

**The original documents are located in Box D34, folder “American Gas Association, Washington, DC, May 17, 1973” of the Ford Congressional Papers: Press Secretary and Speech File at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.**

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AMERICAN GAS ASSOCIATION, WASHINGTON HILTON  
HOTEL, 9:40 A.M. THURSDAY, MAY 17, 1973.

FOR THE LAST QUARTER OF A CENTURY THE AMERICAN PEOPLE HAVE BEEN PLAGUED BY MANY PROBLEMS -- WORLD WAR II, KOREA AND VIETNAM; RACIAL STRIFE AND POLITICAL UPHEAVAL; BALANCE OF PAYMENTS AND WORLD MONETARY DISLOCATIONS, STRIKES, INFLATION, AND ENVIRONMENTAL AND ECOLOGY ISSUES.

IN SPITE OF ALL OF OUR TROUBLES WE HAVE IMPROVED OUR STANDARD OF LIVING AND THE UNITED STATES HAS GROWN AT AN UNPRECEDENTED RATE.

WE NOW ARE MOVING THROUGH A PERIOD WHEN SOME AMERICANS WOULD LIKE TO HALT THE WHEELS OF PROGRESS. THEY WOULD LIKE TO STOP ALL GROWTH.

THERE IS NO QUESTION THAT MANY OF OUR PROBLEMS ARE A RESULT OF GROWTH. BUT IN A FREE-ENTERPRISE DEMOCRATIC SOCIETY, GROWTH IS ESSENTIAL.

THE GREATER THE GROWTH, THE GREATER THE PROBLEMS OF CONTROL. BUT THIS DOES NOT MEAN THAT GROWTH SHOULD BE HALTED.

THE UNITED STATES' DRAMATIC GROWTH HAS BEEN DUE IN PART TO ITS TREMENDOUS ABUNDANCE OF RAW MATERIALS. OUR RECENT GROWTH TO THE STATUS OF A MAJOR WORLD POWER HAS BEEN DUE, TO A LARGE EXTENT, TO OUR HUGE ENERGY RESOURCES.

AS LONG AS WE CAN PROVIDE OUR OWN ENERGY SUPPLIES OR HAVE SECURE SUPPLIES AVAILABLE AT A REASONABLE PRICE, WE CAN EXPECT GROWTH IN OUR ECONOMY. IF WE BECOME DEPENDENT ON FOREIGN SUPPLIES, WE CAN

EXPECT CURTAILMENT IN OUR GROWTH, SINCE IT WILL BE SUBJECT TO POLITICAL FORCES BEYOND OUR CONTROL -- RADICAL FORCES.

IN RECENT YEARS OUR ABILITY TO DEVELOP ENERGY SUPPLIES HAS BEEN SO HAMPERED BY GOVERNMENT, ECOLOGICAL AND TAX INTERESTS THAT U.S. SUPPLIES OF ENERGY ARE BEING CONSUMED AT A MUCH FASTER RATE THAN THEY ARE BEING DEVELOPED.

WE IN THE UNITED STATES THEREFORE MAY BE ON THE VERGE OF A MAJOR CATASTROPHE -- LACK OF SECURE ENERGY RESOURCES TO OPERATE OUR VAST INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX AND OUR TRANSPORTATION SYSTEMS AND TO HEAT OUR HOMES.

WE DO NOT LACK THE RESOURCES, BUT WE HAVE LACKED SUFFICIENT INCENTIVE FOR THEIR DEVELOPMENT -- AND THAT SITUATION

MUST BE CHANGED, AND QUICKLY.

WE HAVE REACHED A POINT WHERE THE CONGRESS AND ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS MUST ACT DECISIVELY TO END THE ENERGY CRISIS -- WHILE AT THE SAME TIME STRENGTHENING AND MODERATING OUR ENVIRONMENTAL REQUIREMENTS IN THE BEST INTERESTS OF ALL CONCERNED.

WE HAVE REACHED THE PEAK OF CONFLICT BETWEEN THE DEMANDS OF THE ECONOMY FOR ENERGY AND THE NEED TO PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT -- AND THIS CONFLICT MUST BE RESOLVED.

