

Elementary Students Find Facts About Subjects for Term Report

What kind of man is Khrushchev? What kind of people live in the Congo and what are their customs? What were the careers of Kennedy and Nixon before they ran for president? Students in Mrs. Anna Hause's seventh and eighth grade class at Hamilton Elementary School can answer these questions and many others as the result of term papers they have written. Their research papers are complete with bibliographies and lists of the resource books they used.

Although term papers formerly were a skill reserved for

colleges, students in Torrance high schools and upper elementary grade classes are doing work with the "work study" skills, including research, note-taking, extensive study of sources of information, and making reports, both written and oral.

"YEARS AGO, it was possible for students to learn or memorize nearly all of the knowledge that was known," Mrs. Hause noted. "Today, knowledge has expanded to the point where no one can know everything there is to know. However, we try to teach our

students to learn where they can find needed information—in encyclopedias, almanacs, resource books, magazines, and other types of material."

Mrs. Hause set up the term paper project, allowing the students to pick some current topic that interested them. Since this was an election year, many students picked topics dealing with the election biographies of one of the candidates, a study of the party symbols, the electoral college, and of the system of elections.

OTHERS chose such subjects as Russia or the Congo. After

completing their term papers, Mrs. Hause will have the students make oral reports on other subjects the class currently is studying. One important part of the study is learning new vocabulary words dealing with the subject.

Mrs. Hause uses a nine-point outline that students should follow in making their reports:

- (1) choosing a subject; (2) taking notes; (3) outlining the material; (4) rewriting the material; (5) learning vocabulary words needed; (6) making a bibliography; (7) making an attractive cover; (8) making a

title page; (9) compiling a table of contents.

YOUNGSTERS reach many interesting and often profound conclusions in writing their papers. One girl said about Khrushchev, for instance:

"Khrushchev is a good actor and tries to say and do things to impress and please people. He says things that are not necessarily true. He is doing this to new countries of Africa and Cuba. Khrushchev is trying to get them in his clutches. When he is in a good mood, you never know how he really is, but when he is in a bad mood, you had better watch out. Khrushchev seems friendly and nice until he is in action."

Births

MARTINEZ—Mr. and Mrs. Paul, 1517 W. 218th St., a son, Randolph, Dec. 5.
 GARCIA—Mr. and Mrs. Richard, 4222 W. 179th St., a son, Richard Anthony, Dec. 7.
 LEMONS—Mr. and Mrs. J. L., 2075 Torrance Blvd., a daughter, Helen Marie, Dec. 7.
 ANDO—Mr. and Mrs. Carl, 21229 Howard Ave., a son, Carl Russell, Dec. 7.
 MCKEY—Mr. and Mrs. D. F., 2012 1/2 N. Normandie, a daughter, Suzanne Ellen, Dec. 8.
 BECK—Mr. and Mrs. Keith, 22035 S. Main St., a son, Christopher Keith, Dec. 8.
 SPIVEY—Mr. and Mrs. Ronny, 1175 W. 20th St., a daughter, Tammi Lee, Dec. 8.
 THOMAS—Mr. and Mrs. Johnny R., 1309 W. 218th St., a son, Johnny Stephen, Dec. 9.

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Legislative Committee Probing Gas Price Wars, May Seek Remedy

By VINCENT THOMAS
 Assemblyman, 68th District

An odd thing about the motor vehicle. It simply will not move unless there's fuel in its motor. Since practically every car uses gasoline for fuel, that's one product whose distribution price is a matter of major concern to every American.

In recent years gas retailers have been plagued by a per-

sistent series of price wars which has put the whole industry in a turmoil, from producing companies to wholesalers to service station operators. Relationships have become so strained, and accusations are flying so thickly, that desperate measures are being recommended for remedies. The Assembly interim committee on manufacturing, oil, and mining industry recently held a two-day hearing at which all segments of the business were given an opportunity to present their facts and arguments.

BEFORE GETTING into such major problem areas as price wars, trading stamps, and giveaways, witnesses took advantage of the opportunity to take a few blows at use of "octane ratings" to advertise gasoline. Spokesmen for service station owners said legislation to stop abuses in the practice of using such ratings is urgently needed to protect legitimate operators.

Instances were cited in which several pumps bearing different rating signs and offering gas at different prices all drew gas from the same pump. State weights and measures officials said misrepresentation is bad and getting worse, and no control law is on the books. It was suggested that a law be passed requiring that octane rating, if used at all, be accurate.

ONE WITNESS, connected with the chemical industry, said that in fact octane ratings mean very little, because they vary between areas and engines.

Considerable attention was devoted to the plight of station operators who get caught in price wars. Witnesses said the average gas dealer has a gross margin of 16 to 19 per cent in the selling price of his gas, as against a range of 25 to 29 per cent estimated as the minimum needed to stay in business. They demanded legislation which would outlaw "price trading areas" established by wholesalers, and also the giving of special price rebates to dealers. This latter practice was alleged to encourage price wars.

SPOKESMEN for suppliers were equally strong in their own defense. Price trading areas were explained as necessitated by differences in the cost of transporting gasoline from refineries. Special rebates, which obviously cost suppliers profit margins, have one purpose, to protect qualified dealers who get caught in price wars. Suppliers do not in fact set retail gas prices, nor dictate policies with respect to use of trading stamps or giveaways to dealers. Suppliers are concerned with the interests of retailers, and are constantly studying ways of eliminating price wars.

A university marketing expert told the committee that price wars in gas retailing arise because, by and large, the industry sells one product, gas, and the retailer must keep that delicate balance between price and sales volume which means maximum profit to stay in business.

OVERSUPPLY of gasoline was mentioned as a generally recognized cause of price wars. He deliberately ruled out as a possible cause, any direct collusion between major suppliers. He offered the opinion that fair trade price control laws, and prohibition against any one company getting into all phases of the business from refining to retailing, would not solve the problem of price wars. When asked, he said he could not offer any which seemed to be really workable.

Whether it will be possible to work out a legislative solution to the problem of gas price wars seems problematical, but it looks as though we will be working on it in 1961.



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