

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 10, 1973

Mr. Charles D. Hylton III
Publisher
The Hinton Daily News
210 Second Avenue
Hinton, West Virginia 25951

Dear Mr. Hylton:

Thank you very much for your news item on my position in the current energy crisis. As usual, the NEWS did a fine job in reporting my stand clearly and accurately. I also want to express my appreciation for the one sentence comment on the reverse page, signed "Joe."

It is good to know both of us emphasized these two facts of utmost importance. First, that the energy crisis is real and not imaginary; second, that the Congress has not been given precise and complete information on which to base effective legislation to deal with the crisis.

The Legislative Branch of the Government is, of course, primarily responsible for all legislation. At the same time, the means for gathering accurate information, particularly statistical data, is in the hands of the Executive Branch through its various departments and agencies. If we deal wisely with the lack of energy sources, we should know what and how much is lacking, and why.

The Executive Departments do issue comprehensive reports on most items of production, such as automobiles, or wheat. The same is true of coal, one energy source. On the other hand, information about who produces oil and gas, and how much each producer turns out, is difficult to obtain. I believe the Nation will find the Congress ready and willing to cooperate in providing means to help resolve the energy shortage as soon as we have the facts.

I am enclosing what material we have now on United States petroleum exports. As soon as additional information is available, I will pass this along to you as well. In fact, a more compre-

Mr. Charles D. Hylton III

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December 10, 1973

hensive outline was promised us by the two gentlemen who were relieved of their duties -- Governor Love and Mr. DeBona. It will be necessary for us to obtain this from other sources, in view of the developments. We should have this shortly, however, and as I said before I will send it along to you.

Again, thank you so much for your report. My very best wishes for your continued success in bringing dependable news to the fine people of your community.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to you and yours!

Sincerely yours,

HOS signed

HARLEY O. STAGGERS

Encl-

COAL EXPORTS

United States exports of coal and coke, probably near 60 million tons in 1973, include high quality metallurgical and steam coal vital to the industrial economies of our trading partners in Europe and Japan. Coal and coke exports benefit the United States in the amount of \$1 billion in trade balances, 18,000 jobs for miners and 15,000 jobs in railroad transportation.

U.S. Exports of Petroleum and Natural Gas
in Millions of Dollars

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Canada</u>	<u>Other Western Hemisphere</u>	<u>Western Europe</u>	<u>Japan</u>	<u>Other</u>
<u>1973 (estimate)</u>						
Petroleum	488	71	103	165	63	86
of which crude	3	0	0	0	3	0
Gas	100	15	44	0	41	0
natural and	45	12	5	0	28	0
other	55	2	39	0	13	0
<u>1972</u>						
Petroleum	447	65	91	153	54	84
of which crude	2	1	0	0	1	0
Gas	90	13	36	0	40	1
natural and	43	12	5	0	26	0
other	47	1	31	0	14	1

U.S. Petroleum Exports
January - September 1973

<u>Fuel</u>	<u>Barrels per Day</u>	<u>Percentage of Total</u>
Petroleum coke	125,000	50 percent
Lube Oil	30,000	12 percent
Residual Oil	29,000	12 percent
Distillates	8,000	3 percent
Gasoline	2,000	1 percent
LPG	29,000	12 percent
Other	24,000	10 percent
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	247,000	100 percent
Crude Oil	2,000	
Total	249,000	

For reference, total U.S. petroleum products, first quarter 1974 equals 19.6 million barrels per day. Total imports of crude oil and petroleum products prior to the Arab cutoff equal approximately 7 million barrels per day; Arab cutoff will be between 2-3 million barrels per day.

Temperatures

Maximum Yesterday 40
Minimum Last Night 26
At 12:00 Noon Today 51

HINTON D.

"Home of Lake

71st Year—No. 44

Friday Afternoon, N

Energy Crisis Manipu

Staggers Blasts White

By
C.D. HYLTON, III
Publisher

West Virginia Congressman Harley O. Staggers, Chairman of the powerful House of Representatives' Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce, yesterday accused the White House of manipulating the energy crisis to divert attention from the Watergate matter and the Nation's energy

companies of collusion which has made the energy shortage worse.

Staggers made the comments during a telephone interview with the Hinton Daily News.

During the interview Staggers did not say the country had no energy crisis but rather questioned the White House's handling of the matter and the wisdom of having several

companies controlling a large percentage of the Nation's oil, coal and natural gas reserves.

Staggers charged that it was extremely difficult to get information from the White House on several aspects of the energy crisis. The Democrat law maker said he felt White House spokesmen had attempted to mislead him and other congressmen during a White House briefing Wednesday.

The veteran lawmaker did not elaborate but indicated several congressmen present who are familiar with the energy situation immediately recognized certain misleading statements.

Staggers noted that his committee realize an energy shortage exists and is working very hard to report to the House emergency legislation to deal with it.

orig
S.B.

P-1

DAILY NEWS

Bluestone"

Weather

Lows tonight mid 20s to low 30s.
Mostly sunny and colder
Saturday. Highs in 40s to low
50s.

