

The original documents are located in Box 17, “9/29/75 - Statement by the President Extending the Emergency Petroleum Act” of the President’s Speeches and Statements: Reading Copies at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN ~~.....~~

STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT

EXTENDING THE EMERGENCY PETROLEUM ALLOCATION ACT ~~.....~~

SEPTEMBER 29, 1975

I AM TODAY SIGNING H.R. 9524, A BILL EXTENDING
TO NOVEMBER 15TH THE EMERGENCY PETROLEUM ALLOCATION ACT [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] WHICH EXPIRED ON AUGUST 31.

THIS EXTENSION OF CONTROLS ON DOMESTIC PETROLEUM

FOR 47 DAYS CARRIES OUT MY PART OF AN UNDERSTANDING WITH THE

LEADERS OF THE HOUSE AND SENATE AND WILL PROVIDE MORE TIME

FOR THE CONGRESS TO ACT ON A SOUND AND MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE

PLAN FOR PHASED DECONTROL OR, ALTERNATIVELY, TO PASS THE

EMERGENCY LEGISLATION NECESSARY TO CUSHION THE EFFECT OF

IMMEDIATE DECONTROL ON CERTAIN ELEMENTS OF OUR DOMESTIC

ECONOMY.

LAST WEEK'S DECISION BY THE OPEC FOREIGN OIL
CARTEL TO RAISE THEIR PRICES TO AMERICAN CONSUMERS BY
10 PERCENT PROVES BEYOND ANY FURTHER ARGUMENT THE URGENT
NEED FOR THE UNITED STATES TO REDUCE ITS GROWING DEPENDENCE
ON IMPORTED FUEL AT PRICES ARBITRARILY SET BY OTHERS.

SINCE MY STATE OF THE UNION MESSAGE LAST JANUARY,
I HAVE BEEN CONSTANTLY URGING THE CONGRESS TO MOVE RAPIDLY
ON A COMPREHENSIVE ENERGY INDEPENDENCE PROGRAM FOR THIS
COUNTRY'S FUTURE SECURITY AND PROSPERITY. I HAVE OFFERED
TO COMPROMISE AGAIN AND AGAIN.

A MAJORITY OF THE MEMBERS OF THIS CONGRESS THUS FAR HAVE
REFUSED TO DO ANYTHING THAT WILL INCREASE DOMESTIC ENERGY
PRODUCTION.

PRICE CONTROLS ON DOMESTIC OIL PRODUCTION HAVE
BEEN IN EFFECT FOR FOUR YEARS. DURING THAT TIME OUR
DOMESTIC OIL PRODUCTION HAS DECLINED AND OUR EXPENDITURES
FOR FOREIGN OIL HAVE INCREASED MORE THAN 700 PERCENT.

WE ARE NOW SENDING MORE THAN 25 BILLION DOLLARS A

YEAR OUT OF THE UNITED STATES TO IMPORT FOREIGN OIL, ENRICH

FOREIGN PRODUCERS AND PROVIDE FOREIGN JOBS. THIS DOLLAR

OUTFLOW WILL GROW LARGER UNDER THE LATEST OPEC PRICE HIKE.

IF SPENT AT HOME, 25 BILLION DOLLARS WOULD EMPLOY ONE MILLION
AMERICAN WORKERS AND SPEED OUR ECONOMIC GROWTH. LETTING
THE OPEC OIL CARTEL DICTATE AMERICA'S ECONOMIC GROWTH IS
ABSURD.

YET A MAJORITY IN THE CONGRESS DOES NOTHING TO

REVERSE OUR GROWING OIL DEPENDENCE AND INCREASING

VULNERABILITY TO THIS OBVIOUS THREAT.

WHEN THE PRICE OF GASOLINE GOES UP AT THE SERVICE
STATION, I WANT THE AMERICAN PEOPLE TO KNOW EXACTLY WHERE
THE BLAME LIES. UNTIL CONGRESS ACTS, THERE IS NOTHING
THIS COUNTRY CAN DO ABOUT ARBITRARY ^{oil}OPEC PRICE HIKES --
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AND THERE MAY BE STILL ANOTHER FUEL PRICE INCREASE NEXT JUNE.

