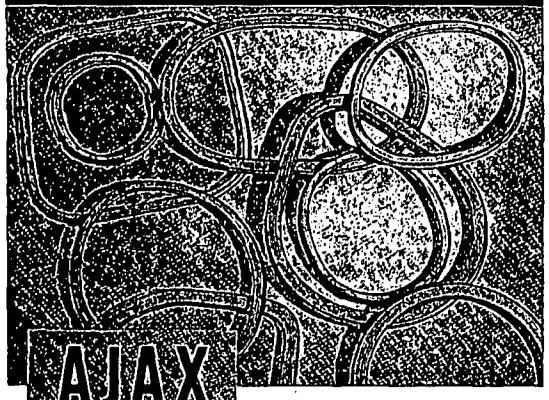
MILLIONS for the NAVY Plenty, Too, for Industry



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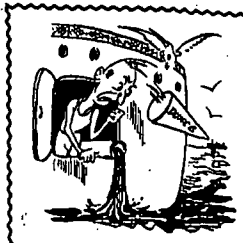


My Biggest Boner

► THOUGH this happened on a ship, many shoreside engineers and designers may get some good ideas from it.

Our ship, a large passenger vessel, pulled into 'Frisco for repairs and refueling. The second night in port an oil tanker came alongside with our fuel oil. We tied her up to our starboard side.

I opened the loading valves and gave the engineer on the tanker the signal to start pumping. Then I sat back to relax before making my first round for soundings. I'd just settled myself comfortably when the quartermaster on watch came bouncing down the ladder yelling, "Mister, you're lousing up the harbor with fuel oil!".

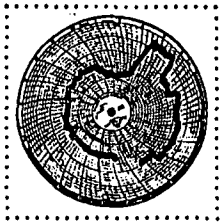
I yelled to the tanker engineer to stop his pumps. Then I shut our loading valves. The quartermaster hung around until the valves were shut and then led me to our port side. Sure enough, the oil was there, polluting the harbor water.

It took me awhile to learn how the oil got into the harbor instead of our tanks, but this is what happened: the last time we'd refueled was in Hawaii, on the port side. But the engineer on watch forgot to close his loading valves, so in 'Frisco, the oil just flowed into the manifold on the starboard side, out on the port.

I caught the dickens but personally saw to it that check valves were installed on each side of the manifold before we sailed.

ARNOLD DE GROES
New York, N. Y.

● What is your "biggest boner"? We'll pay ten dollars for each one we publish.



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