

FEA Administrator Says Rationing Gas Too Drastic

Rationing of gasoline to reduce our dependence on imported oil must be regarded as the very last and most drastic measure, according to Joseph A. LaSala, Regional Administrator for the Federal Energy Administration.

"When the American people fully understand the ramifications of what rationing means, I am convinced they will support the alternatives being advocated by President Ford," LaSala said.

"Instead of long lines at gasoline stations, we may see long lines at Post Offices as the Nation's 140 million licensed drivers que up for their coupon allotments," he said.

LaSala said those favoring rationing also should consider the enormity of the bureaucracy necessary to operate it. FEA estimates the cost at about \$2 billion and would inject government in many new aspects of each American's every day life.

"To reach the President's goal of lowering imports by one million barrels per day this year, a rationing system would permit the average motorist only 36 gallons per month as compared with the current useage of 50 gallons per month," he said.

Although each person would receive an equal number of coupons, the use of gasoline varies widely among drivers. Many persons who require more than 36 gallons would be forced to purchase coupons on the "White Market" from drivers who do not use their 36 gallons, he said.

"This gives rise to serious inequities between rural, suburban, and urban dwellers and would impact heavily on some very poor persons, such as migrant workers who are forced to

drive long distances each year," LaSala said.

He noted that while rationing may limit consumption in the short run, it makes no contribution to the middle and long term goals of energy independence since it provides no incentive for increasing the domestic supply of oil. Rationing also cannot be sustained over a long period of time in circumstances short of war.

"The days of cheap and plentiful energy are over. Our problem now is trying to make the best of a difficult situation, and there is no easy way out," LaSala said.

"The tax on imported oil will permit the time-tested principles of the marketplace to work on lowering consumption. If that fails, we can always turn to other alternatives," LaSala said.

LaSala is Administrator for Region III, which consists of Pennsylvania, Maryland, Delaware, West Virginia, Virginia, and the District of Columbia.

Natural Gas Curtailed Affects Pa. Economy

U.S. Senator Hugh Scott (R-Pa.) recently protested the curtailment of natural gas to Pennsylvania and called upon the Federal Power Commission to "ensure maximum production and equitable distribution of our nation's natural gas."

In a letter to John N. Nassikas, Chairman of the Commission, Scott said the Commonwealth is dependent on interstate pipeline companies for more than 92 percent of its natural gas supplies.

"Two of the pipeline companies, Texas Eastern and Columbia, have already announced major curtailments," Scott said.

"Normal winter conditions will result in a 30 percent curtailment of interruptible customers. Even if sufficient quantities of substitute energy sources were available, a great many industries do not have the facilities to switch during the period of curtailment. The potential impact on employment and the overall

economic environment is great."

Scott said the oil embargo "dramatically pointed out that the Northeastern United States is heavily dependent on imported crude and petroleum based products. As a result, in the Northeast the shortage was more acute and the price of the product substantially higher than the national average. For this reason, I supported consideration of a program to require a uniform nationwide price for petroleum products and also the recently promulgated crude equalization program."

In the letter, the Senate Republican Leader called the situation "critical."

"The public must be assured that government and industry are making every effort to meet peoples' needs," he added.

Thought That Counts

That son of mine is something else. He gave me a really wonderful card for Christmas. It took him months to make it — 'cause it reads HAPPY FATHER'S DAY

Consumer Protection Hosts Speaker On Crime Prevention

The regular monthly meeting of the general membership of the Consumer Protection Commission of Lancaster County was held on Thursday, February 6, at 7:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Public Safety Building, 208 N. Duke St., Lancaster.

Featured speaker for the meeting was Ronald W. Bair, who is a Crime Prevention Officer with the Lancaster City Police. Officer Bair has been on the force for seven years and is a graduate of Harrisburg Area Community College with a degree in Police Science and Management.

Officer Bair's topic involved advice to the consumer on how to deal with door to door salesmen, charitable solicitors, inspectors and repairmen. He also discussed local and state laws that protect the consumer.

Recent changes have occurred in the chairmanship of several committees of the Commission.

Mr. Chester Shank of Manheim, has taken over the

Investigating Committee. He plans to work first on depleting the backlog of cases to be investigated. During the last 3 months of 1974 16 cases were closed: 7 concerning home maintenance, 4 on home appliances, 3 car warranties and 2 security deposits.

The Program Committee has been put in the hands of Mrs. Louise Beltz, of Lancaster. She is responsible for bringing the Speakers to the General Membership meetings that are held the first Thursday of the Month. She hopes to provide programs of interest to all consumers in the near future.

Mrs. Mary Miller, of Lancaster, has accepted the Chairmanship of the Speakers' Bureau, which is responsible for providing other local civic organizations with representatives of the Commission to speak on the Commission and other consumer oriented subjects.



With your farm background . . . Your Future May Be Brighter Than You Think

We know, and you know, that there just aren't enough farms available for every rural youth who would choose farming as his profession.

But there is a good alternative, in thousands of agriculturally related businesses. As farming takes on greater and greater importance each year, opportunities multiply for the agri-business industries furnishing the supplies and services farming requires.

Take your choice: Teaching, re-

search, manufacturing, marketing, communications — you name it — the opportunity for you to contribute is unlimited.

The challenges are exciting; the rewards can be great. And you'll still be making an important contribution to agriculture.

How do you start? If you have the background or the interest, write to your State Agricultural College Admissions Office, or Agricultural Communications Department for more information.

MAKE AGRI-BUSINESS
YOUR CAREER

National
Agri-Marketing
Association

P. O. Box 856,
Highland Park, Illinois 60035

Civil Service Needs Geologists

The State Civil Service Commission has announced limited opportunities for fulltime summer employment as a geologic aide with the Department of Environmental Resources.

Except for a few positions in Altoona, Muncy, and Pittsburgh, most of the jobs will be located in Harrisburg. The actual number of positions, their locations and duration will depend on agency needs and availability of funds.

A written test is not required for the positions. Applicants will be rated on their education and experience in the field of geology as reported on the civil service application and the training and experience supplement.

Applications will be accepted continuously until Friday, March 21, 1975. A list of eligible applicants will be established as soon as possible after applications are received.

Inflation

This year I'm going to give my wife something worth \$50 — guess it'll have to be a \$100 bill!

Be Sure

Last Christmas we gave our 12 year old a chemistry set. Not too long ago he held up a vial and yelled "Lay one finger on me and we'll all go up together!"