

Sunday Gas Sales Ban Is Coming

Washington

President Nixon told the American people last night that he would take a variety of actions to reduce consumption of energy, including a ban on all outdoor Christmas lights, even those hung on homes, and a reduction in gasoline production that is sure to cause shortages.

As expected, Mr. Nixon said that to cope with the deepening shortage of crude oil and refinery products caused by the Arab oil embargo, he would prohibit Sunday sales of gasoline and also would lower highway speed limits throughout the nation to 50 miles an hour for cars and 55 for trucks and buses.

Mr. Nixon left open when the ban on the Sunday sales of gasoline would go into effect because he is waiting for congressional passage of the National Energy Emergency Act, which would specifically authorize such an action. However, he asked filling stations to close voluntarily next weekend, from 9 p.m. Saturday to 12:01 a.m. Monday, the proposed hours of the ban.

Summarizing a package of energy conservation actions in a 14-minute address broadcast on television and radio, Mr. Nixon said he was calling for "the full cooperation of all the American people in sacrificing a little so that no one must endure real hardship."

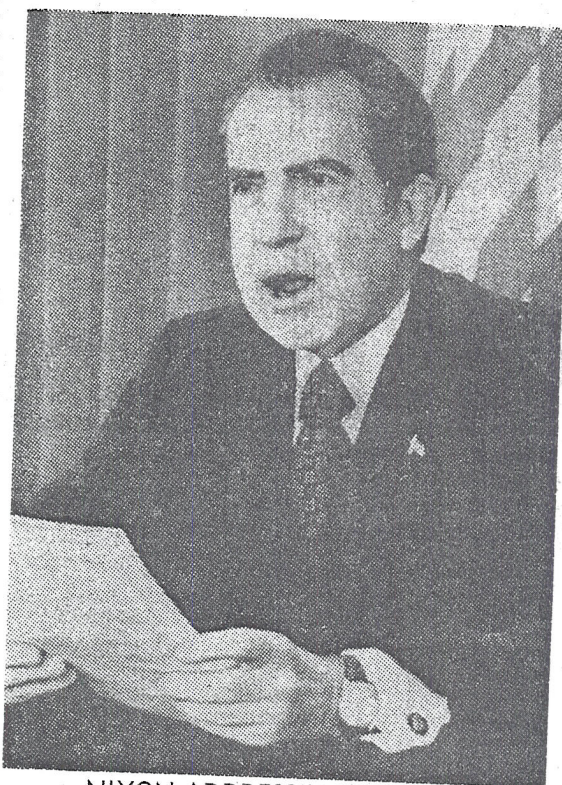
He said that the measures he was announcing would relieve about 10 per cent of a 17 per cent shortage of oil, and that "additional actions will be necessary."

Mr. Nixon referred to the Arab oil embargo only as "cutbacks in oil from the Mideast." He said nothing about any lifting of the embargo or his administration's strenuous efforts to get Arab-Israeli peace talks started in hopes that it would lead to at least partial relaxation of the embargo.

The President spoke of reduced deliveries of heating oil, jet fuel and gasoline.

Heating oil deliveries will be cut by 15 per cent to homes, the White House said, 25 per cent to stores and other commercial customers and 10 per cent to industrial users.

Reductions in jet fuel supplies on December 1 and January 7 are expected to result in still more cancella-



NIXON ADDRESSING THE NATION
 Most cutbacks await Congress' action

Highlights of Nixon's Speech

Washington

Here are the highlights from President Nixon's nationally televised address on the energy crisis.

With his current authority, he:

- Rationed home heating oil effective January 1, reducing shipments by 15 per cent to homes, 25 per cent to business and commercial establishments, and 10 per cent to industrial users.

- Cut back deliveries to gasoline stations. Refineries will be asked to reduce deliveries to wholesalers and gas stations by 15 per cent.

After congressional approval of emergency legislation he will:

- Ban the sale of gasoline for use in autos, trucks, pleasure boats, private aircraft and recreational vehicles from 9 p.m. Saturdays until midnight Sundays.

- Impose speed limits of 50 mile an-hour for autos and 55 m.p.h. for buses and trucks on highways across the nation. He said this could save 200,000 barrels of oil a day.

