

# The State Journal-Register

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## Christmas Parade

## A Great Show Coming

THERE is nothing better to boost one's spirits than a good, lively parade.

We are therefore immensely pleased at the fine early response for the 1973 Springfield Christmas Parade to be held in the central section on Dec. 10.

Parade co-chairmen Dan Sullivan and Marilyn Leonard report that the event will feature more than 100 units. Included among them are about every available marching unit from local and area high schools along with motorized choral groups, the Falcon and Chargers Drum and Bugle Corps, a dozen floats and another dozen mobile units, scouting troops and dancing units.

There will be at least 10 bands including the Springfield Municipal band, plus colorful floats and veterans

groups. This is an impressive array by any standards.

Putting on a parade is hard work and the community owes credit to sponsors of this year's event, the Springfield Jaycees and the Springfield Central Area Development Association.

In a time when Americans are worried about many things from the economy to Watergate a stirring parade will be a welcome tonic. But a parade, and especially a Christmas parade, is a production most appreciated by children.

We hope that parents in Springfield and the entire Central Illinois area will make plans now and set aside Monday, Dec. 10, as a day to bring the youngsters to central Springfield to see the show.

It promises to be a fine one for young and old alike.

## Avoid Gasoline Rationing

PRESIDENT Nixon should stick by his conviction that gasoline rationing must be considered a "last resort" in meeting our nationwide fuel emergency. Congress is giving the President power to order rationing, and the contingency planning for such a step is under way. That is as far as the government needs to go until we get a better grasp of what can't be accomplished by all the other energy conservation measures now taking shape across the country.

Viewing gas rationing as unavoidable only blunts the force of appeals for voluntary reductions in fuel usage. If the government is going to hand out ration cards anyhow, what difference does it make if we try to cut down on gas consumption on our own? Resignation toward the inevitability of rationing is a sure way of making it necessary.

Treasury Secretary George Shultz believes many Americans — including some of the energy advisers in the administration — are over-reacting to the problem. Americans can avoid rationing if they act intelligently, he says, and we agree.

Those whose memories go

back to World War II remember the bureaucratic apparatus that was necessary to allocate gasoline. We also can remember how difficult it was to make rationing equitable when "need" for the use of cars was so hard to define in objective terms. With automobiles and highway transport today playing a far greater role in our personal lives and in farming, commerce and industry, those problems would be much more acute.

The war we are fighting now is not against a foreign enemy but against that part of our energy use — particularly in the use of cars — that can be trimmed away without cutting into our livelihood. We know that the excess is there to be trimmed.

The idea of placing a big tax on gasoline is only rationing in disguise, and one thing an economy already showing signs of slowdown does not need is a massive shift of money into government hands.

We are still at the beginning of our energy crisis, and the best paths to follow are not yet clear. There is much to do and much to consider before we plunge down the thorny path of rationing.

## JACK ANDERSON:



## Kissinger Blocked By Arab King

WASHINGTON — Saudi Arabia's austere King Feisal controls the oil valves which will determine how much Americans will shiver this winter. Only Saudi Arabia has the means to break the Arab oil

embargo and ease the critical shortage facing the United States.

A prolonged boycott, according to Treasury experts, would cause severe economic dislocations. One Treasury study warns that a "major economic depression" would result if the supply disruption continues into the late 1970s.

Yet secret studies by the National Security Council show there's no practical way to start the oil flowing again if Feisal doesn't want to open the valves.

It will do little good to cut off food shipments to the Saudis. Feisal can afford to pay out of the kingdom's overflowing treasury whatever price it takes to purchase from other countries all the food his people need.

THE suggestion that Saudi Arabian assets in the West be frozen also won't likely work. The king shrewdly is providing oil to the countries where most of the oil billions are stashed.

As a last resort, of course, the National Security Council has considered military force. But the secret studies show that a military operation to take over the Saudi oil fields would be highly vulnerable to sabotage and interdiction. In any case, intelligence reports warn emphatically that the Saudis would sabo-

tage their own wells before permitting them to be captured.

This leaves negotiation as the preferred, if not the only way, to fill America's ebbing oil tanks. Yet Secretary of State Henry Kissinger, in his secret talks with Feisal, failed to budge the shrewd old monarch.

Sources close to the negotiations say Kissinger is more skillful at world politics power plays than he is at economics. Only as an afterthought did he invite an oil expert the last minute to participate in the National Security Council discussions on the Saudi predicament.

