



## DrumBeat: July 24, 2007

Posted by [Leanan](#) on July 24, 2007 - 8:52am

Topic: [Miscellaneous](#)

[Phil Flynn: You got to love those OPEC softies](#)

The sentiment was almost touching. OPEC is concerned about us and our economic well being. Doesn't that make you feel good? It almost brought a tear to my eye and a lump to my throat when it was reported that OPEC is concerned about the potential impact of near record oil prices on the world's economy. Isn't that just the sweetest thing? The cartel that helped bring the world \$76 a barrel oil is now all of a sudden feeling a rush of concern that these prices are a danger. Not that they see any problems right now with the world's economy mind you, but they stand ready to pump more oil if needed. Never mind that some estimate that OPEC production fell last month. That was after all, the old OPEC. This appears to be a new loving, caring cartel.

[Canada: Energy pussycat](#)

Stephen Harper likes to describe Canada as an "energy superpower." It's a catchy claim, but a ridiculous one.

Surely an "energy superpower" would be a country that, at the very least, is assertive in taking care of its own energy needs.

Not Canada. Indeed, Canada has been almost negligent in this regard, having surrendered an astonishing degree of control over our energy to the United States in the 1993 North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA). Since then, Canada has been more energy pussycat than superpower.

[China: More oil reserve bases to be built](#)

China plans to build four levels of crude oil reserves made up of two parts - the government reserve and enterprise storage - according to a source with the nation's largest oil company.

"The government reserve will be at two levels, a strategic crude oil reserve base by the central government, and an oil reserve base by local governments," an official with PetroChina, who declined to be named, said.

## [Migrating to New Energy Paradigms Part 2 - The Economic Importance of Crude Oil](#)

Emerging energy paradigms drive technological innovations by entrepreneurs, which, as a consequence of their commercialisation and market penetration drive the world economy.

Armed with this understanding, we see that the US's (and Australia's) failure to ratify the Kyoto protocols was life threatening to all of humanity. The core issue had nothing to do with CO2 emissions. The core issue had to do with the march to market of new energy related technological innovations which would drive the world economy. Failure to ratify the Kyoto protocols was an attempt to block the forces of Nature so as to protect the interests of those whose financial interests were dependent on the previous (oil and coal) related energy paradigms.

## [Labor Disputes and Oil Drill Shortage Cause Problems for Venezuela's Oil Industry](#)

With oil prices hitting an 11-month high of \$78.40 a barrel in London last week, Chavez remains confident, "Oil is going straight to \$100 [per barrel]. No one can stop it," Chávez said yesterday.

## [Iraq unions vow 'mutiny' over oil law](#)

Iraq's unions say that the draft oil law is a threat and threaten "mutiny" if parliament approves the bill.

"This law cancels the great achievements of the Iraq people," Subhi Al Badri, head of the Iraqi Federation of Union Councils, told the Al Sharqiyah TV station. He referred specifically to laws that nationalized Iraq's oil sector.

## [Iraq oil exports to U.S. second lowest in near 4 yrs](#)

Iraq's crude oil shipments to the United States in May fell to the second lowest monthly level in almost four years, the U.S. Energy Department said on Monday.

Iraq exported 341,000 barrels of crude oil a day to the U.S. market in May, down 39 percent from the month before.

## [How Our Fossil Fuel Dependence Is Jeopardizing Our Healthcare System](#)

Our country's dependency on oil and natural gas cannot be overstated. Nowhere is this truer than in our medical system. This means that the looming energy crisis is also a

healthcare crisis.

## [Oil and Gas: Peak Oil Caucus chairs Bartlett, Udall comment on National Petroleum Council report](#)

Last week, the National Petroleum Council released its new report, "Facing the Hard Truths about Energy," stressing the increased development of alternative energy sources in order to meet global energy demand -- a demand that will likely not be met solely through global oil and gas production. During today's E&ETV Event Coverage, Reps. Roscoe Bartlett (R-Md.) and Tom Udall (D-N.M.), co-chairmen of the Congressional Peak Oil Caucus, discuss the NPC report and explain why they believe it hides the truths about global energy.

## [Book examines how dwindling oil supplies will cause economic crisis](#)

Today, with oil more than \$60 a barrel and more than double the price in 2003, "The Coming Economic Collapse" is a book to be read by anyone who is concerned with how the escalating prices of oil and gasoline will affect the future of our economy.

## [Kissinger's secret meeting with Putin](#)

America's preeminence in the world depends to great extent on its ability to control the global economic system. That system requires that the dollar continue to be linked to oil reserves. But everywhere the petrodollar is under attack. The only solution is to control two-thirds of the world's remaining petroleum -- which is in the Caspian Basin -- and demand payment in dollars.

