

Simon orders cut in home heating oil

WASHINGTON (AP) — Energy chief William E. Simon ordered during the night a six-degree cut in oil-fired home heating and put service stations last in line for gasoline, starting Jan. 15.

Differing fundamentally from previous appeals, Simon's order to lower thermostats now placed a direct legal obligation on the householder or property-owner to comply. If he doesn't, he will run out of oil.

Commercial buildings heated with oil must drop their thermostats 10 degrees. The temperature reductions must be made below the thermostat settings used in the corresponding month of 1972.

Buildings heated with gas, electricity or coal are not included in this order.

The Federal Energy Office said it was making Jan. 15 "the implementation date for all provisions"—regardless of varying dates of legal effectiveness—because of substantial revisions that made it "impractical to expect instantaneous compliance."

The administration has had mandatory allocation programs in effect for propane since last Oct. 2 and for middle distillate oils, including home heating oil and diesel fuel, since Nov. 1.

But they are relatively crude systems, assigning priorities to certain classes of users, but without the detailed quantities, percentages, and thermostat reductions imposed by the new regulations.

Rules for gasoline, butane gas, home heating oil and diesel fuel take effect Jan. 11, replacing existing programs in effect until then. The other regulations are now effective and all of them are to be fully applied beginning Jan. 15.

The official regulations included many revisions since they were proposed last Dec. 12, but the gasoline allocation system was virtually unchanged.

It assigned top priority to essential services purchasing gasoline in bulk, second priority to other businesses purchasing in bulk and the leftovers to all others including the service stations.

The regulations left unspecified just how much gasoline would be made available, but remarks by Simon earlier Thursday appeared to indicate that the previously-proposed reduction in gasoline production to a level 5 per cent lower than in 1972 probably would be adopted.

While the original proposal spelled that out, the version finally adopted left it up to Simon's Federal Energy Office to set the reduction and revise it quarterly.

Simon told newsmen Thursday gasoline allocations must be cut some 900,000 barrels per day — the amount which was the basis for the original proposal.

Other key provisions of the new regulations included:

—Adoption of earlier proposals for allocating home heating oil, diesel fuel and other "middle distillates," requiring heating reductions of 6 degrees in homes and 10 degrees in other buildings.

—Revised rules for the heavy fuel oil called "residual," requiring the 6-and 10-degree heating reductions instead of previously-proposed percentage fuel reductions, and adding safeguards on fuel cutbacks to electric utilities to avoid power blackouts.

—Revised rules for aviation fuel, assigning major airlines 85

per cent of the fuel they used in 1972 instead of 85 per cent as previously proposed. Regional airlines and air taxis will get all of their 1972 fuel supplies instead of only 90 per cent.

—Rules to assure that petrochemical plants will get all the raw material they need.

—And completely revised rules for propane and butane gas, replacing a complex priority system with a simpler three-stage distribution: first to petrochemical and synthetic rubber production; then to "traditional" markets for liquid petroleum gas including industrial fuel; and finally, if any is left, to gasoline blending.

In gasoline allocations, top priority is assigned to bulk purchasers engaged in energy production, agriculture, public transportation and emergency services, to receive all they need.

Energy producers and public transportation are to receive all the "middle distillate" oils they need — primarily diesel fuel. Emergency services are to get as much as they got in the corresponding month of 1972.

Users of light heating oils are to get enough to maintain temperatures at the required 6-and 10-degree reductions.

Once the needs of those users are served, agriculture, industry, freight and mail-hauling are to get up to 10 per cent more middle distillate oil than in 1972 and others would get as much as in 1972.

The Defense Department, previously assigned fuel to meet "100 per cent of its current requirements," lost that guarantee in the final regulations which promise only that allocations to Defense "will be based on" current requirements, subject to presidential review.

The regulations also added a new provision permitting refiners and importers to divert up to 5 per cent of the available fuel from one state or region to another to ease unpredictable imbalances, without prior approval from the Federal Energy Office.

Earlier Thursday, Simon ordered creation of a standby system for rationing gasoline, including the printing of a three-month supply of ration coupons, but he postponed for at least six weeks the decision whether to impose rationing.

