

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**

December 14, 1973

Mr. Herbert F. Rice  
1100 Circle Drive  
Martinsburg, West Virginia 25401

Dear Mr. Rice:

Thank you very much for your letter of recent date, together with the enclosure.

It was most thoughtful of you to have sent along the editorial of our mutual friend, Buck Martin. I agree with your sentiments and those of the Journal. You may be assured I want to continue doing all I can to be helpful.

With best wishes for the Holiday Season, and with kind personal regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

HARLEY O. STAGGERS

DEC 11 1973

Cong. Staggers:

I want you to read this  
editorial in Mtly. paper.  
Buck Martin is finally coming  
around on our side.

He is covered with this editorial.  
Congress should put a stop  
to these rising cost of heating  
fuel oil, that affect the poor  
man. Pres. Nixon wants to keep  
on increasing the prices and help  
the big man, to keep from rationing  
gas, if this is the case I  
am in favor of gas-ration, but  
please keep the price down  
for the average person.

Sincerely Yours

Herbert F. Price  
1102 Circle Drive  
Montreal, N. C.  
W. Va.



# The Martinsburg Journal

SAT., DEC. 8, 1973

Paul Buxton Martin ..... Editor

William M. Thompson ..... Managing Editor

Ronald J. Keller ..... General Manager



## Editorials

### Little Man Is Hit Again

President Nixon's decision to allow oil companies to increase the price of fuel oil, ultimately to be paid by the consumer, is something we find hard to understand and accept.

The argument goes, as we read it, is that if the price charged by oil companies for fuel oil is increased, then the oil companies will be much more willing to divert a greater percentage of the petroleum from gasoline to fuel oil.

This is all very fine for the oil companies, to pile even higher profits on top of their record-high profits already being shown, but how about the individual consumer who has to pay the bill?

The average citizen is being asked to make sacrifices by keeping his thermostat down in home and by

driving slower on the highways and by limiting his electric lighting use. There is nothing wrong with that but why not make the oil companies sacrifice something also instead of merely giving them a chance to make still more money?

President Nixon supposedly has almost dictatorial powers in these matters so if he is going to tell the average citizen what he has to do in the way of sacrifice, he should also direct the oil companies to allocate the percentage of petroleum needed into the fuel oil category without raising the price.

We have always been a great believer that big business must operate at a profit if the nation is to have full employment but this latest move sounds a little ridiculous.