

Our View: NOPEC and Bloomberg's Useless Idiot

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Bloomberg has demoted Javier Blas from reporter to commentator. The demotion follows the publication of his book with Jack Farchy titled *The World for Sale*. The book claims to be about commodity markets. Let me say that, having written on the economics of commodity markets, lectured on the subject, and taught the subject at business schools, that among the 100 or 200 books on the issue I have read and assigned, this is the most irrelevant book on the topic published in years. However, Bloomberg loves him.

Blas has now descended to new depths with an article headlined "US Politicians Can't Handle the Truth about OPEC."¹ Javier objects to legislation working through the US Congress that would subject the actions of oil-exporting countries to the same antitrust laws that apply to all other businesses,

The legislation is long overdue. However, it has been blocked for decades by the US State Department, major financial institutions, and multinational oil companies. Today, it may just pass and become law.

Blas objects to the idea because he has no understanding of economics. It is for this reason that *The World for Sale* is a terrible book. Sadly, most of the individuals invited to talk about oil on his employer's network are equally ignorant.

Over the last five decades, the United States has demonstrated that aggressive enforcement of antitrust laws combined with deregulation have offered enormous economic benefits to consumers across the globe. Consumers would gain from lower oil prices.

Blas, of course, does not understand. In his comment he writes, "In some ways, I would like to see NOPEC approved, triggering a trial in federal court. Imagine the formal setting, and the cross-examination of witnesses." Blas does not realize that OPEC was sued and on one occasion chose not to appear. I know. I was hired as an expert for the judge in the case because OPEC officials were cowards and no-shows. The judge chose to hear evidence even though he could have just ruled for the plaintiffs. OPEC got more than it deserved.²

As the judge's expert with no interest in either side in the dispute, I testified that the plaintiffs' argument in the case failed under US legal standards. The economic facts were clear, even if OPEC's actions were despicable. The facts were clear. OPEC had not violated US law. The judge tossed the case.

¹ Javier Blas, "US Politicians Can't Handle the Truth About OPEC," Bloomberg, May 11, 2022 [<https://tinyurl.com/5n7r6xx4>].

² "International Ass'n of Machinists & Aerospace Workers v. Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries," Casetext [<https://tinyurl.com/yhmz2cea>].

Unfortunately, Blas and many in OPEC have chosen to rant and throw infantile tantrums rather than focusing on facts or the critical issues of global warming and economic disruptions. The term “la la land” has been used by some in OPEC recently. Javier Blas clearly lives there.