many others now without insurance. The proposal is somewhat similar to the administration's insurance measures which died in the last Congress. One important difference however is the panel's proposal to provide government insurance for more than twenty million persons now uncovered - the poor and near poor - unemployed and part time workers, and self-employed - aliens - the temporarily disabled.

O E O

A federal judge in Washington today ordered a halt to what he called the illegal dismantlement of the office of Economic Opportunity - which is now being phased out by the administration on orders of O E O Director Howard Phillips. In his ruling, Federal Judge William Jones said the administration could not abolish O E O programs since "it's the clear intent of Congress that the War on poverty continue."

MARRIAGE

In Hartford, Connecticut -- Dr. John Houck -- a p^hysiatrist - told a mental health ^himposium that sex out of wedlock has lost much of its former stigma - and that society is tolerating ~~un~~ unmarried couples to an unprecedented degree. Says Dr. Houck -- "unmarried couples who live together ~~too~~ don't really reject the idea of marriage -- they only reserve it as an alternative and, perhaps, a deeper commitment." And he adds - "the current phenomenon of the unmarried marriage is really quite new - considering the general public acceptance it has achieved. - likewise, says Dr. Houck, the frequency of out-of-wedlock sex has not increased significantly - but it's social acceptance has.

WEATHER

The record breaking spring snowstorm that struck the Mid-West this week, and moved ~~back~~ on into northern New England left in its wake an Arctic blast that swept south ~~back~~ to the Gulf Coast. ~~Says~~ Says Paul Anderson of Mooresville, Indiana "my one thousand tree peach crop has been wiped out."

Meanwhile the Mississippi at record flood level rolled past historic Vicksburg, sweeping away tenant shacks and riving plantation owners to higher ground.

FLIGHT

Harry Cooper of Greenwich, Connecticut returned to Chicago today just thirty-six hours, nineteen-minutes - and thirty-three seconds after he took off from the Windy City on Monday evening on a flight around the world via commercial airliners. He claims a new world's record, for flying the globe that way - and says he also saw three sunrises on the way around.

From Chicago to London he flew BOAC - then to Moscow and Tokyo by the same line - and back to Chicago by Northwest Orient. As a greeting card industry executive Cooper sent "hello" cards to President Nixon, Chicago's Mayor Daley and other notables.

As for cards Gregg Chastain of Portland, Oregon came up today with a handful of a different kind - three hundred and fifteen Standard Oil credit cards all made out to him. Yes, Bill, computer trouble. He kept one and sent the other three hundred and fourteen back to the company.

WEATHER

It's rather ironic. I come West to the Rockies and the Wasatch to find snow, and while away the big storm of the year hits the Middle West, and some parts of the North East. At any rate this happens to be the perfect time to ski in our Western mountains, when they are still buried deep with many feet of snow, and the days are long and sunny.

For more than thirty years I have been telling my radio listerners how the best skiing in the world is to be found out here at Alta, Park City, Snowbird, and nearby in Colorado. So, come on out! And ski with former Olympic stars Alf Engen and Stein Eriksen. And so long until tomorrow.