

Nixon's Bad News For Ecologists

Washington

Behind closed White House doors, President Nixon told governors of both political parties that his highest priorities in the energy crisis are jobs and an end to the Arab oil boycott, ahead of the environment and Israel.

In a meeting December 13, the president told 17 governors he would not turn his back on the environmental movement or Israel, but emphasized that the environmentalists and the Israelis must retreat from their positions if the industrialized world is to get through the

fuel shortage.

"I'm going to have to propose some things that will drive the environmentalists up the wall," President Nixon told the governors, "and they're halfway there already. How are we going to get the coal out of the ground without driving them out of their trees?"

Several governors said the president was optimistic that the oil embargo would be lifted but that "Israel would have to participate" at the conference table if the oil boycott is to end.

"The only way we're going to solve the crisis is to

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end the oil embargo and the only way we're going to end the oil embargo is to get the Israelis to act reasonably," was the way Mr. Nixon put it, according to one Democratic governor who was present but did not want to be identified.

He said Mr. Nixon added, "I hate to use the word blackmail, but we've got to do some things to get them to behave."

Besides the President, Federal Energy Office Director William E. Simon was at the White House meeting with the 17 governors.

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