

Argentina May Receive Surprise In Reaction After Oil Seizures

By JOHN M. HIGHTOWER
WASHINGTON (AP) — A strong wave of nationalist sentiment is largely responsible for the action by the new government of Argentina in cancelling oil contracts with a dozen U.S. and foreign oil companies.

President Arturo Illia, who took office Oct. 12, may be surprised at the foreign reaction he gets, unless his announcement is modified in its practical effect by steps to soften

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the blow to the private oil operations in Argentina. In an exclusive interview with this Associated Press reporter in Argentina three weeks ago Illia said that, as he had promised during his election campaign last summer, the oil contracts "will be annulled" but he insisted also that the whole issue of annulment is an internal Argentine matter and a question of "minor importance to us."

His promise to end the oil contracts undoubtedly helped Illia win the election and he and his advisers clearly feel on political grounds, apart from any other considerations, that he had to go through with the cancellation. By going through with the cancellation he risks a foreign reaction, especially in the United States, which could mean a fatal loss of financial

assistance and inflow of private capital.

CHANGED VIEW

The eight U.S. and four foreign company contracts which Illia has cancelled were all signed after May 1, 1958, which was the beginning of the administration at Buenos Aires of Arturo Frondizi. Frondizi had slumped the country preaching against private exploitation of Argentina's oil. When he took control of the government he reversed his position and entered into contracts with the private oil companies for quick development of Argentina's petroleum fields.

Frondizi's turnaround created a sense of betrayal in Argentina which sharpened the oil issue for the campaign that produced Illia's election. In this respect, however, it simply magnified popular feelings long present in Argentina and in a general

sense elsewhere in Latin America.

One of the widely held and highly influential political notions throughout Latin America is that the natural resources of a country, especially oil, represent a special form of wealth which somehow must be protected against foreign exploitation. When this feeling is coupled with nationalistic impulses such as now are dominant in Latin American politics, the pressures on a political leader like Illia to satisfy the appetite for nationalist action become extremely powerful.

This almost certainly means that a period of crisis in U.S.-Argentine relations may be in the U.S. Congress.

Many members of the Senate and House of Representatives are tied up with what seems to them to be a record of large U.S. help to Latin American countries in which U.S. interests are periodically converted into political footballs.

On the hopeful side of the present conflict with Argentina over the oil contracts is the possibility that the Illia government action may appear to be more severe than it is in its practical effect.

Gold Assistance To Be Extended

OTTAWA (CP)—The government intends to extend the Emergency Gold Mining Assistance Act for three and possibly four years beyond its present expiry date of Dec. 31, it was learned here.

A government policy statement on the extension probably will be made within the next 10 days, a government source said. The act was first passed in 1948 as a measure to assist mines with high costs of production. Its chief aim was to maintain communities dependent on gold mining for their economic existence.

Man Awarded \$5,000 After Police Beating

TORONTO (CP)—An Ontario Supreme Court jury has awarded \$5,000 to Hans Paul Kroell of suburban Scarborough after deciding that Kroell had been brutally beaten by two Toronto police detectives March 25, 1961.

Kroell, 32, was suing Det.-Sgt. Victor Jackson and Det. John William Mitchell for injuries that he said he suffered when the officers beat him while he was undergoing interrogation at police headquarters.

Agreeing with the jury's verdict Mr. Justice J. F. Donnelly said the attack at headquarters on Kroell was "a brutal assault on a man in custody."

Kroell had been arrested on charges of possessing stolen property found in his basement. Police testified in court last Thursday that Kroell had told them it was left there by a man named Siegfried Falskie.

Falskie is now in the custody of police on theft charges.

Kroell told court last Thursday that he signed statements only after he was handcuffed to a chair and punched and kicked.

William Chambers had testified that Kroell had voluntarily signed statements admitting two charges of possessing stolen property.

He said Kroell became violent and that Dets. Jackson and Mitchell fought with Kroell on the floor for about three or four minutes before quelling him down.

