

**TANKERS
NOT MAIN
SOURCE OF OIL
IN WORLD'S
OCEANS**

Free-lance environmental writer Peter Steinhart, in an article entitled "Unfortunately, Oil and Water Often Mix", appearing in the Los Angeles Times last year, stressed the need for determining how much oil was in the world's oceans.

Scientists have not been able to arrive at a "convenient total," said Steinhart. He said dissolved petroleum was only one form of oil in the sea. It also "drifts about in globules, floats on the surface, lies in bottom sediments, or rolls on the ocean floor."

Attempts are being made, not to determine how much oil is in the sea, but how much of it is entering the marine environment annually. Estimates range from five to 25 million metric tons a year. One study by the National Academy of Sciences, puts the amount of oil annually poured into oceans at about 6.113 million metric tons: that amount could cover the city of Chicago with a foot of oil, or the entire state of California with a film less than a millimeter thick.

Steinhart said that while the figure may not appear to be much on a global scale, the oil was not evenly distributed, but was heavily concentrated in certain areas. He said it was not known whether the oil was accumulating or being neutralized as it entered the marine environment.

Most of the public's awareness of oil pollution centers around incidents such as the 1977 North Sea blowout and the 1967 Torrey Canyon spill of 114,000 tons of oil into the English Channel, said Steinhart.

Tankers, however, account for a relatively small part of oil entering the seas. Authorities blame tankers, including those that flush their tanks at sea, for contributing between 5 and 20 per cent of the total marine pollution.

"Worldwide, far more oil reaches the sea through sewer lines than through wrecked oil tankers," Steinhart said. Much of it is waste automobile oil dumped into sewers by gas stations and garages.

Conservation-minded Alaskans are doing something about the problem. Most gas stations store their waste oil and will collect privately-used oil — call to make sure — which is then collected in bulk for use in oiling roads and for construction site needs. Juneau uses waste oil to heat its city shops and a Petersburg firm uses it in a boiler for processing fish meal. Other alternatives for waste oil use and disposal are being studied by the Department of Environmental Conservation.

As Pat Dobey has reminded us, waste oil can be an environmental threat or an untapped resource — the decision is up to us.

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SOUND ADVICE FROM NORTHWEST MINING ASSOCIATION

The Northwest Mining Association's President Russ Babcock says the Carter administration's action to lock up millions of acres of Alaska d-2 lands is "dictatorial and contrary to the way a democracy works." Babcock's October 11 statement, aimed at Interior Secretary Cecil Andrus, claimed Andrus and the President decided that if Congress wouldn't do their bidding by locking up millions of acres of Alaska d-2 lands, the administration would go ahead and do it themselves.

Babcock said it has become increasingly apparent to Westerners that public land and natural resource decisions by Interior Department leadership have been single-mindedly no-growth.

Such political games on land-use issues are popular because the Western states represent only one-fifth of the voters while they contain essentially all of the public lands, Babcock said.

"What Andrus and the administration haven't come to grips with is that mineral and energy supplies for the whole nation are at stake — not just for the West," he said. In addition, Babcock stated that the national economy was dependent on adequate energy, minerals and timber.

"The effect of shutting down lumber mills or preventing mineral production eventually reaches the entire nation, not just the people thrown out of work by each decision to close a chunk of public land."

The N.M.A. suggests a three-fold solution to the problem:

1) The administration must establish a clear set of natural resource goals which realize the importance of resource production to the nation's well-being,

2) the administration must recognize the existing comprehensive environmental controls, and stop using "environmental damage" as its excuse to call a halt to resource production, and

3) the administration must staff its cabinet and agencies with people who have knowledge and experience in minerals and energy to help balance the overwhelming number of unknowledgeable, no-growth political appointees.

Babcock stated that "it appears the Interior Department hasn't yet received the message the nation's people are giving — to stop big government and get back on the track of jobs, economy and self-sufficiency." He added that citizens in the West would suffer the most first, but the nation as a whole would ultimately suffer.

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

"America's finest success story is how we have eliminated the proletariat by converting them into capitalists. We did it by putting them all into pension funds which give them a direct stake in the welfare of American industry . . . Politicians must become aware that their hostility to business is in fact a direct attack on the interests of the American Worker. And the American worker must come

to understand that his best interests are served when he elects to office politicians who understand this connection and are prepared to protect and not attack it."

— Peter Drucker, international
industrial management authority,
in an interview with
Exxon USA Magazine

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**ANDERSON
SPEAKS OUT
ON SUBSISTENCE
(MINING)**

An article on subsistence mining by Dillingham State Representative Nels Anderson Jr., has been widely quoted in the Alaska press. Anderson is Chairman of the Interim Committee on Subsistence. Anderson's comments are summarized herein:

— MAJOR MINERAL POTENTIAL —

As a result of considerable investments already made, about a dozen Alaskan properties have been discovered which have major mineral production potential. Several of these appear to be good enough to bring into production under present conditions; however, not a single one is free from government interference to proceed with full confidence that production and eventually profit will be realized. This government attitude has dampened the enthusiasm for investment in Alaska, and, although total investment figures show some increase in Alaskan mineral investment, they are misleading. Most new funding is for development work in existing properties and this type work is more expensive than new exploration funding which is decreasing. If Alaska fails in the next few years to make more land available for exploration or if we fail to provide adequate tenure and production guarantees, this major and important source of high-risk investment capital will decrease at an alarming rate.

