

Ships to Transport Crude Oil

CLEVELAND, Ohio — Six new ships to transport Alaskan crude oil to the U.S. West Coast have been contracted for by the Standard Oil Co. (Ohio) with an Ogden Corporation subsidiary, Avondale Shipyards, Inc., of New Orleans, La.

Arrangements are to be made for the ships to be operated under long-term charters to Sohio by American shipping companies, and manned by American crews.

The contracts involve a purchase price of more than \$400 million and contain certain provisions for cost escalations and cancellation options for Sohio.

The ships will meet or exceed U.S. and international design standards. Design discussions between Sohio and Avondale have been in progress for the past year and great emphasis has been placed on the safety and anti-pollution aspects of the

ships.

Each ship will be capable of carrying about 165,000 tons of Alaskan oil, or some 1,200,000 barrels, and will be approximately 900 feet long with a draft of 55 feet. The ships will have double boilers and will be of segregated ballast design to safeguard against contamination of the ocean.

The service speed at sea will be approximately 16 knots and the power plant, electrical system and navigational features have been designed to maximize operational safety.

The vessels are scheduled for delivery in 1977 and 1978, at which time it is expected. Sohio will also have available for Alaskan service other tankers, including two 80,000 DWT ships presently on charter to Sohio and two 120,000 DWT ships to be built by Sun Shipbuilding & Drydock Company.