AN EXPANDING ECONOMY IS CLEARLY NECESSARY IF WE ARE TO SOLVE OUR DOMESTIC PROBLEMS AND PROVIDE JOBS AND INCOME FOR OUR CITIZENS.

OUR NATIONAL ENERGY DEMANDS HAVE EXPANDED BY 4.8 PER CENT PER YEAR IN ORDER TO MEET THE NEEDS OF A HEALTHY ECONOMY. AT THE SAME TIME, WE HAVE BECOME MORE AND MORE CONSCIOUS OF THE NEED TO PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT AND TO PRESERVE OUR NATIONAL RESOURCES BEFORE OUR AIR BECOMES UNBREATHABLE AND OUR WATER INCAPABLE OF SUPPORTING LIFE.

IT IS ON THE ISSUE OF ENERGY THAT WE ARE GOING TO MEET OUR FIRST REALLY DIFFICULT TEST OF ATTEMPTING TO ACCOMMODATE CONFLICTING ENVIRONMENTAL AND ECONOMIC NEEDS.

IN THIS CONNECTION, IT STRIKES ME THAT THOSE OF YOU IN THE NATURAL GAS INDUSTRY HAVE A STORY TO TELL. DON'T ASSUME THAT THE MAN ON THE STREET KNOWS

GAS IS THE CLEANEST BURNING FUEL BEING PRODUCED TODAY. TELL AMERICANS AGAIN AND AGAIN THAT GAS IS RELATIVELY POLLUTION-FREE. UNDERSCORE THE FACT THAT NATURAL GAS DOES NOT POLLUTE WATER, DOES NOT PERMANENTLY SCAR OUR LANDSCAPES AND OFFERS THE BEST HOPE FOR ALLEVIATING AIR POLLUTION.

WHEN AMERICANS TALK ABOUT THE ALASKA OIL PIPELINE, HOW MANY OF THEM REALIZE THAT TREMENDOUS RESERVES OF NATURAL GAS HAVE BEEN DISCOVERED IN ALASKA IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE OIL THERE? HOW MANY AMERICANS KNOW THAT THIS NATURAL GAS CANNOT BE TAKEN OUT UNTIL THE OIL IS BEING PRODUCED? HOW MANY PEOPLE KNOW THAT A CONSORTIUM OF ENERGY COMPANIES ARE FINALIZING PLANS TO BUILD A NATURAL GAS PIPELINE FROM ALASKA THROUGH CANADA TO

THE LOWER 48 STATES? HOW MANY AMERICANS HAVE ANY IDEA THAT CONSTRUCTION OF THE ALASKA PIPELINE IS AN ESSENTIAL FIRST STEP IN BRINGING THE VAST GAS SUPPLIES OF THE ALASKA NORTH SLOPE TO CONSUMERS IN THE LOWER 48 STATES? AND HOW MANY PEOPLE REALIZE THAT CONSTRUCTION OF A GAS PIPELINE THROUGH CANADA TO THE LOWER 48 STATES CANNOT PROCEED UNTIL THE ALASKA OIL LINE IS LAID?

TO ME IT IS SHOCKING THAT WE DISCOVERED OIL AND GAS IN HUGE QUANTITIES IN ALASKA BACK IN FEBRUARY 1968 AND WE'RE STILL JUST TALKING ABOUT HOW TO MOVE IT FROM THERE TO HERE.

I CANNOT UNDERSTAND, EITHER, THE CURRENT TALK ABOUT BUILDING AN OIL LINE THROUGH CANADA INSTEAD OF THROUGH ALASKA.



TO ME THIS KIND OF TALK JUST DOESN'T MAKE SENSE.

A TRANS-CANADIAN LINE WOULD TAKE ABOUT FIVE MORE YEARS TO BUILD THAN A TRANS-ALASKA LINE. IT WOULD BE UNDER THE CONTROL OF A FOREIGN GOVERNMENT. AND THE POTENTIAL FOR ENVIRONMENTAL DAMAGE WOULD BE JUST AS GREAT IF NOT GREATER.

