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PRESIDENT WARNS OPEC ON RAISING OIL PRICES AGAIN

Says Nation Would Have to
'Find Other Answers' to
Middle East Exports

By JAMES M. NAUGHTON
Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, June 25—
President Ford warned today
that he would consider a new
increase in oil prices by ex-
porting nations to be "very dis-
ruptive and totally unaccept-
able."

In a nationally televised
news conference, the President
said that if members of the

Text of the President's press
conference, Page 26.

Organization of Petroleum Ex-
porting Countries in the Middle
East and elsewhere raised their
prices in the fall, it could have
"an adverse effect worldwide"
on interdependent economies.
[Question 13, page 26.]

The United States and other
consuming nations would have
to "find some answers other
than OPEC oil" if the threat-
ened increase of \$2 to \$4 per
barrel were imposed, the Presi-
dent said.

Mr. Ford appeared relaxed as
as he parried questions on a va-
riety of topics for 30 minutes
in a new setting, between Japa-
nese maple trees on the broad
South Lawn, with the White
House as a backdrop. He made
the following points during the
colloquy-on-the-green:

¶He refused to rule out, or
to endorse, the use of nuclear
weapons in the event that the
United States came to the as-
sistance of South Korea in a
recurrence of the Korean War
that began 25 years ago today.
Mr. Ford said the United States
had a "strong deterrent force"
that would be used "in a flex-
ible way in our own national
interest." [Question 8.]

¶The President described as
"unacceptable" the projections
of his economic advisers that
high unemployment would con-
tinue through the end of the
decade. He said he hoped they
were wrong and that if the
economy had not improved
measurably by next year he
would consider seeking an ex-
tension of the Federal income
tax reductions enacted earlier
this year by Congress. [Ques-
tions 5 and 6.]

¶Mr. Ford attributed a recent
surge in his popularity, as
measured by public opinion
polls, to "a consistently strong
policy domestically" and to his
decision to use armed forces to
recapture the merchant ship
Mayagüez from Cambodia last
month. [Question 3.]

The President said once again
that he would make formal
statement of candidacy for a
full White House term before
long.

He lavished praise on John
Continued on Page 26, Column 4

Continued From Page 1, Col. 3

B. Connally, the former Secre-
tary of the Treasury who was
acquitted earlier this year of
bribery charges and said he had
a "broad discussion" on domes-
tic and foreign policy with him
recently. But in response to a
question about Mr. Connally's
political plans, Mr. Ford said,
"I don't know whether he's
going to run for any office or
not."

Sweltering Setting

The President and the press
sweltered in 90-degree heat, 47
per cent relative humidity and
an official capital air pollution
alert as gathering storm clouds
hovered over the outdoor news
conference setting.

The most forceful declara-
tion by the President came in
response to questions about
discussions of a new oil price
OPEC, the producing nations'
organization.

Another increase, at a time
when the recession appeared
to be ending, would have "an
impact" on the United States
economy, an even harsher ef-
fect on Western Europe and
Japan and "an even more ad-
verse impact" on developing
nations, Mr. Ford said.

"It would have an adverse
impact worldwide," he added.
"I think it would be very un-
wise for OPEC to raise their
prices under these circum-
stances because an unhealthy
economy in the United States
and worldwide is not in their
best interest."

The President again chided
the Democratic-controlled
Congress for its slowness in
developing a comprehensive
program to reduce American
dependence on imported oil.

But, asked what the Presi-
dent and his Administration
were doing to persuade the na-
tion that an energy crisis was
real and imminent, Mr. Ford
referred in a general way only
to efforts to reduce consump-
tion of electricity by the Gov-
ernment.

"In the White House, we try
to be as conservative as pos-
sible in the utilization of elec-
trical energy," he said.

Criticized by Democrats

Mr. Ford, addressing a ques-
tion about the political impli-
cations of continued high un-
employment, expressed cautious
optimism that joblessness was
decreasing from the current
level of 9.2 per cent.

The President has been criti-
cized with increasing vehe-
mence by Democrats in Con-
gress for vetoing legislation
intended to create jobs.

He said at the news confer-
ence that moving too rapidly
to counter unemployment could

spark a new round of runaway
inflation. To a suggestion by
George Meany, the labor leader,
that he displayed "callous dis-
regard" of suffering jobless
Americans, Mr. Ford replied
that unemployment was linked
to anti-inflation efforts.

"As you bring down the in-
flation, we may have to suffer
for a short period of time
higher unemployment than we
like," he said. "But I'm con-
vinced that, with the policies
we're pursuing, we can grad-
ually increase employment and
gradually decrease unemploy-
ment."

Mr. Ford's meeting last
Wednesday with Mr. Connally
was unannounced and con-
firmed only yesterday by the
White House.

The President said Mr. Con-
nally was an old friend with

"vast experience" in govern-
ment and that he would con-
tinue to seek advice from Mr.
Connally "because I admire
him as a person and I respect
his experience and ability in
government."