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SENATOR CHURCH
He asks talks with Arabs

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Negotiated Cut in Gas Costs Urged

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Senator Frank Church (Dem-Idaho) called on the Nixon administration yesterday to negotiate with Arab countries to oil prices.

Interviewed on the CBS television program "Face the Nation," Church also said he favors investigation to determine if major oil companies have violated antitrust laws.

The senator, who participated in hearings on the oil crisis, said, "The role of the federal government was one of abdication really, leaving it to the large oil companies to make the arrangements for themselves."

"I am proposing we recognize that the price of oil is a hijacked price with disastrous consequences and that the federal government do something about negotiating with the Arab governments to bring that down," Church said.

In addition, he said, "a serious look must be given toward the possible violation of antitrust laws involved in the network of agreements by which major oil companies control production capacity and marketing from the Middle East, and also at home in connection with the major companies' control of pipelines."

On another subject, Church said it would be "very awkward" for President Nixon to go to a proposed summit meeting in Moscow in June if the House is considering an impeachment resolution at the time.

He was asked if he thought the President was timing the proposed Russian trip for political advantage.

"Well, I don't know what his motives are there except one would have to observe that . . . it is quite possible that sometime in June the House will be voting on an impeachment resolution assuming the Judiciary committee recommends such a resolution favorably," he said.

"I would think it would be a very awkward time for him to go, but I don't want to prophesy what the House Judiciary committee would do."

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