LOOKING AT THIS MATTER FROM THE STANDPOINT OF BRINGING ALASKAN GAS TO THE LOWER 48 STATES, GAS WOULD FLOW TO THE LOWER 48 STATES BY ABOUT 1978 IF THE OIL LINE WERE BUILT THROUGH ALASKA. BUT IF THE OIL LINE IS CONSTRUCTED THROUGH CANADA, THE GAS LINE WOULD BE DELAYED UNTIL THE MID-1980's OR BEYOND. AND I AM TOLD BY YOUR EXPERTS THAT THE COST OF THE GAS THEN WOULD BE INCREASED SO SIGNIFICANTLY AS TO

CAST DOUBT ON THE ECONOMIC FEASIBILITY OF THE ENTIRE UNDERTAKING.

I SUPPORT LEGISLATION WHICH WOULD PERMIT CONSTRUCTION OF THE TRANS-ALASKA PIPELINE AT THE EARLIEST POSSIBLE DATE.

AS YOU KNOW, MOST OF THE DELAYS IN DEVELOPING THE ALASKAN OIL AND GAS SUPPLIES HAVE BEEN CAUSED BY SOME ENVIRONMENTALISTS.

RECENTLY THE UNITED STATES SUPREME COURT CONFIRMED A DECISION THAT UNDER EXISTING LAW NO PIPELINE COULD BE CONSTRUCTED ACROSS ALASKA WITH A RIGHT OF WAY GREATER THAN 54 FEET IN WIDTH. SINCE IT IS CONSIDERED NECESSARY TO HAVE A MINIMUM RIGHT OF WAY OF 100 FEET FOR EARTH-MOVING AND OTHER CONSTRUCTION EQUIPMENT, THIS COURT DECISION EFFECTIVELY BLOCKS ANY

PIPELINE DEVELOPMENT FOR THE TIME BEING.

THIS DUMPED THE ALASKAN PIPELINE CONTROVERSY RIGHT INTO THE LAPS OF CONGRESS, WHERE EXPANDED RIGHT-OF-WAY LEGISLATION NOW IS BEING CONSIDERED.

I CAN REPORT TO YOU THIS MORNING THAT ALASKAN PIPELINE RIGHT-OF-WAY LEGISLATION WILL PROBABLY REACH THE HOUSE FLOOR IN LATE JUNE OR EARLY JULY -- THE SOONER THE BETTER.

CITIZENS OF ALASKA ARE ANXIOUS TO DEVELOP THEIR GREAT OIL AND GAS RESOURCES IN ORDER TO ENHANCE THE ALASKAN ECONOMY.

GOVERNMENT ECONOMISTS ARE ANXIOUS TO INCREASE THIS SOURCE OF AMERICAN PETROLEUM PRODUCTS, ESTIMATED AT 25 PER CENT OF OUR AMERICAN OIL SUPPLY, IN ORDER TO

PROTECT BOTH THE AMERICAN OIL INDUSTRY AND THE AMERICAN CONSUMER AGAINST THE UNWARRANTED PRICE INCREASES WHICH FOREIGN PRODUCERS MIGHT OTHERWISE IMPOSE.

FINALLY, IMPROVEMENT OF THE AMERICAN ECONOMY ITSELF IS DEPENDENT UPON EXPLOITING THIS DOMESTIC SOURCE OF OIL AND GAS. BY DEVELOPING THIS DOMESTIC SUPPLY, THE PRICE OF GASOLINE AND OTHER PETROLEUM PRODUCTS CAN BE HELD IN LINE. OUR NATIONAL ECONOMY CAN BE STABILIZED -- AND THE FIGHT AGAINST INFLATION CAN BE REINFORCED.

