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# Washington Merry-Go-Round



by JACK ANDERSON

WASHINGTON — In a secret dispatch from Belgium, the Central Intelligence Agency has reported ominous talk of curtailing the flow of gas to America in retaliation for the U.S. embargo on soybeans.

The U.S. produces 90 per cent of the soybeans in world trade. These humble yellow beans are both the cheapest and richest source of protein available. This makes them essential to the nourishment of people from Mexico to Japan.

The worldwide demand for soy meal, however, has exceeded the supply. President Nixon, therefore, has slapped strict controls on soybean exports.

But the United States is at the other end of the pipeline on gasoline. The flow of gas to the United States passes, in large measure, through the refineries of Europe.

Now the Europeans are citing the United States soybean embargo, according to the CIA, as a precedent for reducing gasoline shipments to a U.S. already short of gas.

**MURPHY'S RETAINER:** Genial George Murphy, the former screen star who made it to the Senate, is in trouble again because of his "consulting."

He lost his Senate seat to Sen. John Tunney, D-Calif., in 1970 after we reported that Murphy had been drawing \$20,000 a year as a "consultant" for Technicolor, Inc., while serving in the Senate. Technicolor also

paid half the rent on Murphy's apartment and provided him with handy credit cards.

It happened that Technicolor was run by Patrick J. Frawley Jr., who often used company funds to push extreme right-wing causes.

Now Murphy is back in the consultant business. His firm was paid \$3,000 this year for two months of "consulting" over a bilingual children's television project sponsored by the U.S. Office of Education.

An interim audit of the television project is highly critical of the retainer paid to Murphy's firm. "We found no documentation to support the \$3,000 in retainer fees," states the confidential report.

Murphy insisted to us, however, that he made 40 or 50 phone calls and personally "interceded" with Health, Education and Welfare Secretary Caspar Weinberger in behalf of the project.

As for the \$3,000 consulting fee, he rasped: "They got the best buy in Washington in many a moon."

Footnote: The auditors also sharply criticized other aspects of the bilingual children's television project. They recommended that \$489,935 in expenditures be "disallowed" and questioned the allocation of another \$552,657 spent to set up a television show similar to "Sesame Street" for Spanish-speaking children. The auditors also complained of

exorbitant travel and salary expenditures.

**WHO'S LISTENING?** Sen. Barry Goldwater, R-Ariz., wasn't surprised to learn that President Nixon has been bugging all conversations in the oval office. Explained a Goldwater aide:

"One conversation he had in the oval office was reported so precisely by Jack Anderson that he felt there had to be a recording device in operation at the time. There was not a comma out of place."

It's true we printed verbatim quotes from a secret White House strategy session that Goldwater attended last year. Here are excerpts:

"We are going to have a wild card in the game now and then," the President explained to party leaders. "I thought I would invite some member of Congress, who is not in the leadership, to come to the meetings from time to time."

Then he introduced Goldwater as the first special guest.

"I knew I would make it sometime," said Goldwater, who lost the 1964 presidential election.

"Would you like to change chairs?" offered the President.

"Not after what I've seen," said Goldwater.

Our story went on to report what was discussed at the meeting. The verbatim quotes, we are happy to reassure Goldwater, did not come from the President's secret tapes. We had a copy of the secret minutes.