

HARLEY O. STAGGERS
2D DISTRICT, WEST VIRGINIA

CHAIRMAN:
COMMITTEE ON
INTERSTATE AND FOREIGN
COMMERCE

HOME ADDRESS:
KEYSER, WEST VIRGINIA

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, D.C. 20515

December 6, 1973

Mr. and Mrs. William D. Barnes
512 Beverly Avenue
Morgantown, West Virginia 26505

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Barnes:

Thank you very much for your letters of December 2, advising of your opposition to any proposal for gasoline rationing.

I appreciate your writing me and want to assure you of my desire to be of service whenever possible.

First of all, I would like to advise I agree with your comments and certainly share your concern in connection with the energy crisis.

Rationing will not be contained in the legislation considered by our House Interstate and Foreign Commerce Committee. However, the President would have the authority to institute such action. If rationing is instituted it would be done under Executive Order of the President.

Again, thank you for writing and with every good wish, I am

Sincerely yours,

HARLEY O. STAGGERS

William D. Barns
512 Beverly Avenue
Morgantown, West Virginia 26505

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December 2, 1973

Congressman Harley O. Staggers
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Staggers:

I wish to register my opposition to gasoline rationing by order of the Washington government. It is high time that our federal officeholders consult the citizens of the nation before they regiment us further.

Many of us forgotten natives in the hinterland wonder why the President and Congress put the wishes of a foreign power, Israel, above the needs of the people of the United States of America. Even William Buckley concedes that Israel has never done anything to help the United States.

Not only should we reopen oil imports from the Middle East until the Alaska pipeline is completed. The metal in the military hardware recently sent to Israel could better have been used for tractors, combines, and other farm equipment. Farm machinery prices are sky high, and the results are only too obvious in our food markets.

As Mrs. Martin Luther King pointed out recently, our so-called energy crisis is the result of the wastes in Vietnam. It has been estimated that one B-52 raid over Cambodia used 450,000 gallons of gasoline. That Asian war dragged on for two decades and under four presidents, yet Congress could have passed a war powers act in 1953 or 1963 without waiting until 1973.

The most irritating aspect of this whole business is the propaganda from Congressmen, the White House, and the oil companies, to the effect that the cause of gasoline shortages is lavish living by the American people. Thousands of us West Virginians live frugally, own but one automobile, and customarily drive under fifty miles per hour. (On how many West Virginia roads can one safely drive over fifty, anyway?) Yet all summer I received advertisements from oil companies, urging me to join their travel clubs. And it looks quite suspicious that the White House made its first major "energy crisis" announcement after the November elections, in which a majority of West Virginia voters were persuaded to approve a bond amendment for roads on which they will not be able to travel.

Yours truly,

William D. Barns
William D. Barns

DEC 4 1973

P. O. Box 4208
Morgantown, W. Va. 26505
December 2, 1973

Congressman Harley O. Staggers
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C. 20515

Dear Mr. Staggers:

Since our nation was founded on individual liberty and freedom, I wish to bring to your attention my views on my right to the use of our automobile and the right of our people to have friendly relations with all of our trading partner nations.

I have no objection to President Nixon's plans to make our nation self-sufficient in energy, but in the meantime, I favor getting along with the three oil-producing areas--Canada, the Middle East, and Venezuela--so that our citizens may not be deprived of their jobs, their raw materials, and the normal use of their automobiles. Rationing is too much to ask of us because some of our leaders want to supply arms to a non-Christian nation who has never helped us, and has been a consistent aggressor against her neighbors ever since she was established as a state. Rationing is too high a price to exact also because Messers Eisenhower, Kennedy, Johnson, and Nixon involved and kept us in the unpopular Southeast Asian war for so many years and wasted such large quantities of our oil, resources, and lives for the purpose of devastating and depopulating that area in our names.

Let us support policies of friendship with all nations, and let it not be on our consciences that we supplied arms to any side in a war. Also, let us insist on restoration of the Arab lands which Israel has taken [we cannot restore the lives that were taken in the process] and require some fair provisions for a Palestinian state and the return of those refugees to their own land.

I commend you for your efforts in the House of Representatives in restoring Daylight Saving Time, since I feel this is a good means of conserving fuel and time.

For several years I have been turning down the thermostat at night and expect to continue to do so. I try to turn out lights not in use. I am willing to observe a 50-mile speed limit when driving. I never joined the throw-away movement, and I try to conserve all reusable materials.

Again, let us not deprive our citizens of their liberties. Let us restore friendly policies with the Arab nations!

Sincerely,

Doretha M. Barnes