THE RHETORIC OF THOSE IN CONGRESS WHO ARE DELAYING
ACTION ON LONG-RANGE ENERGY INDEPENDENCE ASSERTS THAT THEY
ARE TRYING TO HOLD FUEL PRICES DOWN TO PROTECT THE AMERICAN
CONSUMER. THIS IS NONSENSE.

OBVIOUSLY, THE CONGRESS CANNOT HOLD OPEC OIL
PRICES DOWN. THEY ARE GOING UP. AND WE ARE ALREADY
DEPENDENT ON FOREIGN OIL FOR ABOUT 40 PERCENT OF OUR TOTAL NEEDS.
in the United States.

THE ONLY WAY CONGRESS CAN REALLY PROTECT THE
AMERICAN CONSUMER IS TO ENACT A LONG-RANGE ENERGY PROGRAM
THAT ENCOURAGES AMERICANS TO PRODUCE OUR OWN ENERGY WITH
OUR OWN WORKERS FROM OUR OWN RESOURCES AT OUR OWN PRICES.

BY GOING ALONG WITH THIS TEMPORARY EXTENSION OF THE
EXPIRED CONTROLS LAW, I AM GIVING CONGRESS ANOTHER 47 DAYS TO
TAKE ITS FIRST SIGNIFICANT STEP IN SOLVING OUR ENERGY PROBLEM.

THE CONGRESS HAS TWO IMMEDIATE CHOICES: (1) TO ENACT A
MUTUALLY -ACCEPTABLE PLAN FOR PHASED DECONTROL OF DOMESTIC
PRICE CONTROLS ON CRUDE OIL; OR (2) TO PASS THE CUSHIONING
LEGISLATION I HAVE RECOMMENDED.

- - I PROPOSE TO PROTECT PROPANE GAS USERS,
INCLUDING FARMERS AND MILLIONS OF PEOPLE WHO LIVE IN
RURAL AREAS AND IN MOBILE HOMES;

- - I PROPOSE TO PROTECT INDEPENDENT RETAIL SERVICE

STATION AND HEATING OIL DEALERS FROM ARBITRARY CURTAILMENT

AND CUTOFFS;

— — I PROPOSE TO PROTECT INDEPENDENT REFINERS FROM LOSS OF THEIR SUPPLIES OF CRUDE OIL AT REASONABLE PRICES; AND I PROPOSE TO PROTECT ALL CONSUMERS FROM UNDUE LOSS OF PURCHASING POWER THROUGH A WINDFALL PROFITS TAX ON DOMESTIC OIL COMPANIES WITH A CONSUMER REFUND PROVISION.

IF YOUR CONGRESSMEN AND SENATORS CANNOT TAKE
ONE OR THE OTHER OF THESE COMMON-SENSE COURSES BEFORE
NOVEMBER 15, THEN A MAJORITY IN THE CONGRESS WILL HAVE
FAILED THEIR RESPONSIBILITY TO THE AMERICAN PEOPLE.

I AM SERVING NOTICE AS I SIGN THIS TEMPORARY EXTENSION THAT
A MAJORITY IN THE CONGRESS HAS ALREADY TEMPORIZED TOO LONG,
IF THE LATEST OPEC PRICE INCREASE HASN'T AWAKENED THEM TO THE
PERIL OUR COUNTRY FACES, ONLY AN AROUSED CITIZENRY WILL.

CONGRESS MUST FACE UP TO THE HARD DECISIONS WHICH
WILL RESTORE AMERICA'S ENERGY INDEPENDENCE, REINVIGORATE
AMERICA'S ECONOMY AND SAVE AMERICAN JOBS BEFORE IT IS TOO
LATE. THEY HAVE FAILED THUS FAR. I STAND READY TO COOPERATE
FULLY TO MAKE THIS LONG-OVERDUE START IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION.

END OF TEXT