

Price fixing at its best

BP profits for the third Quarter of 2005 was \$6.46 billion. For the third quarter of 2006 its profits declined to \$6.23 billion. So, what do they do? On October 24, 2006 they announce a lowering of daily production. This appeared in the local newspaper on October 25, 2006. Gas prices immediately went from \$2.04 per gallon to \$2.29 per gallon. All competing companies took the message from BP and raised prices accordingly. This is abusive to the public; this is "Price Fixing" and most definitely should be dealt with, as it is illegal according to the Federal Government.

We in Northwest Indiana have some very good Representatives in Washington, DC. Mr. Bayh, Mr. Lugar and Mr. Visclosky. I realize that it was announced six month ago that they (Washington) put a committee together to investigate big oil companies, but that was basically for show. We need our three Congressmen to spearhead a real investigation and bring this most obvious "Price Fixing" by the oil companies to a halt. Enough is enough!

Also, the big three automobile companies (General Motors, Ford and Chrysler) need to step up into the 21st Century and return our vehicles to the # 1 status in the world. We know that the automobile industries are a major part of our economy. We need the state of the art vehicles; mileage, warranty and safety must be better then our foreign competitors.

We have the ability to out-produce and out- design any foreign company. We have the skilled labor force waiting for an opportunity to accept the challenge of producing state of the art vehicles. We need to bring our manufacturing jobs, the automobile industry and all other industries that have sent their plants and production over seas, back to America. Any company moving manufacturing jobs out of the country must pay a special tax when shipping their products back to the United States to be sold to our citizens.

People move to the United States daily because it is the land of opportunities and because it is the best country in the world. We could reduce crime, welfare and drug dealing a great deal if we return manufacturing jobs to our citizens. Our taxes would decrease and the record deficit could be wiped out. If we put our skills to work and find the necessary solutions to the American dream, all the citizens of our great country would see a tremendous improvement in their quality of life.

Mr. Bayh , Mr. Lugar and Mr. Visclosky please lead the way to prosperity. Let our children and grandchildren have the same opportunities we have had in our lifetime.

Gerry J. Scheub, President
Lake County Board of Commissioners