

HARLEY O. STAGGERS
2D DISTRICT, WEST VIRGINIA

HOME ADDRESS:
KEYSER, WEST VIRGINIA

CHAIRMAN:
COMMITTEE ON
INTERSTATE AND FOREIGN
COMMERCE

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

January 14, 1974

Mr. Ira J. Coberly
203 Randolph Avenue
Elkins, West Virginia 26241

Dear Mr. Coberly:

Thank you very much for your letter of recent date together with copy of the article, "What Can We Believe?" from The Inter-Mountain.

I deeply appreciate your writing me and can certainly understand your feelings with reference to the "energy crisis." I agree wholeheartedly with your sentiments about verifying whether or not there are actual shortages. We are doing our best to obtain the correct information and determine the facts.

The Energy Emergency Act will be one of the first items to be considered when the Second Session of the 93rd Congress convenes. You and yours may be assured I will continue my efforts toward the passage of fair and equitable legislation for all.

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

Sincerely yours,

HARLEY O. STAGGERS

IRA J. COBERLY

Insurance and Investments

203 RANDOLPH AVENUE, ELKINS, WEST VIRGINIA 26241

PHONE: 636-4203 or 3581

December 20, 1973

DEC 27 1973

Dear Congressman Staggers

Regarding the energy crisis, the attached article of the Inter-Mountain indicates that we are selling (exporting) oil at a level above 1972 rates, also that we're continuing to ship over 20,000 barrels of oil a day to South Vietnam.

Mr. Staggers I ask you "What can we believe?" Is there or is there not an energy crisis?

Sincerely Yours,

Ira J. Cobery

P.S. A happy Christmas & a good
New Year to you & your family

What Can We Believe?

There is a possibility that the energy crisis may yet produce a greater credibility gap for the Nixon Administration than Watergate.

Americans last week were shaking their heads in disbelief at the confusing and contradictory reports surfacing on the energy problems facing the Nation.

How is it, they ask, that the President calls upon the people to make sacrifices in fuel consumption because of the critical energy shortage and then it is uncovered that the United States is continuing to export oil at a level above 1972 rates?

A report by the government's own Cost-of-Living Council says that 1.27 million barrels of fuel oil will be exported from the U. S. during 1973. This compares to 448, 433 barrels exported in 1972. And even as winter approached it is to be noted that the U. S. exported 582,000 barrels of heating oil in September and 850,000 barrels in October. Could it be that the export price of oil was right? Oil exported sells for approximately \$19.00 per barrel as against \$6.50 on oil sold at home.

Furthermore, why it is that the U. S. can continue to ship more than 20,000 barrels of oil a day to South Vietnam at a time when the American people are being told to cut back their heating, reduce their driving and readjust their life style because there is a critical oil shortage at home?

The government and the oil companies refuse to disclose how much oil we also supply for South Vietnam's civilian use. But according to figures in the budget of the Agency for International Development (AID) we are spending over \$60 million a year to purchase petroleum products for South Vietnam's civilians.

Adding to the credibility problems associated with the energy crunch is a joint report issued by the American Petroleum Association, the American Gas Association and the Canadian Petroleum Association. The report said the U. S. could increase its production of crude oil by more than 1 million barrels a day even now. This increase has not been made, despite the fact that the report considered it "attainable" and despite the fact that during July our imports of crude from the Middle East were themselves approximately one million barrels a day. If only U. S. companies operated at their "attainable" level our dependence on Middle East crude imports would be virtually eliminated.

Now considering all of these factors it becomes a little difficult to swallow this constant complaint that the Americans are gluttons when it comes to oil. We are constantly told that we