

71, 72, 73, it reports the importation of fuels by the month for those four years and it shows an increase in the importation of fuels into the state of Nebraska from 808,000,000 in 1970 to 923 million gallons in 1973. This represents a 26 million gallon increase in importations from 1972 to 1973. The upper right hand section of the form and you may not be able to read this because the machine didn't reproduce the information but that represents importation of kerosene, diesel fuel, tractor fuels. That also shows an increase in the importation of fuels. So the increase from the taxation collected but the revenue department change the reporting form in 1973 and we do not have the figures available for the import for 1973. In the center of the form it shows the importation of the aviation fuel that also shows the increase 1973 over 1972. The bottom two lines show the amounts of fuel imported by the major oil companies. The 18 major oil companies imported approximately 40% of the fuel, and 957 jobbers imported the balance of the fuel and of course many of the jobbers purchased that fuel from the major oil companies. At this time I am going to make some rather startling comments. I would like to suggest, Senator Chambers suggested yesterday that the energy crisis was a hoax started by the President to take the minds of the people off of Watergate. I would like to suggest that the major oil companies have started somewhat of a hoax in the area of an energy crisis to take the peoples minds off of the problems which they have and are involved with right now and that is one of doubling and tripling the prices of fuel. Three years ago on March 21, 1971 myself, Senator Burbach, Senator Orme, Senator Lewis introduced LB776 to produce grain alcohol to supplement what we called at that time the drilling supplies of fuels and the petroleum companies came before that revenue committee and testified that there were unlimited reserves that there would never be a shortage of petroleum that we could not in any way possible justify a 3¢ per gallon increase in the price of gas. That is until as one of our reporters pointed out this morning the proper ground work has been laid. Now in the last three years the ground work has been laid and we have seen increases of 300% on the price of propane. That is because of course propane is a commodity which is difficult to transport and if you were tied to a supply of propane you must almost invariably pay the cost. You can not run around with a five gallon bucket of propane and look for a supplier. Secondly they doubled the price of diesel fuel. Because primarily the trucker used the diesel fuel, and the farmers. Of course everyone hates the truckers so it was easy to double the price of diesel fuel. Then of course the discrepancy between the price of diesel fuel and propane as contrasted to gas was so apparent that they had to increase the price of gas so Mr. Simon who is the energy Czar, fresh out of wall street, I'm sure Senator Proud he is a lawyer and he comes down and says now because we must increase incentive to the petroleum companies to produce more fuel to increase their research and development programs we must increase the price of gas. It is a strange contrast with what occurred only six months ago when the price of beef cattle got back to the 1950 levels and then the federal government slapped a ceiling on the price of beef cattle. Rather interesting contrast, I think. The real point that I want to make is this, and that is, there is an energy shortage to a degree in the United States and conservation measures I am sure are in order because we have become a society and a