— GOLD MINING DREDGES —

The state legislature must wake up to the realities involved in Alaskan mining before it is too late. Our mineral resources will not simply come on stream when and as we need the jobs and revenue. We need a top-to-bottom evaluation of this industry and a positive approach to making it the important in-

dustry it promises to be. Such a study should not be conducted by outside experts or by persons without the knowledge and respect of the industry. I would at first be inclined to turn to the Department of Natural Resources but I'm not at all certain that they are not a serious part of the problem.

— STATE ENCOURAGES MINING —

The department (of Natural Resources) is mandated by the state constitution to be knowledgeable about and encourage mining. However, the department's relationship to and cooperation with prospectors, miners and the mining industry is at a low ebb. It issues regulations over the almost unanimous objections of the industry (conflicting use permits for water use, discharge, fish and game protection, environmental conservation, access and land use), often without notifying those directly involved and seldom based upon a working knowledge of the industry. In fact, instead of acting like a Department of Natural Resources, it tends to behave like a second Department of Environmental Conservation!

The legislature should start by conducting a review of the Department of Natural Resources and its ability to carry out its constitutional and legislative mandates. When these conditions have been met we should issue a set of clear instructions for the department to get back to the job of guiding this vital industry on a firm and progressive path. In the meanwhile, it may be a good idea to ask the University of Alaska's School of Mineral Industry to evaluate the Alaskan mineral industry and make suggestions for a positive approach to solving the problems.

**DIETING
FOR ENERGY**

A recent study published by the American Journal of Public Health states that if every overweight American slimmed down to an ideal weight, the nation would save the energy equivalent of almost 1.5 billion gallons of gasoline a year.

That figure is the estimated amount of energy it takes to produce, market and cook

the extra food people eat, but do not need.

Study authors say there are about 2.3 billion pounds of excess weight burning up our energy. That translates into enough to meet the electricity demands of Boston, Chicago, San Francisco and Washington, D.C.. Amory Lovins might like this approach to energy conservation.

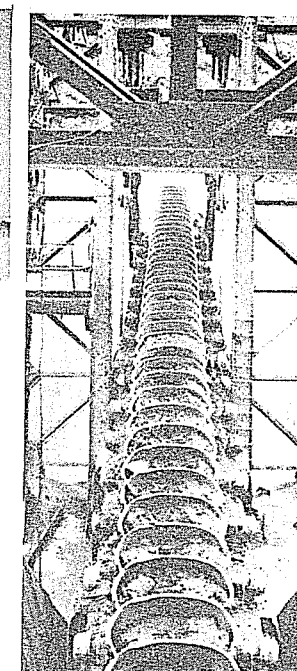
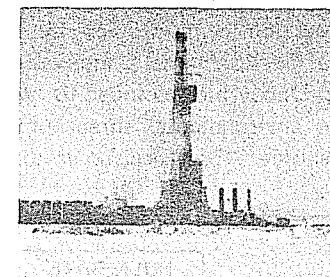
**STORM TAKES
HUGE TOLL
IN TONGASS
NATIONAL
FOREST**

The U. S. Forest Service has estimated that approximately a half-year's cut of timber was knocked down by a Nov. 1 storm that hit portions of Southeast Alaska. (An environmental impact statement for the action apparently was not filed.)

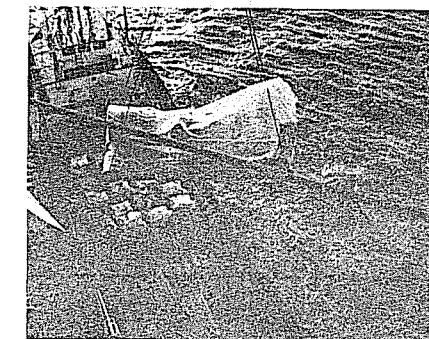
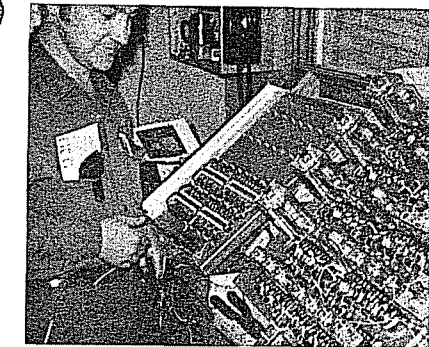
Winds of up to 100 mph hit the Ketchikan area. Preliminary reports by the Forest Service indicated other hard-hit areas included

Mitkof, Sokolof, Zarembo and the Wrangell Islands in the Stikine area of the Tongass National Forest.

Ketchikan-area Forest Supervisor Jim Watson estimated some 50-100 million board feet fell during the storm. Forest Supervisor for the Stikine area, Al Crozier, said the 20 million board feet estimated down in that area was a conservative figure.



