

January 4, 1974

(start belt #12)

This puts the fear of shortage into the minds of every single motorist. It puts the fear of shortage into the minds of the home owner and the trucker and we have shifted the inventory from the major oil companies to every individual home owner who now keeps his fuel tank filled, he keeps his furnace tank filled, the schools, the hospitals, the public institutions have now got millions of dollars of gallons in inventory. We carry the burden for the major oil companies and the other thing that has happened is that when the major controls 40% of the import. They have decided where many of the jobbers are going to get fuel or whether they are not. The major oil companies have done this. They have made up their minds that they will take out of business every single local service station in the state of Nebraska and in the United States. There won't be an independently owned service station in these United States in five years unless something is done about this. It is rather strange that where monopoly is fought vigorously in every other business that the oil companies can own everything from the oil fields to the self service station. The free service that your service station manager has been given you, free air free windshield wash, battery check, tire check and all that is going to go by the board one of these days. An independently owned service station is no longer going to exist. If it were not for the confusion that exists in Washington today and we just have a new Attorney General the second or third in the past several months. There would be anti-trust suits, anti-monopoly suits filed against these companies end over end. There should be. Again, I want to repeat that there are spot shortages we are in a crisis, there may be some serious consequences if conservation measures are not followed but the situation was created by man, and created by man for profit. A 30¢ per gallon increase in the price of gas sold, a 30¢ per gallon increase which is what Mr. Simon said that we are looking for in the state of Nebraska will cost the citizens of this state three hundred million dollars. More than that, but at least that much. If we were to increase the budget of this state by 10% of that we would all be retired. We would all go back home and get a shallicking. But this situation has been perpetrated upon the people, most of the people have swallowed it and to expect the congress to correct the congress to correct it is like to expect the Republican National Committee to investigate watergate. For those of you who are on the other side of the fence, it would be like expecting the Americans for Democratic action to investigate Hubert Humpry one hundred and ninety thousand contribution which he received. Representative Les Ashton from Wisconsin made the comment that the President could not possibly be independent in this investigation. I suggest that the Congress can not be independent, because most of those members of congress at one time or another have become indebted to the oil industry. The oil industry controls this nation and controls the world. The Vietnam war was fought over those oil reserves. If you have any other ideas about it check now what has happened in the far east the middle east. I would suggest that if we are going to do anything about this that it has to start in an independent and I say this with all the non-partisan body like the Nebraska State Legislature there are no party politics here I am sure, with a few exceptions. I want to point out that these figures are so available, it is a the height of hypocrisy to understand why they have not been made available before.

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