

HEARINGS ON FUEL ALLOCATION BILLS

File

I am aware that many members of this Committee have received lots of mail from constituents about the fuel shortage and the closing of independent filling stations. I recognize that this is a serious problem that deserves immediate attention. For that reason, I have scheduled hearings by the full Committee when the Congress returns from its recess period (July 10, 11, and 12).

Full Committee hearings will deal with H.R. 8089 and other bills before this Committee which are intended to assure a fair distribution of gasoline and home heating oil at a reasonable price to independent dealers and distributors.

I believe a more detailed examination of the problems relating to allocation of fuels

to ultimate consumers is necessary. I have, therefore, directed the Subcommittee on Communications and Power to conduct hearings on S. 1570 in the near future. This bill, which passed the Senate recently, would require the President to establish a mandatory fuel allocation system. S. 1570 establishes some general objectives for the system and requires priority treatment for fuel consumers involved in food production and the provision of essential public services.

The Subcommittee hearings will also address the other issues raised by S. 1570. These include exemption from the antitrust laws, preemption of State fuel allocation plans, and programs to reduce fuel consumption.

It is my belief that these hearings by the full Committee and the Subcommittee will deal with the complex but pressing problem of gas shortages in an expedited but orderly manner.