

Ford seeks clean-air postponement

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Ford plans to seek postponement of clean-air standards for power plants to help them convert quickly from oil to coal-burning boilers, administration sources said Tuesday.

Interior Secretary Rogers C. B. Morton, declining to disclose specific policies, told a reporter the President's State of the Union address Wednesday would include proposals to speed power plant conversions to coal.

But another administration

source said the proposal would seek to amend the Clean Air Act, postponing for several years the power plant standards now scheduled to take effect in mid-1975.

Morton, addressing the Manufacturing Chemists' Association, hinted at a postponement by saying that "the policies for development of coal are now balanced, in terms of the time we've got to buy on the environmental problems."

Coal was barely mentioned by Ford in a broadcast preview of his energy and economic policies Monday night.

Morton assigned it the central role in achieving energy independence by 1985 as promised by the President.

"If we fail on coal, we can't get from here to there. It's the Big Casino," Morton said, "Coal is the key."

"We're going to have to encourage the use of coal as fast as possible ... To get to 1985 with oil import levels we can live with, we are going to have to double the use of coal," he said.

Morton, chairman of the cabinet-

level Energy Resources Council which prepared policy options for the President, expressed his own strong opposition to government fuel rationing or similar efforts to control directly the public's use of energy.

"I am totally opposed to the proposition that we should put on volumetric controls and ration energy for the next ten years," Morton said. "It is much better to incline the market toward conservation."

In the push to encourage the use of coal by power plants in place of oil or natural gas, the administration

has stood by the insistence of the Environmental Protection Agency on the use of either low-sulfur coal or exhaust-scrubbers to prevent pollution, sources said.

But it was expected to propose postponement for three or four years, or even longer, of the air pollution standards that would require these measures.

EPA has already been granting power plants permission to miss the 1975 deadline under consent agreements setting schedules for compliance over the next several years.

Board appointees big contributors

AUSTIN, Tex. (AP) — The three men appointed Monday as University of Texas regents contributed a total of \$10,500 to the governor's 1974 re-election campaign, campaign finance records show.

Each of the state senators from

the appointees' districts said Tuesday, however, he would support the nominations.

"I did not know about the contributions, but a man has a right to be for who he wants as long as there are no conflicts," said Sen. Jack Ogg, D-Houston, who represents the district where Walter Sterling, 73, lives. Sterling gave \$5,000 to Briscoe on April 25 and \$2,500 on Nov. 12, according to reports filed in the secretary of state's office.

Ogg said he did not foresee any problems in the Senate confirmation of Sterling, a Houston oilman-banker.

Sen. Betty Andujar, R-Fort Worth, said the other new appointee, Tom Law, 55, a Fort Worth lawyer, is "well known and well accepted."

Mrs. Andujar said she thought Law would be confirmed without any problem.

Law made two \$500 contributions to Briscoe in 1974.

Dan Williams, 61, a Dallas lawyer, was reappointed for another six-year term on the board of regents.

The campaign finance reports indicate that Williams and his wife made a \$2,000 donation to Briscoe in late 1973.

Sen. Bill Braecklein, D-Dallas, said, "Williams lives across the street from me and I back him 100 percent."

Sen. Lloyd Doggett, D-Austin, who had backed former UT Law School Dean Page Keeton for a position on the board of regents, said, "I won't know how I'm going to vote until I hear the testimony of the appointees."

Doggett said, "There are some questions I want them to answer and if I don't think they will be good for the university, I won't hesitate to vote against them."

Briscoe announced the nominations Monday so his appointees could take office before a Senate vote on their confirmation.

Senators reject proposals

AUSTIN, Tex. (AP) — Texas senators overwhelmingly rejected six revolutionary proposals to change their rules Tuesday, including one that would gag filibusters.

"I rise to filibuster," exclaimed Sen. A.R. Schwartz, D-Galveston, after his friend from law school days at the University of Texas, Sen. Oscar Mauzy, D-Dallas, proposed abolishing the delaying tactic.

Schwartz said Texans would be paying sales taxes on food if a Senate filibuster had not brought time and aroused public opinion against the proposed tax in 1969.

"I guess it (filibuster technique) has killed more rotten pieces of legislation than anything else," Schwartz said, describing a filibuster as a device "to protect the minority against the tyranny of the majority."

"A filibuster on an unlimited basis does deny majority rule," said Mauzy.

But despite the support of the dean of the Senate, A.M. Aikin Jr., D-Paris, who said he had been in the Senate since 1939 and "never found an occasion to filibuster — it damages the image of the Senate" — the proposal failed, 5-26.

Mauzy mustered the most votes on his proposal to open secret sessions on governor's appointments to the public and press, but it failed 10-21. "If ever there was a reason for secrecy in deliberations, it's passed now," said Mauzy. The Senate now may dispense with private sessions by a two-thirds vote.

Senators blocked four other Mauzy proposals which would have shipped away at the traditional way the Senate has operated, including:

— Allowing senators, rather than the lieutenant governor, to appoint committees, 5-26.

— Permitting a Senate majority, or 16 votes, to refer a bill from one committee to another, 4-27.

— Making it easier to file a minority report out of committee, 6-25.

— Requiring the Senate to debate at least five bills in the order they appear on the daily calendar before skipping around on various measures, 5-26.

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