

nearly a dime nationally over the past year — has slipped to under a dollar at some Texas stations. Heating oil has fallen by seven or eight cents this winter. Prices of petroleum products on the futures market, considered a reliable indicator of coming price movements, indicate that traders are anticipating a further 15 percent drop by April.

Reductions in the price of crude, such as Britain's decision last week to cut the price of its North Sea oil by more than 10 percent, have become frequent.

U.S. imports of crude oil have fallen by more than half during the past three years, to 10 percent of its needs. And the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) may be falling into disarray.

But all students of oil, no matter what their views of the situation, agree that a major political upheaval in the Middle East could change the energy outlook overnight. The economic and strategic stability of

the Western world still hinges on the Persian Gulf, a tinderbox that supplies roughly two-thirds of Western oil imports.

AND THE ECONOMIC DAMAGE of the so-called energy crisis persists.

The energy crisis was an oil crisis. From 1950 to the early 1970s, the world's consumption of oil grew fourfold, while the price declined slightly. The proportion of energy supplied by coal declined from 40 percent to 17 percent, and improvements in efficiency of energy use seemed a waste of money.

Then, unnoticed by most Americans, U.S. oil production began to decline while output elsewhere surged. This was the result of the natural depletion of older oil fields, the lack of economic incentives to

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Sen. Robert Byrd is trying to limit any American involvement in El Salvador.

Group lists Salvadoran military's atrocities

AP and UPI

LONDON — Security forces in El Salvador "have been carrying out a systematic and widespread program of torture, 'disappearances' and individual and mass killings of men, women and children," Amnesty International says in a report released today.

The report from the human-rights organization carried testimony from survivors telling of alleged slayings of pregnant women, cutting out of fetuses, raping of young girls, throat cuttings and beheadings.

The report by the Nobel Peace Prize-winning organization covers the period from early 1980 to August 1981 but says, "The pattern of killing and torture is still going on."

Much of the information came from a three-member Amnesty International mission that interviewed Salvadoran refugees in seven camps in Mexico, Honduras and Costa Rica in August. The mission did not go to El Salvador.

THE REPORT said: "The victims have included not only people suspected of opposition to the authorities but thousands who were simply in areas targeted for security operations, whose death or mutilation seems to have been completely arbitrary."

Amnesty International said the refugee testimonies "implicate all branches of the Salva-

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Free Press Photo by HUGH GRANNUM

As Daniel Morelli walks the picket line, applicants line up for jobs.

They want strikers' jobs

By JUDY DIEBOLT
Free Press Staff Writer

They started lining up outside the plant gate shortly before dawn Monday.

By 9 a.m. nearly 200 men and women, braving the subfreezing temperatures, were lined up in front of the Wayne Soap Co. at 700 Leigh in southwest Detroit.

Many wore navy blue jackets that proclaimed their UAW affiliation. They came in response to "help wanted" ads, to apply for the jobs of an estimated 20 men fired on Friday after they went on strike against their employer.

THE STRIKERS, members of Meat Cutters Local 539, carried picket signs and warmed their

hands over an oil drum fire. They shouted angry insults at the men and women who were once their brothers and sisters in the labor movement, but who were now eager to cross the Meat Cutters' picket line in search of jobs.

They had been working without a contract since Jan. 1 and went on strike at midnight Friday. They questioned the company's financial position and felt they deserved more money and better benefits. Several strikers said they couldn't understand how former union members could cross a picket line and break a strike.

Officers in four Detroit Police Department scout cars sat nearby to keep the fragile peace.

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