I AM FROM MICHIGAN. I WOULD LIKE TO POINT OUT THAT THE ALASKAN PIPELINE CONTROVERSY IS OF SPECIAL INTEREST TO CITIZENS OF MID-AMERICA WHERE THE PINCH OF

OIL AND NATURAL GAS SHORTAGES IS BEING EXPERIENCED TO A GREATER EXTENT THAN ELSEWHERE IN THE NATION. THERE ARE THOSE WHO SAY TO ME THAT ALASKAN OIL FLOWING THROUGH AN ALASKAN RATHER THAN A CANADIAN PIPELINE WILL GO PRIMARILY TO THE WEST COAST. MY ANSWER IS THAT CONSTRUCTION OF AN ALASKAN PIPELINE WILL BENEFIT THE ENTIRE ECONOMY AND WILL BRING THE MIDWEST ADDITIONAL NATURAL GAS MANY YEARS SOONER THAN WOULD A TRANS-CANADIAN OIL LINE.

I THINK THE NEED TO BRING ALASKAN GAS TO THE MIDWEST AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE HAS BEEN OVERLOOKED FOR TOO LONG.

AS FOR THE ENVIRONMENTALISTS WHO HAVE BEEN FIGHTING THE TRANS-ALASKAN PIPELINE, IT IS TIME THEY TOOK PROPER NOTICE OF THE TREMENDOUS CLEAN AIR BENEFITS WHICH

THE VAST ALASKAN NATURAL GAS RESERVES HOLD FOR OUR CROWDED METROPOLITAN AREAS.

TO THIS POINT I HAVE TOUCHED ON ONLY PART OF THE ENERGY PROBLEM AND ONLY PART OF THE SOLUTION.

LET ME NOW SKETCH FOR YOU IN BROAD OUTLINE THE COURSE OF ACTION I BELIEVE THE UNITED STATES SHOULD FOLLOW TO DEAL WITH THE ENERGY CRISIS.

1. WE SHOULD ESTABLISH A DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES TO PULL TOGETHER THE FRAGMENTED STRUCTURE OF THE FEDERAL AGENCIES AND BUREAUS NOW DEALING WITH ALL NATURAL RESOURCES.

2. WE SHOULD ESTABLISH AND ENFORCE ENVIRONMENTAL STANDARDS FOR ALL ENERGY DEVELOPING AND CONSUMING INDUSTRIES,

WITH THESE STANDARDS TO BE MODIFIED WHEN JUSTIFIED. FLEXIBILITY SEEMS DESIRABLE TO MEET UNEXPECTED PROBLEMS.

3. WE SHOULD DEVELOP ALL CURRENTLY KNOWN OIL AND GAS RESOURCES TO THE MAXIMUM EXTENT CONSISTENT WITH ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS. WE SHOULD BUILD THE ALASKAN OIL PIPELINE AND A NATURAL GAS LINE FROM ALASKA THROUGH CANADA , INCREASE LEASE SALES IN THE GULF OF MEXICO AND THE OUTER CONTINENTAL SHELF OF THE U.S. AND ALLOW DEVELOPMENT IN CALIFORNIA WATERS, AND ALLOW FOR THE IMPORT OF MATERIALS THAT CAN BE CONVERTED TO GAS.

4. WE SHOULD ENCOURAGE DOMESTIC OIL AND GAS EXPLORATION AND DEVELOPMENT.

5. WE SHOULD PROVIDE INCENTIVES FOR THE DOMESTIC DEVELOPMENT OF

NON-HISTORIC SOURCES OF ENERGY, PRODUCING LIQUID AND GASEOUS FUELS FROM OIL SHALE, COAL AND TAR SANDS AND DEVELOPING NUCLEAR STIMULATION WHERE IT CAN BE SHOWN TO BE ADVANTAGEOUS.

AS YOU KNOW, THE FASTEST AND MOST EASILY ACCESSIBLE SOURCE OF MAJOR NEW NATURAL GAS IS THE OFFSHORE AREAS OF THE OUTER CONTINENTAL SHELF. IN RESPONSE TO A DIRECTIVE FROM THE PRESIDENT, THE DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR HAS TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED TWO MAJOR LEASE SALES EACH YEAR THROUGH 1975 IN THE GULF OF MEXICO AND OFF THE PACIFIC AND ATLANTIC COASTS. THE ADDITIONAL POTENTIAL GAS RESERVES UNDER THE OUTER CONTINENTAL SHELF COULD SUPPLY THE NATION'S GAS NEEDS FOR ANOTHER 10 YEARS.