November 30, 1973

Price 10 Cents

ation, Collusion Cited

House, Oil Companies

He added that as soon as this work is completed his committee will begin investigations of the several large domestic companies that have large holdings of oil, natural gas and coal reserves.

"I feel that this concentration of energy ownership has turned competition in the field to collusion," Staggers said.

When asked about cutting off

oil exports by the United States, Staggers said he favored cutting off all exports to Arab countries if they in fact do exist. He explained that he was not aware of any such shipments.

In recent days several network news departments have reported such shipments.

However, the Congressman pointed out he felt that some exports are needed. For example, Venezuela refineries

need the thinner type of crude oil found in the United States to help refine the thicker type found in that country. In turn he said the United States receives a like amount of oil in return.

Further, he explained that this country also exports oil to Canada but receives a larger amount of other petroleum products back.

Staggers also revealed that presently, natural gas critically

needed in the United States is being exported to Japan from Alaska under a long term contract in force prior to the present energy shortage.

When asked if the contract could be broken, Staggers said it would be difficult. Staggers said that the exported gas would "tremendously help the United States natural gas supply reserves."

December 3, 1973

X
Mr. Charles D. Hylton III
Publisher
The Hinton Daily News
210 Second Avenue
Hinton, West Virginia 25951

Dear Mr. Hylton:

Thank you (heartily) for your news item on my position in the current energy crisis. As usual, the NEWS did a fine job in reporting my stand clearly and accurately. I also want to express my appreciation for the one sentence comment on the reverse page, signed "Joe." X1

~~I tried to emphasize, and you made perfectly clear that I did, two facts:~~ First, that the energy crisis is real and not imaginary; second, that the Congress has not been given precise and complete information on which to base effective legislation to deal with the crisis.

The Legislative Branch of the Government is, of course, primarily responsible for all legislation. At the same time, the means for gathering accurate information, particularly statistical (information), is in the hands of the Executive (Department) through its various departments and agencies. If we deal wisely with the lack of energy sources, we should know what and how much is lacking, and why.

The Executive Departments do issue comprehensive reports on most items of production, say automobiles, or wheat. The same is true of coal, one energy source. On the other hand, information about who produces oil and gas, and how much each producer turns out, is difficult to obtain. I believe the Nation will find the Congress ready and willing to co-operate in providing means to (deal with) the energy shortage as soon as we have the facts. X2 *help resolve*

[Again may I thank you for your report, and wish you continued success in bringing dependable news to the fine people of your community? X3

Very sincerely yours,

December 10, 1973

Mr. Charles D. Hylton III
Publisher
The Hinton Daily News
210 Second Avenue
Hinton, West Virginia 25951

Dear Mr. Hylton:

Thank you sincerely for your article in the November 30 NEWS dealing with my position in the current energy crisis. I appreciate your clear and accurate reporting of my stand. I also appreciate the one sentence comment signed "Joe."

I shall try to answer the questions proposed in our telephone conversation as briefly as possible, as follows:

1. My energy bill, H. R. 11450, has been under consideration, along with a number of similar bills, by our Committee for some time. It is about ready for report to the House.
2. I am enclosing on separate sheets an official report of our oil and gas exports during the year 1973. Obviously, none of these would go to Middle East nations. I am sorry I do not have a list of other commodities, if any, that may have gone to the Arab nations.
3. In general, I should favor cutting off all exports to the Middle east, but it might depend on what those exports were. I would not wish to make the oil situation there more difficult.
4. A tax on oil ^{for} by domestic consumers has been proposed as a method of holding down use. Such a tax would fall heavily on some consumers, while other consumers would be indifferent to the increased cost. I do not think we should burden necessary consumers unduly.
5. From the dependable information we have, I doubt that anybody can say just how serious the energy shortage is. I believe the crisis should be taken seriously by everybody, and that we all should make every effort to conserve energy in all forms.
6. We do know that there are a number of producers of oil and gas, no one of whom produces a major fraction of the total. But we can not be sure to what extent some of these producers follow a common policy, whether by agreement or in response to normal market requirements. Under present conditions, a truly competitive market is improbable. In the energy bill noted above, our Committee is encouraging the substitution of coal for oil and gas wherever possible. This means, of course, that we expect to encourage the production of coal as well as other energy sources.
7. Our Committee is at present looking into the concentration of ownership of energy sources. It must be admitted, however, that this is a perplexing labyrinth. Further, we are primarily concerned, at the moment, in getting a sufficient supply of energy at a reasonable price.

Again I would thank you for your communications, and assure you that I shall be happy to supply any information in my possession at any time you can use it.

