

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

February 28, 1974

Mrs. Alice Welch
429 Highview Place
Morgantown, West Virginia 26505

Dear Mrs. Welch:

Thank you very much for sending me copy of your communication to our mutual friend, Senator Robert Byrd.

I have read your thought-provoking letter with a great deal of interest. It is always good to have the views of well-thinking citizens, such as yourself.

From your communication, I have noted your comments with reference to the President. Others have also expressed similar sentiments. As you perhaps know, this matter is presently receiving attention from the House Judiciary Committee.

Needless to say, the "fuel crisis" is and has been of extreme concern to me for quite some time. I am well aware of the situation in Morgantown and other areas of our State. Almost daily I have been in contact with the Federal Energy officials here in Washington, the Regional Office in Philadelphia, and the West Virginia Office in Charleston.

Yesterday the House was successful in passing the Conference Report to accompany S. 2589, the Emergency Energy Act. I was happy to have supported this legislation and will continue doing all I can to be helpful.

Again, thanking you for writing and with kind regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

HARLEY O. STAGGERS

FEB 7 1974

429 Highview Place
Morgantown, W. Va. 26505
February 4, 1974

Senator Robert Byrd
105 Old Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Byrd:

I am becoming more and more distressed and depressed about the state of our nation. I am not quite old enough to remember President Hoover and the Great Depression but I can remember back to President Roosevelt and I have never seen our country as poorly managed as it is now. I feel that all of our problems can be laid at the feet of the Nixon Administration rather than Congress, but what I want to know now is: What is Congress going to do about the Nixon Administration? Congress certainly is dragging its feet about impeaching Nixon, and you can be sure he will not resign if he knows he won't be impeached.

Just how outrageous does a President have to be to be impeached? He has told so many lies that no one believes anything he says now, and as many scandals as there are in his administration he can not possibly be completely innocent of all of them. What about competence? He has been in the White House five years. That is long enough that he should have known better than to sell all of that grain to Russia. Thanks to his bungling I am now spending forty dollars per month more for food than I was a year ago (and we are not eating as well as we were then). I could be spending that forty dollars for paint for our house, which it needs badly. At this point I may as well add that we are paying 8% interest (\$140.00 per month in interest) on our house. We have Nixon to thank for that, too. Then, of course, there is the fuel shortage. Why didn't someone know there would be a fuel shortage and do something about it? Years ago a law could have been passed requiring auto manufacturers to make only cars that would get twenty miles per gallon. I do not own a motor boat or a private airplane. We have one car--a Plymouth Valiant that gets over twenty miles per gallon. My husband walks to work (he teaches at W. Va. University), my son walks to school, my daughter's kindergarten is a five minute drive from home, and I can drive to my part-time job in five minutes. If no one else used any more gasoline than we use there would be no fuel shortage. Yet we have to suffer along with everyone else. Right now there are traffic jams all over Morgantown because of the lines of cars at the filling stations. As you know, the streets here are too narrow to accommodate much of that. I would greatly prefer gasoline rationing. Also, the gasoline stations here are

beginning to give priority to the regular customers. Is that legal? What about people who just moved here or who are just visiting or passing through? Or what if the place you usually buy gas runs out, or what if you were never anyone's regular customer anyway?

I know this is a "free" country but I don't think big business should be free to exploit the American people, as Nixon has allowed. I can not see any hope for the next three years unless Congress either puts Nixon out of the White House or overrides all his vetoes and puts the country back on its feet without his interference. Congress must take this responsibility.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Alice Welch

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