KISSINGER also ignored advice that he talk to the oil minister who, it was suggested, would have been more inclined to help work out an accommodation. Instead, Kissinger with his sense of power dealt directly with the king who was polite but implacable.

Kissinger urged the king to resume oil shipments to the United States. A continuing embargo, Kissinger argued, would only provide ammunition for the anti-Arab forces and generate anti-Arab sentiment in the United States. This would make it difficult for him to follow the even-handed policy he desired in the Middle East, he said.

The soft-spoken Kissinger handled the discussion with his customary brilliance and Feisal listened carefully to every word. Although he speaks English, he insists on Arabic for official occasions and, therefore, dealt with Kissinger through an interpreter. The secret session was formal and stuffy.

THE KING declared solemnly that he was willing not only to resume shipments but to increase them until the United States has all the oil it needs. But he cannot relax the oil squeeze, he said, until Israel begins to evacuate Arab territory taken in 1967.

He reminded Kissinger of past, repeated warnings that unswerving U.S. support for Israel would bring oil sanctions. The king said he had been reluctant to take this action. It was clear from his remarks, however, that he felt personally insulted by Washington's failure to heed his warnings.

The irony is that Feisal, according to all accounts, has a soft spot for the United States. Many key Saudi officials were educated in the United States. Indeed, there's a good-natured rivalry between Saudis who attended colleges in northern and southern California. One of the king's own sons attended President Nixon's alma mater in Whittier, Calif.

FEISAL is also fiercely anti-Communist. He is more eager than Nixon and Kissinger to keep Soviet influence out of the Middle East. But above all else, Feisal is a devout Moslem. He abstains from liquor, shuns leisure pleasures and prays five times a day. He is deeply serious about his traditional role as protector of the Moslem world's three holy cities — Mecca, Medina and Jerusalem. The old kings want Jerusalem moved to Moslem custody. Before he dies, he wants to pray in the great mosque in Jerusalem.

