

Washington Report

— By —
CONGRESSMAN WALTER B. JONES

Most everyone is aware of the threatened fuel shortage at the present time, and the possibility of it growing even more serious during the winter months.

Last week the most important legislation considered by the House was an across-the-board Mandatory Fuel Allocation bill. Certainly this will not increase the overall supply of oil, but it is hoped that it will make an equitable distribution to provide that the country shares the

burden of the fuel shortages equally.

From every part of the District in recent months we have had calls from dealers whose supplies have been curtailed by certain oil companies. So, the bill approved by the House covers all refined petroleum products including home heating oil.

Also in the bill was a provision that would allow service stations to automatically pass

on any rise in wholesale prices to the consumer, something they are prohibited from doing at the present time and a provision which has caused a great deal of consternation to service station operators.

This legislation was opposed by Congressmen from the oil producing states, such as Texas, Oklahoma and Louisiana. The allocation directs the President to give top priority to such essential services as hospitals, utilities, mass transit, food production and mail delivery in drawing up the distribution plans.

The Senate had passed similar legislation, and the bill will now go to a Conference Committee of both House and Senate members, and there is still a strong possibility that in the final analysis, as much as this legislation is needed, that the President will veto same.

Still on the subject of fuel shortages, last week the House and Senate conferees reached a tentative agreement on the Alaskan Oil Pipeline which will permit its immediate construction.

Since our last report, the President has nominated the Republican House Leader, Gerald R. Ford, as Vice President of the United States. This came as no surprise to those of us here in Washington and, in retrospect, it would probably be the most popular choice that the President could have made as it concerns the Congress.

Of course, both the House and Senate must by a majority vote confirm the nomination. I am taking the adamant position that in spite of his personal popularity the House and Senate committees should make an exhaustive and intensive examination of his political and private life, for should there be any irregularities, it would be far better for this nation and the Congress to be cognizant of them before his final election.

This unfortunate incident involving Vice President Agnew strengthens my conviction that we need a National Presidential and Vice Presidential Primary where the Vice Presidential candidate will come under public scrutiny and be elected by the people, and not at the discretion of the Presidential candidate and his Party.

Foreigners

Harking back to the days when Rome ruled North Africa, Algerians still call foreigners "roumi", an old word for Roman.

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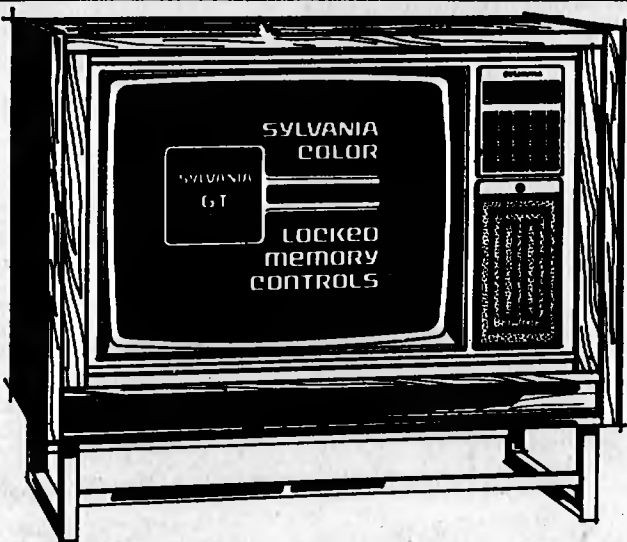
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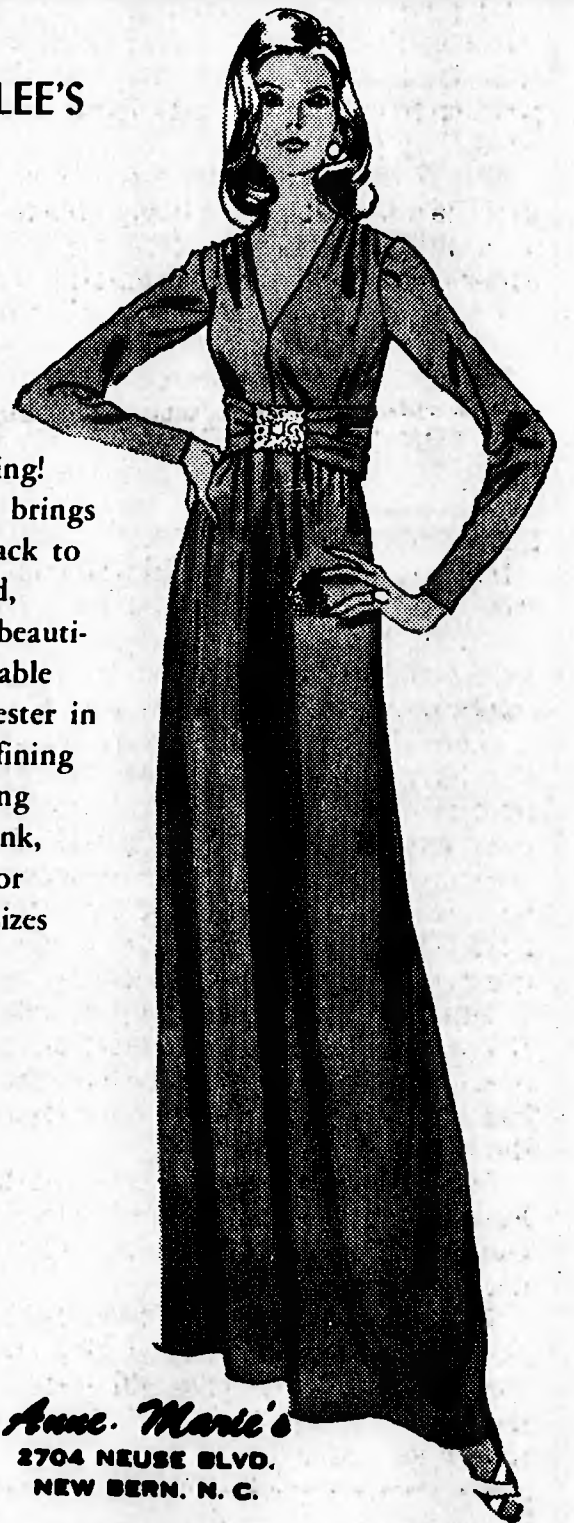
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