

# Oilmen Warned The White House



SFChronicle

Jack Anderson

**L**OCKED in the secret White House files is evidence that four American oil companies supported Arab interests against their own country during the Arab-Israeli war last October.

At the height of the fighting, the chairmen of Exxon, Mobil, Texaco and Standard of California signed a joint memo to President Nixon.

The memo, which was delivered on October 12, clearly was timed to influence the President against sending military aid to Israel. The oil men correctly warned that Saudi Arabia and Kuwait would retaliate by cutting back oil production.

Added the memo prophetically: "There is a high probability that a single action taken by one producer government against the United States would have a snowballing effect that would produce a major petroleum supply crisis."

★ ★ ★

**T**HE PRESIDENT didn't read the memo, however, until after he had already ordered a massive, emergency airlift to Israel on October 14.

The Arab oil producers struck back, one after another, with an embargo against the United States. The greatest of the oil sheiks, Saudi Arabia's King Faisal, halted oil shipments to the United States on October 20.

The Saudi embargo was administered and enforced by the four American companies which together form the Arabian American Oil Company (Aramco). When King Faisal banned oil deliveries to U.S.

military forces, the four companies carried out the king's order.

Exxon, Mobil, Texaco and Standard of California, putting profits ahead of patriotism, didn't hesitate to withhold Saudi oil from the U.S. armed forces at the snap of King Faisal's finger.

The four oil giants were put on notice by the king at a secret meeting in Geneva on May 23, 1973.

★ ★ ★

**T**HE KING told representatives of the four American companies, according to an intelligence report, that he didn't intend to let Saudi Arabia's traditional friendship with the United States isolate his country from Arab world.

Unless the Aramco partners brought pressure on the U.S. government to change its Middle East policy, he warned, they could lose their Saudi oil concessions. He called upon them to impress this message upon both the U.S. public and U.S. leaders.

"Time is running out," the king declared, emphasizing repeatedly that "you could lose everything."

With this warning, the oilmen became panicky when the United States showed favoritism for Israel during the October war, and drafted the blunt 'Memorandum to the President' On October 12.

**Footnote:** We contacted the offices of the four oil chairmen. Their spokesmen contended that the memo was not intended to meddle in U.S. foreign policy but merely to alert President Nixon to the facts.