## DAVID POLING:

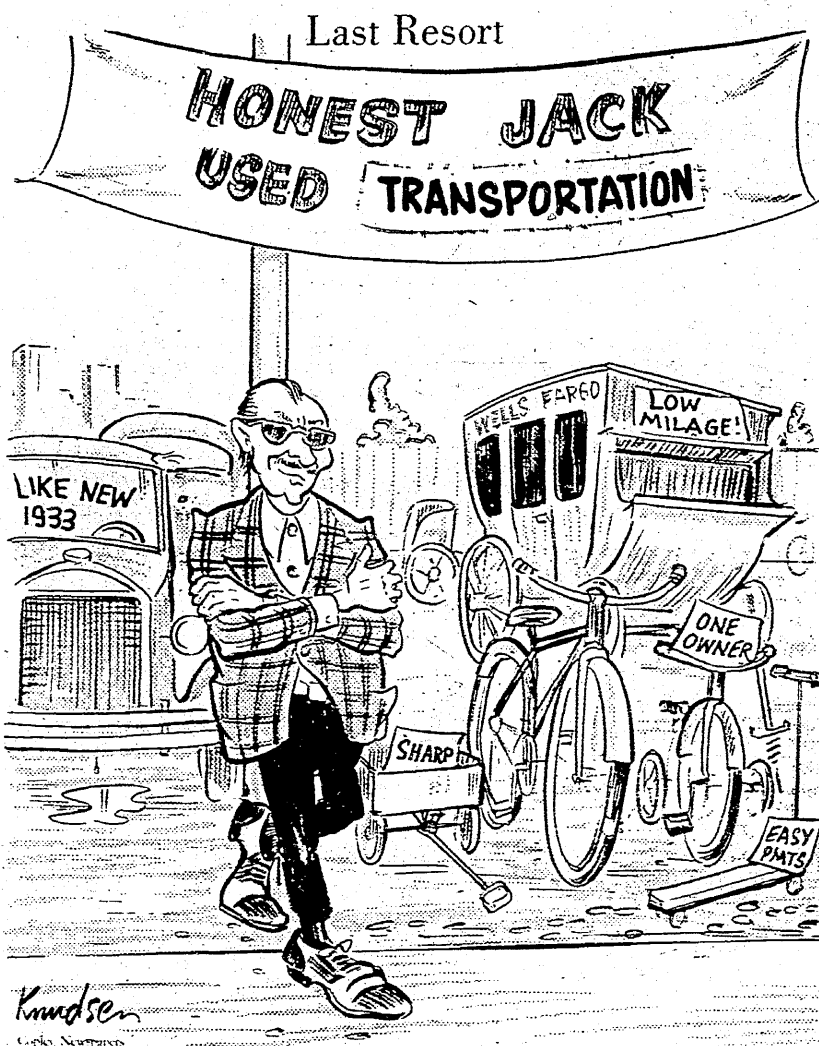
## Church Factions In Holy Alliance

THERE are always church-state skirmishes going on in the United States. Sometimes it is a conservative group that has a major complaint against government views or court rulings. Other dramas are acted out in real life between liberal churchmen and their alarm or anger concerning some presidential policy or congressional study. It may be a school prayer ruling, an abortion law, amnesty, aid to parochial schools, whatever. But rarely do you see a combined conservative-liberal front taking on the forces of government (or its agencies) as in these recent cases.

BILLY Hargis and the National Council of Churches: for more than a dozen years Hargis has been the sworn enemy of the World and National Council of Churches. Real punching, real pushing and shoving, with bruises prove it. Yet, for nearly a year, the National Council has chosen to join Hargis and his organization in combat with the Internal Revenue Service. Seems that the IRS does not appreciate the social-political comments of the Hargis team, hence their nonprofit tax deductible status is in jeopardy.

RELIGIOUS groups are allowed just so much noise-making in Washington and IRS wants to maintain decent boundaries. The NCC has a history for social pronouncements and a keen interest in the lobbying scene around the District of Columbia Results: strong support for freedom of speech, even Hargis-style which grates the established churches.

CARL McIntire-United Church of Christ, United Presbyterian Church is the most unlikely partnership that has ever faced the Federal Communications Commission. In the November editorial of A.D. (published jointly by the denominations named) the opinion is expressed that the revoking of the license of the McIntire radio station, WXUR, was quite legal, but may be a serious infringement of freedom of speech. And people in pulpits and editorial offices are pretty touchy when this danger pops up.



## HENRY J. TAYLOR:



## Solar Energy Could Be Answer

WHEN President Nixon announced additional funds and efforts for energy developments he had in mind, among other potentials, solar energy.

Solar energy is far, far in the future and presently very expensive. The technical jargon keeps us from understanding (and being encouraged by) its potential. It's made to sound as complicated as alphabet soup at a Chinese dinner.

But is that necessary? The sun is a star. It is our nearest star: 93 million miles away. It is a small star and it is young. Energy is formed when light elements fuse to form a new, heavier element. The sun does it by using hydrogen, the lightest element. It changes hydrogen into helium. And, being

young, the sun has not yet lived long enough to burn up much of its hydrogen.

THE sun is nearly 3,000 times hotter inside than on the surface. Its heat is 6,000 degrees centigrade on its surface and 15 million degrees in the center. In fact, were the sun's surface as hot as its center, the heat on us would vaporize our earth in a few minutes and scorch us into oblivion.

Incredibly, nevertheless, a man-made H-bomb explosion is for an instant 10 times as hot (150 million degrees centigrade) as the center of the sun.

Now for the factor directly involving our energy crisis: The sun gives off energy at the astounding rate 564 million tons per second — per second.

This is about seven million billion times the electric-generating capacity of all the power stations in the United States.

THE sun is sending almost 200 billion megawatts of pure pollution-free energy down to earth. But only our green plants (which do so every day) have the capability of turning it into useful energy.

The entire path of human evolution points to the increased use of man's natural resources. In this, as in all scientific developments, it is often impossible to do commercially what you know is sound technically. But you must know what is sound technically to do the right thing commercially. And solar energy technology can ultimately enter its commercial stage.

## TOM TIEDE:

## Unreliable Tapes Becoming An Influence In History

NEW YORK — The Germans of World War II had a clever way to protect Adolph Hitler. Recording the Führer's speeches on magnetic tape, they played them simultaneously from various locations in the nation, thereby reducing the chances of assassination.

Today, magnetic tapes are once again protecting a national leader. This time by not playing at all. And though recorded reels are the only similarity between the two periods of history, the political life of Richard Nixon is also surely at stake.

It is of course ironic that something so ingeniously trivial as a brown ribbon could play such important roles in history. Magnetic tape is only 30 years old, commercially, but besides protecting both Fascists and Republicans it has influenced almost everyone in the world to some extent or other.