THERE IS NO POINT IN MY RECITING



FACTS YOU ALREADY KNOW. I WOULD LIKE TO MAKE THE POINT, HOWEVER, THAT THE FUSS BEING MADE OVER THE USE OF NUCLEAR POWER TO RELEASE THE GAS LOCKED IN THE ROCK FORMATIONS IN THE ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGION IS RIDICULOUS. AS YOU ARE AWARE, TWO EXPERIMENTS HAVE ALREADY BEEN CONDUCTED IN NEW MEXICO AND COLORADO AND BOTH INDUSTRY AND THE ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION ARE MONITORING THE RESULTS OF THE EXISTING WELLS.

THE AEC HAS SHOWN THAT RADIOACTIVITY ASSOCIATED WITH GAS PRODUCED FROM NUCLEAR-STIMULATED WELLS IS EXTREMELY LOW AND WELL WITHIN ESTABLISHED LIMITS. AT THE SAME TIME, THE FACT THAT AN ESTIMATED 300 TRILLION CUBIC FEET OF GAS ARE LOCKED IN THIS RELATIVELY IMPERMEABLE ROCK DEMANDS THAT WE ACT.

AND NOW -- AS LADY GODIVA SAID TO HER HORSE AT THE END OF HER RIDE -- WE COME TO THE CLOSE (CLOTHES).

WE CAN MEET OUR ENERGY NEEDS AND PROVIDE FOR THE GROWTH VITAL TO OUR WELL-BEING, BUT IT WILL TAKE BOLD AND IMAGINATIVE STEPS AS WELL AS A CONCERTED EFFORT AND A COMPLETE UNDERSTANDING OF THE PROBLEM BY ALL OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE.

AS I SAID EARLIER, THOSE OF YOU IN THE NATURAL GAS INDUSTRY HAVE A STORY TO TELL. THE NATURAL GAS MAN IS MR. CLEAN, AND THAT'S AN ENVIABLE TITLE IN THIS AGE OF ECOLOGY.

THE NATION AND THE WORLD NEED BOTH A CLEAN ENVIRONMENT AND INCREASED ENERGY. RESOLVING THE CONFLICT BETWEEN THESE REQUIREMENTS WILL NOT BE EASY, BUT IT

CAN BE DONE. WE FACE A CHALLENGE TO OUR SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH, OUR LONGTERM GOVERNMENTAL AND PRIVATE PLANNING AND OUR IMAGINATIONS.

THIS IS AN ISSUE WHICH DEMANDS THE PARTICIPATION OF EVERY RESPONSIBLE SEGMENT IN OUR SOCIETY. THIS INCLUDES BUSINESS AND GOVERNMENT, WORKING TOGETHER TO FIND THE PROPER SOLUTIONS. WE KNOW WHAT THE PROBLEMS ARE. IT'S TIME FOR US TO ACT.

-- END --

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REMARKS BY REP. GERALD R. FORD, R-MICH.  
REPUBLICAN LEADER, U. S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
BEFORE THE AMERICAN GAS ASSOCIATION  
WASHINGTON HILTON HOTEL  
9:40 a.m. THURSDAY, MAY 17, 1973

FOR RELEASE ON DELIVERY

For the last quarter of a century the American people have been plagued by many problems -- World War II, Korea and Vietnam; racial strife and political upheaval; balance of payments and world monetary dislocations; strikes, inflation; and environmental and ecology issues.

In spite of all of our troubles we have improved our standard of living and the United States has grown at an unprecedented rate.

We now are moving through a period when some Americans would like to halt the wheels of progress. They would like to stop all growth.

There is no question that many of our problems are a result of growth. But in a free-enterprise democratic society, growth is essential.

The greater the growth, the greater the problems of control. But this does not mean that growth should be halted.

The United States' dramatic growth has been due in part to its tremendous abundance of raw materials. Our recent growth to the status of a major world power has been due, to a large extent, to our huge energy resources.

