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PARADE'S SPECIAL

EDITED by LLOYD SHEARER

INTELLIGENCE REPORT

THE TRUTH ABOUT THE OIL SHORTAGE

The federal government and the major oil corporations are responsible for this country's energy crisis.

Anyone who doubts that statement should read the 40,000-word report on the subject, "Staff Study of the Oversight and Efficiency of Executive Agencies With Respect to the Petroleum Industry, Especially as It Relates to Recent Fuel Shortages."

It costs $1 and is available from the Supt. of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402. Ask for report Y-4.G74/6: P44/3.

If the above report sounds too lengthy, you might be interested in a most readable three-part series, "Oil--The Created Crisis," written by two ace investigative reporters, Don Barlett and James Steele, of "The Philadelphia Inquirer." The series was published earlier this year on July 22, 23 and 24.

It is available for 25 cents from "The Philadelphia Inquirer," Box 8380, Philadelphia, Pa. 19101.

If you can't spare the time for a three-part series, a brilliant synopsis is available in the form of a column by John S. Knight, chairman of the Knight Newspapers, which appeared on Nov. 18, 1973. It is available for a self-addressed, stamped envelope from the Promotion Department, Detroit Free Press, 321 West Lafayette, Detroit, Mich. 48231.

In his column Knight agrees with Ralph Nader, an honest, conscientious and knowledgeable lawyer, who declared many weeks ago that the oil shortages in the United States were "orchestrated for political and economic benefit by the oil industry and that it chose to place the country in a short-term energy scare to gain dividends."

Some facts:

(1) During the third quarter of 1973 oil industry profits soared. The world's largest oil corporation, Exxon, increased its profits by 80 percent. Standard Oil of Indiana increased its profits by 37 percent; Gulf, 91 percent; Mobil, 64; Getty, 71; Shell, 23; Phillips, 43; Cities Service, 61; Standard, Ohio, 14 percent.

(2) While the nation undergoes a fuel shortage, the oil industry in the first nine months of 1973 exported 1.5 million barrels of distillate fuel to foreign countries, enough oil to heat 42,000 American homes for the entire winter. According to Barlett and Steele, the five largest oil corporations in the U.S. have sold twice as many barrels of petroleum products overseas as they have at home.

(3) Southern California, particularly the Los Angeles area, is the richest gasoline market in the world. Each time the price of gasoline goes up one cent, the pre-tax profits zoom $85 million a year for Shell, Richfield, Union, Mobil, Texaco, Phillips, Gulf, Standard of California and Exxon.

(4) The shortage of gasoline in the U.S. this past summer was the responsibility of the government and the oil industry and not the result of demands by the environmental protectionists or the U.S. driving public.

(5) Last winter, after previously refusing to lift restrictions on oil imports, especially from Canada, our most reliable neighbor, the Nixon Administration assured the public it would face no oil difficulties.

There is an energy crisis in this country. It has been aggravated by the Arab oil boycott, but before the Arabs turned off their spigot, it was fomented by the oil corporations and compounded by the bungling of the Administration. That is a large share of the truth, and it's about time the U.S. public was let in on it, instead of being made to feel guilty for the nation's gasoline shortage.

For further details, read any of the above-mentioned reports.