

It subsequently was granted but no part of that grant of import quotas of No. 2 fuel oil was utilized in the heating season just passed. In addition to the appeals board giving them what they had requested for this past heating season, they extended that into the 1968-69 heating season which means that all of the import quotas that they were granted under the emergency provision of the act will be utilized in the 1968-69 season. None of the import quotas which they were asking for were in any way utilized in the past heating season.

Mr. BURKE. Not in defense of the Secretary of the Interior, but I want to point out that you people are being critical of him because he has raised these quotas slightly and up in our area we are very critical of him because he hasn't raised them enough, so, you see, the Secretary of the Interior is a devil if he does and a devil if he doesn't.

I think he has tried to work in a very fair way with both your industry and with the problems in the Northeast. We would like to see the quotas up in our area raised a lot more so we could plan a lot better for our heating problems up there.

I would just like to ask this question. There seems to be a question here about the imports and I notice that according to the tariff figures here that the average imports under the ratio of imports to production for the years of 1961 to 1966 were 15.22 percent and in 1967 they dropped to 12.80 percent.

In other words, you have about a two and a half percent drop in the ratio of imports to production, so it looks like your position here is improving and ours is not improving up in the Northeast.

Mr. McCLURE. Congressman Burke, I think to answer your question in regard to 1967 we will have to cross the Atlantic to Cairo and ask Mr. Nasser why this occurred. Mr. Nasser said, "We are not going to let you have oil in 1967" and this was the reason for the reduction in imports in 1967.

Mr. BURKE. The problem in the Middle East.

Mr. McCLURE. That is correct, yes, sir.

Mr. BURKE. Irrespective of what caused it, nevertheless there was a drop and that certainly should be beneficial to your industry.

Mr. McCLURE. Really this is the whole point of our testimony; that when you depend on petroleum resources from outside the North American province you are depending on resources which you cannot control and then you are at the will and whim of such men as Nasser and others of his particular thinking and they say, "No, it shall not pass." Then where do you get it? I think this is really the reason for the whole import program, the ability to reach back in the certificates of deposit and be able to pull out on a given day, that rainy day, or that rainy day oil, that we need, and we were able to do it in 1967, sir.

Mr. BURKE. So I imagine that you can sympathize with the feelings of the people in the Northeast when they kind of object to getting caught in this terrific squeeze which is raising the prices of the domestic heating oil and also placing them in jeopardy of having quite a few cold days.

Mr. McCLURE. We are deeply concerned about that.

Mr. BURKE. The temperature up there, usually during the winter months of January and February, might drop down as low as zero and then you are right close to zero where it is very damp and penetrating, particularly in a lot of these homes in tenement districts where people buy oil day to day.