As long as we can provide our own energy supplies or have secure supplies available at a reasonable price, we can expect growth in our economy. If we become dependent on foreign supplies, we can expect curtailment in our growth, since it will be subject to political forces beyond our control -- radical forces.

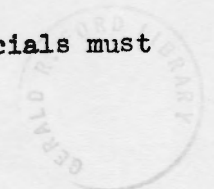
In recent years our ability to develop energy supplies has been so hampered by government, ecological and tax interests that U.S. supplies of energy are being consumed at a much faster rate than they are being developed.

We in the United States therefore may be on the verge of a major catastrophe -- lack of secure energy resources to operate our vast industrial complex and our transportation systems and to heat our homes.

We do not lack the resources, but we have lacked sufficient incentive for their development -- and that situation must be changed, and quickly.

We have reached a point where the Congress and Administration officials must

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act decisively to end the energy crisis -- while at the same time strengthening and moderating our environmental requirements in the best interests of all concerned.

We have reached the peak of conflict between the demands of the economy for energy and the need to protect the environment -- and this conflict must be resolved.

An expanding economy is clearly necessary if we are to solve our domestic problems and provide jobs and income for our citizens.

Our national energy demands have expanded by 4.8 per cent per year in order to meet the needs of a healthy economy. At the same time, we have become more and more conscious of the need to protect the environment and to preserve our national resources before our air becomes unbreathable and our water incapable of supporting life.

It is on the issue of energy that we are going to meet our first really difficult test of attempting to accommodate conflicting environmental and economic needs.

In this connection, it strikes me that those of you in the natural gas industry have a story to tell. Don't assume that the man on the street knows gas is the cleanest burning fuel being produced today. Tell Americans again and again that gas is relatively pollution-free. Underscore the fact that natural gas does not pollute water, does not permanently scar our landscapes and offers the best hope for alleviating air pollution.

When Americans talk about the Alaska oil pipeline, how many of them realize that tremendous reserves of natural gas have been discovered in Alaska in conjunction with the oil there? How many Americans know that this natural gas cannot be taken out until the oil is being produced? How many people know that a consortium of energy companies are finalizing plans to build a natural gas pipeline from Alaska through Canada to the Lower 48 States? How many Americans have any idea that construction of the Alaska pipeline is an essential first step in bringing the vast gas supplies of the Alaska North Slope to consumers in the Lower 48 States? And how many people realize that construction of a gas pipeline through Canada to the Lower 48 States cannot proceed until the Alaska oil line is laid?

To me it is shocking that we discovered oil and gas in huge quantities in Alaska back in February 1968 and we're still just talking about how to move it from there to here.

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I cannot understand, either, the current talk about building an oil line through Canada instead of through Alaska. To me this kind of talk just doesn't make sense.

A trans-Canadian line would take about five more years to build than a trans-Alaska line. It would be under the control of a foreign government. And the potential for environmental damage would be just as great if not greater.

Looking at this matter from the standpoint of bringing Alaskan gas to the Lower 48 States, gas would flow to the Lower 48 States by about 1978 if the oil line were built through Alaska. But if the oil line is constructed through Canada, the gas line would be delayed until the mid-1980's or beyond. And I am told by your experts that the cost of the gas then would be increased so significantly as to cast doubt on the economic feasibility of the entire undertaking.

I support legislation which would permit construction of the trans-Alaska pipeline at the earliest possible date.

As you know, most of the delays in developing the Alaskan oil and gas supplies have been caused by some environmentalists.

Recently the United States Supreme Court confirmed a decision that under existing law no pipeline could be constructed across Alaska with a right of way greater than 54 feet in width. Since it is considered necessary to have a minimum right of way of 100 feet for earth-moving and other construction equipment, this court decision effectively blocks any pipeline development for the time being.

This dumped the Alaskan pipeline controversy right into the laps of Congress, where expanded right-of-way legislation now is being considered.

I can report to you this morning that Alaskan pipeline right-of-way legislation will probably reach the House floor in late June or early July -- the sooner the better.

Citizens of Alaska are anxious to develop their great oil and gas resources in order to enhance the Alaskan economy.

