

# Nixon tells nation: 'Cool it, slow down'

## Congress promises quick action on bills

Washington (AP)

Congressional leaders promised prompt action on most or all of the energy saving measures requested by President Nixon in his address to the nation.

Senate Interior Chairman Henry M. Jackson said his committee would hold public hearings on emergency legislation today and would report a bill out by Friday. Senate approval could be expected next week, Jackson said.

On the House side, Democratic whip John J. McFall, D-Calif., predicted action on the President's proposals before the December recess.

"If he wants a bill, we'll give him a bill," said Rep. Torbert H. Macdonald, D-Mass., chairman of the House subcommittee on power.

In his Wednesday night address, Nixon accused Congress of failing to act on any of the energy measures he had sent to the Hill. The President said it was now "imperative" that Congress pass legislation establishing year-round Daylight Saving Time, authorizing relaxation of clean-air standards, the tapping of naval petroleum reserves and giving the government power to reduce speed limits nationwide and restrict

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working hours.

Macdonald said Nixon already had the authority to do most of what he asked and accused the President of playing "an absolute shell game" in blaming Congress for inaction.

Sen. Mark O. Hatfield, R-Ore., a member of the Appropriations Committee, said the Office of Management and Budget "is sitting on over \$20 million in energy funds" already appropriated by Congress. "The impounding of energy-related funding is the single greatest roadblock stopping Congress from meeting the country's energy needs," Hatfield said.

Sen. Lloyd M. Bentsen, D-Tex., said he and other oil-state senators oppose one presidential proposal that would allow the federal government to regulate the intrastate production and use of oil and gas.

"The President won't get that bill by Christmas with this provision in it," Bentsen said.

Sen. Mike Gravel, D-Alaska, said the President's message "did not contain enough specifics in dollars or programs to do the job. The \$10 billion mentioned by the President is considerably less than we spent on Apollo and only 10 per cent of

what is actually needed," he added.

In a nationwide broadcast, Nixon set 1980 as a target date for the United States to achieve energy self-sufficiency. He called for research and development programs rivaling the all-out efforts that developed the atomic bomb and put American astronauts on the moon.

The President also departed from his text to say he had "no intention of walking away" from his office despite some demands that he resign.

"As long as I am physically able, I will continue to work 16 hours a day for the cause of peace in the world and prosperity at home," he said.

With petroleum heading for 10 to 17 per cent shortages because of Arab oil cutoffs, Nixon warned that the nation faces "the most acute shortages of energy since World War II."

Consumers of home heating oil must get through the winter with only 85 per cent of the fuel they used last year, Nixon said.

Airline flights will be reduced 10 per cent through federal allocation of jet fuel, Nixon added.

Here at-a-glance are President Nixon's legislative proposals to conserve energy:

### Transportation

— Allow transportation agencies to adjust carrier schedules and service points after summary hearings.

— Lower speed limits on the nation's highways to 50 miles an hour.

### Power

— Open the Elk Hills Naval Petroleum Reserve in California to increased oil production.

— Impose "energy conservation fees or taxes," perhaps on the consumption of natural gas or the excessive use of electricity.

— Authorize the Federal Power Commission to suspend price regulation on new natural gas.

— Authorize the Atomic Energy Commission to grant without public hearings temporary operating licenses lasting up to 18 months for atomic power plants.

### Time

— Extend Daylight Savings Time throughout the year.

### Pollution

— Allow the Environmental Protection Agency to exempt for one year power plants and factories from air and water quality laws on a case-by-case basis.

— Exempt such federal action from the National Environmental Policy Act, which re-

quires prior preparation and review of environmental impact statements.

### Business

— Curtail outdoor electrical advertising and ornamental lighting.

— Reduce commercial operating hours.

### Rationing

— Develop standby plans to ration gasoline and home heating oil if necessary.

### Coal supply problem seen

Charleston, W. Va. (AP)

President Nixon's proposals for easing the energy crisis included suggestions that more use be made of coal. But an industry spokesman said it just isn't that simple and cannot be done quickly.

The spokesman for one of the nation's top coal producers — who asked not to be identified — said the industry is "currently operating at capacity. We couldn't mine another ton of coal now. You just can't turn coal on and off like a faucet."

"It's great to hear the President say we're going to switch from oil to coal," the spokesman said. "But the problem is where are we going to get the coal?"

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