

Oil crisis here . . .

MEMPHIS (UPI) — Energy adviser John Love said Tuesday a White House announcement was expected shortly on the possible closing of gasoline stations around the country on weekends.

Love, a former GOP governor of Colorado, was asked about reports that the President was considering closing service stations up to 36 hours from Saturday night through Sunday to cut back on gas consumption.

"We may have an announcement on some decision on that by tomorrow," Love said. "Of course people can always gas up for the weekend on Saturday but it would still go a step toward curbing driving on weekends."

Interior Secretary Rogers Morton warned the governors that America could reach the minimum operable supplies of fuel oil and gasoline in December or January.

"If steps are not taken quickly," Morton said, "at the present rate we're drawing down draining fuel, we will reach minimum operating inventories of residual oil, distillates, and gasoline

during the month of January, perhaps even during the month of December."

Morton said the administration is looking into plans for fuel cuts of 30 per cent in passenger cars, 15 per cent in home heating, 25 per cent in commercial heating, 20 per cent by utilities and 20 per cent by airlines.

"If we can save two or three gallons per week per car," said Morton, "we can put a million barrels of oil a day into other needed areas."

At a panel on energy, nine governors indicated they preferred a nationwide speed limit of 55 miles per hour, while eight favored 50 m.p.h.

Gov. William Milliken, of Michigan, suggested that a meeting be called of the nation's 50 governors to discuss the crisis.

"Republicans and Democrats need to get together and work this thing out," said Milliken, adding he was against both a gasoline tax and possible gas rationing.

Love and Morton told the governors that no definite decisions had been made yet on fuel rationing.

. . . and overseas

By United Press International

Western European nations took a new, still secret stand on the Middle East crisis Tuesday in an attempt to soften Arab oil restrictions and gingerly sought to help the Dutch without endangering their own supplies. To conserve energy, Japan banned the "late late show" on television and instituted other major measures.

Meeting for two hours behind closed doors in Copenhagen, the foreign ministers of the nine European Common Market countries, decided on a statement to be relayed soon to the Arab oil producing nations. It was believed to be similar to an earlier statement calling for Israeli withdrawal from occupied Arab lands.

An hour after the meeting, Saudi Arabian Oil Minister Sheikh Ahmed Zeki Yamani arrived in Copenhagen by air on what he said was a visit to see his doctor but his arrival generated speculation that new oil talks would take place there.

In a separate meeting in Paris, the Western European Union (WEU) called for a joint embargo, with Soviet and U.S. participation, on weapons to both Israel and the Arab states. It also urged immediate development of a European nuclear energy plant in a 43-page report on energy problems adopted by a 13-1 vote of the WEU Assembly General Affairs Committee.

Diplomats in Copenhagen said the other eight nations might respond to Holland's distress by agreeing quietly to share some oil or to approach the Arab oil-producing nations

discreetly on behalf of their ally.

Yamani said Holland, like the United States, "took a hostile attitude toward the Arabs and Holland must act before they get more oil."

"...We want results, not assurances. Europe should put pressure on the United States and Israel to make Israel withdraw from the occupied territories."

The Arab states have embargoed oil shipments to Holland, along with the United States, because of its allegedly pro-Israeli stance during the October war. Oil has continued to flow in restricted quantities to the other eight and the Arabs rubbed in the difference Sunday by announcing that the eight were exempt from the next round of production cuts next month.

This exemption rewarded a pro-Arab statement passed by all nine nations Nov. 6. Diplomats outside the locked chamber of Christiansborg palace where the ministers met said the eight were "grateful" for the reprieve but embarrassed by the Arab attempt—successful so far—to split the nine in the first external challenge to their unity.

Dutch Foreign Minister Max van der Stoep presented the case for the Netherlands and Dutch sources said he stressed the growing seriousness of the situation. Dutch officials dropped hints outside the conference room of retaliation for lack of solidarity, including a cutoff in Dutch natural gas exports.

The ministers also agreed on a "fireside summit" of European presidents and prime ministers to be held here Dec. 14-15. Officials said oil and the Middle East will be at the top of the agenda.

Nixon apologises to GOP governors for 'Watergate'

MEMPHIS (UPI) — President Nixon told the nation's Republican governors Tuesday he was sorry if he had "added to their burden," but assured them he knew of no further scandals in his administration.

Continuing his campaign to regain the public's confidence, the President flew in from Key Biscayne, Fla., to confer in private with members of the Republican Governors Association for an hour and 40 minutes.

Gov. Meldrim Thomson of New Hampshire said Nixon "laid it on the line" about the Watergate affair and other issues ranging from the economy to the energy crisis.

"We raised some terrible questions," reported Gov. Tom McCall of Oregon. "I was amazed. I've known him for 20 years and I've never seen him more calm and relaxed."

The President stopped over at the GOP governors' conference en route back to Washington and a Thanksgiving stay with his family at the Camp David, Md., presidential retreat. Crowds turning out for his arrival and departure were mainly friendly, but small groups demonstrated against him in the background.

The President's plane arrived at Andrews Air Force Base outside Washington at 6:07 p.m. EST.

