

✓ *Politics*

**Nixon distracted
from energy crisis?**

President Nixon has infuriated Democratic leaders of both houses by attempting to lay much of the energy crisis blame on Congress, Rep. Fortney H. Stark Jr. said yesterday.

Nixon's top aides, namely former domestic affairs adviser John D. Ehrlichman were too distracted by Watergate to heed early warnings, Stark commented.

The East Bay Democrat said Senate Interior Committee Chairman Henry M. Jackson (D-Wash.) and other Congressional energy experts "led the way in trumpeting alarm and proposing legislation to avert possible disaster."

Stark is co-sponsor of a bill to halt exports of gasoline, propane and fuel oil.

"Better we provide for our own," the former Walnut Creek banker remarked, "even if it means a curb on oil company profiteering."

—Sydney Kossen