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NEWSLETTER

96-708

September 6, 1979

Washington, D.C.

DISAPPOINTED AND FRUSTRATED. The Administration has authorized the sale of \$47 million worth of scarce home heating oil and kerosene to oil-rich Iran to help overcome a shortage in that country because of the sabotage to the refineries at Abadan.

I'm disappointed and frustrated that the Administration would authorize the sale of scarce fuel supplies to a country that threatens to cut-off our energy supplies, arbitrarily raises prices and generally tells us where to go.

The latest round of U.S. energy troubles traces to revolution in Iran, where oil production was interrupted for 69 days and then resumed at lower levels and higher prices. The eventual result was a reduction of U.S. crude oil imports by 800,000 barrels a day. This represents a four percent cut and part of the reason for long lines and a sharp price rise at the gas pump.

It is incredible that the Administration would call on major domestic refiners to stockpile home heating oil to avoid winter shortages and then sell some of these scarce supplies to Iran below wholesale prices paid by American distributors. This is not the message we should be sending to OPEC.

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ENERGY BOOM TOWNS. The Coastal Bend Region, which includes Bee, Duval, Jim Wells and Live Oak Counties, has been approved as an energy impact area by the Department of Energy. I have worked closely with top officials at the DOE and USDA and was pleased their action was favorable.

The area was designated by authority granted in the Powerplant and Industrial Fuel Act of 1978. As an approved designated energy impact area, that region is eligible, through the State, to apply for planning grants and land acquisition and site development grants through the Farmers Home Administration.

Communities throughout the country, such as George West, have been hurt by the rapid growth that comes with increased energy production. These "energy boom towns" are faced with serious problems because of the rapid growth in population putting a drain on essential services. In most cases, these towns were not ready for this unexpected growth and their budgets fall far short of what is necessary to provide basic community services.

Under provisions of the 1978 Law, the financial assistance through grants and

guaranteed loans for needed services and facilities would be available for five years. The legislation will immediately benefit these energy impacted areas, but the energy benefits are important to the country as a whole.

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ONE-STOP INSPECTION PROCEDURE. Top officials of Federal Inspection Service Agencies, including U.S. Customs Service, Immigration and Naturalization Service and Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, have agreed on a one-stop inspection system that will significantly reduce time needed to process international travelers when they enter the U.S. from abroad.

It is my belief that a smooth and uninterrupted flow of traffic for international travelers and frequent border crossers is essential to fostering better relations between countries. My efforts have always been to speed up traffic crossing the border.

Under the one-stop plan, all arriving passengers not requiring further processing will have all of their federal inspection requirements completed by one officer. The one-stop interview will take care of the requirements of 40 agencies and also reduce processing times significantly. This is done without compromise to enforcement responsibilities. One-stop also enables participating federal agencies to make better use of available manpower and facilities.

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MUSIC AND ALL THAT JAZZ FROM TEXAS. The Houston POPS Orchestra will play at the Kennedy Center in Washington on September 28. The program will include many tunes about Texas, such as Deep in the Heart of Texas, Eyes of Texas, San Antonio Rose, Streets of Laredo, Yellow Rose of Texas, well known college songs and some good old-fashioned Glen Miller stuff which is the type of music the POPS is famous for.

This Texas event in Washington will provide an opportunity for Texans in D.C. to celebrate that despite our distance from Texas, the Lone Star State is always close to our hearts. It also provides a gala occasion to promote our state and brag a little to others.

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