After the session with the state chief executives, Gov. Winfield Dunn of Tennessee quoted Nixon as telling his guests regarding the outlook for the remainder of his term: "If there are any more bombs I don't know about them."

Thompson said: "He told us, 'You can take it from me that I would not pull the rug out from under you, there is nothing in Watergate that would embarrass you.'"

Dunn, Govs. Christopher Bond of Missouri, James Holshouser, Jr. of North Carolina and Robert Ray of Iowa also said Nixon promised to disclose specific information to refute various allegations against him in the weeks and months ahead.

"The President looked around the room and said, 'I'm sorry if I have added to your burden,'" Dunn reported.

Gov. Daniel Evans of Washington said no "overwhelming amount of time" was spent on Watergate during the meeting, but that "the President gave a very complete response to the questions put to him. Everyone there was very encouraged and very pleased," Evans said.

Several of the governors quoted the President as saying he would not appear before the Senate

Watergate Committee, although Sen. Barry Goldwater, (R-Ariz.), told UPI in Washington that the President had not ruled this out.

Dunn said Nixon told the governors he did not think it was "incumbent on him to go before the Senate Watergate Committee under the kleig lights" but indicated a willingness to meet privately with members of the panel.

Dunn also reported that "in the very near future there will be a number of papers issued which will clarify the specific issues" regarding charges against the President.

Ray, summing up the session, said: "He left us with the feeling he definitely will be going to the press and public and that's a very healthy sign."

"...I think there was general satisfaction on the part of the governors," commented McCall.

Thompson said Gov. Ronald Reagan of California "asked him for instance about that \$67,000 spent for heating the Western White House at San Clemente. He told us that the Secret Service insisted on that for fire prevention purposes."

Holshouser said the President "went into very much detail on his personal finances."

Thompson said Nixon stressed again "there would be no resignation" — a statement he has made repeatedly since undertaking the effort to restore public confidence in his administration.

Before going into session with the governors, the President made a five-minute, campaign-style speech to perhaps 4,000 persons gathered outside the Riverfront Hotel, saying "as a result of our policies, America is at peace throughout the world for the first time in 12 years."

During the speech, one group chanted, "Nixon must go, Nixon must go." Supporters carried signs saying "Thank you for getting us out of Vietnam" and "We're behind you 100 percent."

After the meeting with 18 of the 19 GOP governors, Dunn said, "the President left no doubt he was absolutely in control of himself physically and mentally."

"I don't think there is any question he is governing and governing effectively," Dunn said.

The governors said the President replied to questions on a full range of subjects aside from the Watergate and his personal finances, including international affairs and the nation's domestic needs.

After the meeting, the smiling President shook hands briefly with some of the wellwishers crowded into the hotel lobby to greet him.

Egypt, Israel focus on pullback

By United Press International

Egypt has asked the United Nations for more details on Israeli construction of a causeway across the Suez Canal which Cairo considers is a serious breach of the 1973 Middle East cease-fire stabilization agreement, diplomatic sources said Tuesday.

In Jerusalem, Prime Minister Golda Meir's cabinet met in emergency session to discuss what a government source described as "delicate negotiations" on the most important of the six-point agreement—the disengagement of Egyptian and Israeli troops along the Suez Canal.

Maj. Gen. Aharon Yariv, Meir's special adviser and chief negotiator for Israel, walked into the meeting with Lt. Gen. David Elazar, armed forces chief of staff. Both carried rolls of big maps.

Yariv said after his latest round of talks Monday with Egyptian Maj. Gen. Mohammed Gamassy at Kilometer 101 on the Cairo-Suez road—their fifth—that "a disengagement of forces will be very, very difficult." Another meeting between the two generals has been set for Thursday.

The Israeli source said the negotiations centering on Meir's proposal for a mutual withdrawal by both armies to the pre-October war lines with a U.N. wedge in-between was more important than any of the other points in the agreement.

"These are delicate negotiations," the source said in Jerusalem. "This is far more important because it encompasses a movement of troops, which would be a noted change in the situation. The other things thus far have only been technical."

An official communique issued after a five-hour meeting gave no details of the proposals discussed. It said only that Yariv "reported on his conversations with Egyptian representatives."

"Following the reports, a discussion was held on the subjects discussed in the conversations" held Monday in a tent on the cease-fire line in the desert inside of Egypt.

Cabinet ministers refused to comment except for Immigration Minister Nathan Peled who said, "it was a very important and very interesting meeting." He refused to elaborate.

Aspects of the cease-fire agreement signed last Sunday. Egypt and Israel sent out three joint teams of soldiers to search for missing troops in the Sinai Desert.

Twenty Israeli POWs arrived at Lod Airport from Cairo 12 hours late because of what Cairo said was "technical problems." The Red Cross said Israel is expected to return at least 1,500 Egyptian POWs during the day.

Lazy mailman sent to jail

LLANDOUGH, Wales (UPI) — Postman Andrew Chapman got tired delivering the mail, Cardiff Crown Court was told Monday.

So, instead of delivering letters and parcels he took them home and put them in a shed.

Police said they found more than 100 undelivered items in the 23-year-old postman's home.

"On some days," Chapman told police, "I didn't feel like working."

Judge John Rutter jailed Chapman for a year.