With all good wishes,

Sincerely,

The HINTON DAILY NEWS

SUMMERS COUNTY'S BEST AND
MOST EFFICIENT ADVERTISING MEDIUM



C. D. "TONY" HYLTON, III, PUBLISHER
THOMAS C. FAULCONER, SR., ADVERTISING MANAGER
THOMAS C. FAULCONER, JR., MANAGING EDITOR

HINTON, WEST VIRGINIA 25951

✓ November 29, 1973

file

President Richard M. Nixon
White House
Washington, D. C. 20002

DEC 3 1973

Dear Mr. President:

Our small newspaper as most throughout the Nation finds itself at a disadvantage when it comes to sending representatives to White House Press Conferences. However, I nonetheless feel we should have the opportunity to have our queries answered.

In a recent commentary on the National Broadcasting Company's evening news, Irving R. Levine reported that presently the United States is EXPORTING petroleum products to certain Arab countries.

Question: Is this true? Do we as a government, or does the government allow private companies to export petroleum products to other Nations in the world? If so, why does our government follow such a policy in view of the energy situation at home?

Question: Do Arab countries ship oil to the United States to be refined and returned?

In your latest speech on the energy crisis, I found a puzzling omission ----coal. Being from West Virginia I am aware of the coal reserves found in our state as well as other states across the Nation. In fact most experts agree that the United States has enough coal reserves for 500 years supply at the present rate of consumption.

Question: Does the Executive now have or plan to institute in the next six months an accelerated research program to use coal reserves to ease the energy crisis either in the short or long run?

Question: Does the Executive plan to investigate what effect, if any, the ownership of large domestic coal and natural gas reserves by large oil companies has had on the Nation's energy supplies? If such studies have been made, what were the findings?

PUBLISHED BY THE HINTON PUBLISHING CORPORATION

C. D. HYLTON, JR., PRESIDENT

MRS. C. D. HYLTON, JR., SECRETARY

DAILY NEWS
MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY
ESTABLISHED 1902

WEEKLY LEADER
EVERY THURSDAY
ESTABLISHED 1894

Serving the Heart of Mountainaine Vacation Land

(2)

Mr. President, I would like some specific answers to these questions. These are nuts and bolts questions.

To millions of people throughout the country exporting of any petroleum products is just not consistent with a United States energy crisis situation.

An increase in gasoline taxes to curb demand would at best, be hard to justify. All the tax would accomplish is to make a bad situation worse. Why a tax crisis? Please, discard this course of action. It would just put an added tax burden on the already over burdened working man that has to drive to work.

While the other questions are "West Virginia oriented", their importance does have world-wide implications.

While my circulation is small (3,000), I believe my readers represent feelings found throughout the United States. I know that many times you in Washington work under pressure that often sets you apart from the pulse of the Nation. However, anybody with a hand on this pulse could have predicted the outcry over the firing of Mr. Cox. It might have come as surprise to "White House advisors" but it came as no surprise to "the man on the street".

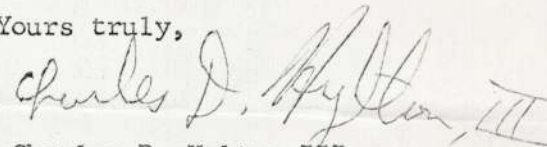
I can envisage the exportation of petroleum products by the United States as creating the same sort of ground swell.

The Hinton Daily News and its readers are looking forward to receiving the answers to these important questions, which I feel are on the minds of many across the country.

Since we asked the questions, we hope to print the answers first.

Thank you for your kind and prompt attention.

Yours truly,



Charles D. Hylton, III
Publisher
Vice-Chairman West Virginia
Veterans for re-election
of the President, 1972

CDH/ad

cc: Arch A. Moore, Jr.
Robert C. Byrd, USS
Jennings Randolph, USS
Harley Staggers, MC

November 29, 1973

Mr. Tony Hylton
Publisher
HINTON DAILY NEWS
Hinton, West Virginia

(304) 466-0005

Mr. Hylton telephoned - talked with Mr. Staggers regarding energy crisis and expressed his concern with the matter of the oil the United States was exporting. Mr. Staggers said they were going to do what they could to see that all unnecessary exportation was stopped. Rest of conversation was as follows:

Q: Did you introduce the energy bill?

A: Mr. Staggers said yes, H. R. 11450

// Q: Mr. Hylton asked Mr. Staggers to obtain for him the figures on the amount of oil and petroleum we are exporting and to what countries.

A: Mr. Staggers said he would try to get this information for him.

Q: Mr. Hylton asked if Mr. Staggers was in favor of cutting off exports to Middle East countries.

A: Mr. Staggers said yes but he didn't think any oil was going there now.

Q: He asked if Mr. Staggers favored tax on oil to customers?

A: Mr. Staggers said no, he did not feel that was the solution.

Q: Mr. Hylton asked if Mr. Staggers felt the situation was as bad as it appeared?

A: Mr. Staggers he didn't think it was but did not want to make a statement to that effect.

Q: He asked Mr. Staggers if he thought control of oil and natural gas was in the hands of a few companies and if so would it be looked into?

A: Mr. Staggers said he thought it was and it was not right. Mr. Staggers said it would be in the bill that coal should be used when it could be.

Q: Do you plan to look into concentration of ownership?

A: Mr. Staggers said they do plan to.