

The original documents are located in Box 15, “9/9/75 - Remarks Upon Vetoing S.1849: A Six-Month Extension of the 1971 Price Controls on Domestic Petroleum Production” of the President’s Speeches and Statements: Reading Copies at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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I HAVE TODAY VETOED S. 1849, WHICH WOULD HAVE
EXTENDED FOR SIX MONTHS PRICE CONTROLS ON DOMESTIC OIL.

SO THERE IS NO QUESTION IN THE MINDS OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

AND THE CONGRESS, LET ME ^{TELL YOU} ~~STATE THE REASONS~~ WHY I HAVE TAKEN

THIS ACTION:

-- FIRST, TO SAVE AMERICAN JOBS.

-- SECOND, TO PROTECT OUR FUTURE ECONOMIC

STABILITY AND NATIONAL SECURITY.

-- THIRD, TO ASSURE THAT THIS NATION AFTER
MONTHS AND MONTHS OF DELAY ACHIEVES A COMPREHENSIVE
NATIONAL ENERGY PROGRAM FOR FUTURE INDEPENDENCE FROM
FOREIGN SUPPLIERS.

~~IT'S JUST THAT SIMPLE.~~

SINCE FEDERAL PRICE CONTROLS WERE PLACED ON
DOMESTIC OIL FOUR YEARS AGO, AMERICA'S BILL FOR IMPORTED
OIL HAS CONTINUED TO RISE -- FROM JUST OVER THREE BILLION
DOLLARS ANNUALLY TO MORE THAN TWENTY-FIVE BILLION DOLLARS
TODAY -- AN INCREASE OF SEVEN HUNDRED PERCENT.

I AM TALKING ABOUT AMERICAN DOLLARS -- YOUR DOLLARS --
TO PAY FOR FOREIGN OIL AND FOR FOREIGN JOBS. THIS
TWENTY-FIVE BILLION DOLLARS COULD PROVIDE MORE THAN
ONE MILLION JOBS FOR AMERICANS HERE AT HOME.

PUT ANOTHER WAY, \ THE AVERAGE AMERICAN FAMILY

TODAY IS PAYING OUT 350 DOLLARS A YEAR TO FOREIGN OIL

PRODUCING NATIONS -- WHICH COULD AND SHOULD BE SPENT

IN THIS COUNTRY TO PUT AMERICANS TO WORK.

IF I SIGNED THIS BILL CONTINUING CONTROLS,

AMERICA'S START ON THE ROAD TO ENERGY INDEPENDENCE

COULD BE DELAYED INDEFINITELY. I AM WELL AWARE OF THE

RELUCTANCE OF MEMBERS OF THE CONGRESS TO FACE UP TO SUCH

A DIFFICULT PROBLEM JUST AS AN ELECTION CAMPAIGN IS GETTING

UNDERWAY.

FOR MORE THAN EIGHT MONTHS, I HAVE TRIED TO GET THE
MEMBERS OF THIS CONGRESS MOVING ON A SOLUTION TO THIS URGENT
PROBLEM OF NATIONAL ENERGY INDEPENDENCE. MY LATEST EFFORT
AT A COMPROMISE WITH THE CONGRESS HAS RESULTED IN NOTHING
MORE THAN THIS PROPOSED SIX-MONTH EXTENSION OF THE EXISTING
LAW -- WHICH IS NO ANSWER AT ALL TO A PROGRAM OF ENERGY
INDEPENDENCE FOR THE UNITED STATES.

DURING THE FOUR YEARS THAT ~~THE~~ FEDERAL CONTROLS
PROGRAM ~~HAS~~ BEEN IN OPERATION -- ~~THE~~ WHICH MEMBERS
^{HAVE}
^S
OF CONGRESS NOW WANT TO EXTEND -- THE COST OF ENERGY
TO AMERICAN CONSUMERS HAS SOARED, AND OUR DEPENDENCE ON
FOREIGN OIL HAS DOUBLED. STILL, CONGRESS REFUSES TO ENACT
A NATIONAL ENERGY PROGRAM.

IF THIS VETO IS SUSTAINED, I WOULD ACCEPT
A 45-DAY EXTENSION OF CONTROLS TO PROVIDE TIME TO WORK WITH
THE LEADERS OF THE CONGRESS WHO HAVE AGAIN ASSURED ME
THEY WILL SEEK AN ACCEPTABLE COMPROMISE DURING THIS PERIOD.

IF ALL EFFORTS AT COMPROMISE FAIL, I WILL ACT TO
ENSURE AN ORDERLY TRANSITION FROM GOVERNMENT CONTROLS
TO THE FREE MARKET.

RESOLUTION OF THE OIL PRICE CONTROLS ISSUE IS AN

ESSENTIAL FIRST STEP TOWARD A TOTAL ENERGY INDEPENDENCE PROGRAM.

WE MUST HAVE A NATIONAL ENERGY PROGRAM BEFORE WE HAVE

A NATIONAL ENERGY EMERGENCY. OUR TIME TO ACT INSTEAD OF

REACT GROWS SHORTER WITH EACH DAY, ~~AND EACH DELAY IN THE~~

~~CONGRESS~~.

I URGE MEMBERS OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE TO SUSTAIN THIS VETO

AND GET ON WITH THE JOB OF MEETING THIS PROBLEM HEAD-ON.

THE CONTINUED FAILURE OF MEMBERS OF THE CONGRESS
TO ENACT A NATIONAL ENERGY PROGRAM PUTS US INCREASINGLY
AT THE MERCY OF FOREIGN OIL PRODUCERS AND WILL CERTAINLY RESULT
IN AMERICANS PAYING SUBSTANTIALLY HIGHER PRICES FOR THEIR
FUEL.

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