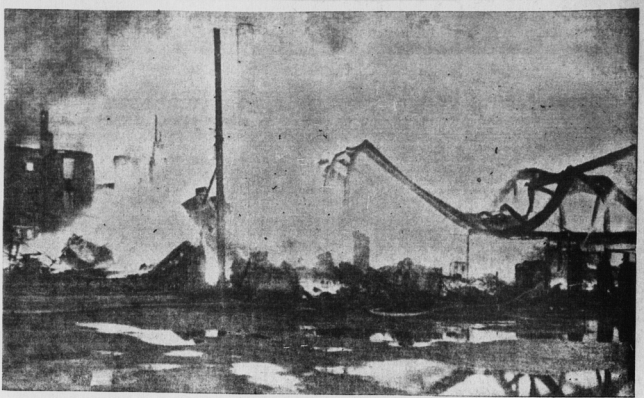
SIGN PACT

Norway, Britain, the Soviet Union, the Netherlands and Japan have signed a 1962 mutual inspection pact of Antarctic whaling.

SECOND SECTION

Charlottetown, Tues. Nov. 19, 1963.

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General view of the Monday morning blaze just off the Atlantic City Boardwalk at Maryland Ave. In the foreground is what is left of the Surfside Hotel where six persons died. Another 18 are missing and feared dead. All were

guests at the Surfside where the fire broke out. The fire spread from the Surfside to buildings on both sides, collapsing walls and roofs. Police said 90 persons were in the Surfside when the fire started.

WHERE HOTELS BURN

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(AP Wirephoto).

Public Accounts Committee Is Taking On Fresh Drive

By JAMES NELSON

OTTAWA (CP)—The House of Commons public accounts committee is taking on fresh drive, with old faces in new places.

The committee, often called the watchdog of the public on government departments, that it will tolerate no nonsense about its recommendations — and that it is willing to embark on some new ventures.

The 30 members of the committee are charged with the duty of reviewing Auditor-General A. M. Henderson's annual report to Parliament. Mr. Henderson is an officer of the Parliament of Canada—not of the Government of Canada. His job is to report any cases he finds where taxpayers' money is being spent without full and detailed approval by Parliament. While the committee membership is drawn from the

strength of political parties in the House, there is a noticeable lack of partisanship in the committee hearings. The committee is composed of 25 Liberals, 18 Conservatives, three New Democrats, two Social Crediters and two Creditives. Ten form a quorum.

ADOPTED PRECEDENT

Part of the non-partisan viewpoint probably can be traced to an innovation made by the former Conservative government and carried forward by the new Liberal government in having an opposition MP named as chairman. G. W. Baldwin (P.C.—Peace River), a New Zealand-born lawyer who was parliamentary secretary to former prime minister Diefenbaker, is new chairman and a soft-spoken, order-minded student of the committee's affairs.

The vice-chairman is W. H. McMillan (L.—Wendell), a physician who was mayor of Thorold, Ont., before he first entered the Commons in 1950 and became a spokesman on public financing matters as well as on health and welfare.

With Mr. Henderson as its star witness and chief aide, the public accounts committee has power to demand the production of documents and to question any cabinet minister or senior government administrator.

MADE SOME PROGRESS

So far this session, it has:

1. Instructed a sub-committee to meet with Mr. Henderson and representatives of the powerful treasury board to consider a new plan for way of submitting appropriations to the House of Commons. The treasury board is a committee of cabinet ministers and senior civil servants that passes on expenditures before they are made. The auditor-general's office checks the expenditures after they are made.
2. Instructed Mr. Henderson to meet with R. G. MacNeill, chairman of the Civil Service Commission, and work out a

way to cut red tape in the hiring of junior accountants for the staff-short auditor-general's office. The committee wants a solution found within a week or to know the reason why it hasn't been found.

3. Ordered the defence department to explain to the committee why it hasn't carried out an instruction from the committee two years ago to cut down on payments made to compensate servicemen who have to break household leases when ordered to new assignments. The department allows payment of up to three months' rent; the committee thinks one month is enough.

HOME WRECKED

MONTREAL (CP)—An explosion early Monday destroyed a house in suburban Jacques-Cartier but its five occupants suffered only shock. The roof and walls of the house collapsed following the blast. Neighbors found Mrs. Simone Duchanac, 39, sitting in her bed with a large chunk of roof beside her. Four children were unharmed.

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