

Ford vows to veto any gas rationing plans

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Ford vowed Tuesday to veto any mandatory gasoline rationing plan voted by Congress and rejected Democratic demands that he delay imposing tariffs on imported oil.

"I will not sit by and watch the nation continue to talk about an energy crisis and do nothing about it," Ford declared in a nationally broadcast news conference, his first in six weeks.

He urged prompt congressional action on the package of economic and energy proposals he outlined last week. "By the late summer we ought to see a turnaround both as to economic activity and I hope in the unemployment figure," Ford said.

During the mid-afternoon question and answer session in an Executive Office auditorium, the President also:

-Disclosed he would ask Congress for another \$300 million in military aid for South Vietnam, but twice sidestepped questions on

whether bombing raids would be resumed against Communist insurgents. "I don't think it's appropriate for me to speculate on a matter of that kind," he said.

-Reiterated that the danger of war in the Middle East is very serious and that is why the administration is maximizing its diplomatic efforts with Israel and some of the Arab states.

-Voiced disappointment with Soviet rejection of the 1972 trade agreement with the United States, but said detente will be continued, broadened and expanded because it is in the best interest of both countries.

-Said he will seek deferral of action on national health insurance proposals because projected budget deficits of \$30 billion this year and

\$45 billion next year should prohibit any new spending programs.

Reading an opening statement, Ford said he would sign a presidential proclamation this week to impose the tariffs on crude oil imports — starting at \$1 on Feb. 1, going to \$2 a barrel March 1 and to \$3 per barrel April 1.

"It is the first step toward regaining our energy freedom," Ford

said of the proclamation.

With the disclosure of his planned action, Ford rejected Democratic demands that he delay the tariff plan until Congress can act.

Chairman Al Ullman of the House Ways and Means Committee joined Democratic Sens. Edward Kennedy of Massachusetts and Henry Jackson of Washington state

in pressing for the delay.

Ford announced the tariff plan last week, and said it would be rescinded if Congress follows his proposal that a permanent \$2 per barrel levy be placed on both domestic and foreign crude oil. These fees, combined with other energy proposals, would increase retail gasoline prices by about 10 cents per gallon.

Ullman said Ford has agreed to a congressional plan for splitting the permanent levy and a quick anti-recession tax cut into two separate legislative packages.

In defending his energy proposals against Democratic criticism, Ford said the revenues raised by the levies on fuel will be channeled back into the economy.

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Traffic test to evaluate 'litter crete'

A highway made of burned garbage and built under the direction of engineers is undergoing evaluation after six months of use by Houston traffic.

The highway experiment, if successful, would help fight pollution, help the ecology and reduce expenses.

Researchers at TAMU's Texas Transportation Institute discovered that with the addition of a little lime, the residue from burned garbage could take the place of rock in road building. At present rock makes up 85 percent of the road material and is a major cost. The other 15 percent is asphalt.

"The use of this material (litter crete) could eliminate the garbage disposal problem," said Dr. W. B. Ledbetter, project head. "This will nullify the fear of being buried in our own garbage. If Houston used all of the residue from all the city's garbage it would only meet less than 10 percent of the road building needs of the city."

"Research studies on the material will continue for the next three years. The 'litter crete' consists of 50 percent glass and the rest is a mixture of bottle caps, pieces of metal, a small amount of unburned material and blobs of melted aluminum.

Federal aid assists 1,600 Ags

Almost nine percent of TAMU's full-time enrollment is being assisted through federal student aid programs.

Robert Logan, director of financial aid at TAMU, reports that slightly over 1,600 were in the federal aid programs which include Basic Opportunity Grants (BOG), Supplementary Educational Opportunity Grants (SEOG), College Work-Study (CWS), National Direct Student Loan (NDSL) and Guaranteed Student Loans (GSL).

The majority of the TAMU students, just over 1,000, were in the GSL program. Meanwhile, TAMU continues to enjoy one of the lowest repayment failure rates around, with less than one percent delinquency.

That figure also includes persons who are late making repayments, but will ultimately clear their debt.

Another Southwest Conference school, the University of Texas-Austin, was third overall in federal aid participants among members of the National Association of State Universities and Land-Grant Colleges polled.

UT-Austin had a total of 6,600 students participating in the federal aid programs.

Texas Southern University school ranked first in percentage of enrollment participants with almost 51 percent of its 5,073 enrollment.

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