

**SENATOR  
SAM ERVIN  
SAYS**



The United States, much to our sorrow, is rapidly using up lowcost raw materials. Fuel, lumber, and many ores are getting scarce. Once we relied almost entirely on domestic supplies. This is rapidly changing and, last year, for example, this country imported about 28 percent of its petroleum. That figure may rise to 50 percent by 1980.

Not only is oil in critical supply, but so is natural gas.

Certain types of coal are in great demand. With respect to ore, much of the high-quality iron ore in the Mesabi range in Minnesota is gone. The same is true of the best copper supplies in Michigan. Many once abundant soft-wood forests are logged out. This depletion of our natural resources is affecting all of us. Bargain raw materials have almost ceased to exist, and this has given a strong push to the chronic inflation which plagues our economy.

At the moment, a major problem is the fuel shortage. That problem has been building up for some time but has not been a household topic until recently. Why it occurred involves both foreign and domestic policies. Essentially, however, the reason boils down to the fact that the energy demands of this country are growing at a fantastic rate. Americans are consuming about 33 percent of the world's supply of energy even though we comprise only 6 percent of the world's population.

We face fuel shortages in many areas in the coming months. Some motorists may not be able to fill up the family car at their favorite station unless demand slackens. At the moment, the President's Joint Board on Fuel Supply and Fuel Transport is simply saying that "supplies of natural gas and gasoline will be very tight in the spring and summer."

Shortages have triggered charges and counter-charges as to who is to blame for the fuel crisis. New environmental policies, increasing consumption of gasoline by late model vehicles, a dwindling supply of Texas petroleum, an increasing reliance on foreign-

produced oil, lack of sufficient refineries, and an imperfect distribution system have all contributed to the situation.

One critical factor in the oil shortage lies in the fact that not enough U. S. refineries have been built in recent years to process crude petroleum for our domestic market. Our refineries are running at near capacity with less than needed reserves in the event of any breakdown.

The supply problem has been alleviated to some extent by the President's April 18th order suspending oil import quotas, and this along with other policy decisions by the Administration, may improve the petroleum situation now existing. The perplexing fact is that traditionally Americans use much more motor fuel in the summer months than at other seasons, and if this occurs this year, current spot shortages may worsen.

Independent gas marketers have their own special problems. Last week, after a strong request by many Senators, the Administration announced voluntary guidelines to the petroleum industry to insure that independent gas dealers and other oil purchasers, including municipalities, are not cut off from their source of supply. In practical terms, the Administration is urging a voluntary allocation of the fuel shortage so that independent gas dealers can survive.

Congress is taking a two-fold approach to the problem. It is urging the Administration to use the legal powers that it already has to assure the country of a fair distribution of available petroleum supplies. Three Senate Committees—Interior and Insular Affairs, Commerce, and Banking, Currency and Urban Affairs—are also looking for long-range solutions to the problem.

The scarcity of supplies, and particularly fuels, is already one of our most pressing domestic concerns and, unfortunately, the situation may get worse before it gets better. I have sought to convey this message to Senate committees and the Administration in recent months.

**MIRROR MORSELS**

As the pearl ripens in the obscurity of its shell, so ripens in the tomb all of the fame that is truly precious.—Landor.

Strike from mankind the principle of faith, and men would have no more history than a flock of sheep.—Bulwer.

Sometimes a noble failure serves the world as faithfully as a distinguished success.—Dowden.

Extreme views are never just; something always turns up which disturbs the calculations founded on their data.—Tancred.

Experience is a jewel, and it had need be so, for it is often purchased at an infinite rate.—Shakespeare.

People never improve unless they look to some standard or example higher and better than themselves.—Tryon Edwards.

To make no mistakes is not in the power of man; but from their errors and mistakes the wise and good learn wisdom for the future.—Plutarch.

Observation more than books, experience rather than persons, are the prime educators.—A. B. Alcott.

Few ever lived to old age, and fewer still ever became distinguished, who were not in the habit of early rising.—Todd.

This span of life was lent for lofty duties, not for selfishness, not to be whiled away in aimless dreams, but to improve ourselves and serve mankind.—Aubrey De Vere.

If I have made any valuable discoveries, it has been owing more to patient attention, than to any other talent.—Sir Isaac Newton.

Men have always found it easy to be governed. What is hard is for them to govern themselves.—Max Lerner.

A fool may have his coat embroidered with gold, but it is a fool's coat still.—Rivarol.

We often pretend to fear what we really despise, and more often to despise what we really fear.—Colton.

It is the rule of rules, and the general law of all laws, that every person should observe the fashions of the place where he is.—Montaigne.

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