

Hefner Blasts Reagan Gas Plan

Congressman Bill Hefner charged today that President Reagan's plan to decontrol the price of natural gas will burden a generation of Americans already suffering in "despair and fear" because of Reagan's economic policies.

Hefner was speaking on nationwide radio following Reagan's weekly radio address to the nation.

Hefner said that Reagan's plan will not protect the consumer as promised. "In fact, it is a measure which only purports to help the consumer by decontrolling the price of old gas," he said, adding that federal energy bureaucrats should not be entrusted with "curbing these outrageous prices."

Hefner said that thousands of families have lost gas service through their inability to pay.

Decontrol would raise natural gas prices by 67 percent over the next four years, he said.

"This means that a family will pay over \$1000 in direct costs, even

more for families in cold climates. An additional \$1000 will be paid by that family over 4 years for more expensive goods and services."

"Gas utility companies have had to shut off the heat for thousands of families because they can't pay these high gas bills," adding that

those on fixed incomes are also suffering from the high rates. "Small businesses are closing and laying off workers because of high gas prices. Farmers will seriously suffer high fertilizer and irrigation costs. And our farms are already in a depressed state."

Reagan said that decontrol would bring down natural gas prices just as the price of gasoline has come down. Hefner countered that Democratic initiatives and American conservation efforts were responsible for the drop in prices, not Reagan policies.

VA Scholarships Offered Now For Vet Children

According to Mrs. Patricia Propst, Veterans Service Officer for Hoke County, the North Carolina Division of Veterans Affairs, headed by Charles A. Beddingfield, Jr., administers the State's program of scholarships for children of certain veterans.

Each year more than 700 children apply for the scholastic aid offered by this fine program. Nearly 500 awards were made last year and it is estimated that 1,600 children are enrolled each year at 117 institutions in North Carolina.

The following information is necessarily general in nature. There are several classes of scholarship eligibility.

Briefly stated they are:
CLASSES I & IV. Children of certain veterans who died or are 100% disabled as a result of service in WW I, WW II, Korea, Vietnam, or children of peacetime veterans whose death or 100% service-connected disability was incurred (1) as a direct result of armed conflict or (2) while engaged in extra-hazardous service or children of certain veterans who were POW/MIA. Vet must have been a legal resident of North Carolina at the time of entry into service, or with certain exceptions, the child must have been born in North Carolina and continuously resided here.

CLASS II. Children as described above whose parent was a vet of WW I, WW II, Korea, Vietnam, or a peacetime vet who disability was incurred (1) as a direct result of armed conflict or (2) while engaged in extra-hazardous service.

The vet must have or at the time of death had a 30% or more but less than 100% service-connected disability or a statutory award for arrested tuberculosis.

CLASS III. Eligible children as described above whose parent was a veteran of WW I, WW II, Korea, or Vietnam. Veteran rated and receiving or at the time of death receiving 100% nonservice-connected benefits.

The scholarships may be used at schools located in North Carolina which are: 1) State owned institutions of higher education, community colleges and technical institutes; or 2) privately owned non-profit colleges and universities.

Scholarships, with one exception, provide free tuition, certain fees, and a room and board allowance in State owned institutions and \$1,200 per academic year in private institutions. The exception being that awards under the 100% service-connected disability provision provide only free tuition and certain fees in State owned institutions and \$444 per academic year in private institutions.

All awards are for four academic year in duration. Unlimited awards are made under Classes I & IV. Classes II and III are limited to 100 awards each year in each class.

Interested persons are urged to contact Mrs. Patricia Propst, 314 S. Magnolia St., Raeford, 875-2147, for more detailed information, advice and active assistance with an application.

Applications should be made between September 1 and May 1 of senior year in high school. Class I or IV applicants will be accepted at other times as well.

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