Government economists are anxious to increase this source of American petroleum products, estimated at 25 per cent of our American oil supply, in order to protect both the American oil industry and the American consumer against the unwarranted price increases which foreign producers might otherwise impose.

Finally, improvement of the American economy itself is dependent upon exploiting this domestic source of oil and gas. By developing this domestic supply,

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the price of gasoline and other petroleum products can be held in line. Our national economy can be stabilized -- and the fight against inflation can be reinforced.

I am from Michigan. I would like to point out that the Alaskan pipeline controversy is of special interest to citizens of mid-America where the pinch of oil and natural gas shortages is being experienced to a greater extent than elsewhere in the nation. There are those who say to me that Alaskan oil flowing through an Alaskan rather than a Canadian pipeline will go primarily to the West Coast. My answer is that construction of an Alaskan pipeline will benefit the entire economy and will bring the Midwest/natural gas many years sooner than would a trans-Canadian oil line.

I think the need to bring Alaskan gas to the Midwest as quickly as possible has been overlooked for too long.

As for the environmentalists who have been fighting the trans-Alaskan pipeline, it is time they took proper notice of the tremendous clean air benefits which the vast Alaskan natural gas reserves hold for our crowded metropolitan areas.

To this point I have touched on only part of the energy problem and only part of the solution.

Let me now sketch for you in broad outline the course of action I believe the United States should follow to deal with the energy crisis.

1. We should establish a Department of Natural Resources to pull together the fragmented structure of the federal agencies and bureaus now dealing with all natural resources.

2. We should establish and enforce environmental standards for all energy developing and consuming industries, with these standards to be modified when justified. Flexibility seems desirable to meet unexpected problems.

3. We should develop all currently known oil and gas resources to the maximum extent consistent with environmental considerations. We should build the Alaskan oil pipeline and a natural gas line from Alaska through Canada, increase lease sales in the Gulf of Mexico and the Outer Continental Shelf of the U.S. and allow development in California waters, and allow for the import of materials that can be converted to gas.

4. We should encourage domestic oil and gas exploration and development.

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5. We should provide incentives for the domestic development of non-historic sources of energy, producing liquid and gaseous fuels from oil shale, coal and tar sands and developing nuclear stimulation where it can be shown to be advantageous.

As you know, the fastest and most easily accessible source of major new natural gas is the offshore areas of the Outer Continental Shelf. In response to a directive from the President, the Department of Interior has tentatively scheduled two major lease sales each year through 1975 in the Gulf of Mexico and off the Pacific and Atlantic Coasts. The additional potential gas reserves under the Outer Continental Shelf could supply the nation's gas needs for another 10 years.

There is no point in my reciting facts you already know. I would like to make the point, however, that the fuss being made over the use of nuclear power to release the gas locked in the rock formations in the Rocky Mountain region is ridiculous. As you are aware, two experiments have already been conducted in New Mexico and Colorado and both industry and the Atomic Energy Commission are monitoring the results of the existing wells.

The AEC has shown that radioactivity associated with gas produced from nuclear-stimulated wells is extremely low and well within established limits. At the same time, the fact that an estimated 300 trillion cubic feet of gas are locked in this relatively impermeable rock demands that we act.

And now -- as Lady Godiva said to her horse at the end of her ride -- we come to the close (clothes).

We can meet our energy needs and provide for the growth vital to our well-being, but it will take bold and imaginative steps as well as a concerted effort and a complete understanding of the problem by all of the American people.

As I said earlier, those of you in the natural gas industry have a story to tell. The natural gas man is Mr. Clean, and that's an enviable title in this age of ecology.

The nation and the world need both a clean environment and increased energy. Resolving the conflict between these requirements will not be easy, but it can be done. We face a challenge to our scientific research, our longterm governmental and private planning and our imaginations.

This is an issue which demands the participation of every responsible segment in our society. This includes business and government, working together to find the proper solutions. We know what the problems are. It's time for us to act.

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I can report to you this morning that Alaskan pipeline right-of-way legislation will probably reach the House floor in late June or early July -- the sooner the better.

