around is not altogether due to capitalist propaganda turning the faucet on and off as they generally do whenever it suits their purposes.

The turnaround is also due to the ravages of the capitalist depression. The cut in oil consumption in some of the capitalist countries is the result of the industrial slowdown—of a decline in capitalist world production due to the depression. (This, of course, has not forced, as of now, the OPEC countries to cut the price of oil.)

Thus, the monthly Economic Letter of the First National City Bank for June 1975 makes the following cynical observation about the oil surpluses in OPEC countries.

"So what began in 1973-74 as a ferocious tiger was first declawed and is now becoming a Cheshire Cat." Two other giant banks, the Irving Trust Co. and the Morgan Guaranty Trust, have made similar observations.

What an object lesson in the manipulation of public opinion by the banks and the government! One only has to remember that it has been barely six months since Kissinger, Schlessinger, Ford, The New York Times, The Washington Post, and the Los Angeles Times let loose the most ominous sabre-rattling, shaking their nuclear fists at the Arab countries and shouting themselves hoarse that it was these Arab oil surpluses and price increases which were strangling the world capitalist economy. It now turns out, as they admit themselves, that the exact opposite is the case.

Of course the oil price increases have added to world inflation but that is not the basic cause of the galloping global character of the inflation. The OPEC in its mid-year report of a year ago credited

the oil price increases over-all with a mere two percent.

COLONIAL OIL AND IMPERIALIST OVER-PRODUCTION

The fabulous wealth in the form of oil buried beneath the ground of the OPEC countries remains wealth all right. But so long as the OPEC countries remain oppressed nations and imperialism controls the basic fabric of the world capitalist economy, the OPEC countries, in spite of undoubted economic advances, are nevertheless the dominated ones and by no means the domineering ones in the world capitalist order.

The roots of the general capitalist crisis lie in capitalist overproduction and the inability of the capitalist class to dispose at a profit of the tremendous products which continually flow out of the giant mines, mills, and factories.

This over-all crisis coincides with the *general* crisis of capitalism which was ushered in as long ago as the end of the First World War and has only been interrupted by brief periods of capitalist recovery and devastating imperialist wars and military adventures.

What imparts particular acuteness to the present economic crisis is that it comes at a time of maturing over-all political crisis in all the leading imperialist countries. It is to this crisis that we must now address ourselves for the economic crisis will be solved by political means and not by the automatic processes of capitalist development. Aug. 4, 1975