as to come from the Middle East?" My God, doesn't he realize that every ngle incremental barrel of oil today ninistration energy expert moaned: se their Western markets if they use nplicit threat that Arab states might neir oil as a political lever, a top ad-Within minutes of President Nixon's

areful forethought at his press conferhooting challenge uttered without ides, it stunned the oil states of the nce last week, ideast, most particularly Saudi Ara-But if Mr. Nixon's threat, a hipsurprised his own

Mose traditional friends. That is the country that sits on top an, King Faisal, regards both Presi-ent Nixon and the United States as nown oil reserves and whose head 24 per cent of the world's total

Saudi Arabian oil production Now ings to authorize a huge increase in companies with Saudi Arabian holdthe Nixon administration and U.S. oil right now under heavy pressure from The king and his government are

> American request. 1980, if the king went along with the would be raised to 11.3 million barrels running at a level of 7 million to 8 milby 1976 and to 20 million barrels by lion barrels every day, that production

present levels. nues. Oil revenues should stay at their production and hence national revealso has no economic need to boost oil gasoline and heating oil, King Faisal dispute. Perhaps even worse for Mr. not to play Uncle Sam's game unless the United States moves to a truly still-rising domestic pressures from the Nixon and the American consumer of even-handed policy in the Arab-Israeli left, both the political and Moslem left But the king is also under heavy and

dollars, either." cently said. "My answer is, we can't eat drink our oil but have to sell it," one influential adviser of King Faisal re-"The Americans tell us that we can't

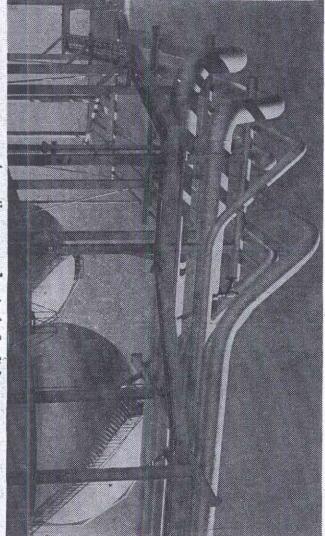
to the levels that American oilmenonly one year ago. Lifting production an incredible 78 per cent higher than is running at \$6 billion a year today-The Saudi Arabian national budget

want would bring in vast new amounts of dollars that King Faisal could not spend. and the Nixon administration-now

ground as oil," one adviser to the king told us, "rather than in some bank as cash." "Our wealth may keep better in the

Prime Minister Mossadegh out compare today's seething seller's marmarkets is dangerous poppycock. power, is misleading. helped drive oil-rich Iran's left-wing ago, when Western economic pressures American oil property without fair ket to the buyer's market of 20 years may find themselves without Western gouge consumers with high pricescompensation-or which attempt to that Arab oil states which expropriate political facts, President Nixon's threat In the face of these economic and

five years. Nor can any crash program Mideast. North Slope Alaskan oil will not be available at best for three to eased only by additional oil from the shortages lying just ahead can be the critical period of oil-and-gasoline For, as the Nixon energy expert said



A gas-oil separator plant in the Saudi desert.

riod of shortages that lie ahead. Only to dent the potentially disastrous Mideastern oil can do that, to extract oil from shale or coal begin

and ignores a vital political fact: that most of the European nations are far less pro-Israel than the United States. to Mideastern oil ("We and Europe are the market," he said) understates Japan's and Europe's total dependence have identical problems with respect tion that Europe and the United States statement last Wednesday. His assumpleading implications in Mr. Nixon's There were, furthermore, other mis-

Arab lands seized in the 1967 war. ress toward Israeli withdrawal a developing front between fabulously ern front on the Mideast. But there is erful Egypt. Both are under control of rich Saudi Arabia and politically powthe United States but must see leaders who want closer relations with In short, there is no common Westirom

drive or heat their homes. potential fury of Americans unable to Instead of empty threats against Mr. Nixon might ponder the

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