But that plan has failed. The war in Iraq is lost and the longer America stays, the harder the fall will be. Oil will not continue to be traded in petrodollars, the USD will lose its place as the world's "reserve currency," and America will slide into a long and agonizing economic downturn.

The machinations and secret "shuttle diplomacy" of Kissinger and his cohorts will amount to nothing. The situation is irreversible. Geography is fate.

We need to extend the olive branch to Russia and prepare for the inevitable shifting of world power.

## [How the Energy Dice Were Loaded](#)

The names of some of the corporate big shots and industry lobbyists who helped shape the deliberations and conclusions of the super-secret Cheney energy task force in 2001 are now beginning to surface, thanks to a former White House aide who provided a list to The Washington Post.

It's interesting to discover that Kenneth Lay, Enron's chairman, was favored with two audiences. But the rest is sadly familiar. The task force, which developed a national energy policy, had all the time in the world for the big energy producers — some 40 meetings with the oil, gas and coal companies and their trade associations — but barely a moment for environmentalists. It's hardly surprising that its report favored producers of fossil fuels at the expense of conservation and alternative fuels.

### [Electricity Showdown in California](#)

California passed two major greenhouse gas laws last year. One mandates reducing CO2 emissions to 1990 levels by 2020 -- perhaps as much as a 40% cut. The other prohibits the renewal of electricity contracts from traditional coal-fired plants. Together, these laws threaten to increase the cost of all forms of energy, making the Golden State less competitive and throwing thousands of Californians out of work.

### [Interstate Fuels Mountain Economy In Colorado](#)

"Peak oil is a phenomenon where we get to the maximum production rate that the world will ever see, the supply of oil," he said. "Some experts say it's happened already, others say it'll happen sometime between 2010 and 2014. And what that means is, not that oil is going to go away, it just will become very expensive. So I see these things leading toward driving becoming more expensive.

"You have a combination of things. Not one of them is significant by itself to say we're not going to be driving the way we are today in 2025, but when you take a look at the big picture and all of these things, you really start to wonder if we are going to be traveling the same way we are today."

### [FedEx cuts fuel surcharge 25% amid soaring energy prices](#)

Logic suggests that FedEx would lose money on this announcement. However, management believes the move will provide them an advantage in the market. Douglas G. Duncan, President and CEO of FedEx Freight said, "By significantly reducing our fuel surcharges, we offer immediate and long-term assistance to shippers who are facing both a challenging economy and volatile fuel prices." Both units update fuel surcharges on a weekly basis based on prices published by the DoE.

### [U.S. Department of Energy Web Site Features Report Citing Global Resource Corp.'s Alternative Energy Technology](#)

Company's environmentally friendly gasification process could potentially unlock oil hidden in U.S. natural resources, and is included among leading unconventional fuel

production technologies.

### [Commodities Report: China's Big Oil Shows Reserve](#)

Conventional wisdom says Chinese oil companies are buying every oil barrel in sight -- no matter where, no matter the cost. Mr. Conventional is sometimes wrong.

The parent company of Hong Kong-listed PetroChina, China National Petroleum Corp., turned down a chance to buy a stake in the South American assets of Spanish oil company Repsol YPF SA. People familiar with the proposed deal said CNPC, China's leading oil-and-gas producer by output, feared the wave of nationalization spreading across South America could imperil the return on investment.

### [Saudi Arabia Hires Sander for Red Sea Oil and Gas Search](#)

Sander Geophysics Arabia, a petroleum explorer, will survey Saudi Arabia's Red Sea coast for oil and gas deposits after winning a contract that may help the world's largest holder of hydrocarbons tap new stocks.

### [BP profit down, but tops forecasts](#)

BP Plc posted a 1 percent drop in quarterly post-tax profit to \$6.087 billion as production fell and refinery outages prevented the oil giant from taking full advantage of near-record refining margins.

London-based BP said in a statement that the drop in its second-quarter replacement cost net profit would have been larger had it not been for non-operating gains totaling \$741 million, largely from the sale of oil fields and a UK refinery.

### [Oil drillers Transocean, GlobalSantaFe to merge](#)

Deal will create energy services behemoth.

### [China's Shift to Natural Gas Vehicles](#) - Boone Pickens Ahead of the Curve with CNG Fueling Stations

In a recent television interview, Boone Pickens told a reporter he was surprised to discover there were 9,000 buses in China running on natural gas.

In an era of worrisome global warming events, it's hard to argue with a transportation system that has proven to reduce particulate emissions by 95 percent compared to

diesel engines and which also reduces carbon monoxide and nitrogen oxides by 75 percent and 49 percent, respectively.

### [Prius sales up 65 percent in Bay Area](#)

The Prius' newfound status reflects the continued greening of Silicon Valley. Rod Diridon, executive director of the Mineta Transportation Institute at San Jose State, and a Prius owner, listed sustained higher gas prices, the availability of car pool lane stickers for solo Prius drivers -- no more are being issued -- and the intelligence of local residents as factors in the Prius' popularity.