- Prohibit Christmas lights outside homes and businesses.

- Ban inside and outside commercial lighting displays when business places are closed.

- Curtail fuels for air taxi services by 10 per cent: for business flying — including corporate jets — by 40 per cent; for pleasure and instructional flights by 50 per cent. Jet fuel allocations to airlines will be cut 5 per cent to domestic lines on December 1 while international lines will be held to 1972 fuel levels.

United Press

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tions of flights in addition to those announced earlier this month.

John A. Love, director of the energy policy office, said at a White House briefing that the country had to cut its consumption of gasoline by 25 to 30 per cent and that the administration hoped to do it without formal rationing.

Love and his deputy, Charles Dibona, said the government largely would rely on complaints from the public to enforce the over-all program. Officials said no penalties had yet been recommended for bootleggers of gasoline.

Asked if oil company profits—now at record heights and likely to rise as prices climb—are to be restricted, Love said it was too soon to say. But he said a tax on "excess profits" — as proposed by the AFL-CIO and as imposed during World War II and the Korean war — would be "one way" to curtail windfall profits.

It appeared certain that the administration's request to refineries to decrease gasoline production by 15 per cent would lead to shortages and informal rationing of the kind experienced for a few weeks last spring — shorter hours at filling stations, pumps that run dry, retailer limits of ten gallons a car and perhaps early-morning lines of cars.

Lines and waits to buy gasoline on Saturday appeared to be a certain prospect. So did increased use of buses for weekend trips.

As expected, Mr. Nixon also said that he would prohibit promotion, display and ornamental lighting by commercial establishments. Stores and other places of business will be allowed to keep signs lighted during their hours of business, but all-night neon flashers and shop window display lights

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would be turned off.

The gasoline shortage and the Sunday sales ban, which is expected to close nearly all 220,000 filling stations in the nation, were expected to have especially hard economic effects on motels, ski areas, weekend resorts and other businesses that depend on weekend driving.

Officials indicated that increases in heating oil prices may be allowed to give the refiners added incentive to produce less gasoline, normally the refiners' most profitable product, and more heating oil. The question has been referred to the Cost of Living Council, which administers price controls. Some sources said the increase wouldn't exceed 2 cents a gallon.

Love announced that the government was making deep cuts in fuel for general aviation — 50 per cent for pleasure and instructional flying, 40 per cent for business flying, including corporate jets, and 20 per cent for air taxi and industrial aviation, such as crop-dusting or ferrying of supplies.

This is expected to be a severe blow to small airports across the country, many of whose principal sources of income is instruction, and to the instructors themselves.

Love and his associates in the energy policy office would have liked the Sunday sales ban to start on December 2, and they counseled that it could be imposed under the Economic Stabilization Act.

However, Mr. Nixon evidently took the course recommended by his political advisers and decided to wait for a fresh legislative mandate, in effect making sure

that Congress explicitly shared the responsibility for a measure that may cause much inconvenience.

The Senate approved the National Energy Emergency Act last Monday and the House may pass it this week. Allowing for a House-Senate conference to resolve differences, officials do not expect the bill — which would also authorize the ban on ornamental lighting of homes — to reach Mr. Nixon's desk for eight to ten days.

Mr. Nixon did not discuss gasoline rationing, a topic that has been much debated in Washington and around the country.

On November 17, Mr. Nixon said the American people would resent peacetime rationing "very, very much," and that he personally disliked it because of the power it gave to the officials who administer it.

The President gave no hint of what other measures he may announce in the future.

Mr. Nixon said that inter-city buses and heavy-duty trucks "operate more efficiently at higher speeds" and therefore would be allowed to roll at 55 miles an hour. Love said fuel efficiency, not safety or the economic cost of delayed bus arrivals and truck deliveries, was the reason for the exception.

The President specifically included in the ban on ornamental lighting outdoor gas lights, such as have been installed on many front lawns across the nation in recent years. Some householders have said that they put in the lights to discourage burglars and muggers.

"The energy consumed by ornamental gas lights alone in this country," Mr. Nixon said, "is equivalent to 35,000 barrels per day of oil. This is enough fuel to heat 175,000 homes daily."

New York Times