

the nation

Odd-even fever sweeping nation; rationing in East — Texas to follow

United Press International
If your car's license plate ends in 4, 6, 8 or 0, you got a spot in the lines Wednesday in parts of New Jersey, the New York City area and Connecticut.
If your license plate ends in 1, 3, 7 or 9, you will have to wait until Friday when you will be joined by the rest of the drivers in New Jersey and motorists in the Washington, D.C., area who go on the odd-even system of rationing then.
Starting Monday, Texas drivers will line up by the numbers and

imposing a minimum purchase plan to keep drivers from topping off their tanks. Energy Office Director Joseph S. Fitzpatrick said Tuesday the plan probably will be implemented before the weekend.
The odd-even system, which showed some success in California where the gas shortage first appeared, is gaining converts around Rhode Island motorists may soon find themselves under the same system. Massachusetts was considering

the country as a way of reducing pump lines and spreading dwindling supplies.
New York Gov. Hugh Carey, Gov. Ella Grasso of Connecticut and Texas Gov. Bill Clements announced their odd-even systems Tuesday.
And in both Connecticut and New York, the rationing plan is designed to discourage cheating; the states could fine violators — both the motorist and the dealer — with

finer of up to \$1,000. Additionally, cheaters in Connecticut could get up to a year in jail.
Although most of New Jersey won't come under the plan until today, the system was in effect Tuesday and officials found the initial results encouraging.
"We are very pleased," said Parkway operations manager John Simons. "The lines were substantially reduced, and I think the public understands, although it is sometimes hard to convince them."
The odd-even plans were coupled with some sort of antitank-topping measure — either a minimum purchase limit or a requirement the tank be at least half empty to purchase fuel.

That was encouraging for gas dealers like Don Turner at the Mustang Service Center in Dallas, who said Clement's decision to order an odd-even system for Dallas, Fort Worth and Houston wouldn't solve the problem.
"They'll just buy every other day whether they need it or not," said Turner, who added, about half his customers have been buying only a few gallons of gasoline to top off their tanks.
There was one encouraging note Tuesday for desperate drivers.
In London, Saudi Arabian Oil Minister Sheikh Ahmed Zaki Yamani said Tuesday Saudi Arabia is considering a million barrel a day increase in oil production to stop world panic, but only if indus-

Truckers strike; protest fuel prices, weight system

United Press International
A truck driver was found shot to death Wednesday morning where the truck had jackknifed off the road near Tusculum, Ala., in a mounting tide of violence affecting the 14-day strike of independent truck drivers.
The strikers threatened a nationwide shutdown at midnight, a truckers' spokesman said.
William Hill, chairman of the Independent Truckers Group, said on the NBC "Today" television show in Washington it was too late to call off

the shutdown set for 11:59 p.m. local time Wednesday because there were too many truckers groups involved.
The walkout was expected to halt the movement of large quantities of produce where the harvest is in full swing and of gasoline supplies.
Forty-three persons were arrested in Alabama at a trucker protest in Winston County.
State troopers said the dead man was found shortly after 4 a.m. near the intersection of U.S. 72 and U.S. 43 in Colbert County where the

truck was parked. His name was not immediately released nor were details on the shooting. The independent drivers are striking and protesting the high cost of diesel fuel and the 55 mph speed limit.
Hill said of the planned shutdown, "We're not trying to hurt anybody. But we're being hurt by the oil industry (which) is holding back supply in order to raise prices."
The shutdown, Hill said, is a "protest against the oil industry. And it's high time the government do something about the oil industry that is really causing a tremendous amount of inflation in this nation."
He predicted an overwhelming majority of independent truckers would join the shutdown by the end of the week.

Hill said the top priorities of truckers include:
—One hundred percent allocations of diesel fuel.
—A reasonable surcharge to cover the increased cost of fuel.
—A uniform weight system.
—Opposition to the administration's call for deregulation of the trucking industry.
"I was involved in 1973-74 when they said they had a shortage of fuel," Hill said. "After we went on a shutdown, all of a sudden we got all the fuel we wanted — and the prices stopped rising."
Truckers, meanwhile, escalated their two-week protest by blockading gasoline distribution centers in Minnesota, Wisconsin and Michigan.
Hill, however, disapproved of the blockades.

Skylab balancing maneuver successful

United Press International
WASHINGTON — The Skylab space station turned around in orbit Wednesday in a key maneuver aimed at opening the way for an unprecedented attempt to keep it from falling over populous Europe and Asia next month.
Acting on instructions radioed up from Earth during the night, the 78.5-ton orbiting laboratory changed into a position intended to balance the increasing forces of gravity and atmospheric drag and keep it from tumbling out of control.
The maneuver started at 8:50 a.m. EDT while the abandoned spacecraft was about 165 miles over the South Pacific Ocean. Thirty minutes later, as Skylab passed over the Ascension Island tracking station in the South Atlantic, engineers confirmed that Skylab maneuvered as planned.
The station ended up in a sideways position as it circled the globe. "Everything looks pretty good," reported control center spokesman Robert Gordon in Houston. "All systems aboard Skylab look good."
He said it would take several hours of tracking to confirm that the 118-foot assembly remained in its new orbital orientation.

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