In other energy related developments:

—The Canadian export tax on crude oil may take a big jump, according to Energy Minister Donald Macdonald. In an announcement in Ottawa, Macdonald said because of price hikes by Arab nations and Venezuela the Canadian export tax could more than triple by Feb. 1. The United States imports about a million barrels of oil a day from Canada.

—Aides to President Nixon say the President feels his trip aboard a scheduled commercial plane Wednesday was a success as a symbolic gesture during the energy crisis. A spokesman said Nixon wanted to make the gesture while he is urging Americans to conserve fuel. It was the first trip by an incumbent President aboard a regularly scheduled commercial flight.

—In Terryville, Conn., a service station operator had found a way to beat the traffic jams which form at stations with gasoline lately. Warren Wheeler has customers call ahead and make appointments to get gas.



SEASONAL ART WORK—at the Western Montana College campus decorates the Lucy Carson Library where spacious picture windows lend themselves to exquisite scenes based on the holiday theme. Student artists included Sue Seyler of Twin Bridges, Char Lensing of Denton, Mary Bramlette of Lima, Sue Seelye of Kalispell, Valerie Hansen of Dillon and Beck Jo Thompson of Ennis. Although the campus is deserted by students during the Christmas break, the art work has been appreciated by staff members working through the season. (Charles Stauffer Photo)

Kissinger outlines Soviet mid-East policy

WASHINGTON (AP) — Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger says the Soviet Union appears to be ready to contribute to stability in the Middle East after years of inflaming the Arabs against the United States.

At a news conference Thursday he signaled U.S. willingness to work with Moscow for peace in the region and said that with Israel, Egypt and Jordan "now talking from a common base" there is a good possibility of progress toward a settlement.

Kissinger credited the Soviets with contributing to a positive atmosphere at the Geneva peace conference. And, he noted, Foreign Minister Andrei A. Gromyko met with Abba Eban, the Israeli foreign minister.

"So as of now, judging the Soviet Union by its actions, we are willing to cooperate. Should Soviet behavior change, we can always re-examine our policy," Kissinger said.

At the same time, the secretary said the United States will make no deal at the expense of traditional friends, an obvious reference to Israel. He also said the United States would not impose a settlement made together with the Soviet Union. Kissinger described the Middle East as a test of Soviet intentions and of the U.S. policy of detente toward Moscow.

"It is obvious that it is not possible for a country to exacerbate tensions in one area and to seek relaxation in another," he said.

"Therefore, obviously, we would have to judge the Soviet sincerity in seeking across-the-board relaxation of tensions by its behavior in all the negotiations in which we are engaged with the Middle East."

In another area, Europe, Kissinger said the United States stands by its offer to work out a new relationship to common problems with its allies.

But, he said, it is up to the Europeans, and Japan as well, to choose whether to cooperate or to "consume themselves in the sort of rivalry that has destroyed other civilizations."

On other matters he said: "Nuclear technology, particularly in the Soviet Union, is accelerating at a rate that threatens the capacity to control it. But, the United States hopes to reach agreement in 1974 with the Soviet Union on limiting sophisticated weapons."

—Now that the United States is the principal country engaged in the search for a Middle East settlement the Arab oil embargo is "increasingly inappropriate."

—The United States will keep pressing for closer relations with the Soviet Union and

mainland China in the belief "we are on a course which is in the interest of all of mankind and which is essential for the long term prospects of peace."

—In seeking a Middle East settlement the United States is "at the very beginning of what will be a slow and agonizing effort." But the peace conference is well launched and there is hope of progress in the current disengagement talks between Egypt and Israel.

Butte school board bans travel by staff

BUTTE (AP) — Kenneth Olsen, superintendent of Butte's School Dist. No. 1, says a school board policy banning travel by administrators and teachers will shut the school system out of state decisionmaking processes.

The school board adopted a policy last week banning travel by all district personnel. Students, however, may travel for sports events, speech tournaments and the like.

