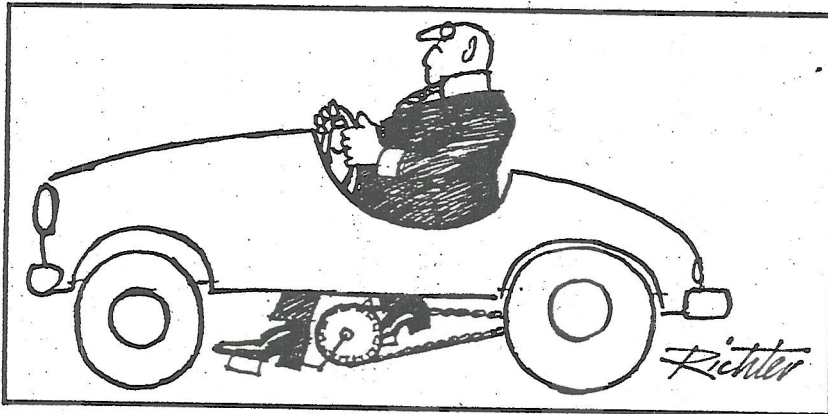


Letters to the E

NYTimes
 '... With an Empty Gas Tank, I Protest'

FEB 16 1974



To the Editor:

The President's lack of inclination or ability to do anything about this latest degrading crisis for the American public leads even the most obtuse among us to wonder why.

In the face of such an obviously artificially created gasoline shortage, which is infuriating the residents of the most heavily populated area on the East Coast, one wonders what power the oil companies have over the man who occupies the highest political office in the United States. In the face of all that has gone before, all I can say is, "Thus Watergate does make doubters of us all."

If the oil companies act like robber barons, they should be treated like robber barons. In good conscience and with an empty gas tank, I protest.

ELOISE DEXTER

Waldwick, N. J., Feb. 6, 1974

breaking up of the giant cartels which control our lives. It seems to me an obscene situation when a group of nonelected officials of giant corporations can force the people of this country into a subservient position. I am personally getting a bit tired of being pushed and pulled by the energy cartels.

It seems obvious that a nation which is as technologically oriented as our own can no longer permit the energy which we need for survival to be in any hands except those which have been elected. Admittedly, we have not done too well lately in electing people with hands which are minimally clean, but at least we had a choice. As things now stand, we are given ultimatums, not choices.

MARK B. SCHUMAN

Newark, Feb. 6, 1974

To the Editor:

Immeasurable quantities of gasoline are dissipated by people who need gasoline waiting on long lines, by people who do not need gasoline waiting on long lines, by people who need gasoline looking for open filling stations, by people who do not need gasoline looking for open filling stations, by people with near-empty tanks searching for open filling stations while being followed by friends in back-up cars with full tanks, and by the general traffic slowdown that all this anarchical madness causes.

The real crisis is not energy—that is only an item in short supply. The real crisis is what will come when the citizenry loses its temper, then its dignity and finally its decency. The solution lies with Government.

JACOB S. HURWITZ

Woodmere, L. I., Feb. 6, 1974

To the Editor:

Last night I spent two and one-half hours on a line to get gasoline. I was then able to purchase approximately nine gallons, which filled the \$5 limit that the station had set. Contrary to the statements of Mr. Simon, I was not filling a full tank, nor was anyone else in the line as far as I was able to determine. The station manager informed me that at least 90 per cent of the cars were easily taking the limit he allowed. The point of all this is that perhaps the time has come for serious discussion of alternatives to the rationing that our President seems too cowardly to impose. I wonder if he is fearful of losing whatever is left of his rapidly shrinking "mandate."

The alternatives I refer to include such possibilities as nationalization of the oil companies, or at the very least