Citizens of Alaska are anxious to develop their great oil and gas resources in order to enhance the Alaskan economy.

Government economists are anxious to increase this source of American petroleum products, estimated at 25 per cent of our American oil supply, in order to protect both the American oil industry and the American consumer against the unwarranted price increases which foreign producers might otherwise impose.

Finally, improvement of the American economy itself is dependent upon exploiting this domestic source of oil and gas. By developing this domestic supply,

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the price of gasoline and other petroleum products can be held in line. Our national economy can be stabilized -- and the fight against inflation can be reinforced.

I am from Michigan. I would like to point out that the Alaskan pipeline controversy is of special interest to citizens of mid-America where the pinch of oil and natural gas shortages is being experienced to a greater extent than elsewhere in the nation. There are those who say to me that Alaskan oil flowing through an Alaskan rather than a Canadian pipeline will go primarily to the West Coast. My answer is that construction of an Alaskan pipeline will benefit the entire economy and will bring the Midwest/natural gas many years sooner than would a trans-Canadian oil line.

I think the need to bring Alaskan gas to the Midwest as quickly as possible has been overlooked for too long.

As for the environmentalists who have been fighting the trans-Alaskan pipeline, it is time they took proper notice of the tremendous clean air benefits which the vast Alaskan natural gas reserves hold for our crowded metropolitan areas.

To this point I have touched on only part of the energy problem and only part of the solution.

Let me now sketch for you in broad outline the course of action I believe the United States should follow to deal with the energy crisis.

1. We should establish a Department of Natural Resources to pull together the fragmented structure of the federal agencies and bureaus now dealing with all natural resources.

2. We should establish and enforce environmental standards for all energy developing and consuming industries, with these standards to be modified when justified. Flexibility seems desirable to meet unexpected problems.

3. We should develop all currently known oil and gas resources to the maximum extent consistent with environmental considerations. We should build the Alaskan oil pipeline and a natural gas line from Alaska through Canada, increase lease sales in the Gulf of Mexico and the Outer Continental Shelf of the U.S. and allow development in California waters, and allow for the import of materials that can be converted to gas.

4. We should encourage domestic oil and gas exploration and development.

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5. We should provide incentives for the domestic development of non-historic sources of energy, producing liquid and gaseous fuels from oil shale, coal and tar sands and developing nuclear stimulation where it can be shown to be advantageous.

As you know, the fastest and most easily accessible source of major new natural gas is the offshore areas of the Outer Continental Shelf. In response to a directive from the President, the Department of Interior has tentatively scheduled two major lease sales each year through 1975 in the Gulf of Mexico and off the Pacific and Atlantic Coasts. The additional potential gas reserves under the Outer Continental Shelf could supply the nation's gas needs for another 10 years.

There is no point in my reciting facts you already know. I would like to make the point, however, that the fuss being made over the use of nuclear power to release the gas locked in the rock formations in the Rocky Mountain region is ridiculous. As you are aware, two experiments have already been conducted in New Mexico and Colorado and both industry and the Atomic Energy Commission are monitoring the results of the existing wells.

The AEC has shown that radioactivity associated with gas produced from nuclear-stimulated wells is extremely low and well within established limits. At the same time, the fact that an estimated 300 trillion cubic feet of gas are locked in this relatively impermeable rock demands that we act.

And now -- as Lady Godiva said to her horse at the end of her ride -- we come to the close (clothes).

We can meet our energy needs and provide for the growth vital to our well-being, but it will take bold and imaginative steps as well as a concerted effort and a complete understanding of the problem by all of the American people.

As I said earlier, those of you in the natural gas industry have a story to tell. The natural gas man is Mr. Clean, and that's an enviable title in this age of ecology.

The nation and the world need both a clean environment and increased energy. Resolving the conflict between these requirements will not be easy, but it can be done. We face a challenge to our scientific research, our longterm governmental and private planning and our imaginations.

This is an issue which demands the participation of every responsible segment in our society. This includes business and government, working together to find the proper solutions. We know what the problems are. It's time for us to act.