The ban was adopted to conserve gasoline. In a letter to the board, Olsen said the school district will suffer if the travel ban is not lifted.

"It effectively isolates the district from any serious role in the formulation of state policies influencing education," Olsen wrote.

He said that because of the policy, an elementary school principal in Butte had to refuse to serve on a state panel to develop a handbook on the operation of kindergartens.

The policy, Olsen said, would force members of the school district's vocational staff to resign from subcommittees of the state's Post-Secondary Education Commission.

Olsen's letter said a meeting of key school districts is scheduled in Helena Jan. 3 on proposed legislation that would affect the budgeting powers of school districts.

The letter suggested that the school board look into other

Fuel dealers express anger at paper work

MISSOULA (AP) — Wholesale fuel dealers in western Montana counties expressed anger and frustration Thursday night over federal fuel-allocation rules and were told by a state official to prepare for a heavy load of paperwork.

C.L. Gilbertson, Helena, whose office handles the allocation program at the state level, acknowledged at the meeting that federal regulations have changed, making it difficult for dealers to know what to expect.

He pledged to send out as much information as possible about the new rules, which allocate petroleum products by categories.

"Who was the dumb SOB that wrote all these rules?" one man called from the audience.

Said another: "How in the name of God are they going to enforce this?"

Gilbertson said the rules will require fuel purchasers to notify their wholesale suppliers of their base-period purchases by category or priority prior to the 15th of each month, probably beginning in April.

Bill Noonan of Western Montana Co-op Oil Co. said after the meeting that he believes it will be physically impossible to abide by the rules. "Imagine having our 2,500 customers running in to fill out these forms every month. We will have to put two more people in the office," he said.

Gilbertson advised the dealers to get started on the job of bringing customers' records up to date. "Those who are prepared are going to get the diesel fuel and gas, and those who aren't, will not," he said.

About 50 dealers and county officials attended the session.

Judge drafting legislative proposal

HELENA (AP) — The office of Gov. Thomas L. Judge is drafting a legislative proposal aimed at relieving state agencies from standing the cost of preparing environmental impact statements.

Steve Brown, the governor's legal aide, said the proposal would protect agencies which are unprepared to finance the studies needed to write such statements.

A case in point, Brown said, was the Health Department's problem in not having enough money to prepare an impact statement on plans by the Hoerner Waldorf Corp. to expand its pulp mill near Missoula.

He said the proposed law would allow the state to set up

fee schedules to offset the costs. The fees would not be refundable.

Such a system already is in effect regarding state studies required to determine if the state should grant permits for mining and construction connected with the development of the state's coal reserves.

For example, a combine of Pacific Northwest electrical power firms put up a nonrefundable fee of \$1.2 million earlier this year to finance the state's cost of determining if the state should allow construction of a generating complex near Colstrip.

Old North Church celebrates 250th

BOSTON (AP) — Historic Old North Church will celebrate the 250th anniversary of its first service Sunday.

The church is known for its role on the night of April 18, 1775, when two lanterns were hung in its steeple to alert Paul Revere that a British expeditionary force was moving up the Charles River toward Cambridge.

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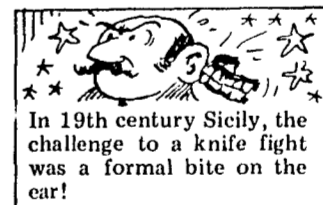
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Document disclosure promised by Laird

tergate-related charges involving Nixon had come to a halt.

"The decision has been made to release material dealing with the ITT and milk fund cases, and I know of no decision to rescind that," Laird said.

Laird said a briefing with the Republican leaders had been scheduled for last week but that the press of business in the adjournment-bound Congress prevented it.

Laird, who emphasized he was speaking for himself, said he was concerned about any broad release of White House documents and particularly tapes or summaries of them, in view of the recent incident when a White House tape was played at a cocktail party.

He said he would advise that Nixon and his aides give great thought before agreeing to any wholesale release of such information.

Earlier, sources said the White House has decided not to release summaries and transcripts of key presidential conversations because of the Senate Watergate committee's effort to gain broad access to presidential files.

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