

# SENATOR KENNEDY SCORES OIL QUOTA

Says He's Shocked at Nixon  
Decision to Keep System

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WASHINGTON, Aug. 18 (UPI) — Asserting he was "shocked and disappointed" by President Nixon's decision to retain the present oil-import quota system, Senator Edward M. Kennedy said today he will hold Senate hearings on the decision "at the earliest opportunity."

"This decision is a bitter blow to American consumers who pay billions of dollars in higher oil prices each year because of the quota," the Massachusetts Democrat said.

Claiming that "the American people have the right to know the basis for the Administration's sudden decision on oil imports," Senator Kennedy said hearings will be held by the Senate Administrative Practice and Procedure subcommittee of which he is chairman.

Senator Kennedy said he was "at a loss to understand how the oil policy committee reached the conclusion that the quota program should be continued."

He quoted a statement from a report issued last February by the President's task force commission on oil imports, which said "the present import-control program is not adequately responsible to pres-

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ent and future security considerations."

The Senator noted that four members of the original task force group who supported this position were also on the oil policy committee, which recommended retention of the quota system over a proposed tariff program.

"I would like to know why they suddenly reversed their position," Senator Kennedy said. "The task force report, based on almost a year of detailed study, is simply cast aside without explanation or analysis."

Import Program Challenged

WASHINGTON, Aug. 18 (AP) — President Nixon's decision to keep the oil-import control program was also challenged today by Democratic Senator Edmund S. Muskie of Maine.

Senator Muskie said President Nixon's action "suggests blatant and cynical favoritism for a special interest group—the domestic oil industry."