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**EAGLE
NESTING SPOT
MAY BE
PURCHASED BY
AUDUBON
SOCIETY**

The Audubon Society in Tulsa, Oklahoma has received a \$124,000 interest-free loan to buy land which serves as a winter roosting spot for about 60 bald eagles. That land is now threatened by developers, according to the Associated Press. Tulsa Audubon treasurer, Richard Sherry, said the annony-

mous foundation would agree to forgive the loan if the land was purchased within five years.

Meanwhile, in Alaska, The Audubon Society plans a four-year study of bald eagles in the Chilkat River Valley in Southeastern Alaska. The area is a nesting ground for up to 3,500 eagles.

**INFLATION
PROJECTIONS:
WIPING OUT
YOUR PAYCHECK**

A bleak future for the buying power of your paycheck was predicted in the September issue of U. S. News and World Report.

The article said prices climbed 6.8% in 1977, as measured by the consumer price index, and this year's inflation rate will go to 8% — according to administration officials. Henry C. Wallich of the Federal Reserve Board predicted an inflation rate of 8% throughout 1979.

One way to find out how this inflation will affect buying power is to see how a spe-

cific sum of money will shrink in real value over the next ten years, using four different inflation rates.

If the inflation rate continues at 5% the buying power of \$1,000 in 1988 will have diminished \$386; at 7%, the decrease in value would be \$492; at 8%, \$537; and at 10%, \$614. That means your take home pay would have to increase between 40% and over 60% just to stay even, depending on the rate of inflation through 1988.

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Officials attributed the extensive blow-down to very soggy soil conditions combined with exceptionally strong winds. Reports stated no prevalent wind direction was noted during the storm, with damage occurring on the east coasts of some islands, and on the west coasts of others.

Salvage of the fallen timber will be given top priority in future logging opera-

tions. Once accurate estimates are made of blowdown damage, Forest Service officials will use the information to determine which areas of the Tongass will be opened to future timber operations.

The Forest Service requires special-use permits for the salvage of blown timber if the wood is to be used for purposes other than firewood for personal consumption.

**EPA SAYS
RARE II DRAFT
EIS IS INADEQUATE**

The Environmental Protection Agency, in a letter to Forest Service chief John McGuire, said it has found the draft environmental impact statement for the Roadless Area Review and Evaluation (RARE II) to be inadequate.

RARE II is designed to determine which of the roadless areas throughout the National Forest System should be added to the National Wilderness Preservation system.

The EPA said the document lacked con-

sideration for the agency's environmental concerns, used unsupported and undocumented statements, lacked related data on demands for resource and contained an unbalanced economic approach.

The draft statement was released in June for public comment. The final environmental impact statement will be released sometime this month, and will be submitted to Congress for action in January.

**RARE II
COMMENTS SHOW
"NON-WILDERNESS"
FAVORED**

The majority of nationwide public comments received on the Roadless Area Review and Evaluation (RARE II) supported alternative — the "no more wilderness" approach, according to a report by the National Forest Products Association.

The report, supplied by the Western Oil and Gas Association, said 264,093 individual inputs bearing 359,414 signatures were received by the U. S. Forest Service. Of those, about 44,500 inputs with about 74,600

signatures specifically supported Alternative B, the non-wilderness alternative, as the desired approach to dealing with the classification of these roadless Forest Service lands.

OMAR provided comments in support of Alternative H which reflected the Forest Service perception of regional and, or local issues, and recommended specific areas for wilderness multiple-use and further planning classifications.

**OIL
IN
OKLAHOMA**

Oil. And money. That's what the book Oil in Oklahoma is all about, according to critic Cheryl Ann Russell, who stated that nobody could sum it up better than Bill Skelly did in the 1920's while he was in New York trying to get a loan.

"The banker said: 'Mr. Skelly, we hear the future of oil is not too good.'

"Skelly said, 'Sir, how did you come to

work the morning?'

" 'The way I always do. My chauffeur drove me.'

" 'Did you see any horse manure in the streets?'

"The banker said, 'No.'

" 'Well, until you do, oil has a great future.' " Skelly got the loan.

**CHANCES FOR
BOND EXEMPTION
SLIM TO NONE**

Alaska Senator Mike Gravel told state legislators there was little or no chance Congress would approve a proposal next year to give tax-exempt status to \$1 billion worth of industrial development bonds. Those bonds would help finance the proposed natural gas pipeline from Prudhoe Bay to the midwest.

According to the All-Alaska Weekly, Gravel's statements were a reversal of his earlier prediction on the issue. The Fairbanks paper said Gravel's Washington office told them in early November that Congress was

sure to act favorably on the proposal early next year following public hearings. It stated Gravel gave similar assurances to the legislature's Interim Committee on Gas Pipeline Financing.

State Senator Mike Colletta of Anchorage said Gravel made his turnabout statements to the committee in a San Francisco meeting. Colletta also stated that Jack Bachman, legal counsel for Northwest Alaskan Pipeline Co., agreed with the senator that chances for approval by Congress were slim.