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ADMINISTRATOR SIMON CONFIDENT
DESPITE LACK OF LEGISLATION

Administrator William E. Simon ^(X) of the Federal Energy Office today said that the American public should not be alarmed over the delay in passage of emergency energy legislation. He stressed that we can continue to manage the current energy shortage without additional legislation.

"I have been meeting with the President daily and he has repeatedly expressed his confidence in the American people to meet difficult challenges through a united effort. We are both extremely gratified by the public's response to the voluntary energy conservation measures we have asked for.

"Additional legislation is certainly desirable, and I look forward to working closely with Congress when it reconvenes. The President should have the authority to require power plants to convert from oil to coal and to provide waivers from the Clean Air Act when this is necessary to make such conversions. Further, legislation dealing with 'windfall profits' derived from increased crude oil prices should be enacted. We have already set forth a proposal with respect to 'windfall profits' and we want to work with Congress to achieve sound legislation in this area.

"Further, we hope Congress will give special priority to the Federal Energy Administration Act, which will provide us with a necessary statutory base to organize and staff the agency.

"We have been able to move ahead on a number of fronts during the past three weeks. We established ten regional offices and appointed interim directors. These offices are now dealing with local fuel problems, and they are maintaining 24-hour-a-day service, seven days a week, to handle telephone inquiries from the public.

"We were able to help the truckers when diesel fuel shortages and price gouging created serious problems in that industry. Within several days, we had nearly 500 Internal Revenue Agents in the field to investigate alleged price gouging charges; 225 violations were discovered and immediately corrected. More important, of course, the trucks are still rolling on the Nation's highways.

"When shortages of jet fuel threatened major disruptions in the airline industry, we were able to plan for the allocation of 1.5 million barrels of military fuel for U. S. international airlines as an emergency measure.

"We are prepared to move fast and decisively in the weeks ahead, whenever and wherever serious problems develop. Essential to this effort, I would again urge every American to support the voluntary measures we have called for: lowering thermostats

in the home; reducing gasoline consumption to 10 gallons a week, insofar as that is possible; turning off exterior ornamental, display, and promotional lighting; and reducing interior lighting in business and industry to 50-foot candles at work stations, 30-foot candles for general work and sales areas, and 10- to 15-foot candles in hallways and corridors.

"From every indication I have received, the public is responding to our program. If this response continues to improve, we will be able to withstand the current shortage without the necessity of rationing -- a goal toward which all of us are working."

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