

No Big Oil Price Rise Seen Now

Government and industry spokesmen say it is unlikely that major oil companies will jack up prices, raid markets or abandon customers with the end of federal controls.

The law authorizing the federal government to limit oil prices and to allocate available petroleum supplies expired at midnight Sunday.

President Ford has said he will refuse to sign a six-month extension passed by Congress, and efforts are scheduled in Congress this week to work out a plan for gradual removal of the controls.

If the compromise works out, the controls could quickly be restored with little or no impact from the lapse into decontrol.

But if the effort fails, the nation would be left without oil price controls or petroleum allocations, just as foreign oil producers meet to discuss new price increases of their own and just as winter approaches with a promise of natural gas shortages.

The administration has predicted the end of price controls would mean an increase of about 6 cents in the cost of a gallon of gasoline if the \$2-a-barrel tariff on imported oil is retained.

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JFK Assassination

HOUSTON—The FBI and Dallas police for at least five months after the assassination of President Kennedy covered up a conversation indicating the FBI knew Lee Harvey Oswald was a threat to the President prior to the slaying, the Houston Chronicle reported in its Monday edition.

The newspaper also reported that the Warren Commission, which investigated the 1963 assassination, did not

fully look into the reported conversation when it learned of it in May, 1964.

J. E. Curry, Dallas police chief at the time, informed Supreme Court Justice Earl Warren of the FBI's reported prior knowledge in a registered letter, the Chronicle said, and printed a copy in Monday's edition.

Curry wrote:

"On that date (Nov. 22), before newsmen, I stated that I had received information that the FBI knew of Oswald's presence in Dallas and that the Dallas police department had no information on Oswald in its files. This statement was based on the report of Lieutenant (Jack) Revill."

Three hours after Kennedy was killed, Revill said he ran into FBI agent James Hosty in the basement of the Dallas city hall. Hosty told him the FBI knew that Oswald could be a threat to the President, Revill said in a statement he eventually repeated to the Warren Commission.

Contacted by the Chronicle, Revill stood by his statement.

Tornado Kills Two

CROOKSTON, Minn.—A tornado, one of eight that touched down in northwestern Minnesota Sunday, picked up a truck and blew it about a quarter of a mile, killing the couple inside.

The Polk County sheriff's office said the victims, Ole Ronningen, 72, and his wife, Agnes, 65, of rural Climax, Minn., were driving on U.S. 75 two miles south of Climax when the twister picked up their truck, rolled it through a wheatfield and smashed it to the ground 150 yards away.

The tornado had been following a

Polk County road for about two miles when it moved onto the highway and picked up the vehicle, Sheriff Earl Mosher said.

One woman suffered several broken bones when another tornado touched down near Newfolden in Marshall County. She was transferred to a Grand Forks, N.D., hospital.

Several other tornadoes, accompanied by golf-ball-size hail and heavy rain, were reported southwest of Crookston, where several farm buildings and farm machinery were destroyed or damaged by strong winds and hail, Mosher said.

Spacecraft Probe

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla.—The Viking 2 spacecraft was removed from the launch pad and engineers began searching to correct a radio problem that forced a 10-day delay in the nation's second probe for life on Mars.

Viking project manager James S. Martin ordered postponement of the launch, originally scheduled for Labor Day, when engineers found radio signals coming from the spacecraft's antenna were so weak they could not have relayed a substantial portion of the data obtained by the Mars lander.

"I feel terrible," Martin said after delaying the launching until Sept. 10. "But these things happen and we've got to find out about them before we launch."

Technicians drained the propellants from the Titan-Centaur launch rocket and removed the spacecraft shroud to see if this would cure the antenna problem. It didn't, and engineers had to take the Viking 2 to a building for disassembly.

From staff reports and news dispatches