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Office of the White House Press Secretary

THE WHITE HOUSE

SUMMARY FACT SHEET
THE PRESIDENT'S ENERGY MESSAGE

The President today sent to the Congress a comprehensive message reiterating the importance of energy independence, outlining actions he has taken to achieve our energy goals, and urging prompt Congressional action on legislative proposals needed to achieve these goals.

BACKGROUND

- . In his 1975 State of the Union address, the President announced specific goals and legislative measures for achieving energy independence.
- . During the past year, the President has:
 - Initiated major programs, to the extent possible within available authority, to conserve energy and increase domestic production.
 - Placed before the Congress additional bills needed to deal with the energy problem.
 - Signed the Energy Policy and Conservation Act -- the only major piece of energy legislation passed by the Congress -- which includes four of his original proposals.
- . In his Fiscal Year 1977 Budget, the President proposed major increases in funding for Federal energy programs, including a 30 percent increase for energy research and development.

SUMMARY OF THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

- . The President:
 - Reiterated the importance of achieving the Nation's energy independence goals.
 - Summarized his programs now underway to stimulate energy conservation, to increase the domestic supply of natural gas, nuclear energy, coal, and oil; and to develop a broad range of advanced technology to obtain energy from solar, geothermal, fusion and other sources.
- . The President announced the following new actions:
 - Legislation to expedite the delivery of natural gas from the north slope of Alaska.

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- A new policy for encouraging necessary liquefied natural gas imports that do not cause excessive dependence in total or from any particular source of supply.
- A special contribution of up to \$5 billion over the next five years to strengthen the safeguards program of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).
- A \$1 billion program of financial assistance to areas affected by the development of Federally-owned energy resources (bill submitted February 4, 1976).

The President reiterated the need for passage of eighteen major energy proposals still awaiting final Congressional action. These 18 proposals would:

- Deregulate the price of new natural gas.
- Provide the added short-term authorities needed to deal with natural gas shortages that may occur next winter.
- Reform the nuclear facilities licensing process by providing for early site review and approval, and encouraging nuclear facilities design standardization.
- Assure the availability of enriched uranium fuel for nuclear power plants and foster the creation of a private, competitive enrichment industry in the U.S.
- Allow commercial oil production from the Naval Petroleum Reserves.
- Modify automobile and stationary source pollution control requirements in the Clean Air Act to achieve a balance between air quality and energy needs.
- Create a new Energy Independence Authority -- a government corporation to assist private sector financing of critical new facilities which would not otherwise obtain financing.
- Authorize the financial assistance to assure construction of plants to provide at least 350,000 barrels per day of synthetic fuels production by 1985.
- Develop State plans and procedures to assure sites for necessary energy facilities, consistent with proper land use considerations.
- Reform the utility rate-setting practices of State regulatory commissions.
- Provide tax incentives to stimulate investment in the construction of new power plants, primarily coal and nuclear.

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- Provide financial impact assistance to areas affected by new Federal energy resource development projects over the next 15 years.
- Provide for minimum thermal efficiency standards for new buildings.
- Provide for a \$55 million weatherization assistance program for low-income and elderly persons to insulate their homes.
- Provide a 15 percent tax credit for energy conservation improvements in existing residential buildings.
- Provide authorities to assure that a large drop in world oil prices does not jeopardize needed domestic energy investments.
- Provide a comprehensive system of liability and compensation for oil spill damages and removal costs.
- Revise the basis for establishing the charges for uranium enrichment services from Government-owned plants.

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