### [Fuel costs forcing charity to turn away patients](#)

To save fuel, volunteer pilot Bill Davidson now packs more than one sick passenger onto his shiny six-seat Piper Malibu airplane when he makes a hospital run.

So, on a recent afternoon flight from Houston back to Denton, 19-month-old Marisol Salas, who suffers from a nerve disorder called brachial plexus, sat across from Lenore Kinzenbaw, a 58-year-old woman with breast cancer. Both Marisol and Ms. Kinzenbaw had needed a flight to Houston hospitals for treatment. And Angel Flight – a free Addison-based transportation service provided by pilots flying their own planes and often buying the gas – was their most comfortable and affordable option.

### [Chile: New Hydro Plant Opens In Region VIII](#)

Hydroelectric plants, upon which Chile relies for a significant part of its electricity production, have been a hot topic of late. Chile's other principal source of electricity is natural gas, almost all of which comes from neighboring Argentina. Over the past few years, however, Argentina has limited the amount of gas it sends to Chile, creating what many in the media call an energy "crisis."

### [Nigeria: Rich in Oil, Dependent On Firewood](#)

It is a paradox of note: the fact that while Nigerians live in the world's sixth-largest oil producer, most of them still rely on wood for their fuel.

### [Energy Crisis Could Cost Argentina Almost \\$3.9 Bn This Year](#)

Argentina will have to spend some \$3.87 billion this year to confront the country's energy problems, which forced Buenos Aires to ration natural gas and electricity consumption, Spanish news agency EFE has said.



### [Kenya: Acute Gas Crisis Hits Towns](#)

An acute shortage of liquefied petroleum (cooking) gas has hit major towns countrywide.

A Sunday Nation survey yesterday showed that some dealers had not received fresh supplies for the past three months.

### [Zimbabwe government to take over fuel importation: report](#)

Zimbabwe's government is planning to take over the importation of all fuel in a bid to stop the abuse of foreign currency by private importers, South African public television reported Monday.

### [India: RIL ready for a fertiliser foray](#)

RIL has proposed to use some of the Krishna-Godavari gas as feedstock bought at market prices. RIL has been facing a huge backlash from fertiliser and power companies over the gas price it is offering them. Now, plans are afoot to take up the challenge by becoming a player itself.

### [Nigeria: kerosene scarcity will persist, says govt.](#)

Millions of homes in Nigeria are without cooking fuel known as kerosene and the situation will persist for an indefinite time, the government announced here on Monday.

### [No to nukes](#)

It's tempting to turn to nuclear plants to combat climate change, but alternatives are safer and cheaper.

### [Energy industry gears up for 'nuclear renaissance'](#)

Twenty years after the Chernobyl disaster poisoned the world's taste for reactors, a French firm is sniffing out fresh uranium supplies in Canada. And the race for nuclear power is back on.

### [World's largest uranium deposit could light up Paris](#)

In 2006, one quarter of the world's total uranium supply of 39,429 tonnes originated from just three mines in this region about 1,000 kilometers north of Regina: McClean Lake, Rabbit Lake, and McArthur River, which is co-owned by Areva and Canada's Cameco, the world's largest uranium producer.

### [Quake hits Japanese nuclear plant: a Russian view](#)

The expert dismisses speculation that seismic danger was underestimated when the plant site was chosen: "The Japanese are top-notch professionals, and exacting and pragmatic to the utmost degree in choosing plant sites. It was a mere accident, I think."

### [Forget the Ethanol Myth - Avoid Biofuel Bubble](#)

Running the numbers on how much land could be put into production for corn-based ethanol makes it clear how little of the fuel could be produced to help curb America's energy gluttony.

### [Britain's emergency committee meets over worst floods in 60 years](#)

Britain's emergency contingencies committee met Monday night to discuss further measures to combat the worst flooding in 60 years, which Prime Minister Gordon Brown linked to climate change.

Large swathes of central and western England were submerged as rivers swelled and burst their banks during four days of heavy and persistent rain, leaving thousands without clean water or electricity and facing the prospect of more rain.

### [Humans to blame for global changes in rain: study](#)

Human activities that spur global warming are largely to blame for changes in rainfall patterns over the last century, climate researchers reported on Monday.

### [Warm Water Creatures May Soon Rule the Oceans](#)

Warm-water sea creatures may one day rule the oceans as their cold-water competitors fail to adapt to climate change.

This scenario is suggested by a new study which concludes that a species of Antarctic limpets, a type of small mollusk, can't grow as fast as their limpet cousins in warmer climates. Being introduced to warmer water only stunts the growth of the Antarctic



creatures even more.



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