Much of the influence, like the tape itself, has been fribbled. Five hundred and forty-one million dollars worth of pre-recorded tapes were sold to Americans last year, most of them ending up on cheap Japanese recorders which trumpet from Maine to Maui the wails and whinnies of

agonized young musicians who mistake energy for entertainment. Four hundred and twenty-five million dollars worth of this was in the form of eight-track tape, meaning each instrument has a space on the tape to dramatize its own ability to go off key without spoiling anything.

YET some of the influence of magnetic tape has been more serious and occasionally deadly serious. Good libraries stock cassettes which record books for the blind. Schools have utilized tape recorders as inexpensive and often excellent teaching aides. In some nations tapes of The Masters' voices are provided to radio stations for the benefit of the masses. In at least one country, Vietnam, in 1965, a tape recorder played the national anthem during a humid pre-dawn day and when the song ended an allegedly convicted criminal was executed by a firing squad.

And a great deal of the influence, good, bad or indifferent, is orchestrated not so much by the orchestras but by tape altering technicians. Tape alteration, says British electronics expert Adrian Hope, is as old as tape itself.

The Germans altered Winston Churchill's speeches during World War II for home front consumption. Prisoners of wars of the last three decades have been subject to tape editing and word substitution (men who did nothing else but tell the enemy about their families have wound up recorded as anti-Americans). In early radio the blips and bloopers of programming were all deleted before airtime.

Today, tape alteration is high and important art. Musical recording technicians often are as important as the recorders. In one popular album, "Count Basie — Super Chief," the song "Love and Love Tonight" has been spliced 171 times. In the album "Concert for Bangladesh" one musician's microphone malfunctioned during play and his part had to be dubbed in the following morning. The editing usually is no secret, some record jackets describe the alteration processes as if the customer is getting more for his money.

YET despite the history of tape alteration and the benefits of it (who wants to hear a news program interviewee belch?), there remains

something odorous about the process. When Neil Armstrong became the first man on the moon, he said: "That's one small step for man, and one giant leap for mankind." He meant to say "one small step for A man" and at the time it was suggested that the better wording be dubbed into the historic tape. It wasn't, it shouldn't have been, the gaffs of history being as important as the facts of it.

To be sure, if Armstrong's tape would have been altered it would have been undetectable. Technicians today boast they can do almost anything with a recording and do it invisibly. To prove this, a New York acoustical research firm recently put together a tape of selected words from President Nixon's speeches which, in Nixon's own voice, says: "I had prior knowledge of the Watergate break-in. I authorized subordinates to engage in illegal campaign tactics."

I shall continue to subvert the institutions of government by unlawful means." The tape, two minutes long, has 143 splices, only three of which are easily heard.

Actually, such a splice job — 143 in two minutes, is

probably impossible to do perfectly. I.S. Teibel, who made the altered Nixon tape, says that the ratio of splices to tape time is crucial. Too many chances for error in too short a time.

But perfection is possible under more normal circumstances, says Teibel. If, for example, a 45-minute presidential discussion was recorded, and perhaps two paragraphs of conversation deleted, "it would be relatively simple," and detection "one in a million."

EXPERTS agree there are difficulties involved with the undetectable alteration of recordings. The quality of the tape, for one thing, influences the quality of the editing. Then too, with ordinary people, conversations tend to be slurred rather than distinct and it is difficult to break up words of slurred speeches.

Most importantly, there is the possibility that background noise will interfere with alteration. Recording engineer Tom Dowd says that the drone of an overhead plane, for example, is most difficult to interrupt. A laboratory oscilloscope, which translates electrical impulses of sound into green

wavy lines, would detect interruption immediately. The before-break and after-break portions of the plane wave would simply not match up.

Yet all the difficulties apparently have solutions. The interruption of the plane drone, as example, might be masked by inserting a cough or sneeze or the slam of a door at the splice. Besides this, says another acoustical expert, Mark Randall of Synchronic Research Inc., some tapes, as apparently the presidential tapes, are voice activated. That means they go on or off at the level of speech. "So if Nixon's tapes have a suspicious break, the claim might be that voices were lowered and the tape just shut off."

ALL of this, of course, is a far cry from the Germans trying to protect their Führer. In those days, actually, magnetic tape was not even magnetic tape — just paper ribbon with red oxide paint. And perhaps even today, the argument of sophisticated protection by sophisticated tape may be outdated. Many say Richard Nixon has become so ensnared in his historic filament that, at this point in time, the only thing on the tapes is his swan song.